



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

February 2007

PREZ SPEAKS

My January was fully consumed by my son's (KF6FDY) wedding and two reception parties (one at my house!) and I'm just now getting back to ham radio and normal activities. Bear with me as I start to focus on my new role as FRC president. Many of you know I've been a FRC member since the early sixties but this is the first time I've served as president. So, don't be surprised if I try a few new things!

Though I got my Extra in the days when CW was still a requirement, I believe that the recent elimination of CW testing will ultimately help ham radio. Frankly, we need all the active new hams we can get and if CW really was a stumbling block, then we should see an increase of new hams. Time will tell. I believe it is important to encourage new hams and if you meet someone who achieves his license because he did not have to pass the CW test, please be positive and welcome him to our fraternity.

Bill Kohlenburger W6ZJE agreed to continue to help identify programs for our meetings this year. This is really the most difficult job in club management and I encourage you to help Bill find interesting speakers. Bill presented an exceptional program on solar activity in January; I hope you all enjoyed that! Did you all remember to wish Bill a happy 80th birthday?

Last month I attended the OCARC meeting when Bob Heil, of Heil Sound, presented the program. That was a great program! I saw some of you there so news of that program got out and attracted many visitors to their meeting. Many of us benefit from the use of a Heil microphone or headset; it was interesting to hear Bob tell how he engineered his ham radio products to greatly improve DX communications. And, it's not every day that you meet an engineer who was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame!

In our club, we have many activities underway and planned. Gene Thorpe KB6CMO and many of you volunteers worked to support the Fullerton Tennis Tournament. The Board will be planning for Railroad Days and Antennas in the Park again this year. And, we have agreed to support HamCon for the 2007 convention by managing the various T-Hunt activities. There's lots going on!

I want to introduce a new meeting activity this year. Please bring a Show and Tell item for each meeting. We won't spend a lot of time on these but just a few minutes about each one will be interesting. The item can be something you pass around or can be just a memory you describe. In fact, any topic of interest to our members will be acceptable, even if it is not strictly amateur radio related. I've done this in other ham clubs and in other types of clubs with great success. I encourage you to bring something and make it fun!

Remember our dinner before each club meeting. We often have 6-10 members and guests at the Carrow's Restaurant on Harbor boulevard near Brea Boulevard about 6:00 PM. It's an easy drive from there to our club meeting. You are all welcome to attend the club board meetings over dinner at 7:00 PM the first Wednesday of each month at the Marie Calendar's restaurant we use for our Christmas party. We are all volunteers so come see how club activities are planned. We'll even listen to suggestions!

It's a new year... Solar activity will start to increase soon with increased DX. We have a local convention this year. With the regular club special events planned, there is good opportunity for fun and fellowship. Come and be part of the fun!

Larry W6FUB

FEBRUARY MEETING TOPIC – Ten-Ten operation. See page 5 for details.

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Board Minutes February 7, 2007

Meeting began at 7:30 P.M. at Marie Callender's in Placentia.

Members present for Fullerton Radio Club board meeting: President Larry McDavid, Vice President Bill Kohlenberger, Secretary Gary Miller, Treasurer Manuel Borges, Board Members Gene Thorpe, Cheryl Thorpe

Treasurer Report: Currently the club has \$347.73 in checking and \$1680.70 in savings. Manuel will give a summary of club financial stability for the last 18-24 months at the next board meeting. Little more than a handful of members have renewed at this time.

Speakers/ Topic for Feb. Bob Farrow, N6OPR - Ten Meters and the 10-10 International Group

Membership Letters of reminder will again be sent out by Manuel to members that have not renewed for 07. Too many have not renewed their membership

Club Web Page: Is still a "works in progress".

Tennis Tournament: Gene reported the event is going well except for a conflict with another repeater. There will be three sites used next week using N6ME.

Railroad Days: An application will be sent along with a check for \$50.00 for the club to participate again this year. We need to make sure the canopy cover is "Fire Proof" according to Fullerton's fire code.

Other events Antennas in the Park, Field Day will be discussed in the coming months. We do plan on doing both plus other public service events as needed.

Raffle: Prizes and 2 antenna books by L. B. Cebik, W4RNL

Meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc
Secretary Fullerton Radio Club

February Club Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007
Fullerton Senior Center
340 W. Commonwealth Ave.
QSO 7:00 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM

ANTS
Antennas In The Park (ANTS) will be held again this year at TriCities Park on Saturday, May 12. Start planning now, as the time goes by quickly. Details later.

**SOME FREE, ON THE WEB,
INFORMATION ABOUT SOLAR
INFLUENCE TO BAND CONDITIONS**

1. AN EDUCATIONAL ...
INTRODUCTION AND TUTORIAL TO THE COMPLEX ARRAY OF OUR SUN'S AFFECTS ON EARTH...
http://trace.lmsal.com/Science/ScientificResults/trace_cdrom/html/intro_trace.html
2. CONTINUOUS SPACE WEATHER REPORTS ...
<http://www.spaceweather.com/>
3. PROPAGATION FORECASTING TOOLS AND INSTRUCTION @...
<http://www.voacap.com/>
4. SPACE ENVIRONMENT CENTER...
<http://www.sec.noaa.gov/index.html>
5. AURORAL OVAL ACTIVITY, "POES" POLAR ORBIT EXPLORER SATELLITE...
<http://www.sec.noaa.gov/pmap/index.html>
6. HOURLY FORECAST PROPAGATION MAPS, HAP CHART...
http://www.ips.gov.au/HF_Systems/4/1
7. HOURLY FORECAST PROPAGATION MAPS, Ionosphere...
http://www2.ips.gov.au/HF_Systems/4/3

See Page 3 for story information

FROM MIT, A NEW APPROACH TO ESTIMATING HOW CORONAL MASS EJECTIONS CAN HELP US TO WORK DX ON HF.

Source;
< <http://www.sciencedaily.com/videos/2006-03-12/> >

Space Physicists and Atmospheric Scientists Can Now Predict Disruptions Caused by the Sun's Coronal Mass Ejections

Science Daily — Solar activity can wreak havoc in communications systems -- particularly during coronal mass ejections, when plumes of electrically charged particles hit earth's atmosphere. Scientists can now track the plumes down to the single affected cities, helping to predict disruptions.

Full Story ...

WESTFORD, Mass.--The sun guides our daily routine and impacts us in ways you may not even notice. In fact, the sun can play havoc with our communications systems. Now, a new discovery may help predict when and where this will happen and help keep your cell phone static free.

TVs, radios, cell phones -- modern-day conveniences most of us can't live without, but solar activity could jeopardize our way of life. During coronal mass ejections, electrically charged particles from the sun collide with earth's atmosphere.

John Foster, a space physicist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Haystack Observatory in Westford, Mass., says, "This material flies through inner-stellar space and impacts the Earth like a solar hammer hitting the Earth's magnetic field." This solar hammer can cause communication disruptions on the ground and a plume of electrically charged particles high in the earth's atmosphere.

Now, atmospheric scientists at MIT may have discovered a way to predict space weather disruptions by identifying these plumes over the United States.

"What we are seeing is a pattern in where these plumes are forming," says Anthea Coster, an atmospheric research scientist at MIT Haystack Observatory.

Scientists hope to detect these patterns with the ISIS instrument. ISIS picks up radio signals and measures plume movement. Then, a supercomputer processes this data, which will alert scientists where the plumes occur, pinpointing down to the state -- even city -- that will be affected.

Foster says, "Predicting these would be a great benefit to any systems users, people who really rely on communications or navigation systems. Military operations, for one, would very much like to know what the space weather conditions would be like tomorrow."

Scientists say in the near future ISIS instruments will be distributed throughout the United States.

BACKGROUND: Bursts of matter from the sun, called coronal mass ejections (CMEs), have long been known to affect cell phone reception, TV and radio signals, and how much radiation exposure we receive while flying in the upper atmosphere. Now, researchers have detected plumes that tell them where the radiation from the ejection is concentrated and what places will be influenced the most by the CME.

CME OR SOLAR FLARE?: People sometimes confuse CMEs with solar flares, but they are different phenomena. Solar flares are explosions on the sun that occur when energy build up around sunspots, becoming so hot -- millions of degrees Fahrenheit -- that they produce a burst of electromagnetic radiation across the entire electromagnetic spectrum, from radio waves to x-rays and gamma rays. CMEs were once thought to be the result of solar flares, but while they sometimes accompany solar flares, there is no direct relation

between the two. They occur when a large bubble of plasma escapes through a star's corona and travels through space to the earth at high speeds over the course of several hours. If a CME collides with the earth, it can produce a geomagnetic storm, which can cause electrical power outages and damage communications satellites and electronic equipment. Solar flares, on the other hand, affect radio communications.

WHAT ARE PLASMAS: A plasma is essentially electrically charged (ionized) gas, consisting of free-moving electrons and ions (atoms that have lost electrons). Applying a surge of energy -- with a laser, for example - - knocks electrons off gas atoms, turning them into ions and creating a plasma. Unless this energy is sustained, however, plasmas will recombine back into a neutral gas. On earth, we are familiar with the ordinary states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. But in the universe at large, plasma is by far the most common form. Plasma in the stars and the space between them makes up 99 percent of the visible universe.

The American Geophysical Union contributed to the information contained in the TV portion of this report.

January T-Hunt

Dave Balgie N6MJN hid the FRC transmitter in January and used very low power, just 5 milliwatts into a 4-element horizontally polarized quad. He was in El Modena Park at Hewes and Fowler Avenues in the city of Orange. Everyone found him before 9 PM.

Team	Odo
<u>Calls</u>	<u>Miles</u>
N6ZHZ	16.0
N6AIN/WA6PYE	23.0
KD6ICZ	22.6

Hillcrest Park Radio-Orienteeing

The next southern California on-foot hidden transmitter hunt will take place Saturday, March 10, 2007 at Hillcrest Park in Fullerton. It will be an ideal way to get the whole family started in on-foot foxhunting. All ages are welcome. There is no charge for participation. A ham radio license and/or knowledge of radio equipment is not required.

The site is relatively small (about 40 acres), but hilly enough to make it interesting for all. Beginners will learn basic RDF skills. Experts can "go for speed." Transmitters will go on the air around 10:30 AM. Hunters may start any time until 1:00 PM. Courses close at 3:00 PM. There are plenty of picnic tables, so you can bring your lunch.

Bring any 2-meter RDF "sniffing" gear you have. If you don't have any, just bring your HT or scanner. A limited number of RDF sets will be available for loan. Also be sure to bring anything you'll need while going after those radio foxes, such as munchies, bottled water and sunscreen. Make sure all batteries are fresh.

Hillcrest Park in Fullerton is bounded on the west by Harbor Boulevard, on the north by Brea Boulevard, on the east by Lemon Street and on the south by Valley View Drive. From the 91 Freeway, take the Harbor Boulevard exit and go north about 1.8 miles to Valley View.

The hunt will begin in the Lower Picnic Area. Park in the lot off Valley View, midway between Harbor and Lemon. (map at www.homingin.com) Look for the orange and white orienteeing flag at the entrance to the parking lot. Note that you cannot enter the park from Lemon Street at this time due to construction. Talk-in is on K6QEH/R, 146.97(-) PL 136.5.

In addition to the two-meter band, international ARDF championships also include an 80-meter band event. At least one optional 80m transmitter (3547 KHz) will be on the air for you to try.

Questions? Send e-mail to k0ov@homingin.com

Joe Moell K0OV
USA ARDF Coordinator

Baker to Vegas -- A chance to use your Communication Skills

If you are interested in a unique experience to add to your Ham Radio Career come join us out at the 23rd Annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay this April 21 - 22. This is a law enforcement relay race run on foot from just north of Baker, California to Las Vegas, NV. We laughing refer to it as the largest police foot pursuit in the world.

This year we are expecting around 230 teams of law enforcement to participate. To provide the necessary support communications we need a minimum of 250 Ham Radio Operators. For information or questions please check the b2v.org website or contact Joy Matlack, KD6FJV at rbvcom1@b2v.org.

Joy Matlack, KD6FJV/Com 1
Communications Director
Baker to Vegas
Challenge Cup Relay
Amateur Radio Expo Co-Chair
www.b2v.org

Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament - 2007

It's over for this year - that is the Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament. Radio operators were only needed both days of the first weekend at 9 sites each day and Saturday of the second with only 3 sites, so we were finished before the rain came on the last Sunday. Thanks to all who offered to &/or worked this event. The following groups had representatives helping with this event: FRC, Fullerton RACES, Placentia RACES, OC RACES, WARA, & HDSCS.

Net control was located at La Habra Tennis Center with David Curlee KE6IPY, Manuel Borges AE6SG, Orv Gossman KI8ORV, Chuck Pacier AE6YJ & Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU filling this role at various times. Rose Johnson KE6STZ & KE6TZU covered Fullerton College, while Tom Tracey KC6FIC & Lyle Bidler KI6CFR were at Fullerton High School. Working at El Dorado High School were Bryan Sorenson KI6AAY, Judy Chase KG6SEG, & Paul Broden K6MHD (with Paul also helping with a problem at CSUF). Troy High was only used the first weekend & Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ was there both days. Dino Darling K6RIX did the same at La Mirada Regional Park. Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE & Rick Carpenter W6SRD took care of Esperanza High. Hal Raish N6AVX, Ron Chase AC6MV, Tom Tracey KC6FIC & Mark Zdunich WA6BRD made sure Cal State University was kept on the air which was a bit of a challenge. John Sutherland WA6FJC worked at Fullerton Tennis Center part of all 3 days with Reid Green KF6LOK & Mark Shapiro K6OGD filling in a few hours each. Gene Thorpe KB6CMO was team leader.

Our main task was to pass scores of the games to the central location so the event leaders would know who won & thus know who would be in the next round. There were 1,500 kids signed up. This year only a few went to the wrong location & needed to have the radio operators let the personnel at the correct location know they would be late but were on the way. This was a learning experience for several of the RO's in that this was their first public service event. It was a great event. Thanks again to all RO's.

The next public service event is the DonateLIFE 5K/1K Fun Run on Saturday, 28APR07 at CSUF from 7:00 to 10:00a.m. Please save this date & time.

Gene Thorpe KB6CMO
Public Service Coordinator

[Ed.: Gene's strenuous efforts as JrTT coordinator, his liaison with the event organizers and the benefits to the Tennis participants, and the Radio operators needs to be better unrecognized. Gene's comment in the article, "This was a learning experience for several of the RO's in that this was their first public service event. It was a great event." is too modest an understatement.

During this competition, over 1500 young people subject themselves to a most difficult athletic test. Gene's target Plan and the size of the event moved from day to day. That's a challenge similar to the event itself. Cheryl of course needs to be credited for Gene's base support during all Gene's uncertainty frustration. She was a smooth net control even during trials from the adjacent channel QRM.

But for Ham Radio, this experience is as valuable as a genuine emergency operation without the hazards. My thanks to all for getting involved and helping to advance our preparedness

Bill K., W6ZJE]

Ten-Ten Operation February FRC Meeting Presentation

February's program we will enjoy Robert L. Farrow, "Bob" N6OPR, speaker for Fullerton Radio Club. Bob was specially invited by club Secretary, Gary, KA6GPC. Bob is one of our local area's most active hams, and most particularly on the Ten-Ten International Net, serving presently as a member of their Board of directors. He also serves as the nation-wide Net Manager. Check the Web Site www.ten-ten.org.

N6OPR #45715, as you may already suspect, is an active guy having many talents, wide experience and who will introduce some of us to what is the Ten-Ten International Net. He'll also give some "what's up" for current 10-10 members, who also represent a large percent of FRC's members today. Bob is bringing "goodies" for the free attendance raffle as well as official informational literature.

Our up and down, Day/Night Ionosphere and deep solar cycles makes for well known intermittent ten meter availability, but until Ten-Ten was organized it was not realized that Band and DX openings were much more frequent than was commonly believed. The organization has also grown since into arguably the best and largest of ham radio's most significant, socially friendly, information rich, easily available and really fun operations.

Ten-Ten member or not, this is a **MUST ATTEND & HEAR** program so call and remind a friend and be sure to even invite members of other clubs you know, to join us. Reserve Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at about 7:00 PM, for a rag chew, or at 7:30 when the meeting starts.

If you would even enjoy an early dinner with us prior to the meeting, 5:45 PM it's at Carrow's Restaurant, 1011 N Harbor Blvd. Fullerton, CA (Zip 92832-1350), at the corner of Berkeley and Harbor. You might also even meet Bob early. 73

**Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE
FRC Programs VP**

Monthly Board Meeting

Open to all Members
Marie Callender's Restaurant
126 Yorba Linda Blvd.
Placentia

Next Board Meeting: March 7, 2007

Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:30 PM

**Orange County Council of Amateur Radio
Organizations (OCCARO) Web Site**

www.occaro.org

Fullerton Radio Club Web Sites

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

VE Sessions

For Information Contact

Bob Reitzel, KD6DA

(562) 691-1514

Or check the Fullerton Radio Club

Web Site:

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

Next VE Exam: **April 14, 2007**

***Please call one week in advance to
reserve a place***

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Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____ ARRL Member Yes No

Name #2; _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____ ARRL Member Yes No

Dues are \$20 per member, or \$25 per family, Student (Full-time) \$10.00

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