



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

October 2015

President's Message

Hello all,

It is now October time for goblins and ghouls, but enough about me. How is everyone today? Well I hope everything works out for you, and yes I can here your answer. Today I would like to start by thanking everyone who has put so much effort into this club, those who are on the board, those who have found speakers for the club, as well as those who have been speakers, I appreciate all you have done. At this time I would like to remind everyone that it is election time for board members for the upcoming year 2016. Anyone who is interested in being on the board or nominating someone for the board please let us know so that we can put you on the ballet for the November.

Guess what, the day after the general club meeting your dear old club president turns another year older. He will be 31 years old. Now I know how some of you feel "31, that's only a few years younger than me" and you would be correct. Anyway, just a fun fact about me; if you have any fun facts about yourself please let us know or you could submit an article to the newsletter telling us about yourself and/or about what you are working on or interested in. We would like to learn more about you and the rest of the members of the club so don't be shy (like any of you are) and share.

We have an opportunity to get some practice with communication and information acquisition coming up in November with the La Palma Day parade. If you are able to support the club and Gene KB6CMO please let him know as soon as you can.

That is all for now, I am sure that I have forgotten a few things but I got to go. 73s' and good contacts.

Albert Solomon
AG6OF President

October Meeting Presentation

EchoLink

Joe Orrico WB6HRO will be presenting a program on [an overview of what EchoLink is and how it works.](#)



Joe Orrico WB6HRO

I was former WN6HRO when they issued Novice calls. I now hold an Extra Class license. I was first licensed in 1971. Back then we had to test at the FCC in Long Beach; oh what fun that was.

I worked in my dad's (W6WGA) TV repair shop from the time I was in 6th grade through high school, learning theory and actual troubleshooting. We even played around with 10 GHz X band Klystons AM modulation of the repeller back in the 1960's. When I went into the Navy in 1967 somehow I ended up in communications. I don't think I had a choice.

I took engineering classes in college and ended up working in the elevator business for the last 43 years. Along the way I helped with first repeater on Catalina WR6AAA, and had a great mentor Bob Swenson W6HIL who got me into building 220 MHz repeaters and controllers in the early 1970's.

My current repeater system is on 220 MHz on Santiago Peak with links to my hub in Costa Mesa and another 220 repeater in Winchester. The system bears the callsign WR6AAC that was the original call for the 220 repeater when it was part of the Standard Radio Club.

October 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 7, 2015 FRC Board meeting was called to order by President Albert Solomon AG6OF at 7:31pm. Present: Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Directors: Larry McDavid W6FUB, Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, Mike LeFevre WD6AQH, Paul Broden K6MHD, and member Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU.

Minutes of the September Board meeting were reviewed and approved with one change (next board meeting minutes should read October not August).

Treasurer's report: checking - \$2484.24, savings - \$3073.89

Membership: no change
2016 renewal time approaching

Old Business:

Nominations for next year due. Volunteers or self nominations. All present willing to continue but all jobs are available. Vice president especially. There will be a call for open nominations at the meeting.

New Business:

Speaker for October: Joe Orrico WB6HRO on Echolink; for November: Brian Thorson

Paul & Gene will get together to make decision on suggestions (to be presented to W6ZJE Bill Kohlenberger's family) on how to memorialize him.

Christmas dinner: 18DEC2015 @ Marie Callender's. Budget will be up to \$300.00

Ford Electronics: Nothing specific known.

La Palma Days Parade will be 14NOV2015. Radio operators are needed.

Next board meeting: 04NOV2015

Adjourned at 8:19pm

Submitted by Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU

Next on-foot transmitter hunt 10/24 in Long Beach

The next southern California on-foot transmitter hunting session will be Saturday, October 24, 2015 at El Dorado Park in Long Beach. If you are a beginner, there will be entry-level two-meter fox transmitters, set by Joe Moell K0OV. Once you're proficient at finding these nearby foxes, try the 5-fox two-meter international-rules course, set by Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. One or two optional 80-meter fox transmitters may also be on the air.

A ham radio license and knowledge of radio equipment are not required. Experts will be on hand to teach you the basic techniques of on-foot radio direction-finding (RDF). Bring the kids and grandkids, then go out on the course with them! All ages are welcome, but young children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

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.

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. 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. 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 9:30 AM. Please be prompt. Beginner transmitters will be on the air at that time. The main 5-fox hunt will start about 10:30 AM. Hunters may start the courses at any time until 1 PM. Courses close at 3 PM.

For the advanced 2-meter course, electronic scoring will be used. If you have an "e-stick," be sure to bring it. A \$5 donation is requested for the advanced course to cover expenses related to the use of Los Angeles Orienteering Club's e-punch equipment and maps. The beginner course and the 80-meter transmitter hunt are free of charge and e-punch is not required for them.

El Dorado Regional Park East in Long Beach, California is bounded on the west by the San Gabriel River and on the east by the 605 Freeway. From the 605 Freeway, take the Spring Street and Cerritos Avenue exit, go west on Spring about 0.2 miles and turn right (north) at the traffic signal into the park entrance. (There are park entrances on both the north and south sides of the road. If you goof and turn into the south side, you can still get there but you'll have to drive to the west and go under the Spring Street underpass to get

to the side north of Spring Street.) Vehicular entrance and parking within El Dorado Park costs \$7 per vehicle on weekends. After passing the entry booth, turn right at the stop sign and continue around to the east and north, then turn left (west) on one-way Snake Road. We will be in a picnic grove on the left side of that road. Look for the orange and white orienteering flag. You can park along the right side of the road.

Talk-in is on Raytheon Employees repeater K6QEH/R, 146.97(-) PL 136.5. If you can't bring up the repeater, use simplex on the output (146.97).

Maps to the park and to starting area are at www.homingin.com.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

USING ALL THAT OLD EQUIPMENT

by
Thomas S. Fiske, AA6TF

I have been accused of knowing more about the Bible than I know about the Ham Radio Handbook. If the truth were known, I have very little knowledge of either document. Well, I know that the Bible is not updated every year.

I also seem to recall something in the Good Book that "it is better to give than to receive." What it doesn't say is that sometimes it is harder than #\$\$%^ to give.

I remember that as a teen-ager I would have died to get my hands on old equipment. And I would use it, too. When I was re-licensed in 2008, after a 54 year hiatus, I made my mind up to help kids get started in Ham radio. That meant equipment as well as study. (I have been a substitute teacher in Arcadia public schools, and a graduate/undergraduate instructor in Whittier University.) So far, I have helped one young man get a Tech license and one 91 year-old lad get a General license. I managed to get the elder of the two to accept some equipment, and he is on the air every day, and a great deal of fun to talk with.

Furthermore, I collected several interesting pieces of test equipment. I managed to give away a small portion of these items, once I did some repairs and cleaning, but the rest of it languished in my garage. I grant you that this equipment was ATO (A Tad Obsolete) due to changes in modes over the years. For instance, we no longer use CW and we do use the digital modes.

It seems to me that if people won't accept test equipment, they have no plans for making changes in the coming years. That sounds like sedentary Ham radio to me.

That is why I believe Hams seem to want to be appliance users, not designers, builders or repairmen. They avoid soldering irons at all costs. I, on the other hand, want it all. But that is just me. The effect of opposite choices is that I can't move the merchandise. (Well, I did go on a rampage and sell a lot of things on the Internet. Imagine—I had to sell what I could not give away!)

But UPS lost a valuable rig and it took two months to get them to pay off on my loss. I wrote their president three times. It became obvious that selling equipment had its shortcomings, after all.

I would rather give away or lend this equipment than sell it. Older stuff works because after all, you don't have to use CW and you can adapt an older rig to PSK31 while using it for chatting on 75 meters and 40 meters. If you don't mind a little soldering.

Anyway, I have taken valuable equipment to the Orange County e-waste collection center and handed it over through tear-filled eyes. All because no one wanted to adopt any of it. And you know what they do with that stuff, don't you? Despite what they say, they give each item a shot of poison to kill it and they bury it in their back yard. It is a form of official murder.

So it takes strength of purpose to do what I am doing. I suspect that many of us are in the same boat, so to speak. We could benefit ourselves, and many others, if we could get our acts and parts and units together for use by other folks. There is nothing so poor as a teen-ager with a thirst to have a QSO with Russia and Japan. Up here on the North end of Fullerton, there is nothing in the way of that goal but a few pieces of equipment and miles of Pacific Ocean. In fact, Russia and Japan are usually in the way of *real* DX if you are using PSK31. I just use an old rig, an old computer, and a simple dipole made of stranded wire.

That kind of contact could weld a young person to Ham Radio for two lifetimes. All we need is organization and a pile of parts and some old equipment. We have the talent. I bet we could even find an old Bible to go with each Ham Handbook.

73

Tom the Dreamer AA6TF

Notes from the September Meeting

At our September Club meeting Brian Thorson AF6NA presented information on the subject: "A Look at Low-Level Radio Frequency (RF) Exposure and Current Science." The topic addressed the most recent available information on health risks related to human exposure

to RF and EMF. Here are selected quotes from Brian's presented literature.

"Overall, the epidemiological studies on mobile phone RF EMF exposure do not show an increased risk of brain tumors. Furthermore, they do not indicate an increased risk for other cancers of the head and neck region. Some studies raised questions regarding an increased risk of glioma and acoustic neuroma in heavy users of mobile phones. The results of cohort and incidence time trend studies do not support an increased risk for glioma while the possibility of an association with acoustic neuroma remains open. Epidemiological studies do not indicate increased risk for other malignant diseases, including childhood cancer." **Source: 2015 – Commission Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks SCENIHR Opinion on Potential health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF).**

"... there are no established adverse health effects for exposure below the basic restrictions in SC6 (2013) with respect to cognitive and neurologic systems, male or female reproduction, development, cardiac function, and heart rate variability. The panel was unable to identify any established adverse health effects occurring at levels below the basic restrictions in SC6." **Source: 2014 – The Royal Society of Canada Expert Panel – Review of Safety Code 6: Health Canada's Safety Limit for Exposure to Radiofrequency Fields**

"Although there have been some concerns that radiofrequency energy from cell phones held closely to the head may affect the brain and other tissues, to date there is no evidence from studies of cells, animals, or humans that radiofrequency energy can cause cancer." **Source: 2013 – U.S. National Cancer Institute Fact Sheet on Cell Phones and Cancer Risk**

Officer Nominations

Club By-Laws (Article VII, Sections 1 & 2) indicate that nominations for Club officers will be presented at the October meeting, and that additional nominations from the floor will be accepted with approval of the nominee. All offices, including Board members at large, are open for nomination. How about **you**? Don't you think it's time you offered your services as an officer? It's not that difficult. Be prepared to support the Club with nominations at the meeting. Elections will occur at the November meeting, and installation at the December holiday meeting.

FRC Regular Club Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month

Chapman Activity Center

2515 San Carlos Dr.
Fullerton, CA

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday,

October 21, 2015

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

Meeting time: 7:00 PM

Visitors are welcome

FRC Board Meeting

Open to all Club members

Marie Callender's Restaurant

126 Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia
First Wednesday of each month.

Next Board Meeting

November 4, 2015

QSO and dinner; 7:00 PM

Meeting: 7:30 PM

Space Weather News for Oct. 14, 2015

HOLE IN THE SUN'S ATMOSPHERE

A gigantic hole in the sun's atmosphere has opened up and it is spewing solar wind toward Earth. Because this "coronal hole" is unusually wide, Earth could be inside the emerging solar wind stream for days. Minor geomagnetic storms are already in progress around the Arctic Circle. Visit <http://spaceweather.com> for more information.

Plan for the Holiday Meeting

The Fullerton Radio Club annual Holiday dinner meeting and officer installation will be held on Friday, December 18, at our usual location, Marie Callender's Restaurant in Placentia. Details of the event and dinner menu will be included in the November issue of Smoke Signals, but for now reserve the date on your calendar.

Also, we're getting close to year-end, so start planning for membership renewal for 2016. Renewal application is attached.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

Fullerton Radio Club
PO Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92836

(Please Print)

Name #1 _____

Call: _____

Class: _____

Name #2 _____

Call: _____

Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone #1: _____

Email #1: _____

Phone #2: _____

Email #2: _____

ARRL Member Yes No

Special Amateur Radio Interests: _____

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

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