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# Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

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May 2007

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## PREZ SPEAKS

Grand Old Ladies live on! The venerable cruise ship Queen Mary lives on in our own local harbor and even supports amateur radio through volunteer operation in the original radio room on the ship. Operation of the amateur station W6RO is organized by the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach. Nathan Brightmann K6OSC of ARALB will be our speaker at the May meeting and tell us about this fine DX station.

This is a particularly active time for our club and our Board is deeply involved in necessary planning. Fullerton Railroad Days on May 5-6 will be completed by the time you receive this newsletter. Our dual-booth setup allows multiple stations under a (fire resistant, thank you!) canopy. A scanner receiver set to the local communications frequencies for BNSF and Metrolink allows listening to a surprising amount of radio traffic from dispatcher to these trains. There is even automated axle inspection reporting to the train engineers! Railroad Days is always fun with lots of demonstrations, real trains, model trains and food!

We'll host Antennas in the Park on May 12 in TriCity Park. This year we'll have a much larger group because Super System members will join us and demonstrate how they operate excellent HF stations remotely through a mobile or HT rig. We expect to have our own HF and VHF stations operating as well and, of course, food! The clubs will provide drinks, utensils, burgers, hotdogs and chicken but we ask that everyone bring chips and dips, salads and deserts. We'll have three canopies and tables but you need to bring your own chairs! Joe and April Moell will manage the always-popular on-foot T-Hunt. Ants in the Park is always fun and this year we'll have a large group of fellow hams and see some new things. Invite your friends to come and we'll show off amateur radio.

Field Day is set for June 23-24. Fullerton City has finally completed the water tower work at the top of Hillcrest Park and we'll have the comfortable Isaac Walton Cabin again for our Field Day activities. Manuel Borges AE6SG is our Field Day Chairman and he plans to operate three stations. We'll even have solar power! Field Day is fun, especially if you see it as fun and not just competitive, so plan to participate! Contact Manuel (see Smoke Signal masthead for contact information) and be a part of this great tradition.

July 25 FRC members will staff the ham radio booth at the Orange County Fair in Costa Mesa. The theme this year is

"CowAbunga! The Year of Herefords, Surfers and Sand." Operating this booth is always great fun, especially teaching the kids to send their names in Morse Code. The booth will be all set up with radios and outside antennas so you just come and have fun with the crowd in the Orange County Building. Our booth often wins the top prize for this key pavilion and we're hoping for a good show again this year. We'll start taking volunteer reservations at our May meeting; we like to have three members in the booth in at least three shifts during the full day we are responsible for the booth.

Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, our never-tiring public service coordinator, has lots of activities in need of our support. Gene just can't do it alone, so please support Gene with your volunteered help. Gene's latest success was the Donate Life Run/Walk Challenge at the Cal State Fullerton campus on April 28. Early and brief but covering a lot of ground best describes this event! This year they had many more than expected runners but the volunteers met the challenge. See Gene's article for details.

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

**Antennas-in-the-Park**  
**Saturday, May 12**  
**See page 3, T-Hunt for details**

**MAY CLUB PROGRAM**  
**AMATEUR RADIO ON THE QUEEN**  
**MARY**

See page 3, VP's Message for details

**Wednesday, May 16, 2007**  
Fullerton Senior Center  
340 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton  
QSO: 7:00 PM  
Meeting: 7:30 PM

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

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www.hdscs.org

**T-Hunt**

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http://www.homingin.com  
E-mail: homingin@aol.com

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**FRC T-hunt, April 2007**

Dave Balgie N6MJN hid the April FRC hunt in the parking lot of the Bolsa Chica wetlands in Huntington Beach. It was a fairly straightforward hunt, but you had to be careful closing in so as not to go the long way around. It would have been a very good hunt for beginners, but there weren't any, unfortunately. So why don't y'all come out and give it a try on the third Saturday of May.

Team	Odo
Calls	Miles
KF6GQ/KA6TAS	25.7
N6AIN/WA6PYE	27.9
N6ZHZ/KD6CYG	38.2

73,  
Joe Moell K0OV

**April VE Exam Session**

Bob's Garage hosted a VE exam session on the 14th of April.

Four new Techs; Three new Generals; One new Extra

One applicant was not successful.

One applicant drove down from Selma (near Fresno). There was not an Exam session in his area, and he was successful.

Next session will be on June 9. Call Bob to pre-register one week prior to that date. (562) 691-1514.

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

### VP's message

Your VP's May message is on appreciation. We must specially thank a long time, loyal member, Gordon Levine, WB6JVP, for not only promoting the Fullerton Radio Club #69657 10-10 number on the week day net, but also for his help in this month's program about Southern California's Royal public relations operation promoting ham radio: the radio room on the historic Queen Mary in Long Beach.

Gordon, can often be heard operating at W6RO on the Q.M., so he was a most logical FRC member to offer help in scheduling our next program to be given by Nate, K6OSC with help from John Rogers, KF6TTR.

In 1967 when Nate read that the City of Long Beach planned to buy and bring the luxury liner, the Queen Mary, to its beautiful harbor as a tourist attraction, he thought, "How could we of ARALB make Amateur Radio part of the long voyage from England?"

Nate Brightman, K6OSC, has been in love with this Queen for more than three decades, and has seen his dream for her fulfilled. The dream of Nate and his fellow club members of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach came to fruition in 1979 when the Queen Mary again began to operate a Radio Room aboard the ship with the call W6RO.

Our "Queen story" May program promises to be one of the most interesting we have had, so you're encouraged to even bring a friend. You can learn more reading Nate's Bio. at the web site of the Amateur Radio Association of Long Beach ([www.aralb.org](http://www.aralb.org)).

Many Thanks to you Gordon

Bill K. W6ZJE  
FRC VP for Programs

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### Next on-foot transmitter hunt 5/12 in Placentia

The next southern California on-foot transmitter hunting event will be at Tri-City Park in Placentia on Saturday, May 12, 2007. It is sponsored by the Fullerton Radio Club and is part of the club's annual "Antennas In The Park" (AITP) event, held in conjunction with the SuperSystem UHF repeater club in celebration of the tenth annual CQ Worldwide Foxhunting Weekend. All ages are welcome, so bring the family.

AITP activities get under way at 10 AM. Beginning around 11:30, an optional cookout and potluck will precede the transmitter hunts, which will start around

12:30 PM. The Super System will barbecue hamburgers, hotdogs, and chicken. If you're planning on partaking in the barbecue, please send e-mail to David Corsiglia [wa6twf@aol.com](mailto:wa6twf@aol.com) with the number of people in your party so we can be sure to have food for you. Let David know if you will bring a side dish and what it will be.

Plans are to have hidden transmitters on the 3.5, 146, 216 and 440 MHz bands. These transmitter hunts will be simple, informal and intended primarily for beginners. However, advanced hunters will find them useful for speed training. Experienced ARDFers will be present to help you get started. There will be no charge for participation in the hunts.

If you have them, bring a handi-talkie, receiver, or scanner for each person who will be going ARDFing. If you have directional antennas, attenuators, or other on-foot RDF equipment, be sure to bring that too. Make sure all batteries are fresh. For those with no radio gear, some extra ARDF receiver/antenna sets will be available.

Tri-City Park is just southeast of the Imperial Golf Course. (Map at [www.homingin.com](http://www.homingin.com)) The entrance is at the corner of North Kraemer Boulevard and East Golden Avenue in Placentia. The barbecue and hunt start will be in the northeast corner (to the right as you enter the park). Look for the orange and white Orienteering flag and the Amateur Radio banner. Entry and parking are free, but empty spaces near the picnic site may be difficult to find if the park is crowded, so consider carpooling.

Call K0OV on K6QEH/R, 146.97(-) PL 136.5 for two-meter talk-in. SuperSystem members can call WA6TWF on "Channel 5."

Besides the transmitter hunts and cookout, there will be some antenna-building for Field Day and radio-controlled sailboating. Expect to find at least one HF ham station on the air in the park. The traditional Worldwide Foxhunting Weekend cake will be served for dessert to participants in the transmitter hunt.

73,  
Joe Moell K0OV

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## DonateLIFE 2007 5K/1K Public Service Event

Kathleen Hostert, the director of the 5<sup>th</sup> annual DonateLIFE 5K/1K fun run/walk, once again says "thank-you" to the amateur radio operators who provided communications at the event. On April 28, 2007, there were approximately 5,000 participants and 24 RO's. There were RO's along the route & with a few key personnel.

The Fullerton Radio Club was well represented by present/past members: KB6CMO-Gene Thorpe, KE6IPY-David Curlee, W6ZJE-Bill Kohlenberger, KE6TZU-Cheryl Thorpe, K6MHD-Paul Broden, WA6FJC-John Sutherland, K0OV-Joe Moell, WB6UZZ-Tom Curlee, WA6OPS-April Moell, AE6SG-Manuel Borges, W6SRD-Rick Carpenter, N6OXG-Joe Brown, AD6NH-Phil Pacier, & WA6BRD-Mark Zdunich. Members of various other clubs/RACES groups also providing their support included: K6LCS-Clint Bradford, W7YG-Jeremy Donimirshi, KG6WTQ-Robert Gimbel, KG6JKJ-Rich Whited, AF6Z-Glen Shiery, KQ6RJ-Paul Stone, AE6YJ-Chuck Pacier, N6ISY-Dick Bruno, KG6WKK-Alex Veldez, & KD6FJV-Joy Matlack.

Our most difficult times were trying to figure out where the water stations were set up & dealing with another event on campus. Although the main committee members carried their own radios, they used our group's communications abilities to keep informed about the progress of the participants around the course & when there were 2 incidents of injuries. Once again, amateur radio was used effectively in this public service event.

I would like to also express my appreciation to all who participated.

Gene Thorpe KB6CMO  
Public Service Coordinator

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## Board Minutes May 2, 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; Vice President Bill Kohlenberger; Secretary Gary Miller; Treasurer Manuel Borges; Smoke Signals Editor Paul Broden; Board Member / Public Service Gene Thorpe; Member Cheryl Thorpe

Treasurer Report: Currently the club has \$607.73 in checking and \$1680.78 in savings. We have 32 paid up members at this time.

Speaker / Topic for April: Queen Mary

Railroad Days: Helpers will meet to setup at 4:00 Friday, May 4th. Manuel will provide an HF rig, Gene will cover VHF/UHF and Larry will have a scanner set on the local train frequencies.

Antennas in the Park: May 12, 2007, Tri City Park. The Super System group will be attending and providing the meat for the lunches. Our club will provide the utensils, breads, cold soft drinks and condiments. A jar for donations will be placed by the food items. Members need to have their own chairs.

Field Day We now have a permit for cabin the Cabin in Hillcrest Park. Manuel is chairman for the event and expects to have three stations set up running on batteries and perhaps even solar power. David now has a new portable Honda generator that is much quieter than our others which, by the way, are still for sale. It will be used in case we need it for charging any of the batteries that will be used during the event. Events to keep in mind :

- Orange County Fair July 25 is our day to man the OCCARO booth at the fair.
- ARRL Southwestern Convention in Torrance Sept 7-9.

Meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc  
Secretary Fullerton Radio Club

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Here's a few photos from Railroad Days, courtesy of Gary, ka6gpc



The FRC Booth



BNSF Diesel Locomotive



Steam Locomotive #3751



The Old Pumper with mascot

As usual, Railroad Days was well attended. Our booth was located in the same corner that we've occupied for the past several years, and received a fair amount of attention. We experienced two problems at the booth: #1 was the strong breeze that caused problems with the canopy, and #2 was the lack of FRC members in attendance. Those who did attend the booth are getting real familiar with each other – it's the same-old-same-old faces. Where were the rest of you??? We certainly hope to see more of you, and perhaps most of you, at Antennas In The Park.

Along the same note (lack of member participation) membership dues are past-due for many of you. Without dues payment you may not be receiving the next issue of Smoke Signals. For a meager \$20 membership fee you will be supporting YOUR club and its activities. An application form is attached to page 6.

**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: **June 9, 2007**  
**Please call one week in advance to  
 reserve a place**

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM      Tel: (714) 521-8080  
 Sat. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM              Fax: (714) 521-8920

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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>

**Monthly Board Meeting**  
 Open to all Members  
 Marie Callender's Restaurant  
 126 Yorba Linda Blvd.  
 Placentia

**Next Board Meeting: June 6, 2007**  
 Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM  
 Meeting: 7:30 PM

**FULLERTON RADIO CLUB  
 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION  
 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.**