



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

March 2008

PREZ SPEAKS

Other hobbies and interests have consumed me this past month. I restore antique scientific instruments and this month I have been repairing a 125-year old Wimshurst electrostatic generator that took a bad fall. The challenge is to find materials consistent with those originally used and to make the repairs virtually invisible! We are fortunate today to build electronics using a wide assortment of specialized plastics. But, 125 years ago very few dielectric materials existed. So, what did they use when an insulator was needed? You may be surprised! I'll bring some examples.

This month we will have a potpourri program, including a video of an amateur, building from-scratch a working vacuum tube. Until I saw this, I would not have imagined this possible! Metal fabrication and glass blowing combine with characterization testing and actual operation in a receiver to make this a very interesting demonstration of what can be done at home. You simply have to see this to believe it!

We have numerous new members this year and that is very good news. Some are new hams, some are new just to our club and at least one is returning to amateur radio after a long absence. Tom Fiske, our ham-returnee, recently upgraded to Extra and even got a really cool new call—AA6TF. Many of you have renewed already but some still need to do so. Please help our Membership Chairman, Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, by renewing your membership and paying your dues now. Our dues are not costly but are important to fund the many events we organize for you during the year. Look for the renewal form in this newsletter or see Gene at the club meeting.

Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, Bill Preston KZ3G, Mark Shapiro K6OGD and Gary Miller KA6GPC are conducting another ham license class, this time with many CERT members wanting to get their license. These volunteers are considering a follow-on upgrade class; if you are interested in this, please tell one of them so we can judge interest. Help is always welcome at these classes and you are invited to drop by and share your experiences with the prospective new hams.

Our club recently formed a Yahoo Group to promote communications among club members. This is a free service and I encourage all our members to join this Group.

The Group, FRC-OC, works like an email reflector; you send one email to the group address and Yahoo broadcasts your email to all group members. The group will be used for club announcements and reminders and can be used by any member to ask questions; this gives you quick access to all our members and the vast experience pool they provide. You can even upload files, such as pictures, for the group to view; the group emails also allow modest-size attachments. The group is private, open to only our club members so the email traffic will be light and there should be no unexpected or off-topic emails sent. But, you must take action to join the Group! To join, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com> and enter FRC-OC in the search box; this will take you to a page where you may join the group.

Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, our never-tiring public service coordinator, has lots of activities in need of our support. The annual Tennis Tournament was again a success; look for Gene's report in this newsletter. This new year brings another Donate Life Run/Walk, Railroad Days and Antennas in the Park. These events all require some advance planning so please support Gene with your volunteered help.

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 some thing you've done. Remember, this is not a big presentation, just stand up and show what you've brought; if practical, pass it around the room for folks to enjoy.

Remember our dinner at the Carrow's Restaurant on Harbor Boulevard near Brea Boulevard about 6:00 PM before each club meeting. And, remember to bring a Show-and-Tell item for the meeting!

Larry W6FUB

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

- **Amateur-built vacuum tube construction video.**
- **Old radios – can they be fixed? Technical projects by W6ZJE.**

(see page 3 for details)

Fullerton Senior Center

Wednesday, March 19

340 W. Commonwealth

7:00 QSO – Meeting at 7:30PM

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

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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.

Q S T Q S T Q S T

QST QST QST Upcoming Public Service Event

DonateLIFE 5K / 1K FUN WALK-RUN

Saturday April 26, 2008

California State University Fullerton
Hours: 7:00am to 10:00 or earlier

Needed: **35** or more Amateur Radio Operators
Contact Gene Thorpe If You Can Help With This Event
Gene Thorpe KB6CMO 714-680-4258
KB6CMO @ ARRL.net

Board Minutes March 5, 2008

Meeting began at 7:34 P.M. at Marie Callender's in Placentia
Members present for Fullerton Radio Club board meeting - President Larry McDavid, Vice President Bill Preston, Secretary Gary Miller, Treasurer Robert Gimbel, Smoke Signals Editor Paul Broden, Board Member Gene Thorpe, Member Cheryl Thorpe

Treasurer Report: The club now has 2181.27 in checking and \$1684.19 in savings. We currently have 39 paid up members. Dues for 2008 are now due and can be mailed to our PO or paid at the next meeting. Smoke Signals will be emailed this month to all of last year's members, regardless of being paid up with dues or not.

Speaker / Topic for March: Bill Kohlenberger / Tube Video and Grab Bag
Tech. License Class is currently in progress and will continue for two more Thursday afternoons.

Railroad Days: Suggestions about changing the booth backstop were talked about.

Field Day: A chair-person is needed. Larry will try and find a volunteer.

Antennas in the Park: FamCon (A repeater group) will be attending this year. Super System will not be there as stated in last month's minutes.

Yahoo: A reflector is now in operation just for FRC members, thanks to Larry.

Federal Form: Gary will go on line and fill out Form 990 to keep us current.

Events to keep in mind:

March 19 General Meeting. Bring something to share with the group.

April 26 Donate Life

May 3-4 Railroad Days

May 17 Antennas in the Park

Field Day June 28-29

Meeting ended at 8:52 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc
Secretary Fullerton Radio Club

2008 Fullerton Junior Tennis Tournament

Another tennis tournament has come & gone, and once again ham radio operators provided a much-appreciated service to those in charge. Thank you to all who spent 1 or 2 Saturdays in early February calling in scores to net control for tennis games played throughout north Orange County and keeping other sites informed when players were lost or delayed. Due to rain on Sunday 03FEB, all games were cancelled & we had to reschedule for the following Saturday. Late changes in sites were also a challenge to scheduling hams.

The following individuals answered the call for hams to provide this vital public service: KE6IPY Dave Curlee, KE6TZU Cheryl Thorpe, K6MHD Paul Broden, KG6WTQ Robert Gimbel, KZ3G Bill Preston, N6NTH Martin LaRocque, KI6KYW Robert Doidge, K9BLK Alex Veldez, KQ6RJ Paul Stone, K6RIX Dino Darling, WA6BRD Mark Zdunich, KI6CFR Lyle Bidler, WA6OPS April Moell, W6ZJE Bill Kohlenberger, KF6VJC Ed Aguilera. The following hams were on stand-by ready to go to a site if the scheduled person did not show: WA6RJE Dick Blosser, N6YBJ Ruth Blosser, K0OV Joe Moell, K6OGD Mark Shapiro, W7YG Jeremy Donimirski. KI6JGT Jon Hallman & N6OPR Robert Farrow stopped by one site to observe what would be required if they volunteered at another time. We want to thank all who volunteered whether they ended up actually helping out or not.

Our next public service event is the Donate Life 5K/1K Run/Walk on 26APR08, 7am-10am. We need 35 Amateur Radio Operators for this event held on the Cal State University Fullerton campus. If you can help please contact Gene Thorpe KB6CMO via phone 714-680-4258 or e-mail KB6CMO@ARRL.net

Many thanks.
Gene Thorpe KB6CMO; Team Leader for Fullerton Radio Club Public Service Events.

FRC T-hunt Report

It was a lean night for the FRC mobile T-hunt on February 16. Only two teams came out to hunt. (I had been called out of town to work.) Dave Balgie N6MJN hid the transmitter on Chester between Court and Chestnut in Stanton. His transmitter ran only about 5 milliwatts into a horizontally-polarized cubical quad pointed at the starting point.

The team of Bob Mann KK6KK (formerly W6LKO) and Monte Variakojis KE6GQO suffered a bird strike on their antenna mast that damaged the sunroof mounting. This forced them to drop out of the hunt.

Team	Odo
Calls	Miles
N6AIN/WA6PYE	13.4
KE6GQO/KK6KK	DNF

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

MARCH MEETING

Does anyone use vacuum tubes anymore? Apparently so, at least for one amateur who recently went so far that he constructed his own tube, including the glass envelope. The subject will be presented by video, with discussion and a Q&A session, to the best of our abilities.

Additionally, Bill W6ZJE, will present some observations and personal experiences related to what repairs can be made to older solid-state equipment that is no longer supported by the manufacturer. Many of us have some of these rigs in various states of disrepair, and Bill has identified a few hints and kinks that may be of use as we try to salvage a piece of equipment rather than putting it out for disposal as WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) that require recycling or disposal as hazardous material.

FRC EVENTS CALENDAR

We will be looking to FRC members for participation in all of the following events. It's not too soon to start planning for each of them – so, hold the dates.

April 26: Donate Life 5K/1K walk-run at Cal state Fullerton

May 3 – 4: Railroad Days – 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM both days.

May 17: Antennas In The Park at Tri-City Park. 10:00 AM to at least 3:00 PM. Details to follow.

June 28 – 29: Field Day. Details to follow

July 18: Orange County Fair. FRC will be participating at the Ham booth on Friday, July 18. Time slots to be selected for at least 2 club members present in the booth at all times 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM.

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

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

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 2, 2008
Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:30 PM

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, March 19, 2008
Dinner 6:00 PM at Carrow's, Harbor at Brea

Fullerton Radio Club Web Site

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

FRC Tuesday Net

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

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.

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

<http://www.occaro.org>

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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.