



# Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

March 2007

## PREZ SPEAKS

It seems we are promoting inter-club exchanges! Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE and Dick Palmer WB6JDH of the Downey Amateur Radio Club agreed to exchange presentations for March so both clubs benefit from new programs and some cross-pollination. What a deal! See the description of Dick's program on QRP elsewhere in this Smoke Signals. Great work, Bill!

The ARRL is reporting a very significant increase in the number of requests for VE testing after the elimination of the CW Morse exam element for all license classes. I think this is good and hope that FRC will gain new members as a result. Did you see the article in the Register newspaper on the elimination of the Morse exams? Wow! Front-page publicity for amateur radio! Bill Kohlenberger is developing a class that FRC can offer to prospective hams so there's lots happening in this arena. Please enthusiastically welcome any of these new code-less hams to our fraternity.

A long-time friend, Barry Ives K6QJ, passed at the end of 2006. Unfortunately, Barry's wife died previously and neither of Barry's children is a ham. I volunteered to help the family dispose of Barry's ham equipment and to help remove the tower and beam from his La Habra residence. I plan to bring to the March FRC meeting some of the items from Barry's ham shack and offer them for sale. Please look carefully and remember that you are helping a fellow ham's family. If anyone has anything to add to a small swap meet side activity, you are welcome to bring it along. We'll just set up a few tables in the back and look it over during the meeting break.

Our never-tiring public service coordinator Gene Thorpe KB6CMO has lots of activities in need of our support. Please support Gene with your volunteered help. Gene just can't do it alone. Remember, too, that we will have Antennas in the Park in May, Fullerton Railroad Days and that FRC will manage the transmitter hunting at the HamCom convention this year. These are all opportunities to place amateur radio in the public eye. Help us help ourselves!

I want to introduce a new meeting activity this year as I discussed at the February meeting. Please bring a Show and Tell item for each meeting. In February, I showed a vacuum tube still popular in amateur HF

amplifiers, the 3-500Z; my Henry 2K-3 amplifier uses two of these tubes and there is really no solid-state substitute yet. We won't spend a lot of time on these but just a few minutes about each one will be interesting. The item can be something you pass around or can be just a memory you describe. In fact, any topic of interest to our members will be acceptable, even if it is not strictly amateur radio related. I've done this in other ham clubs and in other types of clubs with great success. I encourage you to bring something and make it fun!

Did you enjoy the tea and crumpets at the last meeting? Well, OK, just coffee and a bag of cookies! This is a rather minimal approach to refreshments but it was practical to do. We'll do it again this month. If someone would like to pick up this simplified refreshment idea and do it for future meeting, please do see me.

Remember our dinner before each club meeting. We often have 6-10 members and guests at the Carrow's Restaurant on Harbor Boulevard near Brea Boulevard about 6:00 PM. It's an easy drive from there to our club meeting. You are all welcome to attend the club board meetings over dinner at 7:00 PM the first Wednesday of each month at the Marie Calendar's restaurant we use for our Christmas party. We are all volunteers so come see how club activities are planned. We'll even listen to suggestions!

Larry W6FUB

### March Club Program

#### QRP Operation

By: Dick Palmer, WB6JDH

(See page 3 for information about Dick Palmer and the program.)

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Fullerton Senior Center

340 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton

QSO: 7:00 PM

Meeting: 7:30 PM

**FRC NET: Tuesdays, 8:00 PM @ 147.975 (-) PL 114.8**

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92836

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## QST – QST – QST

### **ATTENTION: ALL AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS**

#### **UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT**

##### **DonateLIFE 5K / 1K FunRun**

Where? Cal State University, Fullerton

When? Saturday April 28, 2007, From 07:00 thru 10:00 a.m.

Needed: 20 Amateur Radio Operators for emergency communications

Contact: Gene Thorpe KB6CMO [KB6CMO@ARRL.net](mailto:KB6CMO@ARRL.net)

or 714-680-4258

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### **VE at Bob's Garage's**

Here is the latest on VE Exams.

#### **NCVEC Question Pool Committee announces new schedule**

November 9, 2005 -- The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has announced that the Question Pool Committee (QPC) has adjusted its schedule for revising Amateur Radio examination question pools. This decision was prompted by recent FCC announcements, changes in radio communication technology and recommendations from VECs. "The QPC feels it is imperative to produce a new Technician Class pool now to better position the Amateur Radio Service for growth in the years ahead," the QPC said in a statement released September 9. "The new schedule impacts previously announced release dates for all three question pools." The Technician class (Element 2) pool now tops the schedule and is due for release in January 1, 2006, effective July 1, 2006. **General class (Element 3) pool updates, previously scheduled to become effective on July 1, 2008, will be released December 1, 2006, and become effective July 1, 2007.** The Extra class (Element 4) pool originally scheduled for 2005, will be released on December 1, 2007, and will become effective July 1, 2008. Barring any major rules changes, subsequent updates to all pools will follow the traditional four-year cycle, the QPC said. Selected by representatives of the 12 VECs attending the NCVEC's annual conference, the QPC consists of Chair Jim Wiley, KL7CC, Anchorage VEC; Perry Green, WY1O, ARRL VEC, and Larry Pollock, NB5X, W5YI VEC. A team of associates representing various VEC organizations as well as experts selected from the amateur community will assist the QPC. Interested persons are encouraged to submit questions to the NCVEC QPC via the NCVEC Web site.

***The "Garage" will hold exams on April 14 and on June 8 before all this (General Class pool change) is going to happen. Take a look at the question pool. it is quite lengthy, with many, many new questions. If you are thinking of up grading to element 3, now is the time.***

[Ed. The new General Class exam pool questions and graphic are available from the ARRL web site at: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).]

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#### **February T-Hunt Results**

Steve Ostrander K6OST of Victorville is new to T-hunting, but he's been very active. He was at our last on-foot event, and also was hider for the FRC mobile T-hunt on February 17. He cleverly put his transmitter in a backpack and placed it on a seat near the west entrance to The Block in Orange. Of course he was close by to watch it. The toughest part of this hunt was finding a parking place at this very busy shopping/dining center. Then the hunters had to go on foot to find the transmitter. Here are the results:

##### **Call Signs**

KA6TAS and KF6GQ  
N6MJN  
N6AIN and WA6PYE  
KE6GQO and KK6KK  
K0OV

##### **Mileage**

10.1  
10.5  
11.8  
14.2  
Unofficial

73, Joe Moell K0OV

## March Club Program QRP Operation By: Dick Palmer, WB6JDH

During high school, Dick Palmer, now WB6JDH, wanted to be a ham but found himself more than a little handicapped by not knowing any. Even though he took electronics in high school, no one there could even give him a suggestion on where to go or who to see. It was not until 1975 that Dick partly solved that problem by discovering that "a kid" across the street had developed Morse code capabilities while in the army and had earned his ticket.

Later that year he noted the Hayward Amateur Radio Club, near where he lived, had an article in the paper saying that they were conducting code classes. So Dick signed up, took their course that lasted about six weeks and, around October of that year, got his Novice License and the call WN6JDH.

It was on Good Friday of '76, he recalls, that he went to the Federal Building in San Francisco, passed the general written test and thus became holder of a Technician license, later to be called a Technician Plus license (since he had already passed the 5-WPM code test). He was issued the call

WB6JDH. He held that license until early this year when the code requirement for General was dropped to 5 WPM, and he got his General free, so to speak.

As far as amateur radio is concerned, Dick's real loves have been, are and probably will always be kit building and QRP (low transmitter power) operation. He started by following the late QST Technical Editor Doug DeMaw's published instructions and built a few QRP HF transmitters to go with his Heathkit Mohigan receiver. He made "a few contacts", built his code speed up to 10-WPM or so, but found CW too stressful. Dick blames his difficulty with code on the then lack of a teaching system wherein the individual characters are sent at higher speeds and the spaces between characters are longer - a system used almost universally today.

Still very early in Dick's amateur radio career, the across-the-street ham came home with a 2-meter radio, so Dick got a Drake TR-22. The 22 was more of a portable than a handheld and it and its batteries hung around the operator's neck on a strap. It had six channels, was crystal-controlled and, Dick says, "Worked fine." Not satisfied with being "rock bound", he pulled a crystal and replaced it with a synthesizer that allowed him to move freely about the band.

Then, he says, he dropped mostly out of HF and worked mostly two meters, building most of his own equipment. Lots of kits were available then, from VHF Engineering, Hamtronics, Heathkit and others. At that time, Dick lived in the town of Fremont in the Bay area, an area that enjoyed

many repeaters even then. He extended his interest and equipment by purchasing a tube-type Mopar 440 rig.

Then in 1984 his employer moved to Santa Fe Springs and Dick chose a home in Whittier. With no antennas up, he lost his interest in amateur radio. From that time to 1995 virtually his only ham activity was renewing his license. In '95, Dick was just "buzzing around" La Mirada and happened to note that the Downey Amateur Radio Club was having a yard sale (at the home of **Bob Farrow**, N6OPR). He stopped and met **Doug Lyon**, N6WZI, who invited him to the next meeting.

That did it. Now he has antennas on the roof, is back at kit building and back on QRP. He has built eight or nine of the most popular QRP transceivers. He has built a monobander for 80 meters several for 40, two on 30 meters, two on 20 meters and the Elecraft K2 transceiver which covers nine bands, 160 through 10 meters, with CW and SSB capability. He still has most, if not all, of the kits he ever built. Dick's main antenna is a Hustler 4BTV.

He has done some T-hunting with **Glenn Allen**, KE6HPZ, and has been contesting with Glenn and **Bill Heather**, KB6WKT, on Onyx Peak (but got a little altitude sickness). "But," says Dick, "I build more than I operate." He recently operated QRP from the Club picnic, has supported the Holiday Lane Parade, and for several years, the Tour de Sewer. In contesting, he says he has been a "Rover" both by himself and with the "champion of rovers", **Dave Glenn**, N6TEB. He is a member of the Perris QRP Society in addition to his membership in the DARC.

Dick is a chemist and a product of San Jose State University. He develops inks both for general sale and to meet special requirements. He expects to retire in a few years. Then maybe he'll have time to build a few kits.



Dick Palmer WB6JDH

## Board Minutes March 7, 2007

Meeting began at 7:30 P.M. at Marie Callender's in Placentia. Members present for Fullerton Radio Club board meeting: President Larry McDavid, Secretary Gary Miller, Treasurer Manuel Borges, Board Members Gene Thorpe, Club Member Cheryl Thorpe, Smoke Signals Editor Paul Broden

Treasurer Report: Currently the club has \$538.73 in checking and \$1680.78 in savings. Manuel has a summary of club expenses for the last few years which will be e-mailed to each board member. We only have 17 paid up members at this time. The club had 35 last year at the same time.

Speaker / Topic for March: Dick Palmer, WB6JDH on QRP Building.

Club Web Page: The site is now active. Thanks again to the Curlees.

Club Bio: Paul has put together a short information sheet about the club. This will be used at the SW ARRL convention this September.

DonateLIFE: 20 radio operators will be needed for the annual event at CSUF on April 28.

Railroad Days: The club canopy is indeed "Fire Proof" according to Fullerton's fire code. The event will be on the first weekend in May.

Antennas in the Park: May 12, 2007 – Tri City Park. Most likely will be in the same spot as last year. The city is reported to want \$200 an hour for the covered areas.

Field Day is being discussed. We will most likely be able to use the cabin this year in Hillcrest Park.

Fullerton Senior Center: Once again we are fortunate to have the use of the building each third Wednesday of the month, except December for \$0.00.

Advertisements in Smoke Signals: We will probably drop Orvac Electronics from the monthly newsletter.

Meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc  
Secretary, Fullerton Radio Club

## QST QST all Fullerton Radio Club members.

**It appears that maybe you have forgotten or misplaced your membership form. Please check for an application at the end of this issue of Smoke Signals and get your membership sent in.**

**Remember we need your support and your money, so please try and make an effort to get yourself caught up and be part of this membership.**

**We do need to have you be part of this great organization. Without you there is no Fullerton Radio Club.**

**Thank you,  
Manuel, AE6SG  
Treasurer**

## News from the ARRL Web Site

**ARRL VEC still "busy, busy, busy!"** (Mar 15, 2007) -- The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) reports business continues to be brisk following the FCC's deletion of Morse code as a ham radio licensing requirement. "Busy, busy, busy!" is how ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, described the situation in her department. She says nearly 800 exam sessions are on the schedule for March with another 600 for April, "and it doesn't look like test session activity will be slowing down any time soon," she added. ARRL VEC hosts 450 exam sessions in a typical month. Despite the hectic pace, Somma says personnel have been able to process most test session paperwork promptly. "The majority of our VE teams are returning the sessions in good order and with all the needed forms," she noted. "Thank you!" Even so, processing times are down a bit. Somma advises applicants to allow 15 days from the testing date before checking on application status. To follow up, first use the FCC Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) "Search Licenses" tab, or check the ARRL Web [license search](#) engine. To contact the FCC, call toll-free during business hours 888-225-5322. Applicants who tested at ARRL VEC sessions whose applications have not been granted within 15 days may call ARRL VEC, 860-594-0300.

**Monthly Board Meeting**

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

**Next Board Meeting: April 4, 2007**

Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM  
Meeting: 7:30 PM

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

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

**Fullerton Radio Club Web Sites**

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

**VE Sessions**

For Information Contact

**Bob Reitzel, KD6DA**

(562) 691-1514

Or check the Fullerton Radio Club  
Web Site:

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

Next VE Exam: **April 14, 2007**

**Please call one week in advance to  
reserve a place**

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P.O. BOX 545, FULLERTON, CA 92836**

[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.**