



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

September 2008

PREZ SPEAKS

Our ARRL Southwestern Division Director, Richard Norton N6AA, and Assistant Orange Section Manager, Richard Thompson WA6NOL, provided an interesting program at our August meeting on their activities to support Ham Radio within the official framework of the ARRL. Director Norton also offered a special deal on ARRL membership and Richard Thompson described in detail exactly what are the Section Manager duties and responsibilities. If you missed this meeting, you missed a lot of good information.

Our September meeting will feature a presentation by Bill Scholz W1HIJ, one of the friendly faces at our local Ham Radio Outlet store. Bill is active in the Coast Guard Auxiliary and will talk about the Guard's activities in the current stream of hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and on the east coast. Bill was first licensed in 1954 and remains active in emergency communications and on CW. As I grew up in Galveston, Texas, I recall many hurricanes and how our local Coast Guard provided assistance through those storms. I also have a nephew who is about to retire from the Coast Guard in Alaska so I'm looking forward to this!

Our club year is drawing to a close and it is time to think about officers for next year. Our club bylaws restrict the club presidency to a two-consecutive-term maximum so I will pass the presidential baton to your new president at the December, 2008 Christmas dinner. Clearly, we must have some new volunteers to serve next year. We have established the required Nomination Committee but the committee members need to hear from you! Remember, this is YOUR club. It is great to enjoy club activities but you need to give something back as well. So, think about serving as an officer next year and make your intention known at the September club meeting.

Did you feel that earthquake July 29? I surely did but did not find any damage at home. In fact, little damage was reported. But, some significant damage was not widely publicized. I frequently use the Placentia Library at Chapman Avenue and Kramer Boulevard and was surprised to find it suffered severe damage to the overhead suspended ceiling and light fixtures from this earthquake. The library has been closed for over a month for repairs, which are not complete even yet. The ceiling support structure was destroyed and many tiles and light fixtures

fell during the quake; pictures shown on the library website are dramatic. Cell phone and even land line traffic was interrupted over a wide local area for over an hour even from this moderate quake. Keep your ham radio emergency equipment ready!

Remember that analog TV as we have known it for over a half century will go off the air on February 17, 2009? That's right—all those old TV sets will cease to receive any station unless you get a digital TV converter box or buy a new digital TV. Along with digital TV comes High Definition TV, though those are really independent. I showed one of the digital TV converter boxes at the last meeting. If you need one to use your old TV, you better get your request for the \$40 coupon going!

Our website can now be reached at either fullertonradioclub.org or fullertonradioclub.com. Those of you who have joined our FRC-OC Group have received some 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.

I enjoy the Show-and-Tell each month and hope you do, too! Please find something of interest and bring it or plan to talk briefly about something you've done. Remember, this need not be a big presentation, just stand up and show what you've brought; if practical, pass it around the room for folks to enjoy.

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

Larry W6FUB

September Meeting
US Coast Guard activities during current
hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico
Meeting at 7:30 PM
Fullerton Senior Center
340 W. Commonwealth

Fullerton Radio Club
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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.

Board Minutes September 3, 2008

Meeting began at 7:38 P.M. at Marie Callender's in Placentia
Members present for Fullerton Radio Club board meeting: President Larry McDavid, Vice President Bill Preston, Secretary Gary Miller, Treasurer Robert Gimbel, Board Member Tom Curlee, Board Member Gene Thorpe, Member Cheryl Thorpe

Treasurer Report: The club currently has \$1600.60 in checking and \$1684.19 in savings. We now have 51 paid up members.

IRS yearly Form: Bill K. got on the Internet and completed what was needed for the IRS.

State Form: Gary will get with Bill K. and determine the answers to a few questions on state form SI-100 before mailing. Due date is 10-31-08.

Nomination Committee: The committee was appointed.

Events to keep in mind:

September 13: Airport Days at the Fullerton Airport. Gene reports that we have the event adequately staffed. Thanks go not only to our regular volunteers, but also to some new hams that are part of the Venture Scouts.

Sept. 17: Meeting Bill Scholz from HRO will speak on The Coast Guard Auxiliary and some of their operations.

Installation Dinner: Friday, December 12 at Marie Callender's in Placentia.

Meeting ended at 8:12 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc
Secretary, Fullerton Radio Club

FRC T-hunt 8/16/08

Dave Balgie N6MJN put the FRC hidden transmitter in a school parking lot on the corner of Washington and Pioneer boulevards just inside the boundary in Los Nietos (east Whittier). He used very low power with a quad antenna pointed toward the starting point, creating some very interesting signal bounces that confused some of the hunters. Anyone arriving on Washington and turning south on Pioneer couldn't make a left turn into the lot and had to put an extra half mile on the odometer finding a turnaround.

<u>Team Calls</u>	<u>Odo Miles</u>
N6AIN/WA6PYE	16.7
N6ZHZ/Doug	17.7
KG6LSE/KI6DGD	18.7
K0OV/WB6LRH	19.0
WB6JPI	24.6

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

CLUB ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee has been appointed, and is in search of candidates for Club Officers and Board Members. We need candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and at least one member-at-large to serve on the Board of Directors. A committee member may approach you with request for your services in one of these offices. Please consider the request seriously, and remember, it's YOUR Club.

Bonelli Park ARDF September 20

Our next southern California on-foot radio foxhunting session will be Saturday, September 20 at Bonelli Regional Park in eastern Los Angeles County. It will be a special "welcome home" session for ARDF Team USA, which participated in the World ARDF Championships near Seoul, Korea during the first week of September. George Neal KF6YKN was bronze medal winner on two meters in the M50 category at these championships.

This event will feature transmitters on two meters for both beginners and experts. A ham radio license and knowledge of radio equipment are not required. Experts will be on hand to teach the basic techniques of on-foot radio direction-finding (RDF). An optional 80-meter fox transmitter will also be on the air.

Transmitter hunting begins at 10 AM. You may start the courses at any time up until 1 PM. All courses 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.

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.

Bonelli Regional Park is near Raging Waters, Brackett Field, and Puddingstone Reservoir. From the 57/210 freeways, take the Via Verde exit and go east through the entrance

to the park. There is a per-vehicle entry fee. Go approximately 1/4 mile beyond the entrance and turn left into the parking lot for the bike rental stand. Look for the orange-and-white orienteering flag directing you to the starting site. A map to the site is at <www.homingin.com>.

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 it too. Make sure all batteries are fresh. For those with no radio gear, some extra ARDF receiver/antenna sets will be available. Also, 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.

Talk-in on 146.970 MHz simplex. Send questions by e-mail to the undersigned.

73

Joe Moell KOOV
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HDSCS News

August was a busy month for HDSCS members even though there were no emergency callouts. First of all it was "Termite Month" That's when we encourage members to be in the "woodwork" as much as possible and respond when called; talk to each other; answer hospital group questions, all to earn points and try to get into the Top Tier of Termites. It's a great way for members to learn call signs and match them with names and voices. That really makes nets go more smoothly and certainly when in an emergency we function better.

Also in August we finished up our summer field trips to UCI Medical Center. With the guidance of a clinical

supervisor from the Trauma Center we toured the emergency department and trauma center; the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; the burn ICU; the neuroscience ICU; the surgical ICU; the medical ICU and listened in on paramedic calls to the paramedic base station. The value of these special tours was to familiarize members with critical patient care area to better understand the kind of messages they might handle in a communications emergency and to increase our comfort level for being in those areas. The tours were terrific and we will continue those for our members in the fall.

The month ended with 22 HDSCS communicators supporting the St. Joseph medical personnel as they provided medical care to the runners in the Disneyland Half Marathon. Approximately 13,500 runners participated in this event that started at 6AM on August 31. HDSCS members provided communications at the command center inside Disneyland's Central First Aid; medical aid stations along the route, the finish line; the main medical tent; and the reunion tent. Our members also shadowed key St. Joseph and rode along as communicators for the medical bicycle teams. While we didn't have the high heat and humidity that existed last year it was still warm enough to cause numerous runners to suffer from heat exhaustion and other heat related problems. The HDSCS network provided quick communications to get assistance to runners and were also invaluable in provided information to all key locations at once.

Now the fall looms with training meetings and drills. We'll update you all further in a next newsletter.

73

April WA6OPS

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

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

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 1, 2008
Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:30 PM

Fullerton Radio Club Web Site

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.com>

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.

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, September 17, 2008
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!

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

<http://www.occaro.org>

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