



# Smoke Signals

## Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club, Inc.

January 2010

### Pres Speaks

Happy New Year! If you have already put into motion your New Year's Resolutions, I congratulate you! I set several into motion; including writing this article before the reminder comes from our club secretary Paul Broden K6MHD. Well, I can say that this resolution is a work in progress... as the reminder email arrived early this morning and I am writing this article while attending the Fullerton CERT meeting.

An important change to our pre-meeting dinner location: At the January 2010 FRC board meeting, your board discussed and approved moving our pre-meeting dinner to the Coco's restaurant on Harbor Blvd. The street address is: 1011 N. Harbor Blvd. Coco's is newly remodeled and is at the same location as the old Carrow's restaurant. Gene (KB6CMO) has checked out the location, discussed our needs with the restaurant manager, and they are looking forward to seeing our return THIS MONTH! So, please update your calendar and meet us at Coco's for the pre-meeting dinner. The dinner will be at about 5:30 PM this month after the demonstration of working an amateur satellite (See January 2010 Program on this page). We are grateful to Ruby's Diner for hosting our pre-meeting dinners over the past year.

Our speaker this month is Clint Bradford, K6LCS. He will be our meeting speaker on satellite communications. See the write-up within this newsletter for more details.

Our first public service/radio communication event is the Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament this January 30-31 and February 6-7. I have participated in this event the past three years and it is a great way to hone your radio setup, communication, and public service skills. Gene (KB6CMO) is putting together the assignment list, so please see him to add your name to the participation list. If we have enough sign-ups, I will not need to recruit my YF, K16WUJ.

On a personal note, thank you to the FRC members that have responded and supported Alex Valdez (K9BLK) during his recent loss. Alex has been and continues to be a strong contributor to FRC. Your

FRC Board approved a donation to Guide Dogs for the Blind, which will indirectly support Alex in acquiring a new guide dog.

FRC is grateful to the following vendors for their support of our FRC Annual Dinner: A&A Manufacturing, and Ham Radio Outlet. Thank you letters will be sent to each donor.

I look forward to seeing you at the January 20, 2010 meeting.

73's,  
Robert (K16KYW)

### January 2010 Program

AMSAT area coordinator Clint Bradford, K6LCS, will be presenting his "Working Amateur Satellites With Your HT" multimedia session at our **January 20, 2010 meeting**.

**"Tentatively, we'll have a workable pass of AO-51 at 5:12PM that evening," Clint reports. "If you would like to show up early, I'll be working the satellite from the parking lot."**

We urge you to arrive by 5:00 PM to see Clint's setup process. For those interested we will be going from the demo directly to Coco's for the pre-meeting dinner. The regular meeting and Clint's program will begin at 7:00 PM

Attendees should download Clint's four-page tutorial and radio programming matrix before the meeting from ... <http://www.work-sat.com>.

And Clint welcomes pre-presentation questions - call him at 909-241-7666, or send email to [clint@clintbradford.com](mailto:clint@clintbradford.com)

Note: Guests are invited. If you are an amateur radio operator and have interest in this subject, please join us for the demonstration and stay for the dinner and meeting.

**Meeting Location:**  
**Fullerton Senior Center**  
**340 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton**

**Fullerton Radio Club**  
P.O. Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92836-0545

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**Show –and-Tell**

Bring something of interest to the meeting to show and share your story. Something old, new, or just of interest to hams.

**Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament - 2010**

Folks, The "Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament-2010" is just around the corner, and will be held on January 30 & 31, and February 6 & 7. Time: 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM (+/-). There are 12 sites to cover in North O.C. including the La Mirada Regional Park Tennis Center. We need your HELP with the event. **Forty-five** Amateur Radio Operators are needed to work this event over the four days. Sign-ups are needed **NOW**.

Please e-mail at KB6CMO@ARRL.net or call 714-680-4258 with your info and ability to help **ASAP**. Thanks

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO

**New Technician Class Question Pool**

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool on Monday, January 4. This new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010; it will remain valid until June 30, 2014.

The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010.

The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for Element 2 examination; it will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element.

The current General class question pool was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid until June 30, 2011.

The current Amateur Extra class pool was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid through June 30, 2012.

[Information taken from ARRL website]

**Holiday Meeting Prizes**

The Board expresses its thanks to the following organizations for support of FRC with donations and/or product discounts for prizes awarded at our holiday dinner and installation banquet.

A&A Engineering (2521 W. La Palma, Unit K, Anaheim) gave us a deep discount on the purchase of the 5 Amp Smart Battery Charger that was our grand prize, won by our new VP, Albert Solomon KI6WRU.

HRO donated books, Lite Flare units and Bongo Ties.

Please be sure to support these companies as part of the amateur radio support community.

## Subject: Radio Operators Needed

Radio operators are needed at the L.A. Marathon on Sunday March 21, 2010, to provide emergency communications throughout the course.

This year, the new route will go from Dodger Stadium to the Santa Monica Pier, and will include Beverly Hills,

Hollywood, and major studios.

Volunteer registration is on-line at:  
[http://www.doitsports.com/volunteer/info.tcl?job\\_id=488](http://www.doitsports.com/volunteer/info.tcl?job_id=488)

Craig Baker KC6KKR

## Memorial

Fullerton Radio Club extends our sincere condolences to member Alex Valdez K9BLK, on the death of his dear wife, Jana Johnson Valdez. Jana passed away on December 22, 2009, after a brief but devastating illness.

On Saturday, January 2, 2010, some 20 or more of our groups' (FRC and HDSCS) members attended Jana's memorial service to provide love and compassion for Alex and the entire family.

The family has requested that any memorials be sent in Jana's name to: **Guide Dogs for the Blind, P.O. Box 3950, San Rafael, CA 94912-3950**. Memorials will be used to assist Alex in obtaining a new guide dog. Please note that any donations you might make to this memorial should contain a memorandum to indicate "In memory of Jana Valdez."

Alex's previous guide dog was retired about two years ago and, due to irreversible health problems, was compassionately euthanized earlier in December. Jana had encouraged Alex to apply for a new guide dog for his safety sake, and the application process has begun.

At the January FRC Board meeting your directors agreed that the club provide a \$100.00 donation to the Guide Dogs for the Blind organization. This memorial donation has been sent.

Guide Dogs for the Blind is a nonprofit, charitable organization under the provisions of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (tax ID #94-1196195). Donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by federal and state laws.

## January Board Meeting Minutes

The January FRC Board meeting was called to order at 7:29 PM by President Robert Doidge K16KYW. Others present were VP Albert Solomon K16WRU, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD, and board members Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, Bill Preston KZ3G, Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, Larry McDavid W6FUB, and Alex Valdez K9BLK.

Minutes of the December Board meeting were approved as published in Smoke Signals.

The treasurers report indicated that expenditures for the December meeting prizes exceeded the ticket sales, but the treasury remains nearly identical to the December number report. We have expensed due for the Post Office Box and Safe Deposit Box.

Current 2010 paid membership is at approximately 50% of the total of last year's members list, however, we have 5 new paid members for this year.

### Old Business:

1. Bill KZ3G is still working on projections for the 2010 field day and needs volunteers for specific projects. Contact Bill to provide your input.
2. Plans for a Technician license class are on hold. Potential status of a General license class is undecided.
3. Decision was made to move the pre-meeting dinner to Coco's (location of the old Carrow's). Time for the dinner is 5:00 PM before the regular club meeting.
4. Members are reminded to send in their 2010 club dues.

### Program Plans:

January will be on the subject of "Working Amateur Satellites With Your HT" and will be presented by Cling Bradford K6LCS. See

page 1 for details.

February meeting will present Wayne Berringer KB6UJW with a subject of Emergency Communications, and will include his personal emergency communications trailer.

March meeting will be by our won Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, with an update on the sunspot cycle and affect on amateur radio.

### Special Events:

- Fullerton Tennis Tournament, January 30 & 31, and February 6 & 7. See notice on page 2.
- LA Marathon; March 21. See article on page 3.
- DonateLife Run/Walk, May 1.
- Railroad Days, May 1. This event is a date conflict with the DonateLife event, so participant coordination needs to begin by your early signup for one or both events.
- Baker-to-Vegas run; April 17 – 18.
- Fullerton Airport Day; May 22.
- Field Day; June 26 – 27.

Note that all of the above events need YOUR participation. Sign up now by contacting Gene Thorpe.

### New Business:

1. The family of a local SK has asked for assistance in ID of a removal process for a tower and antennas for potential donation to a group or organization. Bill KZ3G and Larry W6FUB will assess the tower status for report to the family.
2. The Board has authorized a donation of \$100 to Guide Dogs for the Blind as a memorial to Jana Valdez, wife of Alex K9BLK.
3. Thank you letters will be sent to A&A Engineering and HRO for their donations to the holiday meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM

Paul Broden K6MHD, Club Secretary

## Timer For Repeaters

I talk too long. But of course I have been saving up since 1954. That was when my first Ham license expired. Fifty-four years later I got another license and began all over again. One of my first challenges came when I began using a repeater on two meters. Did you know those things have a time limit on them? Well, they do, and it is only about two minutes. Then they screw up your signal so the next guy can get on and say something really useful.

Right away I saw I needed a timer of some sort that would notify me that my two minutes was up. Then I would turn over the QSO over to the next guy and I would sound like a REAL Ham. I looked around the Internet and found a project that was made by guys at the EARC, Elizabeth Amateur Radio Club, presumably in Australia, some 40 km north of Adelaide. The URL for the design I saw is:

<http://www.earc.org.au/articles/2009/05/repeater-over-timer>.

Well, when my Ham friends saw the EARC circuit they suggested eliminating most of it and utilizing the PTT voltage on my ICOM 706MKIIG. It was 8 VDC until you push to talk, and then the voltage went to zero. Quickly they offered a new design. Instrumental in the effort was my neighbor Will Humphreys, W6NZN. I tested the design change and after several trials found it would work in spite of my inexperience. The timer told me by a light-emitting diode that went out and a quartz speaker what beeped, that one minute and fifty-five seconds had elapsed, and I had better stop talking.

I got to thinking that I needed another option. *I should be able to run my timer with just an RF input*, I thought. So we put our heads together and came up with another design. I would have done it myself but I needed more vacuum tubes than were available. I also went to the technology "TAG" meeting consisting of FRC members where I consulted with Tom Curlee, WB6UZZ and Dennis Kidder, W6DQ who offered comments and suggestions.

The first design for RF operation worked well if you had lots of RF lying around, but I didn't. I needed some amplification. So I drew up a small stage of amplifier and tried it. It did not work. Ron suggested removing a resistor and suddenly it began to work with very little RF present.

So now I had a timer that would come on with the change in PTT voltage OR with the presence of an RF carrier. The first option would work with most Ham modes, such as FM, SSB, or AM. The second method would work with FM or AM. But not SSB; you had to have a continuous RF source.

Some (Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE, for instance) thought the timer could be an interesting and useful project for Hams to cut their teeth on. I bought a cheap

assembly board from Ford Electronic plus the transistors and other parts. I am looking into the design of a circuit board made for this project. Truly, the timer was inexpensive, if you take out all the trial and error parts and time.

Whatever else the timer is, it is useful. I don't go on two meters without using it. Now I am finding ways to adapt it to my other rigs, because after fifty four years of saving up my Ham conversations, I still talk too long.

Tom Fiske, AA6TF  
Fullerton, CA  
Jan 8, 2010

## FRC Transmitter Hunt

December 19th 2009

Deryl Crawford N6AIN, Steve Wallis WA6PYE, and Peter Dekluyver KG6LSE were hiders for the December FRC transmitter hunt. They took advantage of the high hills just north of the 10 freeway and just west of the 57 freeway, putting the transmitter on Calle Sabrina, just off San Dimas Avenue. From there, it doesn't take much power to reach the starting point and it can give the false impression that it's a signal bounce from Mt. Baldy.

This wasn't the first time that this location has been used for a transmitter hunt, but it's the first time for our FRC hunt, since the spot is actually outside the FRC hunt boundaries by a quarter of a kilometer.

With the holiday activities conflicting, only two teams were out. Neither did well, considering that a direct route would have been only 18 miles.

Team	Odo
<u>Calls</u>	<u>Miles</u>
N6MJN	24.3
N6ZHZ/KD6CYG	37.6

Everyone is welcome at the monthly FRC mobile transmitter hunts, which take place on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning at 8 PM from North Ladera Vista Drive, just east of the Acacia Avenue intersection.

73,  
Joe Moell K0OV

## Special Alert

### QST de W1AW

Special Bulletin 2 ARLX002

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT January 13, 2010

To all radio amateurs

SB SPCL ARL ARLX002

ARLX002 IARU Region 2 Requests Frequencies Be Kept Clear After Massive Earthquake Strikes Haiti

On Tuesday, January 12 at 4:53 PM Haiti time (2153 UTC), a magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit 10 miles (15 kilometers) west of Port-au-Prince, the island nation's capital. Communications in and out of Haiti have been disrupted. No word has been received as of yet from any of Haitian Amateur Radio operators. The ARRL encourages US amateurs to be aware of the emergency operations on the following frequencies:

7.045 and 3.720 MHz (IARU Region 2 nets), 14.265, 7.265 and 3.977 MHz (SATERN nets), and 14.300 MHz (Intercontinental Assistance and Traffic Net). The International Radio Emergency Support Coalition (IRESC) is also active on EchoLink node 278173.

IARU Region 2 Area C Emergency Coordinator, Arnie Coro, CO2KK, is coordinating a multi-national response by hams. There are organized nets on 7.045 and 3.720 MHz; amateurs are asked to monitor the frequencies, but to also keep them clear of non-essential traffic.

Amateur Radio operators should also be aware that emergency traffic pertaining to the Haitian earthquake is expected on the SATERN frequencies of 14.265 MHz, 7.265 MHz and 3977 MHz, according to SATERN's leader, Major Pat McPherson. The Salvation Army is accepting health and welfare traffic requests on its Web site.

"As late as 9:45 PM local time (0245 UTC), we have not been able to contact any amateur or emergency services stations in Haiti," Coro said in an e-mail. "Amateurs from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Venezuela are monitoring the 40 meter band frequency. We are still keeping watch on 7.045 MHz, hoping that someone in Haiti may have access to a transceiver and at least a car battery to run it," but so far, no HH stations have checked in.

Tuesday's quake was felt in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, and in Eastern Cuba, but no major damage was reported in either place.

The January 13 edition of The Daily DX reported that the Rev John Henault, HH6JH, made contact late Wednesday morning with the Intercontinental Assistance and Traffic Net (IATN) on 14.300 MHz; this is the IARU Global Center of Activity frequency for emergency communications. He said that he was safe, but had no power and no phone service. He was operating on battery power and hoping to get a generator running later in the day. The edition also noted that Pierre Petry, HH2/HB9AMO -- who was in Cap Haitien (about 140 km north of Port-au-Prince) is "okay"; Petry is in Haiti working for the United Nations World Food Program. Later today, he will be traveling to the capital.

The UN's 9000 peacekeepers in Haiti -- many of whom are from Brazil -- were distracted from aid efforts by their own tragedy: Many spent the night hunting for survivors in the ruins of their headquarters. "It would appear that everyone who was in the building, including my friend Hedi Annabi, the United Nations' Secretary General's special envoy, and everyone with him and around him, are dead," French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said Wednesday, speaking on French radio. UN peacekeeping chief Alain Le Roy would not confirm that Annabi was dead, but said he was among more than 100 people missing in the rubble of its headquarters. He said only about 10 people had been pulled out, many of them badly injured. Fewer than five bodies had been pulled from the rubble, he said.

The United Nations said the capital's main airport was "fully operational" and that relief flights would begin on Wednesday, January 13.

The situation in Haiti is still chaotic. More information will be posted as soon as possible. Information is being validated and shared between many amateur groups and news sources as it unfolds.

### FRC Regular Club Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month  
Fullerton Senior Center  
340 W. Commonwealth Ave.  
Fullerton, CA

**Next Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 20, 2010**

Dinner before the meeting at about 5:30 PM at:  
**Coco's Restaurant, 1011 N. Harbor Blvd.**

**Meeting time: 7:00 PM**

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

[www.occaro.org](http://www.occaro.org)

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### FRC Board Meeting

Open to all members

Marie Callender's Restaurant  
126 Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia  
First Wednesday of each month

**Next Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 3, 2010**

QSO and dinner; 7:00 PM

**Meeting: 7:30 PM**

**FRC Tuesday Net**

**8:00 PM – 147.975 (-) PL 114.8**

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
Sat. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Tel: (714) 521-8080  
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### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

Fullerton Radio Club  
PO Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92836

(Please Print)

Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Email #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email #2: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member  Yes  No

Special Amateur Radio Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$20 per member, or \$25 per family. Students (full time) \$10  
**Bring your application and dues payment to the next meeting or mail to the above address.**