



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

March 2009

Prez Speaks

Spring is in the air... or at least we have sprung ahead for daylight savings time. This spring we have a number of club events lined up and I hope that you will participate in many of them. With the cancellation of the Fullerton Railroad Days, we are looking forward to a less hectic spring. DonateLIFE Run/Walk in April and Antennas in the Park in May. These events all require some advance planning, so please support Gene Thorpe KB6CMO with your volunteered help.

This month, our speaker will be Dave Hollon, from DonateLIFE. DonateLIFE will be holding their 5K Run/1K Walk at Cal State University Fullerton on April 25, 2009. You can read more information about DonateLIFE on their website at www.donatelife.net. Please plan to join your fellow AROs for this fun three-hour public service event. I participated as an ARO in the event last year and am looking forward to it again this year. CSUF is easy to get to, has lots of parking, and we provide an important public service role.

Dues help support the club and provide resources for our public service events. Last month, your Board of Directors approved the purchase of a new Alinco DR-135T 2M radio, to replace our IC27A 20+ year old radio. The new radio will be used for the upcoming DonateLIFE event and will be on display at this month's meeting. If you have renewed your membership, thank you! If you still need to renew, please see our Membership Chairman, Gene Thorpe KB6CMO to renew your membership and pay your dues. 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, and Mark Shapiro K6OGD continue to lend their teaching expertise to the Saturday afternoon tech license class. The promising HAMS are studying chapter 4, learning about radio etiquette, repeater etiquette, nets, and field day. They are looking forward to

learning about licensing regulations. Speaking of licensing, the students have an upcoming opportunity to test their knowledge on Saturday, March 14! I wish the testing participants great success!

Please remember that our FRC-OC Yahoo group promotes communications among club members. This is a free service and an easy way to ask questions, send reminders, and even upload pictures of our events. 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 is private, open to only our club members so the email traffic is usually light and there should be no unexpected or off-topic emails sent. If you have not yet signed up, please 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.

Beginning this month, please bring your spare change to "feed the PSE kitty". We will have a special container at the registration desk each meeting, to accept your donations of small bills and change. These donations will help fund additional public service equipment (PSE) upgrades and purchases. A little will go a long way and I thank you in advance for your support.

Remember our pre-meeting dinner at the Carrow's Restaurant on Harbor Boulevard, near Brea Boulevard. We start about 6:00pm before each club meeting.

Robert KI6KYW

MARCH FRC CLUB MEETING

Subject: DonateLIFE
Speaker: Dave Hollon

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Fullerton Senior Center
340 W Commonwealth Ave.
QSO 7:00 PM — Meeting 7:30 PM

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

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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.

Past Member News

(From Bill Kohlenberger)

Saturday morning, Feb 21, Kent Gardner called, and then briefly dropped by here for a quick visit. He's now the Ogden Radio club 2009 President. I got him to pose for a picture and told him I was going to send it to [Smoke Signals] for a future Smoke issue. It's proof that experienced Presidents trained in FRC can go far.

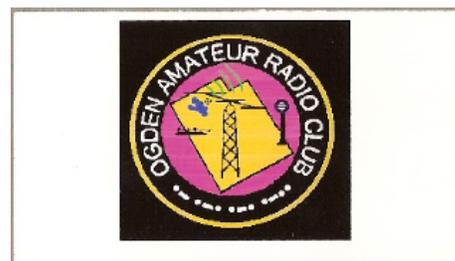
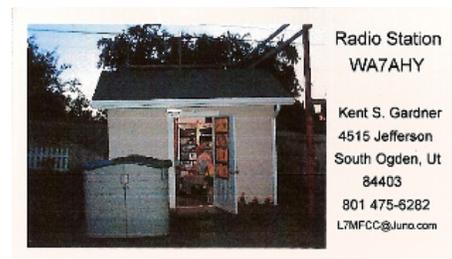
He showed a club greeting card that the Ogden club hands to visiting hams or puts under Window-Wiper blades to promote OgdenARC.org. An interesting marketing approach! Kent thought we might be interested doing some FRC cards too.

He also Invites anyone passing through Ogden to give a call on repeaters listed on one of their web pages when you visit their website (see the back of the card). Ogden's is clearly an active club with a pretty large membership. Ogden hosts a lot of technology that supports the Air Logistic Command at Hill Air-Force Base and that helps their club population remain stable.



Bill W6ZJE and Kent WA7AHY

Kent's card showing his "shack"



Ogden, UT club card



Ogden card, reverse

A Jump-Start on Field Day

The countdown is on for our participation in Field Day 2009. As you might guess, we will be setting up and operating from Hillcrest Park, as usual. The dates are June 27 & 28, and closing in on us rapidly. So why are we starting so early? Because: 1) We need someone to coordinate all activities. 2) We need to identify what equipment – especially antennas – that will be available. 3) We need to identify who is available and willing to operate the station and the hours you can work (set-up/tear-down and actual station operation).

Notice the last item: it refers to you and when you can participate. Start thinking about it! This is your club and we all need to be a part of the activities. We will be asking what you will do!

A New Smoke Signals

Plans are in the making for a bit of redesign for Smoke Signals. Our hope is to spruce up the format and, hopefully, expand the content. But ... in doing so we first solicit your suggestions for improvement in hopes of including at least some of your ideas. Some questions for consideration include: Is the 3-column format easy to read or would you prefer 2-column? We've already determined that full-page width articles are not as easily readable. How about the font (printed text) size? This article is 11 point, and most articles in Smoke are typically 10-point, but perhaps a slightly larger font size would be easier on the eyes.

Your suggestions for content will also be of help. You might even want to provide some of the articles!

When the new format is ready for use – in a couple of months – I'll be providing further information in hopes of getting more input for publication from members.

Smoke Signals Editor

Public Service Activity

2009 DonateLIFE Run/Walk

Folks. Save this Date - April 25, 2009; DonateLIFE 5K Run/1K Walk. We need 25 ARO's for this event at Cal State University Fullerton, 0700-1000 or so. This is a FUN Event and ONLY Part of the morning. **I'm signing up volunteers now.** It will be here soon. Thanks for volunteering. Sign up or questions contact: KB6CMO@ARRL.NET 714-680-4258

FRC Mobile T-Hunt Report

Long-time transmitter hunter Bob Thornburg WB6JPI tried to put on a "beginner level" transmitter hunt but add enough deception that everyone wouldn't just follow everyone else to the T. There would be some ambiguity in route choices.

At the start of the hunt, he was right up against the side of a hill in a cul-de-sac at the end of Condor Ridge Road in northeast Yorba Linda. Nobody could hear his signal there with his little 50 milliwatt transmitter running into a 3-element vertically polarized yagi. So he rolled down the hill to a spot along Fairmont just west of Condor Ridge. It was about 100 feet lower in altitude but not blocked, so everyone could hear him. He stayed there, even though there was limited parking.

From the start, hunters could not tell for sure if Bob was out Carbon Canyon Road or not. The three teams that guessed wrong and went out Carbon Canyon ended up with very high mileage. Hunters who drove in via Fairmont went by some of the homes that burned down during the Freeway Complex Fire.

Team	Odo
<u>Calls</u>	<u>Miles</u>
K0OV/WB2LRH	9.9
N6AIN/KG6LSE/WA6PYE	12.8
N6MJN	42.0
N6ZHZ/KF6BXX	49.5
N6UZS	50+

73, Joe Moell K0OV

On-Foot Transmitter Hunts

An all-on-foot hidden transmitter hunt takes place almost every month at a woodsy park in Los Angeles, Orange or Santa Barbara County. Everyone is welcome to come and learn about this radiosport. Usually, there is a building session for measuring-tape two-meter yagis and active attenuators before the hunt starts. The last event was March 7 at Topanga State Park, north of Malibu. For information about the April event, go to www.homingin.com or send an e-mail inquiry to homingin@aol.com

73, Joe Moell K0OV

Board Meeting Minutes

President Robert Doidge called the March 2009 club board meeting to order at 7:41 PM. Others present included Treasurer Gene Thorpe, Secretary Paul Broden, Board Member Robert Gimbel, and club member Cheryl Thorpe.

Minutes from the February board meeting were approved as read.

The Treasurer's report indicated an expenditure of \$10.86 for dinner for last month's speaker at the monthly before-meeting dinner. A total of \$215.45 was spent on purchase of the new Alinco DR-135T public service radio as approved at the February board meeting. The radio will be part of show-and-tell at the March club meeting.

A report was given on the Technician class. All is going well, with an average attendance of 7, and maximum (so far) of 14.

The March club meeting will feature Dave Hollon, who will be presenting information on the DonateLIFE project, with special emphasis on the 5K run/walk at Cal State Fullerton.

Hillcrest Park has been reserved for our field day activities. Liability insurance will be obtained to cover the event.

FRC will be participating in the Amateur Radio booth at Orange Count Fair on July 17. We need volunteers, and names must be submitted for clearance on the Megan's Law list prior to participation.

The DonateLIFE run/walk will be held on April 25, and club members are urged to participate.

We will be doing Antennas In The Park again this year. Date is May 9. WARA will be participating again. This year we suggest that everyone bring his or her own picnic lunch. Volunteers will be needed to help with set-up/tear-down.

Smoke Signals editor suggested that we attempt to re-design the newsletter format and content to present an improved representation of the club and its activities. Suggestions for change will be solicited from club members. Adding an introduction for Yahoo Groups was suggested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM
Minutes by Secretary: Paul Broden

Antennas In The Park

May 9 has been selected as the date for our annual Antennas In The Park event – sometimes just referred to as ANTS. As always, one of the highlights of the day will be the on-foot T-Hunt put on by Joe and April Moell. Remember, there is no need to be a licensed amateur radio operator to participate in the T-Hunt.

The activity takes place at Tri-City Park in Placentia, located on Kraemer Avenue, between Bastanchury Road and Imperial Highway. We will be setting up before 8:00 AM, but official operating times are from 10:00 AM 'till 3:00 PM. This will be one of our primary opportunities to introduce and demonstrate amateur radio to the public. Plans are that the WARA club will be joining us again this year. We will need members to sign up to provide equipment, dedicate operating time, and some to be committed to stay for equipment (antennas) teardown. Please plan to participate, even if you can only be there for a short time. At this time our plans are for everyone to bring his or her own picnic lunch. More information and finalization of plans will be announced in the April Smoke Signals, but for now **PUT THIS EVENT ON YOUR CANENDAR.**

Think Big at the Orange County Fair

As is our practice, FRC is scheduled to staff the Amateur Radio booth at the Orange County Fair for one day – **Friday, July 17, 2009.** The fair theme is “Think Big.”

This is a fun event where we present amateur radio to the public, with special emphasis on demonstration of Morse code to children in hopes that they will find an attraction to a potential life-long hobby.

The booth is equipped with HF and VHF/UHF radios for demonstration to anyone who shows interest.

The expectation for booth participants – namely you – will be to greet the public, discuss ham radio as a hobby, invite interested parties to a club meeting in their area, and anything else you can think of spontaneously in support of ham activities. Literature will be available to support your discussions, including a list of ham clubs in southern California so you can find an appropriate meeting for interested guests to attend.

One of the activity highlights is demonstrating Morse code to youth, and sometimes adults, who stop by. Several code keys are set up with the intent of teaching the kids how to send their name in code. They are issued a certificate to show their completion of the task.

We are looking for members to “man” the booth in periods of typically 3 to 4 hours. We need at least 3 hams in the booth at all times. Contact any board member to reserve your spot. More information to follow.

March Meeting Presenter

The presentation at FRC March Club meeting will be David Hollon, representing DonateLIFE, an organization that encourages you to prepare for the time when you can donate lifesaving organs for transplanted. Dave is a local resident and strategic contract administrator for Boeing. He is married, with two children, ages 15 and 12. Dave is especially qualified to present the subject as he is a two-time transplant recipient.

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

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

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 2009
Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:30 PM

Fullerton Radio Club Web Site

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.com>

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

<http://www.occaro.org>

Check out club information at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/frc-oc>

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 18, 2009
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!

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.

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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.