



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

July 2008

PREZ SPEAKS

The May-July period is very busy again this year for FRC. We had successful Fullerton Railroad Days and Antennas in the Park events in May and have just completed Field Day 2008 in June. Now, we look forward to staffing the ham radio booth at the Orange County Fair in July. June brought us unseasonably high temperatures with more likely to come. What will the coming months bring? Stay active in your club and find out!

Our June meeting focused on Field Day preparations, but Bill W6ZJE also showed computer graphics of the latest super-computer simulations of possible earthquakes and how they might affect us here locally. This was scary! Forewarned is forearmed.... Alex Valdez K9BLK proudly reported he upgraded to Extra Class. Congratulations to Alex! I asked Alex how he came to have a K9 call here in California and he told a really great tale of seeking that call to honor his long-time guide dog, who is black! "K9" and "BLK"—get it? That's a great story, Alex, and we thank you for sharing it.

Our July meeting will feature a presentation on GPS by a representative from Boeing. I have a handheld GPS receiver I use for position and time when working with sundials but I also use a GPS-steered frequency/time standard in my ham shack. I recently put a GPS navigation system in my car and I just saw a cell phone that has built-in GPS maps. GPS is all around us! Come and learn more!

Your club held Field Day again this year at the Isaac Walton Cabin in Hillcrest Park. Thanks to Gene Thorpe for arranging the use of that cabin; it makes a really convenient site, with lots of space for antennas and excellent amenities. This year we operated two QRP HF stations, one VHF station and a GOTA (Get On The Air) 100 watt HF station. One QRP station operated SSB and PSK31 on 20 m using a G5RV long wire antenna. The other QRP HF station operated SSB on 40 and 80 m using a long wire end-fed Zepp antenna fed with ladder line and antenna tuner.

Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE demonstrated astonishing skill slinging rope through distant trees with a fishing pole with spinning reel; Bill made this look easy! That access to high

trees made supporting the two long-wire antennas possible. Manuel AE6SG brought a multi-band dipole supported on a push-up mast and Gene KB6CMO provided a multi-band "J" for VHF. This was my first experience with a ladder-line fed Zepp antenna and tuner. The Zepp is a classic antenna, using a long single wire fed at one end with ladder line; one side of the ladder line simply floats at that end. The antenna tuner at the transmitter allows low SWR over many bands! Bill has posted pictures of Field Day 2008 on our club Yahoo Group website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRC-OC/photos>

Our website can now be reached at either fullertonradioclub.org or fullertonradioclub.com domain addresses, thanks to help from David Curlee and Phil Goodman. Our FRC-OC Yahoo Group now has 31 members! Those of you who have joined our FRC-OC Group have received some interesting email announcements and comments from members. Those of you who have not yet joined, please do so! You don't need an invitation email to join; just browse over to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and enter FRC-OC in the Find a Group text box; from that group homepage, you can join our club Group.

I enjoy the Show-and-Tell each month and hope you do, too! Please find something of interest and bring it or plan to talk briefly about something you've done. Remember, this need not be a big presentation, just stand up and show what you've brought; if practical, pass it around the room for folks to enjoy.

Join us for dinner at the Carrow's Restaurant on Harbor Boulevard near Brea Boulevard about 6:00 PM before each club meeting.

Larry W6FUB

JULY MEETING GPS

Global Positioning System (GPS) is a satellite-based navigation system made up of a network of 24 satellites placed into orbit by the U.S. Department of Defense. Come hear a presentation about GPS uses.

7:30 PM, Wednesday, July 16. Fullerton Senior Center
340 W. Commonwealth Avenue.

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Show-and-Tell

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

Board Minutes

The Fullerton Radio Club July 2 2008 board meeting began at 7:40pm at Marie Callender's in Placentia. Present: President Larry McDavid, Vice President Bill Preston, Board members Gene Thorpe, Smoke Signals Editor Paul Broden, & club members Bill Kohlenberger & Cheryl Thorpe.

Treasurer's report: Checking acct-\$1552.27, savings acct-\$1684.19

Membership: 50 paid members

Upcoming programs: this month; Boeing representative on GPS. Future months still undetermined.

Field Day: Learning experience. Pictures on the web. Points from various aspects other than just contacts.

OC Fair booth: FRC's day is July 18. Larry passed out tickets to those there who had agreed to work the booth. Still had a few to pass out.

New business:

- 1) ".org" domain was paid by Phil
- 2) Need more beginning radio classes, help scheduling & finding classrooms. These help club membership.
- 3) Tuesday night 8pm net: Not much participation. Is there a better day/time that would get more?

Meeting ended at 8:42pm.

Submitted by: Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU

From the Past

Hi all,

It was nice to still be listed with the Fullerton Radio Club. I am taking this opportunity to reply to all to say hello. It has been four years or so since I was in the club there and I think about it often. I am very much active in the Ogden (Utah) Amateur Radio Club and am the President this year. We number about 60 paid up members and average 25 or so at our monthly meetings that are at 9:00AM on the third Saturday of each month.

We had a good field day compliments of one of our members who owns a Llama ranch East of here. One station was in his Llama barn and the other in his Llama trailer. We used a G5RV broadside East and West, a tri-band beam and a cool military switchable direction antenna. We got over 400 points this year, up 100 from last year. It was great fun. I had spent the previous 8 days in scout camp and turned around and did field day. My in-camp QRP yielded nothing, but field day was a good turnaround.

Some on you may remember Roland Hill from the club. He and his wife are full-time RVers with their two dogs in an Airstream trailer. They are up near Yellowstone for the summer. We get together several times a year when they pass through to Flagstaff and we visit them there when we visit our son.

Keep up the good work.

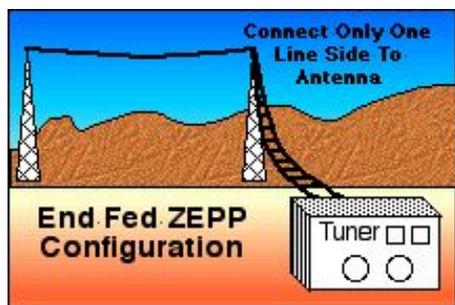
TNX

Kent Gardner, WA7AHY; 4515 Jefferson Avenue, South Ogden, UT 84403I (801) 475-6282 - L7MFCC@Juno.com

FRC T-Hunt – 6/21/08

Dave Balgie N6MJN usually hides close to his home in Costa Mesa, but this time he went all the way out to Butterfield Ranch, off the 71 freeway north of the 91. With a long yagi pointed north, he got an excellent signal bounce off Mt. Baldy that led most of the hunters out of their way to the north. The only official team was N6AIN/WA6PYE/KG6LSE, who took 34 miles to get to Dave. Also out hunting unofficially were K0OV and N6ZHZ.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV



The FRC CAN-DO Attitude in The Face Of Failures, A most Useful Field Day Learning Experience.

Thanks to Manuel AE6SG's interest and attempt to provide an improved set of antennas with better gain the tower experiment succeeded. It showed that more engineering was needed. Undeterred, Manuel next began to assemble his 20-meter horizontal dipole. Manuel's 20-Meter dipole radiated power efficiently, yet without added gain our QRP SSB station had a challenge to stick out of the QRM that was so loaded with High Watt stations. Nevertheless, Field Day contacts were indeed made.

Good news, the VHF/UHF station was quickly put on the air in time for Field day start by Gene, KB6CMO, who is Fullerton's RACES Officer. That's what "Be Prepared" for emergency communications is all about.

A question surfaced about, "*Is W6ULI, on QRP and batteries, to be classed as 2A, 2AB, or 2A-Battery*" station, and it also turned out that running a GOTO transmitter, requires a minimum of two HF QRP stations. We finally settled on 2AB. Next Field Day, 2009, more people will surely have pre read & become familiarity with the Field day rules before Noon start time.

An added HF antenna was needed with the 20 meter Antenna. The G5RV antenna had already been put on the air for the GOTO station, being run by Robby KI6KYX, and Bill KZ3G. Only newest hams having received their first license in the year following the 2007 field day could run up to 150 Watts, "high power" using commercial power could make up to 500 contacts on the GOTO station. This was Bill & Robby's first field day.

Still, we needed to quickly add another station with antenna, transmitter & Receiver. Paul K6MHD, generously offered his portable, battery-capable, HF station, with an antenna tuner having both coax feed and balanced feed line matching capability. Other backup tuners were

on hand from, Bill, KZ3G and Bill, W6ZJE. Larry, W6FUB, brought a battery & a backup balanced line capability tuner. We could match to almost anything with this array of tuners but the "anything" had to radiate on any HF without waste of our QRP watts. What's a good acceptable antenna? It seemed clear we had all ingredients for the trusty ZEPP, a well-proven, efficient antenna.

A Flagpole north of the cabin offered an Ideal "North end" for the ZEPP. A South tie off point on a tree at the other end gave the #12 wire near a half wave on 80 M. A large gift from our late SK friend Gary WB6GCT, a spool of 400-Ohm "ladder" line, gave the ideal low loss feed line solution. The distance from the antenna to the second W6ULI QRP field day station needed more than 100 foot of line length.

It may be a surprise that a ZEPP system is a horizontal variant of the famous "J-Pole" vertical, scaled down to VHF or UHF. The "J" Parallel section is an open wire line as is our "ladder-Line".

When the feed end was finally connected to its balanced line Tuner, we were able to immediately get a 1:1 VSWR. Signals on 20 M, and 40 M were "Hot" like with a good efficient antenna. Paul K6MHD did make 40-meter contacts with it where "holes" in the band accidentally appeared, proof it worked.

An experiment with long wire ZEPPs would be fun and could offer gain. This one showed its value as an easy antenna to quickly put up. Incidentally, all of us who helped get the ZEPP on the air had a valuable learning experience.

(See ZEPP configuration drawing in column to the left.)

73, de W6ZJE

2008 FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES AT HILLCREST PARK



AE6SG works on his dipole with assistance from KI7KYX



CQ 2 meter DX - de KE6TZU and KB6CMO



Late night GOTA station with KZ3G and KI6KYX



KF6EZ and helper with logging



AE6SG and Irene

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

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

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 6, 2008
Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:30 PM

Fullerton Radio Club Web Site

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.com>

Hidden Transmitter Hunt

FRC operates a 2-meter mobile T-Hunt every 3rd Saturday. We meet at the corner of Acacia Avenue and Skyline Drive at 8:00 PM sharp for deployment on the hunt. You are invited. There is no need to be a licensed ham to participate.

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, July 16, 2008

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

FRC Tuesday Net

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

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

<http://www.occaro.org>

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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