



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

March 2006

SPECIAL PROGRAM – MARCH CLUB MEETING

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION IN SUPPORT OF ORANGE COUNTY HOSPITALS

We are privileged to have our own April Moell, WA6OPS, as presenter at the March club meeting. For those who may not be fully aware, April is Emergency Coordinator for the Hospital Disaster Support Communication System (HDSCS). The mission of this organization is: backing up [hospital] communication critical to patient care. In the 25-year history of HDSCS the group has responded to 338 “events”, including 93 communication emergency responses (phone outages, earthquakes, train derailments, firestorms, etc), 74 on-site standby operations, 142 drills, and numerous special events and demonstrations. Year 2005 was the busiest year of all (so far) with 8 emergency callouts. HDSCS currently supports 34 hospitals in Orange County. This all-volunteer organization is looking for a few good hams to strengthen emergency communications for Orange County’s hospitals. April’s presentation will be of interest to the general public as well as to hams. You might even hear how Santa Clause uses amateur radio to talk to the children at CHOC.

Bring your family and friends to hear how amateur radio is being used to serve the community.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

FULLERTON RADIO CLUB NET; Each Tuesday, 8:00 PM; 147.975 (-) PL 114.8

President’s Column

We want to extend a hearty “thanks” to **Quent Cassen, W6RI**, for his most interesting presentation at the February Club meeting. Quent’s program was on new telecommunication, emphasizing cell-phones, their current use and some projections for future technologies. The number of cell-phones in use, and projections for the next few years as presented is almost overwhelming. For those who were unable to hear Quent’s topic: there were 812 million cell-phones sold worldwide last year – that’s over 2.22 million PER DAY! Cell-phones now outnumber landlines. It is expected that by year 2008 nearly half of the world’s population will have them. In one European nation the ratio of c-phones to the total population is already 1.6:1. That’s right, approaching 2 phones for every inhabitant.

Fullerton Radio Club, and radio amateurs in general, have clearly demonstrated their interest and dedication to community service. Evidence of this is in our history as I’ve seen while reviewing past editions of **Smoke Signals** from the mid-60s to now. This interest and dedication is also evident in the coming events listed on page 2; BUT – we need to strengthen the numbers of those participating in these key community events. For example, Gene struggled, big time, to find sufficient hams to support the Junior Tennis Tournament; the Donate Life Run needs additional assistance if we are to provide expected

communication for a most worthy cause; Fullerton RACES is dangerously close to becoming an endangered species due to extremely low membership, and; I’m sure April will tell us at this month’s meeting that HDSCS services to Orange County’s hospitals will be stretched beyond limits in the occurrence of a major “event” requiring their unique kind of communication. Where are we, hams? There are over 700 of us in Fullerton, plus surrounding communities. FRC needs to do some serious recruiting – not just for the Club – but for additional activities in support of community service. HOW ABOUT YOU? Those of you seriously interested in emergency preparation should be sure to read the article on page 4 as taken from the *Fullerton Observer*.

That’s enough of my soapbox for now. See you on Wednesday; and on April 29, and May 6 – 7, and ...
Paul, K6MHD

Club Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Fullerton Senior Center

340 W. Commonwealth Ave.

Fullerton

QSO Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting: 7:30 PM

Fullerton Radio Club
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Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who worked the Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament this year. And to those who volunteered and were on stand-by just in-case. A BIG thanks to all of you. Some people worked all three days, others worked two days and some just worked one day. You all were a big help in making this event a success. We had three "New" people to this event, they did great. They were W6WRH Dick Hall, AE6SG Manuel Borges, and KI6AAY Bryan Sorenson also a new member of Placentia RACES. A Special Thanks to Dick Fields WD6DPY and the regular users of the WD6DPY Repeater for the use of 147.975 rptr. for this event. To those who worked at Net Control Stn./ LaHabra Tennis Ctr. ...KE6IPY David Curlee, AD6NH Phil Pacier, AE6SG Manuel Borges, K6RIX Dino Darling, W6ZJE Bill Kohlenberger, at Fullerton Jr. College...KE6TZU Cheryl Thorpe, KE6STZ Rose Johnson, at Fullerton HS...KE6STZ Rose Johnson, K6MHD Paul Broden; at CalStateUF...W6ZJE Bill Kohlenberger, AC6MV Ron Chase, at TROY HS...W6WRH Dick Hall, KG6AIJ Chuck Pacier; at Fullerton Tennis Ctr...WA6FJC John Sutherland; at El Dorado HS...KI6AAY Bryan Sorenson, at La Mirada RP...AD6NH Phil Pacier. What a good group of people.

Again THANKS to ALL who worked this event.

GENE THORPE, KB6CMO
Team Leader

VE SESSION

The Volunteer Examiners had applicants out numbered again. Bob's garage had only two for examination but had five VE's on hand for the session.

Both applicants were successful in that one became General and one became a Technician.

Next session will be held on the second Saturday of the next even month (April the eighth). Call Bob at (562) 691-1514 one week prior of that date to pre-register. All elements will be offered at that session.

QST QST QST



ATTENTION: ALL AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

Donate LIFE 5K/1K Fun Run
Saturday 29 April 2006

Need approx. 20 Amateur Radio Operators. Where: CSUF

Some of you may have said YES already. If not, and you can help please give me a call on the N6ME Rptr. 145.400- Pl.103.5 or via Phone at 714-680-4258. This is a Fun Event to do and is over by 10:00 AM or so. More info to follow.

Thanks, Gene Thorpe KB6CMO

Railroad Days

We will participate at the annual Fullerton Railroad Days event on Saturday and Sunday, May 6 & 7. The event is held at the Fullerton Rail Station from 9:00AM to 5:00PM both days. An additional set-up time may be required either on Friday evening, or between 7:00AM and 8:20AM on Saturday. We will need club members at the booth for all hours both days. Our theme and presentation is yet to be determined, but we will need lots of help.

Antennas In The Park

Once again, we are planning a Saturday for fun day of BBQ, hamming and, hopefully, T-hunt, along with a good bit of public exposure related to what amateur radio can do. Planned date is May 13. More info later

Field Day

REMEMBER – The last full weekend of June (24th & 25th) is Field Day. Our location has not been determined, except that it will NOT be at Hillcrest Park as it has been in the past due to inaccessibility to the park. We'd like to have more of the club as active participation this year. Its difficult to operate with only one or two hams on site, and I'm sure that Otis would like not to be the only all-night operator again this year!

Orange County Fair

It's never too soon to start planning! FRC has selected Wednesday, July 26, 2006 as our day to man the HAM booth at Orange County Fair. We will be looking for volunteers. Put it on your calendar.

Topanga State Park ARDF 3/18/06

The next southern California ARDF session will be Saturday, March 18, 2006 at Topanga State Park in the Santa Monica Mountains. It is open to anyone of any age, with or without a ham radio license. Experts will be on hand to teach you the basic techniques of on-foot radio direction-finding (RDF). Transmitter hunting begins at 10 AM. You may start at any time up until noon. Courses close at 3 PM.

If you are a beginner, there will be entry-level two-meter fox transmitters just for you, set by Joe Moell K0OV. For advanced radio-orientees, there will be a 5-fox two-meter course approaching the length of a national championship course, set by Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. One or more optional 80-meter fox transmitters may also be on the air.

For the advanced 2-meter course, electronic scoring will be used. If you have an "e-stick," be sure to bring it. There is a \$5 fee to cover expenses related to the use of Los Angeles Orienteering Club's e-punch equipment and maps. The beginner course and the 80-meter transmitter hunt are free of charge and e-punch is not required for them.

A limited amount of radio direction finding gear will be available for loan. If you have receivers, scanners, directional antennas, attenuators, or other equipment suitable for on-foot RDF, be sure to bring it. Make sure all batteries are fresh.

Topanga State Park is in the Santa Monica Mountains. From Highway 101 in Woodland Hills, go south on Topanga Canyon Boulevard (Highway 27) about 8 miles. From Pacific Coast Highway, go north on Topanga Canyon Boulevard to just past Old Topanga Canyon Road. Either way, watch for a "Topanga State Park" sign and turn east onto Entrada Road. (This is a dangerous corner.) Go about a mile, bearing left at the fork. We will gather at the end of the parking lot in the shaded picnic area. Look for the orange and white orienteering flag. Talk-in on 146.97 simplex. Vehicular entrance and parking costs \$5 per vehicle. 73, Joe Moell K0OV

From NC section news letter

Those of us involved in public service communications don't do it for publicity, we do it because it's the right thing to do. We show up, do our job, and go home, knowing we have done our part to help in our community.

Likewise, most of us operate our radios at home and try not to bother our neighbors with it. As a result of our being such good neighbors, most people have NO impression of Amateur Radio whatsoever, or believe that it is an activity that people did 50 years ago but not today. While that's better than having a bad impression of us, it fosters the idea that there are very few of us left and we don't need to be accommodated any longer.

The goal of public relations is to create a favorable impression with the public. Specifically, we want the public to know that Amateur Radio is a worthwhile activity, both enjoyable and a benefit to the community. This impression is important for the very survival of Amateur Radio, because we need the support of the public so we can have two components critical to getting on the air: spectrum and antennas. Our spectrum is a resource that is scarce and highly desirable to others, and we must show constantly that we are worthy of keeping our frequencies. Antennas are an undesirable resource in the eyes of many; but the willingness of our neighbors to tolerate them is greatly improved if we can show our value to the community.

How can we improve our relations with the public? There are several ways to approach this.

First, keep in mind that we are ALL ambassadors of Amateur Radio. Even if all you do is have an Amateur Radio license plate, you are letting the public know you are a ham. If people identify you as being a ham, then their first impression of Amateur Radio will be based in large part on their impression of you. If you're a good neighbor, or a bad driver, then chances are their impression of Amateur Radio will be influenced by that.

Group activities such as Field Day, JOTA and public service events offer excellent opportunities to tell the public about what we do, and the ability to reach many more people. However, this is harder in some respects than being a good neighbor, because your window of opportunity is very short. As a result, a well-considered plan to reach the public is essential.

For direct contact with the public at such an event, having an official greeter and some literature will help. Remember, the goal is to develop a favorable

impression, not necessarily recruit new hams (it takes the former to do the latter anyway). Dealing with the news media is more complicated, but offers a chance to reach the largest audience. In both cases, having a short, easy to understand explanation of why someone would want to be a ham is needed to take advantage of the opportunity.

I saw a TV news report of a Field Day visit a number of years ago where the reporter asked several people why someone would want to be a ham, and nobody gave a very convincing answer (plenty of "how" and "what," but no "why"). It was a slow news weekend with lots of airtime, but an opportunity was missed. Since then, I came up with a short "sound bite" answer that works for me:

"Amateur Radio is an enjoyable activity that allows you to explore science and technology, make worldwide friendships, and be of service to your community." (and if they are still listening) "For most people who try it, it becomes a lifelong activity."

Come up with your own sound bite to tell anyone why you are a ham, and you will use it more often than you might expect.

Field Day is just over four months away, and it is not too early to start thinking about how you will approach public relations. The ARRL Public Information Officer program has many resources available to help. For more information, contact Bill Morine, N2COP, ARRL NC PIC or visit this web site: <http://www.arrl.org/pio>

Finally, public relations must be an ongoing activity - it never stops. There will never be a point where you can say you've done all that needs to be done, because the public's memory of good deeds fades quickly. However, if you develop a habit of being a good ambassador for Amateur Radio, then it gets a little easier and you become more effective at it.

Mike kc6yhm

Anyone interested in placement of a Classified Ad related to Ham Equipment? Call your editor with information to be advertised. We suggest a donation of \$5 for a business card size (2" x 3") ad for one month's publication in **Smoke Signals**.

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CAL STATE FULLERTON

LECTURE SERIES

Focus on Disaster Preparedness

"Natural Disasters and Disaster Preparedness: Voices of Experience," a public lecture series at Cal State Fullerton, features current and former representatives of the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency; the U.S. Geological Survey; Caltech and the University of South Carolina's Hazards Research Lab.

"Given the number and variety of natural disasters around the world and the likelihood of their occurrence in Southern California, the subject is both timely and important," said series coordinator Susan Jacobsen, director of the University Honors Program and associate professor of English.

• March 22: "Dangerous Times, Dangerous Places" will examine vulnerability science with Susan L. Cutter, direc-

tor of the Hazards Research Lab at the University of South Carolina and the author of several books, including "Living With Risk." She speaks at 2 p.m. in the Pollak Library's Rotary Club of Fullerton Room.

• April 26: Seismologist Lucile M. Jones, scientist-in-charge of the U.S. Geological Survey's earthquake program in Southern California and a visiting research associate at Caltech, concludes the series with a 4-5:30 p.m. lecture on "The Urban Earth: Hazards Science in Southern California," in the Titan Student Union's Portola Pavilion.

The series is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, University Honors Program, Faculty Development Center and Continuing Learning Experience. Receptions will follow each of the talks.

The lectures are open to the public free of charge. Public parking is available in the university's Nurwood Parking Structure for \$5 per vehicle.

FRC Monthly T-Hunt

After his "questionable" hide at the Firestone Boy Scout Ranch in January, found by nobody, Mike Obermeier K6SNE had to hide again in February. He was a bit less ambitious this time, putting his foxbox on the bumper of his non-functional Jeep in his garage. As luck would have it, the battery died 90 seconds into the hunt. He found another transmitter box and the hunt went on. Mike kindly provided hot pizza and cold sodas for the hunters as they arrived. (Actually, the last-to-arrive hunters found that the pizza had gotten a bit cold, but the gesture was still appreciated.)

Calls	Mileage
WA6PYE/N6MJN	8.4
K0OV/KO6IC	11.95
N6IDF/KG6GWV/Ronan	12.0
KD6ICZ	14.9
KF6GQ	7.2
KG6RQQ/KG6LSE	21.0
N6ZHZ	48.7

Joe Moell, K0OV

Board Minutes March 1, 2006

Meeting began at 7:35 P.M. at Marie Callender's in Placentia
Members present for Fullerton Radio Club board meeting – President Paul Broden, Vice President Bill Kohlenberger, Secretary Gary Miller, Treasurer Manuel Borges, Board Members Gene Thorpe, Cheryl Thorpe, and OCCARO Representative Larry McDavid.

Speakers/ Topic [March Meeting] April Moell, WA6OPS; Emergencies and Preparedness

Bylaws Committee; The board continues to discuss suggestions for additions/changes to the club bylaws. The current revisions will be e-mailed to each board member prior to the next meeting by Paul.

Railroad Days; The club has not heard from the city of Fullerton on the event for May 6-7. A deposit was sent in by Paul for a booth site with electricity.

Antennas in the Park; May 13 at Tri-City Park once again this year.

OCCARO; The board passed a motion to issue a check to OCCARO for \$120. It was for 2005 and 2006 Orange County Fair support (\$50 each year) and membership for 2006 of \$20.

Donate for Life; Volunteers are needed for the morning of April 29. The 5k / 10k run will be at CSUF. Contact Gene, KB6CMO if you can help.

Raffles; 50-50 this month

Meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc
Secretary Fullerton Radio Club

Monthly Board Meeting
 Open to all Members
 Marie Callender's Restaurant
 126 Yorba Linda Blvd.
 Placentia
Next Board Meeting: April 5, 2006
 Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM
 Meeting: 7:30 PM

**Orange County Council of Amateur Radio
 Organizations (OCCARO) Web Site**
www.occaro.org

Fullerton Radio Club Web Site
<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

VE Sessions
 For Information Contact
Bob Reitzel, KD6DA
 (562) 691-1514
 Next VE Exams: **April 8, 2006**
***Please call one week in advance to
 reserve a place***

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**FULLERTON RADIO CLUB
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[Please Print]

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.