



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

September 2009

Pres Speaks

Welcome to September! Kids are in school, the college football season started, and my summer contribution to the Pageant of the Masters has completed for the year. It is hard to believe that summer has "officially" past and the fall is upon us. For those of you that ventured to Laguna Beach this summer, I hope you had a chance to see the "The Muse" (this year's Pageant of the Masters).

As with the start of school, your FRC Board was in full attendance this month. It was good to see everyone and we got down to business. We have several activities coming up, including our public service event for the La Palma parade, SET, nominations, and the installation dinner. Look for the details in this newsletter.

Please remember to join us for the pre-meeting dinner at Ruby's (Harbor and Orangethorpe). I look forward to seeing you at the general meeting and catching up on the past three months.

73's,

Robert (KI6KYW)

September Meeting

"Radio Astronomy and the Radio Amateur"

Did you know that modern radio astronomy has its roots in Amateur Radio? Or that there are radio telescopes that exceed the resolving power of the best optical telescopes? Did you know that there are simple experiments that YOU can do with equipment that most of us have on hand? Find out about this and more when Dennis, W6DQ, presents "Radio Astronomy and the Radio Amateur."

Dennis Kidder, W6DQ, has had a life-long passion with astronomy and radio astronomy. Truth is that he really wanted to be an astronomer when he grew up. Instead, he became an engineer. Oh, well. In addition to his obsession with Amateur Radio, Dennis is also an avid amateur astronomer and dabbles in radio astronomy from time to time. One of the high points was when he and a group of hams from the San Bernardino Microwave Society received permission to use a real, operating radio telescope to perform Moonbounce. Originally licensed as WN6NIA in 1969, followed soon by WA6NIA, Dennis was recently granted the callsign of one of his early Elmers, W6DQ.

The September meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16 at the Fullerton Senior Center, 340 W. Commonwealth Avenue, across from the Library. Meeting time is 7:00 PM

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

RICHARD ORMSBY Jr. K6ATP (SK)

Ormsby, Jr., Richard Reed was born on October 3, 1937 in Whittier, California. As a youngster his family moved to Redondo Beach where he developed a lifelong love of the beach and the ocean. Later, the family moved to Yorba Linda, CA. He attended Fullerton High School and earned his A.A. at Saddleback College. At the age of twenty, he joined the United States Coast Guard where he served for five years. As a young boy, he followed in his father's footsteps as a ham radio operator, using the call sign "K6ATP". He enjoyed communicating with his ham buddies all over the United States for the rest of his life. He worked for Rockwell International as an electrical engineer for many years. After retiring from Rockwell, he worked as an independent computer consultant. He fought a brief and valiant battle with cancer and died at home on August 11, 2009. He is survived by his daughter, Lauren Ruseler; son, Richard Ormsby III; five grandchildren; a sister, Nancy Phillips of Oregon; brother, Daniel Ormsby of Las Vegas and his friend and companion of twenty years, Jean Portugal--also, his beloved canine companion, Buddy. Private services were held on August 25 at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, CA. He will be much missed by those who loved him.

[You may not have known Dick, but some may remember him from the late 50's and early 60's when Dick & his dad, (SK before him) were active in FRC and helped on many Field Days.]

HDSCS Report

This past week 3 HDSCS coordinators participated in another tabletop Pandemic H1N1 Flu exercise at Garden Grove Hospital. This was the best-attended tabletop so far. Representatives attended from the Health Care Agency, hospitals, community clinics, local colleges, police, fire and private physicians from throughout the Red Net area, which includes such cities as Santa Ana, Tustin, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, and Westminster. HDSCS was also represented at the most recent Red Net Hospital disaster planning group this week as well.

And on Saturday 8/29, HDSCS held a mini-workshop hosted by College Hospital in Costa Mesa. This special 4-hour workshop was held to help new members learn more about HDSCS concepts and procedures. All members are invited and several came for the review and an opportunity to meet our "newbees". The more experienced members also brought in their disaster boxes for new people to examine and also provide valuable mentoring.

73

April, WA6OPS

Congratulations KG6WTQ

FRC member Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ is also a member of WARA, and they have recently presented him with their *Ham of the Year* award. The award includes a WARA club shirt with his name and call, and also a Ham of the Year plaque. Robert's devotion to the club and amateur radio were identified as reasons for the award. This is the first time WARA has presented the award in many years. Good job, Robert!

Invitation to the September 10 meeting of the Southern California DX Club

The Southern California DX Club would like to invite you to our 7:30 PM Thursday evening meeting on September 10, 2009. The meeting is held at the Syd Kronenthal Park recreation center located in Culver City, CA. Please visit our web site at <http://www.scdxc.org> for directions to the meeting place and a map of the area.

Our featured speaker will be Randy Johnson, W6SJ. Randy is an experienced solo DXpeditioner "light" (small transceiver, no amplifier, easy to erect antennas, battery power and solar panels) to both domestic sites for national contests (California QSO Party, Field Day, etc) and international sites for DX contests (Bahamas). He usually combines his Bahamian DX trips with his other hobby - bone fishing. The following is his short biographical sketch:

"I got my first ham license in December 1951 when I was 14 years old. I had a great time with a 40-watt converted U.S. Army ARC-10 Tank transmitter. Band conditions weren't good then, but I worked most of the Eastern States and 37 countries - a big thrill for a kid.

Time passed, I turned 16, got my driver's license, started chasing girls, and went off to college - one without a ham station on campus. Basically I was off the air and I sold my modest station.

Late in 2001, my interest in ham radio was re-awakened. I still have my driver's license and I still like girls. In December 2001 - exactly 50 years after getting my first license - I passed all 4 exams and got an Extra Class license, AE6AX. I received my new call sign, W6SJ, in June 2002.

I started out with a QRP rig in April 2002, but I have upgraded to 100 watts in an antenna-restricted community. I sneak by with a Force 12 Sigma 5 vertical for 20 through 10 and an Army surplus (for tanks and APCs) vertical for 30 and 40 meters. It breaks down into 4' segments so I can erect it at sundown and take it down in the morning. I could also take it with my tank... if I had one.

Having fun with DX is always a thrill, especially when I work a new one. I won the Clipperton Award the first year I

joined the SCDXC and currently have about 230 countries worked. I love CW, perhaps because it is a connection with my youth. I seldom break out my microphone.

I built a K2 in 2005. I built the basic 15 watt rig, automatic antenna tuner, and 100 watt amplifier and have been having a ball with it. LOTS OF FUN! Even working DX.

I founded the Salton Sea Amateur Radio Club to be a vehicle for operating contests into the low QRN area below Sea Level. The club has two call signs, AA6SS and N6IMP. N6IMP will be used as the club call when operating from Imperial County during the CA QSO Party in October.

I have made five DX-Ventures to The Bahamas where I operate as C6AWS. During the 2005 CQ WW DX contest I made over 1,500 QSO's on 20 meters only, contacting 100 countries and 30 zones, all with my trusty K2/100. I'll talk more about that at the June meeting.

I had fun in 2006 Field Day which I operated QRP from the Salton Sea. I made 465 QSO's in 18 hours of operating. The biggest thrill was working Europe QRP on Friday nite.

Stories of my adventures, with pictures, are at www.savvyborrower.com/amateur.htm. I hope you enjoy reading about my adventures and are incentivized to plan a DX-Venture of your own."

Many of our club members gather before the meeting for dinner at the Roll 'n Rye deli at 10990 Jefferson Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90230. Telephone (310) 390-3497. Come join us to swap tall tales or learn of someone's latest exploit over the repast of your choice.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Arnie Shatz, N6HC at n6hc@aol.com.

The DXers of Southern California are looking forward to seeing you at our September meeting. Don't miss it!

Hidden Transmitter Hunt – September 19

The next southern California on-foot transmitter hunting session will take place September 19, 2009 at the Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area. It is intended for beginner and intermediate level transmitter hunters. All ages are welcome, so bring the family. A ham radio license and/or 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).

If you are a beginner, there will be entry-level two-meter fox transmitters just for you, set by Joe Moell K0OV. For radio-orientees of average experience, there will be a 5-fox two-meter international-rules course of low to moderate difficulty, set by Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. An optional 80-meter fox transmitter may also be on the air.

The main 5-fox hunt begins about 10:30 AM. Hunters may start the courses at any time until 1 PM. Courses close at 3 PM.

If you don't have the antenna/attenuator system for on-foot foxhunting on two meters with your ham radio handi-talkie or scanner, you can easily make one right before the hunts start. Beginning about 9:00 AM, Marvin Johnston will conduct a clinic for building his kits for measuring-tape yagis and offset-type attenuators. If you register in advance by sending e-mail to marvin@west.net, he will have the kits reserved in your name waiting for you.

It takes about an hour to put the kits together with tools and soldering irons that will be provided. If you're not an electronic technician, don't worry because there will be plenty of experts to help you. We want you to succeed! Then with your HT and the kitbuilt equipment, you will be all set to hunt.

For the advanced 2-meter course, orienteering flags and electronic scoring will be used at each transmitter. If you have an "e-stick," be sure to bring it. There is a \$5 fee 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.

A limited amount of radio direction finding gear will be available for loan. 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.

Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area is in the city of Irwindale near the intersection of the 605 and 210 freeways. From 605 northbound, take the Live Oak Avenue exit and go east. From 605 southbound, take Arrow Highway exit and go east. In both cases, you will merge into Arrow Highway. The park entrance will be on your left, opposite Azusa Canyon Road. Alternately, from the 210 Freeway, exit at Irwindale Avenue, go south to Arrow Highway, turn right (west) and look for the park entrance on your right opposite Azusa Canyon Road. We will gather in the picnic area closest to the first stop sign after the entry kiosk. Go straight ahead at that stop sign and then turn left into the parking lot. Look for the orange and white orienteering flag. Talk-in on 146.52 MHz simplex. Vehicular entrance and parking costs \$8 per vehicle. A map to the site is at www.homingin.com

73,
Joe Moell K0OV
www.homingin.com

Board Meeting Minutes

President Robert Doidge KI6KYW called the FRC Board meeting to order at 7:21 PM on September 2. Those present included VP Bill Preston KZ3G, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD, Board Members Tom Curlee WB6UZZ, Robert Gimbel KG6WTO, Alex Valdez K9BLK, Larry McDavid W6FUB, and members Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU and Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE.

The August Smoke Signals were read, with one identified correction being noted: The August OCCARO meeting was held at the Red Cross office, but future meeting locations are yet to be determined.

Treasurer's Report: No changes from last month.
Membership: Two new members; total now at 54.

Public Service: The next event will be the La Palma Day parade, November 11. Contact Gene KB6CMO for details. The Twin Peaks 50 mile / 50 kilometer run will be held in February 2010. See separate article for details.

A meeting between FRC and the Fullerton Mayor has been delayed.

Larry W6FUB reported on the OCCARO meeting. See meeting excerpts elsewhere in this newsletter.

FRC annual installation and holiday dinner is scheduled for Friday, December 18. A budget of \$250 was approved for purchase of drawing prizes.

President Robert KI6KYW will be appointing a nominating committee for next year's officers. Nominations will be posted in October, with elections in November, and installation in December.

Bill Preston KZ3G has volunteered to be field day chairman for next year. Bill requests that FRC members assist first by providing feedback on operating categories that need to be addressed. Please contact Bill ASAP with your input.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM
Paul K6MHD, Secretary

OCCARO Meeting Excerpts

The OCCARO amateur radio booth at the Orange County Fair won the "OUTSTANDING" Blue Ribbon award. Attendance at the fair was reported as 1,070,061.

The City of Anaheim no longer permits use of the Utility Department Training Room for OCCARO meetings due to increased security demanded of utility facilities by the Department of Homeland Security. Location of future meetings has not been resolved.

The treasurer reported that 16 organizations had joined OCCARO and paid their dues.

All ARRL affiliated clubs are reminded to update their club information on the ARRL website

It was noted that membership applications for the Fair need to be submitted by authorized members of each organization, and this year one club's information was submitted by an individual without authorization to do so.

HDSCS staffed the Fair booth for three days this year. An observation was that booth visitors were "higher quality"

than previous years with interests more sincere and questions more insightful. HDSCS has been participating in "table top" mini-exercises with hospitals, ambulance companies and community healthcare agencies. Members participated in a CPR/First Aid class on August 22. Dr. cheung, an epidemiologist, will present a program on the H1M1 "Swine Flu" to HDSCS members in September.

Red Cross indicated that volunteer communicators are needed to support the September – November wildfire season.

Twin Peaks 50 Mile / 50 Kilometer Run Help needed

Hello,

I am the race director for the Twin Peaks 50m/50k Ultra that takes place on February 6th, 2010. I am seeking help for radio communications during this race. Radio communications are very valuable in tracking runner progress, in case of medical emergencies, etc.

Twin Peaks takes place in the Santa Ana Mountains (covering Main Divide Road, Holy Jim, Santiago Peak, etc) just south of LA and on the border of Orange & Riverside counties. The actual start of the race is between Corona and Lake Elsinore. You can learn more about this event at:

<http://www.twinpeaks5050.com>

I would appreciate if you could pass this on to your club members since radio communication is so important to a successful event!

Thank you for your time,

Jessica DeLine, Race Director
<http://www.twinpeaks5050.com>
949-842-8452

FRC Regular Club Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month

Fullerton Senior Center
340 W. Commonwealth Ave.
Fullerton, CA

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Dinner before the meeting; 5:15 PM at
Ruby's Diner, Harbor Blvd. at Orangethorpe

MEETING 7:00 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, October 7, 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

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

Fullerton Radio Club

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

(Please Print)

Name #1: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Name #2: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Name #3: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone #1: _____ Email #1: _____ Fax: _____

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.