



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

June 2009

Prez Speaks

NEW MEETING TIME!!! As approved by the membership and your FRC Board in May 2009, our General Meeting start time is now 19:00 hours! This earlier start time will help avoid running well over the 9:00 pm (2100 hrs) mark. There will be a bit more time for members networking and sharing ideas, which is an important part of the meeting. And, the new 19:00 start time will allow for the Senior Center staff to complete their room reconfiguration before their shift ends at 9:30pm.

Field Day is being held this month, June 27-28, at the Isaak Walton Cabin in Hillcrest Park, which is comfortable and convenient. Mark your calendar and join us! Our Field Day Chairman Paul Broden (K6MHD) is busy putting together the final details. Please give Paul a call if you can lend a hand.

Our FRC-OC Yahoo Group continues to provide pictures, 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.

NEW DINNER LOCATION and TIME!!! Join us for dinner at the Ruby's Diner on Harbor Boulevard near Orangethorpe about 5:15 PM before each club meeting. We have been challenged with consistent food service delays at our former dinner location. Thus, the Board discussed and agreed upon giving Ruby's a try.

With the kids out of school for the summer and my Pageant of the Masters production rapidly approaching, I'll be taking my annual summer leave of absence (July and August) from our FRC meetings. The Pageant of the Masters production in Laguna Beach is a seven night a week commitment, beginning June 27. Vice President Bill Preston (KZ3G) will be presiding at the Board and General Meetings during these two summer months. He has been doing a great job and please give him your support!

73's

Robert KI6KYW

June Meeting

The FRC June regular meeting will be split between discussion of Field Day and the guest speaker, Tom Fiske AA6TF.

The Field Day discussions will concentrate on: 1) identification of the time slots that you will select for operation; 2) ensuring that equipment will be available "on the hill" for the set-up time (if you have equipment and need help with transportation now is the time to speak up); and 3) answering any questions that may arise about operating procedure and rules that will apply to the class (2A plus GOTA station) that we have chosen.

Tom Fiske will be presenting a selected topic from his book "Plowshares into Swords." Rumors have it that he may be speaking about the history of the A-Bomb.

Fullerton Radio Club

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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.

Web site: www.FullertonRadioClub.com

Changes To Note

- At the May FRC meeting club members voted to change the starting time for regular club meetings to 7:00 PM so there will be adequate time for business, announcements and the speaker before the required closing time of 9:00 PM. If you want a QSO prior to the meeting plan on being there a few minutes early.
- Dinner prior to the regular club meetings has changed time to 5:15 PM to allow time to eat and still get to the 7:00 PM meeting. Also, the dinner location has changed to Ruby's Diner at the southwest corner of Harbor and Orangethorpe.

Calendar

- | | |
|------------|--|
| June 17 | Regular club meeting, new time, 7:00 PM |
| June 23 | FRC Net – 8:00 PM 147.975 (-) PL 114.8 |
| June 27-28 | FIELD DAY – Hillcrest Park |
| June 30 | FRC Net – 8:00 PM 147.975 (-) PL 114.8 |
| July 1 | FRC Board meeting; Marie Callender's, Placentia |
| July 4 | Independence Day
La Palma Run 4 Fun & Fitness |
| July 7 | FRC Net – 8:00 PM 147.975 (-) PL 114.8 |
| July 14 | FRC Net – 8:00 PM 147.975 (-) PL 114.8 |
| July 15 | Regular club meeting |

TAG

Your Board is focusing on ways to improve club activities and other responses to member and potential members needs and hopes as we support local amateur radio activities. One of the ways under consideration is the formation of what we are calling a TAG team.

The "TAG Team" – not a kids game of "you're it" to which the common expression sometimes applies, but will be a **Technical Advisory Group**. A few members met on Monday, June 1 to examine short and long term ideas regarding potential uses of the group, if it becomes reality. We are considering this as a multifaceted technical forum with tentative purpose targets to include ideas such as: establishing technical information sources whereby members can find "Elmers" to assist with specific problems, ideas of challenges; identify program presentations stressing technical issues related to amateur radio communication subjects that may be too "technical" or lengthy for the regular meetings. We are open to other ideas in these formative times, so please provide your input. This is NOT a closed group; you are invited to attend and provide input. Meetings will be scheduled at varying intervals until such time as we have clarified our intent and purpose, and have set some realistic goals. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 7:00 PM, at the home of Dennis Kidder W6DQ.

If you have input to the meeting concept, or would like to be a technical information source but cannot attend the meeting, please contact one of the Board members with your ideas.

Board Meeting Minutes

President Robert Doidge KI6KYW called the FRC Board meeting to order on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 7:41. After the welcome statement conductance of the meeting was turned over to Vice President Bill Preston KZ3G who will officiate at the next meetings due to other commitments of our President.

Minutes of the last meeting (May 6) were accepted as printed in the May 2009 issue of Smoke Signals.

The Treasurer's report is identical to the May report: Checking \$1,613.25, and Savings \$1,688.45.

A Special Events Report was given by Gene Thorpe KB6CMO.

- An emergency evacuation drill was conducted at Cedar Hill Mobile Home Estates on Monday, May 25. Twenty-nine individuals participated in the

event, including hams, police, fire, RACES, CERT, and others. Of the 281 homes in the park 193 were evacuated. Other homeowners may have simply left early due to holiday weekend activities. Huntington Beach RACES attended as an observer. The event was considered as very successful.

- The LA Marathon was also held on Monday May 25, with participants from FRC. Bicycles began at 5:00 AM and runners at 7:30, so hams had to be in place at 4:30. FRC members Gene Thorpe KB6CMO was stationed at mile 16, and Albert Solomon KI6WRU was at mile 21.
- The next public service event will be the July 4 fun-run in the city o La Palma.

Field Day was discussed at length. See the Field Day column elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

The Technical Advisory Group formation and subject of the first meeting was discussed. The date is in conflict with Fullerton RACES meeting.

Speaker for the next meeting (June17) will be Tom Fiske AA6TF who will be presenting a topic from his book "Plowshares into Swords."

Because the regular club meeting time has been moved forward to 7:00 PM the pre-meeting dinner will also be moved forward to 5:15 PM. Note that the dinner location will be moved to Ruby's Diner at the corner of Orangethorpe and Harbor.

Larry McDavid presented a brief report regarding the recent OCCARO meeting. The amateur radio booth at the Orange County Fair has been relocated. We will now be operating from an outside 10 foot covered booth. The antenna tower has been removed and we no longer have access to the building roof for placement of antennas. Operator assignments for our day at the fair (July 17) are pending, and due to the booth size we may need only 2 operators per shift.

The current club QSL card was designed in about 1954 and shows a picture of the old emergency operations trailer, the whereabouts of which is a mystery. It was suggested by Paul Broden K6MHD that this rather outdated and faded card could stand revision, hopefully before field day. A proposed new design was presented to the board for review and input. Decisions to be made at a later date.

The meeting ended at 9:15 PM by VP Bill Preston
Paul Broden K6MHD, Club Secretary

Field Day

by: Paul Broden K6MHD, Field Day Coordinator

The BIG day is approaching rapidly – June 27 & 28 –, and we still have a great deal of work to complete before we begin the activities. We will be operating from our favorite site, the Isaak Walton cabin at Hillcrest Park in Fullerton. For those who may be unfamiliar with the location the park is at the junction of Harbor and Brea Boulevards. If you plan on attending – as an operator or visitor – the easiest way to the location from downtown Fullerton is to go north on Harbor Boulevard to Brea Boulevard, north on Brea to Lemon Street, turn right, go up the hill and turn right into the park entrance (if you come north on Lemon you cannot turn left into the park). At the first stop sign inside the park turn right and proceed to the parking lot above the cabin. If that lot is full drive further down the road as it circles around in front of the cabin and you'll find additional parking below the cabin.

We will be meeting at 8:00 AM at Carrow's restaurant – Harbor Boulevard across from the park – prior to setting up for the event. You are invited to come join the breakfast bunch if you will be assisting with the event setup. We should be at the park location by about 9:00 AM for setup, and hope to start operations by 11:00 AM.

We will be operating as 2A class, with 2 HF stations, a "free" VHF/UHF station, plus a GOTA (Get On The Air) station. For those who don't know, the GOTA station is intended to provide opportunity for newly licensed or inactive hams to "get on the air." To qualify for the GOTA station as a newly licensed ham you must have received your license since field day 2008. This year we will not be classified as a QRP station, and will sacrifice the power multiplier for opportunity to make more contacts at higher power rating. Please read the next article regarding new antennas that may be used during the event.

What we need now are additional club members who will commit to a time for operating the stations. If you can only operate for a few hours we still need you. **We especially need operators who can be available from about 5:00 PM to midnight on Saturday June 27.** It would also be nice to have at least one or more seasoned operator(s) with field day familiarity to help from midnight to about 8:00 AM on Sunday.

I will have a sign-up sheet at the June 17 regular club meeting for you to select **the time slot for which you**

will operate our stations at field day. As I've said before, this is YOUR CLUB, you need to support it, and field day is an excellent time for you to show your commitment to W6ULI. We are looking forward to great fun and a public awareness display at Hillcrest Park on June 27 & 28. Hope to see you there! BRING YOUR LICENSE or a copy thereof. Please see page 5 for **ARRL Field Day Tips and Techniques that Everyone Can Use**, and be prepared to attend, get on the air and, most of all, have a great time with your hobby and other members.

Of Interest To Antenna Experimenters & FRC Field Day Operators

by: Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE

A highly successful antenna checkout experiment was carried out by five FRC members, FD Chair Paul Broden K6MHD, Dick Palmer WB6JDH, Bill Preston KZ3G, Robby Preston KI6KYX and Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE. The antenna put to the test is one of two commercial antennas made by Barker & Williamson (B&W) that were donated as gifts to FRC. These results show the antennas can be used during field day and are a serious windfall for future emergency communications use. ☐☐ Check out the following information and then **plan to operate with us on field day** to see for yourself how well they perform. The B&W website < <http://www.bwantennas.com/> > reveals that these antennas are also sold to the military in manpack kits to use for NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) propagation. That performance matches what Dick Palmer, WB6JDH experienced by working a number of stations during his short on-air test, witnessed by Rob Preston, KI6KYX. ☐☐ An explanation of NVIS is at <http://www.tactical-link.com/field_deployed_nviv.htm>. ☐☐ The B&W ham antenna website, <<http://www.bwantennas.com/ama/amaindex.htm>> shows the same antenna we used today. A movie on how the manpack package version is setup can be seen when you click on the RED Box under the waving flag. The price, <<http://www.bwantennas.com/pricelist.htm>> for the two AC-110 antennas we were given is listed as \$299.00. B&W offers a 110 ft "enhanced" version covering 1.8 to 54 Mhz for merely \$100.00 more. In pairs, we could likely phase them to change the radiation angles for optimized directed gain. Very interesting future experiment. ☐☐

Enjoy,
73 ☐☐ Bill K., W6ZJE ☐

ARRL Field Day Tips and Techniques that Everyone Can Use

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

- 1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.
- 2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.
- 3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.
- 4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.
- 5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.
- 6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."
- 7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."
- 8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.
- 9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.
- 10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

(from ARRL web site)

FRC Regular Club Meeting

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

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Dinner before the meeting; 5:15 PM at
Ruby's Diner, Harbor Blvd. at Orangethorpe

MEETING 7:00 PM

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

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

First Wednesday of each month

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 1, 2009

QSO and dinner 7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:30 PM

Orange County Council of Amateur Radio Organizations (OCCARO)

www.occaro.org

FRC Tuesday Net

8:00 PM – 147.975 (-) PL 114.8

Hidden Transmitter Hunt

FRC operates a 2-meter mobile T-Hunt every 3rd Saturday, courtesy of Joe Moell K0OV. We meet at the corner of Acacia Avenue and Skyline Drive in Fullerton at 8:00 PM sharp for deployment and the hunt. No need to be a licensed ham to participate.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

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

(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 or Activities: _____

Dues are \$20 per member, or \$25 per family. Students (full time) \$10.

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