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# Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

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July 2006

## President's Corner

Field Day has come and gone, and I'm still not sure how we made it through the event. We started out with breakfast at Carrow's, followed by a short trek across the road to the flatlands of Hillcrest Park to set-up the site. My thanks to all who participated in the set-up and tear-down activities, plus those who participated. The set-up crew consisted of Cheryl KE6TZU, Gene KB6CMO, Manuel AE6SG, Gary KA6GPC, Bill W6ZJE, Otis KD6AXR and Paul K6MHD. We actually got on the air by about 11:00 AM, operating as a "2A ORG" station. The day went well, although contacts seemed few and somewhat difficult to come by. The log shows only 72 contacts. Operations continued until about 7:00 PM at which time we were all so tired that we decided to shut down activities and go home. We may have tried an all-nighter, but there were no other club members committed to relieve us and carry on the show. Good news is that we had 14 or 15 visitors who signed our guest log. We were pleased to see Chuck Hungate K4TAT as one of the visitors.

At this time we have a very limited number of Club members signed up for participating at the Ham Radio booth at the Orange County Fair on Wednesday, July 26. If you'd like to join us at for this fun way to present our hobby to the public and meet a few other hams, please contact one of the board members to receive an assignment. You will receive one free admission ticket and free parking at a special lot but must spend at least 3 hours at the booth to receive the tickets.

Club membership has all board members rather concerned. Where have all the (paid) members gone? In recent past years we've had about 50 dues paying members, but so far this year we count only 34. We are trying to think up some incentives to attract new members and regain some of the "old" members. Two things will be tried soon, beginning with this edition of **Smoke Signals**. First, we will be offering a classified ad section for **paid** members (see page 4 for the first ad). Second, we may be sending the newsletter only to paid members. In the past we have stopped sending **Smoke Signals** if membership has not been renewed by the end of March. I think we may reinstate this practice. We'd really like to see **you** at the Club activities. We're forecasting the July meeting to be extraordinary. Dennis, W6DQ is an excellent presenter, and will bring a topic that should be of interest to all hams, plus others who simply like the science of radio communication. Come to the meeting – and bring a guest.

See you on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 73 for now. Paul, K6MHD

## JULY MEETING PRESENTATION



How would you like to have this antenna in your back yard for EME work? Pictured here is the antenna that Dennis Kidder (W6DQ) – on the right in the photo – who will be speaking at the July meeting. See page 3 for presentation details and a 'bio' on Dennis.

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FRC Field Day, including Bill's famous "breadboard" antenna tuner.



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**ELECTRONICS ARE NOW HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Hazardous waste regulations changed on February 9, 2006 and now require that most electronic items be recycled or brought to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HHWCC). The significant change is that all items with printed circuit boards or batteries can no longer be discarded as trash.

HHWCC previously accepted TVs and computer monitors but not radios and computer CPUs with motherboards; now, these items are accepted free of charge and must not be placed in trash cans as landfill waste.

The expanded list of electronic items now accepted at no cost at HHWCC includes:

- Flat panel TVs and TV monitors
- Any item containing a CRT or printed circuit board
- Computer CPUs, keyboards and disk drives
- Cell and cordless phones
- Stereos and game consoles
- Microwave ovens

Batteries of all kinds and sizes and even novelty items containing batteries such as singing greeting cards and flashing athletic shoes must be brought to a HHWCC.

Fluorescent lamps (tubes and newer compact high-efficiency lamps), mercury thermometers, mercury thermostats and mercury switches all must be brought to a HHWCC.

The above items are new to the list of hazardous waste since February. Other hazardous waste includes motor oil, household cleaners, solvents, paints, stains, insecticides, garden chemicals and partially used aerosol cans.

Some local cities have free HHWCC. The Anaheim HHWCC is located at 1071 N. Blue Gum Street (between the 91 and 57 freeways at the corner of La Palma and Blue Gum) and accepts hazardous waste from all Orange County residential households free of charge; business waste is not accepted. This HHWCC is open Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Anaheim HHWCC is co-located with the recycling center for aluminum cans and glass and plastic bottles; but follow the signs around the building for the HHWCC and stay in your car! You will be required to complete a simple form and the HHWCC personnel will remove the hazardous waste from your car or truck. Did I say it is FREE?

The Anaheim HHWCC separates still-usable cleaners, paints and garden chemicals and provides them free-of-charge for your further use. Visit their well-organized re-distribution center and help yourself!

You can get more information about household hazardous waste and find other HHWCC at [www.oclandfills.com/hhwcc.asp](http://www.oclandfills.com/hhwcc.asp) or call 714-834-6752.

So, don't throw your old ham radios with circuit boards and batteries into your trash can! Instead, find and use your local HHWCC.

Larry McDavid W6FUB

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## Board Minutes July 5, 2006

Meeting began at 7:32 P.M. at Marie Callender's in Placentia.

Members present for Fullerton Radio Club board meeting – President, Paul Broden; Secretary, Gary Miller; Treasurer, Manuel Borges; Board Members, Gene Thorpe, Cheryl Thorpe; and OCCARO Representative Larry McDavid

Speakers/ Topic for July: The Owens Valley Radio Telescopes [Speaker – Dennis Kidder, W6DQ]

Field Day: The log needs to be submitted to the ARRL before July 24. Gene will send it before the deadline. Fifteen guests were signed in before shutting down at dusk.

Orange County Fair: Fliers about our club will be taken to the fair this Sunday by Paul. Birthdays and zip codes are needed from club members in order to work the radio booth this year.

Fullerton Airport Day: Sept. 16. The city will once again have Airport Days, but no flights as in prior years. Gene needs at least ten operators for the day.

Club E-Mail Reflector: Larry is going to begin a new site as soon as he gets all the club members email addresses.

Raffle -- 50-50 drawing this month

Meeting ended at 8:36 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc  
Secretary Fullerton Radio Club

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### July 19 FRC program, "EME on 40 Meters."

Presentation by:  
Dennis Kidder, W6DQ

The San Bernardino Microwave Society recently obtained permission to utilize the 40 meter (that's 130 feet!) dish at the Owens Valley Radio Observatory in order to operate Amateur Radio Moonbounce on 1296 and 10,368 MHz. It is highly unusual for an amateur group to gain access to a resource such as this for even a single weekend, but in our case, we have regular access to the antenna. The project is becoming a landmark in the EME community and we will share the results of our efforts in this presentation. Aside from the obvious, one of the goals of the project is educational outreach... but not in the ways you might imagine.

The San Bernardino Microwave Society, founded in 1955, is a technical organization, dedicated to the advancement of communications above 1000 MHz.

The Owens Valley Radio Observatory is owned and operated by the California Institute of Technology and is one of the largest university-owned radio observatories in the world.

#### Bio of Dennis Kidder, W6DQ

First licensed in 1969, Dennis is active on most amateur bands through 24 GHz. His interests are varied - from collecting and operating "boatanchors" to building radios that work in the very short wavelengths. Weak signal work has become his favorite pastime, from being the first person ever to receive a signal from SAQ, in Sweden, on the US West Coast at 17.2 KHz (Yes, KHz), to bouncing radio signals off the Moon on 144 MHz and up.

He is involved in emergency communications as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator with the Orange County Hospital Disaster Support Communications System, and heads up – would you believe – the antenna team who are charged with installing and maintaining VHF/UHF antennas at the hospitals supported by HDSCS. Active in a number of Amateur Radio clubs, he is President of the San Bernardino Microwave Society and is currently a Director and former President of The Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach, W6RO. He is also the Assistant Project Manager of the SBMS/OVRO EME Project.

Dennis is no stranger to working around big dishes having spent a number of years as an Engineer with Hughes Aircraft Company building satellite ground stations. He is now a System Engineer with another large aerospace company, working on battlefield tactical radio systems.

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**Club meeting – Wednesday July 19, 7:30 PM**  
**Fullerton Senior Center**  
**340 W. Commonwealth Ave.**

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#### Remember:

ARRL convention; September 22 – 24 in San Diego. More info later.

Airport days; Saturday, September 16 at Fullerton Airport. We need 10 – 12 hams to cover all activities. Contact Gene KB6CMO to participate.

We will be looking for candidates for Club offices within the next few weeks. Yes, it's that time of year again. Nominations are to be submitted by the October meeting, with elections in November. Currently I know of two officers who will not be seeking re-election. Please consider how you can assist the Club by serving as an officer or board member.

