



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

May 2009

Pres Speaks

May is a very busy month for FRC. By the time you receive this newsletter we will have completed the Donate Life event and Antennas in the Park. Bill (KZ3G) will be leading the May meeting, as I attend a rescheduled recognition dinner meeting that collided into the same calendar timeslot.

Our public service contribution to the Donate Life Run/Walk at CSUF on April 25 insured a successful and safe event. We handled routine event radio calls, including water station supply status, lead runner tracking, first aid coordination for two event participants, a lost child report, and radio communications for the key event coordinators. We even had an opportunity to chat with the Mayor of Fullerton about our radio communications role at Donate Life. Thank you to Gene (KB6CMO) and Cheryl (KE6TZU) for your tireless planning and preparation; and to all the FRC members that contributed their time to this annual event. And... a special thank you to the three new HAMS that participated, including KI6WUJ (my XYL).

In our May newsletter, we generally report news from our public service to the Fullerton Railroad Days event. However, with the cancellation of the event, there is no news this year. We will look forward to the opportunity to contribute our service and participation should Railroad Days return in the future to an Orange County city.

Antennas in the Park on May 9 was a great success, with over 105 hams from FRC, CARA, and WARA participating. As always, parking is insufficient at Tri-City Park, however resourceful hams located off-site parking and hiked in. With three clubs supporting the event this year, there was great opportunity for learning and sharing. The food was great... thank you CARA! Your club promotes this park event as an outreach for ham radio, and we put up lots of antennas to operate both HF and VHF stations. We even had a satellite radio setup. Power was battery only, with several HAMS integrating solar arrays into the mix. Park visitors often stopped by to and to ask questions. The T-Hunt coordinated by Joe Moell attracted a lot of attention as the on-foot hunters ran around the park with strange antennas in hand! If you missed seeing (and

eating) April Moell's famous cake, she may have a picture for you to look at. It was "yummy" and looked great too! Thank you April.

Several members of FRC and Fullerton RACES will be contributing public service hours in support of the May 19 Special Election. So here's my pitch: Please be sure to vote!

Field Day is almost upon us, just six weeks away. We have already reserved the same Isaac Walton Cabin in Hillcrest Park, which is comfortable and convenient. Mark your calendar and join us for Field Day 2008 on June 27-28. Now that you have marked your calendar, please remember that this event takes some planning. We had fun last year with the help of Manuel Borges volunteering as the Field Day Chairman. Manuel will not be attending this year's Field Day, so we are looking for a Field Day Chairman. Perhaps you will answer the call and step up to be the chairman, when this question comes up at the May general meeting.

Our FRC-OC Yahoo Group continues to provide pictures, interesting email announcements, and comments from members. Those of you, who have not yet joined, please do so! You don't need an invitation email to join; just browse over to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and enter FRC-OC in the Find a Group text box; from that group homepage, you can join our club Group.

Finally, at our May Board Meeting, your Board discussed and approved moving the general meeting start time to 7:00pm. Of late, our meetings have been running well over the 9:00pm mark. Much of the overtime is members networking and sharing ideas, which is an important part of the meeting. There will be a brief discussion at the May General Meeting of the proposed 7:00pm start time at the May meeting. We hope that if the new time is approved by the membership, it will allow for us to depart from the meeting room on time and enable the Senior Center staff to complete their room reconfiguration before their shift ends at 9:30pm. Thank you in advance for your support.

Join us for dinner at the Carrow's Restaurant on Harbor Boulevard near Brea Boulevard about 6:00 PM before each club meeting.

Robert KI6KYW

FRC May Meeting Speaker Topic

John Kountz KE6GFF, Laguna Beach RACES Radio Officer, will be presenting a photo tour of Afghanistan. John was the first "Official" licensed amateur radio operator in Afghanistan.

Fullerton Radio Club

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Show –and–Tell

Bring something of interest to the meeting to show and share your story. Something old, new, or just of interest to hams.

Web site: www.FullertonRadioClub.com

Ham Radio To The Rescue

From an FRC member

Subject: Car Accident Reported on Ham Radio

Below is a short incident during our trip in June.

During our vacation trip from TX to NV to So Cal and home, my wife Vicki - KD6MCM - and I had a mostly uneventful time. We were running all the counties we passed through but conditions were not so good. The 40-meter band was especially disappointing. We made one contact within an hour of our start and not another for 6 days. On 20 meters it wasn't much better especially the further west we got. We relied on help from K2JG, KA5TQF and other net controllers to get us through the hard spots.

The next 40-meter contact is the reason for this article. Vicki was busily writing down all my exchanges on 20 meters throughout our trip. But while traveling south on Hwy 395 at mile 67 on Thursday June 5th we had just come into San Bernardino Co, CA. We had just made a minimum 2/2 contact with Ernie, W7KQZ on 20 meters. He mentioned he needed it also on 40 so I went over to 7.188 and we were barely able to make contact, also a minimum.

About 5 minutes after contacting Ernie on 40, Vicki and I noticed some dust ahead about one half mile or so. I mentioned to her that I hoped it wasn't a car off of the road. Because of the hilly road we couldn't see the reason. As we came over the next rise on the undivided 2 lane highway we could see that a southbound car had skidded and was overturned on its top on the left side, in the dirt.

About 4 people from 2 northbound cars were running to the aid of the folks inside. Vicki checked her cell phone and we had no cell signal at that point. I could not stop immediately because there were no shoulders and if cars came from behind they could not have stopped soon enough before hitting us. I remembered hearing Ernie a few minutes earlier and began calling him on 40 meters. I wasn't sure I heard him but transmitted the information to him in case he could hear me.

About one mile further my wife's phone picked up a cell tower and she dialed 911 as there was now a place to pull off. As she was giving the operator the particulars the operator mentioned that another call was coming in too. About 15 minutes later I contacted Ernie on 20 and he said he did hear me calling and he was able to contact the Barstow, CA, Highway Patrol office and they would alert the proper, nearest office.

Thanks to all the net controls, fixed stations, mobiles and to Ernie for monitoring the various 'county hunting' frequencies even though there seems to be no activity. This is a great example of caring ham radio operators helping the drivers on the road who may not even be aware we are out there. It could have been us that needed help too.

A special thanks to my wife for logging by hand all 243 contacts in the counties we drove through on our trip.

73, Tom Risher KD6HWD
Round Rock, TX

On-foot Transmitter Hunt at Schabarum Park 5/16/09

With the equipment you built at Antennas-In-The-Park, you're ready for the next on-foot transmitter hunt, which will be **Saturday, May 16** at Schabarum Regional Park. As always, a ham radio license is not required. Experts will be on hand to help you develop your skills. Also expect to see some participants training to compete in the 2009 USA ARDF Championships that will be near Boston on the first weekend of June.

If you are a beginner, there will be entry-level two-meter fox transmitters, set by Joe Moell K0OV. For advanced radio-orientees, there will be an international-rules ARDF course, set by Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. An optional 80-meter fox transmitter will also be on the air.

All transmitter hunting begins at 10 AM. The starting point for the advanced course will be a different part of the park, so if you plan to take on that course, please arrive at the gathering area before 10 AM so we can transport that group to the starting point and do starts at five-minute intervals in accordance with IARU standards. Beginners will start from the gathering area. Courses will close at 3 PM. There are picnic tables and BBQ grills nearby, so you can bring your lunch or cook up something if you wish.

The beginner course and the 80-meter transmitter hunt will be free of charge. The advanced ARDF training will use electronic registration/scoring ("e-punch"), so a \$5 per entry (individual or group) donation is requested to defray the cost of the full-color orienteering map and e-punch equipment.

If you have them, bring a handi-talkie, receiver, or scanner covering the two-meter band 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 that all batteries are fresh. For those with no radio gear, some extra ARDF receiver/antenna sets may be available. Be sure to bring anything you'll need while going after those radio foxes, such as munchies, bottled water and sunscreen. For map plotting, bring your own compass, protractor and pencil.

Trails are primitive in some areas of the park, so wear sturdy shoes. All ages are welcome, but young children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Schabarum Regional Park is on the south side of Colima Road, just east of Azusa Avenue in Hacienda Heights. (Thomas Guide Pg 678-G4, map at www.homingin.com) There is a vehicular entry fee for the park, so carpooling would be a good idea. Upon passing through the entry gate, drive south (straight ahead, don't turn right) and continue to the end of the road (about 0.7 mile). Park in the last parking lot, near the restrooms. Look for the orange and white orienteering flags and signs. Call K0OV on 146.52 simplex if you have trouble finding the gathering area within the park.

73, Joe Moell K0OV

homingin@aol.com

April T-Hunt Results

FRC T-Hunt 4/18/09

This was the first high-power hunt in a long time. Peter Dekluyver KG6LSE, who attends Mt. San Antonio College, put the hidden transmitter in his apartment, just on the other side of Grand from the school. He ran 100 watts into a beam pointed out the window in the general direction of the starting point. Even though the signal had to get over a couple of big hills, it was fairly strong at the start point, perhaps because of airplane reflections.

Dave Balgie N6MJN will be hiding for the next FRC hunt on Saturday, May 16, starting from Skyline and Acacia at 8 PM.

73,

Joe Moell K0OV

T-Hunt Results

<u>Team</u>	<u>Odo</u>
<u>Calls</u>	<u>Miles</u>
N6MJN	13.2
N6ZHZ	14.3
N6AIN/WA6PYE	15.2
K0OV/WB2LRH	18.3
WB6JPI/N9DXI	18.7
N6UZS	20.0

Board Meeting Minutes

Fullerton Radio Club minutes for 05/06/2K9 Board meeting

Present: KI6KYW Robert Doidge; KZ3G Bill Preston; KB6CMO Gene Thorpe; W6ZJE Bill Kohlenberger; W6FUB Larry McDavid; WB6UZZ Tom Curlee; KG6WTQ Robert Gimbel.

Meeting called to order at 1930 hrs. by President Robert Doidge, KI6KYW.

Minutes of last FRC Board meeting were not read, as Paul K6MHD was not present.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account: \$1613.25; Savings account: \$1688.45; no outstanding checks, PSE account: \$23.37

Motion made by Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ to move up the club meeting starting time to 1900 hrs. instead of 1930 hrs., so we can get out of the meeting on time, if not earlier, than in the past few meetings. The board will present the 7:00PM general meeting start time for discussion at the May 20 general meeting. Members will be advised that the FRC board has approved the move of the start time to 7:00PM, pending comments from the members. If we have consensus from the members, the new meeting time will take effect at the June 2009 general meeting.

Old Business: "Ants" = Antennas-in the-Park is this coming Saturday May 9,2009. FRC, WARA and CARA groups will

be at TriCities Park in Placentia from 1000 - 1500 hrs. (3P.M.) with Lunch about 12 noon. CARA will bring hotdogs, burgers & trimmings. Cost for FRC, WARA and guests will be \$5 per person to cover expenses. Also, we are asked to bring something to share. There will a T-Hunt event starting up about 1300 hrs. (1P.M.) with an Antenna building party before the T-Hunt, Contact Joe K0OV for more info. at homingin@aol.com . Need to bring the canopy with the club banners and a table for club information & sign-in sheets.

New Business: Tech. Committees for things like: Field Day, which is the last full weekend in June (27-28); Speaker's, Board Nominations, Antenna building, etc.

Need sign-up sheet for the FRC's day at the O.C.Fair at the next meetings as our day at the O.C.Fair is Friday July 17th - ALL DAY3 shifts with 2 or 3 persons per shift. More info to follow on the shifts as it gets closer to our day at the O.C. Fair.

Submitted by: Gene Thorpe KB6CMO

Field Day

Field day is next month, June 27 & 28. Plans and activities will be discussed at the May club meeting. WE NEED A VOLUNTEER TO SERVE AS FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN! How can you serve the club in this event?

DonateLIFE Report

DonateLIFE 5K/1K RUN-Walk Saturday April 25, 2009

A Great Day was had by all who attended the DonateLIFE 5K/1K Run-Walk at Cal State University, Fullerton. What a showing we had at this event. We had 27 Amateur Radio Operators helping along the route & shadowing the major personnel. Some of them were "New" (less than 6 months) ARO's and had not done a Public Service Event before that morning, and some had not even planned on helping with the event; just observe. Well guess what? They got put to work and did a Great Job. There were 18 members of the FRC and out of that group 8 are also members of the HDSCS group. With 2 more members from the HDSCS group and 7 others from various other Amateur Radio groups, we were able to provide the communications needed to assist in the coordination of assets for the event.

From the FRC group, we had Paul Broden, K6MHD; Bruce Crabtree, KI6RZR; David Curlee, KE6IPY; Robert Doidge, KI6KYW; Shelley Doidge, KI6WUJ; Thomas Gaccione, WB2LRH; Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ; Bill Kohlenberger,

W6ZJE; Douglas Iford, KI6WSA; April Moell, WA6OPS; Joe Moell, K0OV; Bill Preston, KZ3G; Robby Preston, KI6KYX; Albert Solomon, KI6WRU; Cheryl Thorpe, KE6TZU; Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO; Alex Valdez, K9BLK. The others were: Andrew Adamson, KI6WRV; Edward Aguilera, KF6VJC; Richard Bruno, N6ISY; Kathleen Hall, KG6WWB; Mike Krueger, N6MIK; David Mofford, W7KTS; David Oishi, KF6QIA; Phillip Pacier, AE6NH; David West, KI6EPI; & Mark Zdunich, WA6BRD.

We had 2 minor medical incidences, which were handled by the CARE Ambulance crew. One of these was called into net control by one of the ARO's who had planned to just observe. He did an excellent job of passing the necessary info to determine the need for medical attention.

Thanks to all who helped out with this event.

Gene Thorpe KB6CMO

Making Morse Code Easier

Learning Radiotelegraph Code

By Bill Kohlenberger
W6ZJE

An interest in learning to copy and send radiotelegraph Morse code by new licencees has been expressed during our latest Technician level license classes. Several said they're interested in CW operation. This may astonish old time phone bigots, who view code as a fearsome threat and were greatly relieved when the requirement was dropped.

Their Aprehension has always puzzled me. We all surely as infants, from abstract parental voice sounds and learned meaning from them, long before we could ever see pictures or text . So why don't we first listen to code? Why then is it first taught by printed "**Dots**" and "**Dashes**"?

One Obvious fact is that CW is not spoken except for saying "ditdahdit or whistled at times. Jay Lenno showed that K7JA sent CW faster than Cell Phone "Texting". I do notice that often code rhythm like "L" is used in some of todays music or even rhythm yet.

The hard way, seen Images, need to be connected to letters, then to sound. Later you learn the CW sounds that mentally connect alphabet, numbers and punctuation and ignore the image. Good news, the Image step can be bypassed.

Avoiding the middle dot and dash step your writing can be watched and the beat, the tempo, the rhythm can be listened to. As in familiar music, the downbeat, spacings, groups and so on become intimate sense.

In 1946, several years before finally passing 13 wpm on the third attempt I used the dot-dash pictures to letters conversion to imagine each sound then wrote it down. Getting the code to confidently sound like letters took a long time for. **That's** the goal!

It's a big reward when another fellow CW person, far away, can actually respond with sense to your keying. You learn their name your RST (readability, strength, tone) quality, wireless, actually On the Air. Fantastic!

CW feels different than using clever efficient software. Reading words on a screen taken from digital bits in a warbling digital like PSK-31 or RTTY code is fun, but feels less direct and personal somehow.

A CW QSO, using your own fist and sensory skill can be a satisfying and personal 1-on-1 exchange between new or treasured friends having common interests. Don't trust me, check it out for yourself.

Radiotelegraph Code More Quickly Learned

The Web Offers many CW practice sources to easily help become familiar with our 26 English alphabetical characters, numbers and punctuation Radiotelegraph Code sounds.

I strongly recommend **not** memorizing the picture shapes of dots & dashes. These sounds soon become thoughtlessly familiar.

Today, with more practice, I now hear sounds of whole words without even being aware of letter sequences. A conversation in CW is now just about like talking with someone.

Two Internet Resources

1. <http://www.learnmorsecode.com/>

KB3KLJ code. MP3 downloads, at

<http://www.learnmorsecode.com/atozslow.mp3>

Each alphabet letter, A to Z. & Numbers, in sequence is the start-learning point.

2. <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse.html> >, Speeds at 5 wpm, 7.5, 10, 13, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35, to 40 wpm are free. ARRL code practice MP3 downloads.

Use of an I-Pod allows MP-3 code text sound files to be heard whenever you wish. Also be sure to begin sending practice. A telegraph key with a low power CW (QRP) transceiver and a simple antenna gets you on the air quickly.

As soon as you're ready for a QSO at any comfortable speed, call me. The sooner you begin the sooner mistakes are used up... without embarrassment. 73 Bill K., W6ZJE

VE Exams at Antennas In The Park

John Kountz KE6GFF from Laguna Beach RACES fame, and his VE team, administered HAM exams to 9 examinees near the end of AITP activities. Eight successfully passed their tests: 1 Extra, 3 General, and 4 Technician. Congratulations to new hams and those who have upgraded their licenses.

May Meeting Presenter

John Kountz has spent significant periods of time over the past five decades in and around Afghanistan having driven there in the early 1960's. Concurrently, his exposure to electronics dates back to 1954 beginning with US Army training for NIKE Ground Guidance Maintenance and continued through stints with all the usual Southern California defense companies.

As an amateur radio operator he has concentrated on the development and application of ruggedized, portable stations initially for 70 cm mountaintop contesting and, currently, HF stations packaged for quick deployment.

The combination of anthropology (field ethnography) and electronics (amateur radio) culminated in his last four trips to Afghanistan during which he sought to establish a nucleus of Afghan amateur radio operators particularly among the nomads for whom there is no reliable communications with the cities.. Working with the Ministry of Communications he gave presentations on amateur radio and provided a demonstration station which won the CQWWDX Contest in 2006 and 2007 for Afghanistan.

John graduated from Fullerton Union High School, Fullerton Junior College (AA), University of the Americas (Mexico, BA, Anthropology) and the University of Southern California (MS). He is a patent holder and a life member of ARRL, 10-10 International and the Audio Engineering Society.

Los Angeles Marathon

HAMS needed for race communications

In just over two weeks, on Monday May 25, thousands of Angelenos will be running, walking and biking through the street of L.A. Greg Powell has asked me to help with the amateur radio volunteer assignments for this year.

We will try to fill everybody's requests to the best of our abilities. If you have worked the marathon in the past, we will try to place you at the same assignment. But, please keep in mind, the course has changed back to a "looped" course starting and ending in Downtown L.A. and all water station locations, mile markers and clock locations will be different.

Also, we are running much shorter on sign-ups for volunteers this year. Currently, there are 5-mile locations with no hams to staff it. We understand that with the date change to a 3-day weekend holiday, many hams would rather spend the day with their families and friends. But, with the later date, everybody at the marathon are very worried about the temperatures. We could see more dropout, more requests for pick-ups, increased medical requests,

a more critical role of monitoring water and watching for folks who may be experiencing heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

So, we are extremely hopeful that you will be helping us to insure a safe environment for all the runners, volunteers and spectators during the marathon. Thank you in advance for volunteering to help with the 2009 Los Angeles Marathon.

If you know of anybody who would like to also help us this year, please direct them to the L.A. Marathon website at <http://www.lamarathon.com> and help them sign-up and volunteer! You can also find more information on Greg's website located at <http://www.lamarathon.ham-radio-op.net>. If you have any other questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to send an e-mail to me.

Thanks again for volunteering and 73's.

Ted Fukushima N6ZZK
n6zzk@mac.com

April Meeting Show-And-Tell Photos



Dennis' "new" 1926 Crosley broadcast receiver



Does anyone remember "tubes" – from the Crosley



Neat flat inductor design



Alex "sees" the radio

Antennas In The Park Photos



There really were antennas at the park



T-Hunt attenuator building



A beautiful day at the park for 100+ people



Tom WB6UZZ and his 10GHz rig



Bill W6ZJE and Bill KZ3G



Does anyone know the answer?
9 participants in VE session exams

More AITP Photos



The famous T-Hunt Cake – Yum



T-Hunt on a bike



Joe believes in starting them young



Becky KI6OEM and Tom WB2LRH ready to "hunt"

DonateLIFE Photos



Gene and 2 "newbies"



Part of the motley crew, Tom, Dave and Paul

FRC Regular Club Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month
Fullerton Senior Center
340 W. Commonwealth Ave.
Fullerton, CA

Next Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Dinner before the meeting; 6:00 PM at
Carrow's, Harbor Blvd. at Brea Blvd.
QSO 7:00 PM – MEETING 7:30 PM

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

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

First Wednesday of each month
Next Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 3, 2009
QSO and dinner 7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:30 PM

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

FRC Tuesday Net
8:00 PM – 147.975 (-) PL 114.8

Hidden Transmitter Hunt

FRC operates a 2-meter mobile T-Hunt every 3rd Saturday, courtesy of Joe Moell K0OV. We meet at the corner of Acacia Avenue and Skyline Drive in Fullerton at 8:00 PM sharp for deployment and the hunt. No need to be a licensed ham to participate.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

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

(Please Print)

Name #1: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____
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 Name #3: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____
 Phone #1: _____ Email #1: _____
 Phone #2: _____ Email #2: _____

ARRL Member? Yes No

Special Amateur Radio Interests or Activities: _____

Dues are \$20 per member, or \$25 per family. Students (full time) \$10.

Bring your dues payment to the next meeting or mail to the address above.