



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

October 2014

President's Message

Hello everyone. Here we are, approaching the end of another year in the storied history of the Fullerton Radio Club. Our club was chartered in 1950 and has been in continuous operation ever since. We've had a number of people step forward and take on various duties within our club and now we're at that point again where we need to ask one of our club members to step forward and assume the responsibility of Vice President of FRC. We've been able to fill all of the other Board position nominees with qualified candidates, and in order to make the VP role more attractive we've modified our approach to securing speakers. In the future each of our club members will assume responsibility for putting together the speaker package in a given month. This will be on a first come, first served basis so sign up for your month early to get your pick. The elected Vice President will administer this from the top-level view but the member will be responsible for his or her month. We are hoping that this change will make the VP role more palatable to our membership. It should also produce a little more variety in the presentations. Please dig deep and if you can find it within yourself to serve in this very important position call me right away. The good news is that the VP does not have to choose a month as long as he or she remains in the VP role. One other opportunity is that of Newsletter Editor. Paul has done a phenomenal job over many years in this role but he would like to step down and get a little closer to retirement. Once again, please call either Paul or myself to discuss this very important position.

Our Christmas Party will be on Friday, December 12th at Marie Callendar's on Yorba Linda Boulevard. Gene is working to set that up as we speak. As usual we will have our FRC Raffle, installation of new officers and also a very special guest. Please do your best to attend this very special evening.

We are hoping to host a Swap Meet sometime after the first of the year so start thinking about what you might like to clean out of your Shack. Stay tuned.

We're still waiting to hear from La Palma about their parade, and Gene is in contact with the Fullerton Tennis

Tournament organizers about this year's plans. This event is usually held in late January or early February.

That's all for now, see you on the fifteenth.

73

Bill KZ3G

October Meeting Presentation

An Introduction to SCARS

Barry Dagestino, Vice President of the Southern California Antique Radio Society (SCARS), will present an overview of this organization's efforts regarding the "preservation, conservation and restoration of our wireless heritage".



October Meeting

Meeting: October 15, 2014. 7:00 PM
Chapman Activity Center
2515 San Carlos Dr., Fullerton

Visitors are welcome.

We will be calling for nominees for Club officers for 2015. Is your hat in the ring? If not, why not?

October 1, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes

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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.

The October 2014 Board meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by President Bill Preston KZ3G. Other members present were: Vice President, Richard Belansky KG6UDD, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB, Directors Paul Broden K6MHD, and member Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU.

Minutes from the September Board meeting were reviewed and approved. Treasurer's Report: Checking Account, \$2,758.85. Savings Account, \$3,073.29.

Old Business:

The selection is in place for new officers -- will include partial slate of new officers and board members in the newsletter.

La Palma Days Parade will be in November. No information has been received regarding this event.

Christmas dinner will be the 2nd Friday in December 12, 2014. Budget will be up to \$300.00

New Business:

Discussed creating a "ham of the year" recognition.

Speaker at the September general meeting will be Barry Dagestino. The topic will be antique radios and the Southern California Antique Radio Society.

Discussed possible future activities of the club.

Paul and Gene will work on tax report filing requirements by the board.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, November 5.

The meeting was closed at 8:48 PM

Submitted by Linda Endsley, KJ6IHB

Announcement

Southern California Antique Radio Society,
Fullerton Swap Meet

October 18 at Fullerton Airport. Sellers must be members of SCARS. Here's a link for more info:

<http://www.antiqueradios.org/events.html>

National Weather Service meteorological measurements

While attending the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention in San Diego, I had the opportunity to visit the National Weather Service balloon launch facility near Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. As they say, everyone always complains about the weather but no one ever does anything about it.... Well, I set out to see what I could do.

Since the mid 1800's, the Weather Service has been launching balloons for meteorological measurements and weather forecasting. Despite advanced forecasting simulations, radar, and satellite tracking, weather balloons still play a key part in weather predictions. A modern radiosonde, attached to either a helium or hydrogen balloon, rising at a rate of 5 meters per second, provides temperature, altitude, location, humidity, dew point, and atmospheric pressure at altitudes up to 100,000 feet. Telemetry from the instrument package is automatically tracked and recorded until at least a pressure of 400 millibars is reached.

The balloons are launched twice daily in San Diego and throughout the other 49 states and territories of the United States. Approaching weather may require additional launches as well. The instrument package includes the balloon, radiosonde, a parachute, a GPS receiver, and the telemetry antenna. The antenna, a helical array wrapped around a plastic tube, had an interesting secondary use: inside the tube was a postage paid mailing envelope should the radiosonde be found by someone. I'm told the weather service gets about 1 in 5 of the instruments back. Tethered 25 feet below the balloon and parachute, the radiosonde, operating on one of four channels around 1680 MHz, is first functionally tested and corrected for pressure and temperature before launch.

The sensors and the GPS antenna are opened, the batteries are connected, and some telemetry is received before liftoff. A quick call to several nearby airports just before launch averts any potential problems. An onsite dish antenna and custom software track the instrument, record and plot the data, and send the information to the local weather service office. Each launch has a +/- 1-hour window around it in the event of a problem; a second assembly is prepared just in case. The technicians in San Diego launch at 4:00 AM and 4:00 PM 365 days a year. The data is utilized for up to 12 models the Weather Service uses in this area for forecasting. They are fairly accurate a week to ten days out, but tend to diverge past a few weeks into the future. But, they reconverge two months or so into the future; modern forecasting has come a long way since the Farmer's Almanac. Needless to say, I had a comment or two on the accuracy of the forecasts in the last few weeks.

Well, I'm not sure I did anything about the weather, but I had an interesting afternoon!

Tom WB2LRH



HDSCS Update

HDSCS has been blessed with a number of new members in the last couple of months. With new members and members with new radios HDSCS provided one our "Radio Coach" sessions in August. FRC members, Tom Gaccione WB2LRH and Joe Moell, KØOV were the lead instructors for that. After their presentations about basics of using handhelds and understanding repeaters, HDSCS experts paired up with the attendees to get hands on training and practice. It's also a way of finding out of a new member might be a good helper next time around. Other training provided during August and September was on message handling. It's important for communicators to understand the types of messages typically handled on behalf of hospitals. HDSCS has been in existence since 1980 and has significant experience as to the kind of messages handled unit to unit in a hospital as well as messages sent out of the hospital. Members attending this session also learned about net procedures and how to go to other groups' frequencies to send messages.

April Moell, WA6OPS presented a program on the importance of realistic drills at the ARRL Southwest Division convention in San Diego. HDSCS also had the opportunity to have an information booth in the exhibit hall that was staffed by members explaining how our group works in Orange County. Seven members were part of the regular staff of the booth. FRC members included April, WA6OPS; Joe, KØOV; and Tom, WB2LRH. Members, Dave, KJ6REP and Dahna, N6DLM were also on site coming by the booth periodically.

HDSCS members were on site at Placentia Linda Hospital on September 30 while a phone upgrade took place. **Five HDSCS night owl communicators responded to Placentia-Linda Hospital** at 9:30 PM on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 for a pre-arranged standby operation while work was being done on the telephone system. Technicians had to completely shut down the phone system to make upgrades. During that time, our operators provided communications for patient care units and other critical departments. In addition to the on-site operators, two members were at their home base stations to handle any messages into and out of the facility. The phone work proceeded without incident and messages were minimal because of the lateness of the hour. Once phones were restored, the hams remained for an additional half hour before departing to insure that the phones were stable. Team Leader and internal Net Control within the hospital was

FRC member Dale Petes KI6ANS. Three HDSCS communicators were on frequency from home as "jump team" members should there be a need for additional operators. This standby was the result of a phone outage earlier in the month that fortunately only lasted a little over 30 minutes to which HDSCS responded. While responders were called off, FRC member Joe Moell, KØOV did respond to the hospital as per HDSCS protocol to interface with the disaster coordinator and stay on site for 30 minutes to make sure the phones would stay up under load.

73

April, WA6OPS

FRC Transmitter Hunt Report

Bob Miller N6ZHZ and David Whittlesey KK6JDC teamed up to present the Fullerton Radio Club mobile transmitter hunt on September 20. They were at the east end of Orangewood Avenue next to Los Alamitos Army Airfield in Los Alamitos. All the hunters found them within an hour and a half. Here are the results.

Team Call

N6MJN

N6AIN/WA6PYE

AB6PA/KG6EEK/Ryan

Odo Miles

17.4

17.6

22.7

David Balgie won the hunt with low mileage and is scheduled to hide the next one, which will be October 18 at 8 PM. The signal will be continuous on 146.565 MHz and the hunters will start from the top of Acacia Avenue in Fullerton.

73,

Joe Moell KØOV

Club Officer Candidates

Following are nominations for Club officers and Board of Directors. Additional candidate nominations will be received from the floor at the October meeting.

President: Albert Solomon AG6OF

Vice President (OPEN)

Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO

Board Members (Select at least one)

Bill Preston KZ3G; Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ,

Mike LeFevre WD6AQH, Richard Belanski, KG6UDD,

Larry McDavid W6FUB, Paul Broden K6MHD

Next ARDF at Lake Los Carneros on Oct 25

The next southern California on-foot transmitter hunting session will be Saturday, October 25 at Lake Los Carneros Park in Goleta. Experts will be on hand to teach the basic techniques of on-foot radio direction-finding (RDF). Bring the kids and grandkids, then go out on the course with them!

Besides some easy fox transmitters to help you learn and test your equipment, there will be a beginner-level international-rules course on the two-meter band. An optional 80-meter fox transmitter may also be on the air. The site area is slightly less than 140 acres. It is relatively flat, making it a good site for foxtailers of all skill levels. Full-color orienteering maps will be available.

For those who want to build RDF gear for use with their own two-meter hand-held radios or scanners, Marvin will have kits for measuring-tape yagis and active attenuators. Also available is an assembled and tested assembly that includes the power switch, BNC connector, housing and battery, ready to install as the tape measure beam is built. There will be tools and soldering stations for building. If you're not an electronic technician, don't worry because there will be experts to help you. We want you to succeed! Send e-mail to Marvin (marvin@west.net) to pre-register and get more information about equipment. The building session will only take place if there are sufficient advance registrations. If you already have equipment

and just want to hunt transmitters, you don't need to pre-register.

If it takes place, the building session will start at 9:00 AM. Please be prompt. Transmitter hunting will start about 10:00 AM. You may start the courses at any time until 1 PM. Courses close at 3 PM. For those interested, we will meet at a local restaurant after all the transmitters have been picked up for further discussion of ARDF.

If you have receivers, scanners, directional antennas, attenuators, or other equipment suitable for on-foot RDF, be sure to bring it. Make sure all batteries are fresh. A limited amount of RDF gear will be available for loan.

Directions to Lake Los Carneros (also see map at www.homingin.com): From US 101 about 8 miles west of downtown Santa Barbara, take the Los Carneros Road exit, head north about 1/4 mile and turn right into the Stow House parking lot. There should be plenty of free parking. Look for the orange-and-white orienteering flag. The hunt start will probably be in the parking lot. If that is too crowded, we will move to a nearby picnic area.

Ham radio talk-in is on the WB6OBB repeater, 147.000(+) PL 131.8.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

FRC Regular Club Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month
Chapman Activity Center
2515 San Carlos Dr.
Fullerton, CA

Next Regular Meeting
Wednesday,

October 15, 2014

Dinner before the meeting at 5:00 PM at:
Coco's Restaurant, 1011 N. Harbor Blvd.

Meeting time: 7:00 PM FRC Board Meeting

Open to all members

Marie Callender's Restaurant
126 Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia
First Wednesday of each month.

Next Board Meeting
November 5, 2014

QSO and dinner; 7:00 PM

Meeting: 7:30 PM