



# Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

February 2006

## SPECIAL PROGRAM – FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING

*HOW FAST IS NEW TECHNOLOGY BECOMING OBSOLETE?*

Our February guest speaker will be **Quent Cassen, W6RI**. Quent spent most of his career in integrated circuit design and wireless engineering at Rockwell/Conexant. From a ham's viewpoint, he will give us insight into the evolution of the cell phone from early analog systems to the new third generation networks. He has been licensed since 1952 and is currently employed part time at the University of California, Irvine, at the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology. Most of us have cell phones. Now is the time to find out how soon they will become obsolete!

**FULLERTON RADIO CLUB NET; Each Tuesday, 8:00 PM; 147.975 (-) PL 114.8**

### President's Column

It appears that the first half of 2006 will be a busy time for the Club. By the time you receive this edition of **Smoke Signals** we will be well into the first community service event with communication assistance at the Junior Tennis Tournament. If you should happen to open your e-mail before the weekend of the February 11, 12 & 13 and could help with the final events, Gene, KB6CMO, would be very pleased to receive your assistance. Other club events for this year are listed on page 3 of the newsletter.

Speaking of being busy, the activities planned are intended for your interest and involvement. The best way to enjoy the offerings of these events is to be an active part of them, and share with the work as well as the fun. The more we all contribute to the planned events the greater fun they can be, with less stress on the frequent participants. For example, Public Service is a favorite and enthusiastic responsibility filled by Gene, KB6CMO. But ... sometimes even the most willing need additional assistance. I'm sure Gene will provide personal thanks to everyone who served as communicators for the Junior Tennis Tournament; however, its clear that he might not have been so tired (see photo) if there had been more available help.

At the last club meeting Tom, WB6UZZ, brought numerous radio and related items provided by a Silent Key. These items were available at no cost to anyone who wanted them. There will be more items at the next meeting, some in good working condition, and some – well it's your guess. You might even see additional "surplus" stuff provided by other members. Some may be free; other items may have a price tag. Come see for yourself.

Remember the club net on Tuesdays at 8:00PM. We'd like to hear more of you active with the group.

### Club Meeting

**Wednesday, February 15, 2006**

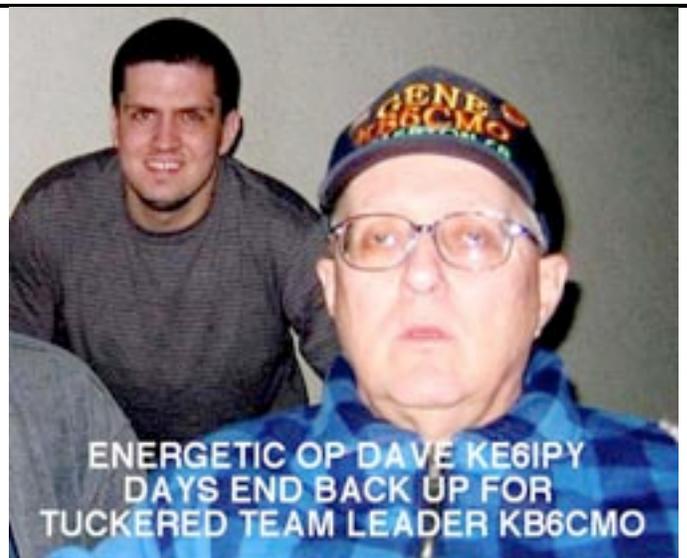
Fullerton Senior Center  
340 W. Commonwealth Ave.

Fullerton

QSO Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting: 7:30 PM

**IT'S A NEW YEAR. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS DUE. AN APPLICATION IS ATTACHED.**



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**HAM Radio v. Cell Phones**

Why don't they call all Tennis scores in by Cell Phone? Is that short wave radio you're talking on? At every tennis court competition site, parents and onlookers asked questions like these. Had they had more time to listen the answers would have been clear but their focus was on their children ages 10 to 18 who were entering a nationally recognized and authorized tennis competition.

The fact is, cell phone conversations happen only between two individuals. One end of a conversation offers little to understanding to observing listeners. Our BIG advantage is that our ham radio team is able to be actually aware of problems reported from all other tennis tournament, sites. Thus, we're able to hear about contestants lost, delayed in arrival or arriving at the wrong sites. Many contestants are from outside Orange County or even out of state. Often they get lost and show up at another wrong site a second time. Party-Line radio allows team members to redirect them and alert their true destination the contestant is still en route. Try that with cell phone technology.

Also, try keeping up with 1300 signed up, eager youthful competitors and their parental support teams using only a cell phone at the tennis center with a single point of contact. The level of Communication overload with that scenario is mind-boggling.

For us, this is valuable practice for emergency communications in real time with real urgent issues. That's partly why KB6CMO, ham radio Team Leader Gene Thorpe, works so hard to make this opportunity work successfully for hams and tennis-kids alike. Gene was barely was able to find enough volunteers right up to the Saturday morning start. Phil, AD6NH started at Net Control located at La Habra Tennis Center, but moved to La Mirada Tennis Center to fill in after volunteer Rick, W6SRD's truck broke down.

As the tournament got rolling, each operator had lots of traffic relaying scores. An earlier 5 freeway incident delayed many contestants. Seven tennis court sites were use through the area. After Phil, AD6NH, started at Net Control, Dino, K6RIX, jumped in to handle N.C.S. at La Habra Tennis Center.

Very efficient traffic handling by the team on Saturday included, John, WA6FJC, at Fullerton Tennis Center, Cheryl, KE6TZU, at Fullerton College (JC), Rose, KE6STZ, at Fullerton H. S., Richard, W6WRH, at Troy H.S., Bill, W6ZJE, at CSUF. Bryan, KI6AAY, followed by Judy, KG6SEF, at El Dorado H. S. and Phil, AD6NH, moved to fill the La Mirada Tennis Center to affect a very smooth running communications operation. Sunday also went well.

We all owe Gene, KB6CMO a big debt of gratitude for his mighty struggle to find enough willing volunteers, and we all owe those operators who became more proficient with this exercise. Tournament Director Dave Nowac and the officials have high respect for ham Radio people whose support makes this important event even possible. They give very grateful THANKS!!

73 W6ZJE

**A Love Story?**

I will seek and find you ...  
I shall take you to bed and have my way with you.  
I will make you ache, shake & sweat until you moan & groan.  
I will make you beg for mercy, beg me to stop.  
I will exhaust you to the point that you will be relieved when I'm finished with you.  
And, when I am finished, you will be weak for days.

All my love, The Flu

P.S. Now, get your mind out of the gutter and go get your flu shot!

(Author unknown)

## Board Minutes February 1, 2006

Meeting began at 7:45 P.M. at Marie Callender's in Placentia. Members present for Fullerton Radio Club board meeting – President, Paul Broden, Vice President Bill Kohlenberger, Secretary Gary Miller, Treasurer Manuel Borges, Board Members Gene Thorpe, Tom Curlee, OCCARO Representative Larry McDavid, One Guest.

February Speakers/Topic: Obsolete Telecom Technology by Quent Cassen, W6RI.

Tennis Tournament: Gene is looking for volunteers to work at one of the 10 locations in Fullerton. The event will be Feb 4-5, and 11-13.

Bylaws Committee: The board will meet soon after this month's general meeting to discuss suggestions for additions/changes to the club bylaws.

Membership: Membership applications will be available at the monthly meeting. Twenty dollars a year for one and twenty-five for family membership is the cost. Full time students will remain at ten dollars. Applications will also be in this month Smoke Signals.

Radio Gear: There will be more used radio parts at the meeting this month.

Smoke Signals: Articles are needed to be included in our newsletter. Topics/Speakers are still needed for the coming months. Contact any club officer with your ideas.

Railroad Days: The club will once again be at the event May 6-7.

A deposit will be sent in by Paul for a booth site with electricity.

Antennas in the Park will be "around" the end of May. We need to coordinate the date with Joe and April so that a Foxhunt is featured again.

Field Day: Last full weekend in June. The location needs to be decided soon. Cars are not able to get to the cabin where the event was held the last few years.

Raffles: 50-50 this month

Meeting ended at 8:55 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc  
Secretary, Fullerton Radio Club

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### Treasurer's Report - Summary

Savings Account	\$1,673.29
Checking Account	\$1,194.30

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### March Program

We will be privileged to have our own April Moell, WA6OPS, as presenter at the March club meeting. For those who may not be fully aware, April is the Emergency Coordinator for the Hospital Disaster Support Communication System (HDSCS). The mission of this organization is: backing up [hospital] communication critical to patient care. In the 25-year history of HDSCS the group has responded to 338 "events", including 93 communication emergency responses (phone outages, earthquakes, train derailments, firestorms, etc), 74 on-site standby operations, 142 drills, and numerous special events and demonstrations. Year 2005 was the busiest year of all (so far) with 8 emergency callouts. HDSCS currently supports 34 hospitals in Orange County. This all-volunteer organization is looking for a few good hams to strengthen emergency communications for Orange County's hospitals. This presentation will be of interest to the general public as well as to hams. Bring your family and friends to hear how amateur radio is being used to serve the community.

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## Coming Events

### Donate Life 5/10 K Run

Saturday, April 29 at CSUF campus. Approximately 16 Amateur Radio Operators needed.

Contact: Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO  
(714) 680-4258

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### Railroad Days

We will participate at the annual Fullerton Railroad Days event on Saturday and Sunday, May 6 & 7. The event is held at the Fullerton Rail Station from 9:00AM to 5:00PM both days. An additional set-up time may be required either on Friday evening, or between 7:00AM and 8:20AM on Saturday. We will need club members at the booth for all hours both days. Our theme and presentation is yet to be determined, but we will need lots of help.

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### Antennas In The Park

Once again, we are planning a Saturday for fun day of BBQ, hamming and, hopefully, T-hunt, along with a good bit of public exposure related to what amateur radio can do. Target date is not set, but is expected to be at the end of May.

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### Field Day

REMEMBER – The last full weekend of June (24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>) is Field Day. Our location has not been determined, except that it will NOT be at Hillcrest Park as it has been in the past due to inaccessibility to the park. We'd like to have more of the club as active participation this year. Its difficult to operate with only one or two hams on site, and I'm sure that Otis would like not to be the only all-night operator again this year!

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### Orange County Fair

It's never too soon to start planning! FRC has selected Wednesday, July 26, 2006 as our day to man the HAM booth at Orange County Fair. We will be looking for volunteers. Put it on your calendar.

