



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

January 2008

PREZ SPEAKS

Another New Year is upon us! I hope each of you enjoyed the past holiday season and are now ready to turn your thoughts back to amateur radio and your club. Club activities don't just happen—they take planning and some work behind the scene! In January, we will learn about D-STAR, a digital voice (and, more!) communications mode with growing local support, including wide coverage repeaters. SOARA, the South Orange Amateur Radio Association, is active in promoting this new mode and operates D-STAR repeaters on 2 m, 440 MHz and 1.2 GHz. Their technical team will tell us about D-STAR and demonstrate its capabilities when we return to our regular meeting schedule on Wednesday, January 16.

Ours is not a large club but it still takes some management to run smoothly. We welcome some new officers for 2008, including Bill Preston KZ3G as Vice President and Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ as Treasurer. I return as President as do Gary Miller KA6GPC as Secretary and Tom Curlee WB6UZZ as Director. In addition to serving as Director, Gene Thorpe KB6CMO will serve as membership chairman. Paul Broden K6MHD continues as newsletter editor. I invite you to find out how this lively group works to organize our activities by joining our regular Board Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month; see the back page for details.

Yes, it is a new year—and a new FRC membership year. Please help our Membership Chairman, Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, by renewing your membership and paying your dues now. Our dues are not costly but are important to fund the many events we organize for you during the year. Look for the renewal form in this newsletter or see Gene at the club meeting.

We had fun and our QRP stations did well at Field Day last year. **In fact, do you realize our club station W6ULI scored sixth in the nation in our 4AB class in 2007? Isn't that GREAT!** If you looked in QST for this result, you were disappointed because for some reason they failed to show it. Dick Palmer WA6JDH not only helped guide our decision to operate in Battery Class, he also submitted the results to ARRL. With some help from Dick and our ARRL Division Director, Dick Norton, ARRL corrected this error and our **Sixth Place** is now correctly shown in the ARRL on-line Field Day results. We need to consider how to conduct Field Day this year and we need a new Field Day Chairman since Manuel Borges AE6SG has moved out of

the area; please think about volunteering to head up this key event.

(Continued on page 4)

January Meeting Presentation



Analog Radio has served both Ham Radio and the nation very well Since Spark gave way to Voice Communications. As Information Technologies are evolving to increase information density, and variety, it's inevitable that these have attracted Hams interested in exploring a variety of digital methods.

The 80's Packet surge expanded from ubiquitous PC availability. Today, the blend of PSK-31 type Information Technologies give an abundant supply of Encoder/Decoder devices that open a big field to link together capabilities for hams to play with voice, Images & Videos.

Wednesday Jan 16, SOARA members, Howard Brown, KG6GI and Brian Roode NJ6N, have generously agreed to help us to get up to speed with their D-STAR Experiments, using hand held radios and several active, on-air repeaters. Howard & Brian spoke at HamCon but many of you missed their excellent presentations so here's a rare chance to see ahead and choose where ham radio can move into the future. You can also bring any digitally challenged friends to help them see what's coming. Oh Yes, for excellent and informative websites, see <http://www.soara.org/dstar/> and <http://www.nj6n.com/dstar/>.

73, Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE
For Bill Preston, KZ3G
2008 FRC Vice President

[See page 6 for meeting time and location.]

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QST QST QST ATTENTION: ALL AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

Please save the following Dates – February 2, 3, 9 and 10, 2008 for the 2008 Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament. Approx. 1,500 players and 12 different sites.

Please E-mail /or Call me if you are available to work this event, very soon.

Gene Thorpe KB6CMO KB6CMO@ARRL.net 714-680-4258
Thanks, GT

Board Minutes Jan 2, 2008

Meeting began at 7:35 P.M. at Marie Callender's in Placentia. Members present for Fullerton Radio Club board meeting: President Larry McDavid, Vice President Bill Preston, Secretary Gary Miller, Treasurer Robert Gimbel, Smoke Signals Editor Paul Broden, Board Member Gene Thorpe, Members Bill Kohlenberger and Cheryl Thorpe

Treasurer Report: Bank statement states that the club has \$426.27 in checking and \$1684.19 in savings. We currently have 7 paid up members [for year 2008]. The signature cards have been updated for both accounts. Dues for 2008 are now due and can be mailed to our PO or paid at the next meeting.

Speaker / Topic for Jan.: D-Star (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) by SOARA

Installation/ December Dinner: Before the meal raffle tickets were available. \$295 worth of tickets were sold.

Membership List: Paul is updating the e-mail list of our members.

License Class: There is a possibility that an Amateur General License class will soon be available.

Events to keep in mind:

Jan. 16 General Meeting: Bring something to share with the group.

February 2,3, 9 and 10: Tennis Tournament, Weekends

Feb. 20: General meeting. Donate Life presented by Kathleen Hosteret

Antennas in the Park: A Saturday in May

Railroad Days: May 3 - 4.

Meeting ended at 8:32 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc
Secretary Fullerton Radio Club

FRC T-Hunt Report

It didn't appear that anyone would be out to hunt for me on December 15, so I told everyone that I wouldn't be hiding. At the last minute, five teams decided to hunt and Leonard Santos KG6RQQ volunteered to hide. He put a transmitter on Mt. Olive Drive in the village of Bradbury, which is just east of Monrovia. Here are the mileages to that transmitter:

| Team | Odo |
|--------------|--------------|
| <u>Calls</u> | <u>Miles</u> |
| N6MJN | 26.5 |
| N6ZHZ | 27.0 |
| N6AIN/WA6PYE | 29.5 |
| KF6GQ | 30.0 |
| KE6GQO/KK6KK | 33.0 |

After Don Lewis KF6GQ found the KG6RQQ transmitter, he turned on a transmitter in his truck and drove home, which was about 2 miles away, leaving it on when he got there. Here are the combined mileages to that transmitter:

| Team | Odo |
|--------------|--------------|
| <u>Calls</u> | <u>Miles</u> |
| N6ZHZ | 30.0 |
| N6MJN | 30.5 |
| N6AIN/WA6PYE | 32.5 |
| KF6GQO/KK6KK | 35.9 |

Bob Miller had overall low mileage and was declared the winner. But I will be hiding the next hunt on January 19. Come on out! The hunt starts at 8 PM from the hilltop near Skyline and Acacia in Fullerton.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

Here's an update on major items of interest to us in the ARRL Southwestern Division.

New Southwestern Division Vice-Director

As of January first, Marty Woll, N6VI, is the ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director. Marty is a retired partner of a Big-8 accounting firm, with a broad background in Amateur Radio. He is already significantly involved in division activities. Marty can be reached at n6vi@arrl.org.

Previous Vice Director, Ned Stearns, AA7A, is the chief-engineer of a very large communications project that left him with inadequate time to handle the Vice Director role, and consequently did not run for a second term. We thank Ned for his many contributions to the division.

Arizona Section Manager - K7DF

After 32 years as WB7NXH, Arizona Section Manager, Tom Fagan, has a new callsign, K7DF.

Division Legislative Action Help Needed

The Southwestern Division has need for a Legislative Action Chair to coordinate efforts at getting our message through to legislators. We also need others who would be willing to assist the chair. If you would be willing to help, please advise me.

California Hands-free Cellphone Law

California has a new law banning use of hand-held cellphones while driving vehicles that becomes effective starting on July 1, 2008. ARRL General Counsel, Chris

Imlay, W3KD, reports that that he has concluded that this does not apply to Amateur Radio operation because Amateur Radio transceivers are not wireless telephones.

California Radio Amateur License Plates

The California Department of Motor Vehicles has started putting spaces between the prefix and suffix of callsigns on Radio Amateur license plates. This was apparently something that they did in the past. An effort is underway to educate the DMV and get the plates issued with the actual callsigns assigned by the FCC.

ARRL Board Meeting

The ARRL Board meets on January 17, 18, and 19. If any members have suggestions regarding League policies or operations, this would be an appropriate time to bring them to my attention.

ARRL Southwestern Division
Director: Richard Norton, N6AA
n6aa@arrl.org

FRC EVENTS CALENDAR

We will be looking to FRC members for participation in all of the following events. It's not too soon to start planning for each of them – so, hold the dates.

February 2-3, 9-10: Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament

April 26: Donate Life 5K/1K walk-run at Cal state Fullerton

May 3 – 4: Railroad Days

May ??: Antennas In The Park at Tri-City Park. Date not yet set.

June 28 – 29: Field Day.

July 13 – August 3: Orange County Fair. FRC will be participating at the Ham booth on at least one day.

HDSCS 2007 Update

Year 2007 came to a close for Hospital Disaster Support Communication System (HDSCS) with a Christmas Eve standby activity at one of the south county hospitals that experienced a power outage. The power outage also struck one of the HDSCS members and, as is our plan, he made contact with the hospital to verify their status. Although the phones were operational and the hospital was on emergency generator power, they indicated that they would like to have back-up emergency communication in case of further problems occurred. We had one communicator on site, plus his outside link (FRC member Tom Gaccione WB2LRH). The event was secured before Santa arrived.

On December 18, HDSCS members established the annual North Pole Network at Children's Hospital of Orange County, whereby more than 50 children, many in isolation and intensive care areas, were able to have personal conversations with Santa Clause. FRC members participating with the North Pole Network included April and Joe Moell, Tom Gaccione, and Dennis Kidder.

HDSCS statistics for year 2007 include:

- 5 Emergency callouts
- 8 Standby operations
- 8 Drills
- 9 Public service or special demos with hospitals

HDSCS coordinators attended 32 hospital meetings or provided inservices to hospital staff.

HDSCS coordinators provided 6 presentations to Amateur Radio groups.

HDSCS members participated in 8 projects at hospitals.

All in all, 2007 was the 4th most active year since our beginning in 1980.

Tnx and 73,
April, WA6OPS

Prez Speaks (Continued from page 1)

Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, our never-tiring public service coordinator, has lots of activities in need of our support. This new year brings another Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament, Railroad Days and Antennas in the Park. These events all require some advance planning and Gene just can't do it alone, so please support Gene with your volunteered help.

These are just a few of the plans and events for this year. We'll also be conducting another ham radio class soon and, as it did so successfully last year, this should bring new members to our club again this year. Remember that FRC membership renewals are now due. We look forward to another busy club year so rejoin now!

I enjoy the Show-and-Tell each month and hope you do, too! I'll have a thing or two again this month but I don't want to be the only one showing and telling so find something of interest and bring it or plan to talk briefly about some interesting thing you've done. Remember, this is not a big presentation, just stand up and show what you've brought; if practical, pass it around the room for folks to enjoy.

Remember our dinner at the Carrow's Restaurant on Harbor Boulevard near Brea Boulevard about 6:00 PM before each club meeting. And, remember to bring a Show-and-Tell item for the meeting!

Larry W6FUB

Treasurer's Report

Current bank status is:

Savings account: \$1684.19
Checking: \$426.27

The Christmas dinner meeting opportunity drawings brought in \$295.

Next USA ARDF Championships

USA's 2008 National Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) will take place May 8 through 10 near Bastrop, Texas, which is 30 miles southeast of Austin. This is one week before the Dayton Hamvention. Fans of radio-orienteeing will gather from around the USA to compete in the forest on two meters and 80 meters. Medal winners may receive invitations to join ARDF Team USA, which will travel to Korea in September for the ARDF World Championships. Courses will be open to anyone, with or without a ham license. There will be practice sessions here in southern California to help prepare you for this event. More information is available at [_www.homingin.com_](http://www.homingin.com) (<http://www.homingin.com>) >.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV
ARRL ARDF Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

It's 2008 and time to renew your FRC membership. If you are receiving this newsletter and are not a member of the club our question is: why not? Attached to the end of this newsletter is a form for membership renewal and/or application. Dues are only \$20 per individual, or \$25 for families with more than one ham. Your support is needed in the club activities and by paid membership.

FIELD DAY RESULTS

Note that our club was not shown in the December QST Field Day results table due to some screw up at ARRL. It does now appear in the ARRL website results, which is where the table below came from.

Entries 1 to 8 of 8 listed

| *#* | *Call* | *Score* | *Category* | *QSOs* | *Power Mult* | *GOTA Call* | *Section* | *Participants* | *Club* |
|-----|--------|---------|------------|--------|--------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | W7LT | 7,345 | 4AB | 718 | 5 | | OR | 22 | Portland ARC |
| 2 | W4FCR | 6,910 | 4AB | 642 | 5 | W4BOT | VA | 10 | Franklin Co ARC |
| 3 | N6GA | 6,400 | 4AB | 663 | 5 | | LAX | 9 | Zuni Loop Mtn Expeditionary Force |
| 4 | N0WM | 3,480 | 4AB | 234 | 5 | | MO | 12 | St Louis QRP Society |
| 5 | WA4MM | 3,475 | 4AB | 269 | 5 | | VA | 5 | Norrrn Virginia QRP Group |
| 6 | W6ULI | 2,830 | 4AB | 291 | 5 | | ORG | 9 | Fullerton RC |
| 7 | VE3RSE | 1,780 | 4AB | 131 | 5 | | ON | 20 | Elgin ARS |
| 8 | W7TF | 1,735 | 4AB | 65 | 5 | | ID | 5 | |



The above photos were taken at the Christmas dinner meeting by Gary Miller, KA6GPC. We had good attendance with 33 members and guests. Dinner was good, as usual, as was the QSO time. There were plenty of “opportunity drawing” prizes, including the top-prize, an ICOM IC2200 2-meter mobile transceiver, that was won by Norman Dickhoff KI6HLB.

February Meeting Preview

Our February meeting will provide preview of the upcoming event entitled “Donate Life Run/Walk” for which FRC participates in multiple communication roles. Mostly we are there to assist with activity coordination, tracking the progress of runners/walkers, and passing of messages. But last year we were involved with three emergencies that required 911 calls.

The Donate Life activities were started by Kathleen Hostert and her husband Craig as a means to educate Southern California on the importance and ever growing need of organ and tissue donation.

Kathleen will be telling her story of how their personal lives were the driving force behind the origin of this activity, and how FRC activities are supportive of the event and its purposes.

Remember, FRC will again be participating in the Donate Life Run/Walk on Saturday, April 26 at Cal State Fullerton. Come hear Kathleen’s presentation at the February FRC meeting. It will motivate you to participate either as a runner/walker, or to volunteer as one of the communicators, and perhaps even become an organ/tissue donor. You will be hearing more about this event schedule from our Public Services representative Gene Thorpe KB6CMO as we get closer to the date. Put the date on your calendar.

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

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

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

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

FRC Regular Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month
Fullerton Senior Center
340 West Commonwealth Ave.
QSO 7:00 PM – Meeting 7:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Dinner 6:00 PM at Carrow's, Harbor at Brea

Fullerton Radio Club Web Site

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

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

<http://www.occaro.org>

FRC Tuesday Net

Remember the FRC Tuesday evening net meets at 8:00 PM on 147.975 (-) PL 114.8
Join us!

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



HAM RADIO OUTLET

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION P.O. BOX 545, FULLERTON, CA 92836

Name #1; _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

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

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

Bring your dues payment to the next meeting or mail to the above PO Box.