



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

August 2011

President's Message

Hi all; it's August and not much is going on so relax and watch the meteor shower that's going on 'till the 15th. On another note there is a lot of solar activity for the next few days and GPS and telecom may be affected so be ready. The radio booth at the fair is going well, if a little slow, but we had fun looking at the old radios and trying to get people interested in our beloved hobby. In the next few months there will be opportunities for the members of the club to volunteer for public service events and we need the support. Also HAMCON is coming up and it is going to be a blast, so hope to see you there. Other than that, enjoy the rest of the summer and we will see you at the meeting.

Albert Solomon KI6WRU

August Meeting Presentation

Our August meeting will find Janet Margelli KL7MF presenting the topic:

The History of the Candy Store

Janet Margelli, KL7MF, has been licensed since 1973, and an Extra Class licensee since 1997. Janet and her husband Chip, K7JA live in Garden Grove, California. **Janet is the Manager of Ham Radio Outlet in Anaheim, California,** and is a Life Member of ARRL.

Originally licensed as WN7WMB in Tacoma, Washington, Janet received a technical degree from Bates Vocational/Technical Institute, and received the First Class (Commercial) Radiotelephone License, with Radar Endorsement, upon graduation. From 1970 until 1977, she was Operations Manager and Studio Engineer at KLAY-FM in Tacoma, moving to KCTS-TV in Seattle in 1977-1978 as a Master Control Switcher.

In 1978, Janet married Chip, swung through Micronesia on her honeymoon, then settled in Tokyo, Japan until 1980. In Tokyo, she worked for Yaesu Musen Co., Ltd, a manufacturer of amateur radio equipment, and continued her employment with Yaesu at their Southern California subsidiary until 1984. Since 1984, Janet has been employed by Ham Radio Outlet, becoming Manager in 1993.

Travel has been a huge part of Janet's life, often in conjunction with amateur radio activities. In 1984, Janet and Chip were invited by the Chinese Radio Sport Association to travel to Beijing for operation from BY1PK helping to train the new Chinese operators during the early phases of the rebirth of Amateur Radio in China. Janet has also traveled to Hong Kong, Saipan and many islands in Micronesia, Dominica, Antigua, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Martinique, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Barbados, and Ireland, plus many visits to Alaska, Hawaii, and the U.K.

In 1994, Janet accepted commissions by two magazines to visit the Havana area to document the participation by members of the *Federación de Radioaficionados de Cuba* in the ARRL June VHF QSO Party, which included operation as COØFRC and CO2/WA7WMB. Theirs was the first group of American radio amateurs to be so honored. A feature article by Janet appeared in QST in late 1994. In 2003, Janet and five other members of the Piña Colada Contest Club (KP2AA) joined forces with the FRC in the first-ever joint Cuba-U.S. Field Day operation as COØUS. This operation marks the first occasion where a Treasury Department Specific License was granted for a public Amateur Radio demonstration involving U.S. Amateurs.

Outside of amateur radio, Janet enjoys photography, art, and reading. And, yes, she's an addicted farmer on Facebook.

REMINDER – NEW MEETING LOCATION

Fullerton Radio Club has moved location of our regular club meetings. The new location is:

- Chapman Activity Center
- 2515 San Carlos Drive, Fullerton, CA 92831

From downtown Fullerton proceed east on Commonwealth Avenue past State College Boulevard. San Carlos Drive is the second street past State College. Turn right and look for the Activity Center in Chapman Park.

- Meeting time: 7:00 PM sharp.
- Visitors are always welcome.

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

August Board Meeting

President Albert Solomon KI6WRU called the August Board meeting to order at 7:40 PM. Others present included VP Richard Belansky KG6UDD, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD, Directors Larry McDavid W6FUB, Bill Preston KZ3G, Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, OCCARO Rep Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, and member Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU.

Minutes of the July Board meeting, as published in Smoke Signals, were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Checking; \$1883.21 and Savings \$1596.65.

Membership: The club now has 63 paid members. Eight members from last year have not renewed their membership. Each of these either has been or will be contacted directly urging membership renewal.

OCCARO: The Amateur Radio booth at the OC Fair has again won the Blue Ribbon for booth presentation and activity [See article on page 3]. Booth activity at the fair was very light as observed by members with booth assignments. Part of this low attendance may have been because of the new location.

Public Service: Nothing until the La Palma event in November.

Old Business:

- The Technician license class has ended, with 2 or 3 of the students successfully passing the license exam.
- HamCon will be held this next month (September 9 – 11). All available booths have been sold. A mobile T-hunt will be held on Friday, and the on-foot T-hunt will be on Sunday. Check the website (<http://www.hamconinc.org/>) for HamCon info. **[See page 4 for T-Hunt details]**

New Business:

- Interest has been expressed for conductance of a General license class. No definite plans have been made for the class, but it may occur in the fall. Field trips associated with Ham radio are being considered for inclusion with the class. Some interest has also been expressed for a CW class.
- Speaker for the August club meeting will be Janet Margelli KL7MF who will be presenting a history of HRO.

The meeting ended at 8:26 PM

Paul Broden K6MHD, Secretary

Next on-foot transmitter hunt at Topanga Park on 8/13

The next southern California on-foot transmitter hunting session will be Saturday, August 13, 2011 at Topanga State Park. This is the last in a series of local events leading up to the USA ARDF Championships that will take place near Albuquerque during September. It is open to anyone of any age, with or without a ham radio license. 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 advanced radio-orientees, there will be a 5-fox two-meter course approaching the length of a national championship course, set by Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. An optional 80-meter fox transmitter may also be on the air.

Before the hunt, Marvin will host a session of RDF equipment building for those who have a two-meter hand-held radio or scanner, but don't have any gear for radio direction finding with it. If you register with Marvin ahead of time, he will have kits for measuring-tape yagis and active attenuators. Also available from Marvin 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. If you already have equipment and just want to hunt, you don't need to pre-register.

The building session starts at 9:30 AM. Please be prompt. 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.

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.

Topanga State Park is in the Santa Monica Mountains. From Highway 101 in Woodland Hills, go south on Topanga Canyon Boulevard (Highway 27) about 8 miles. From Pacific Coast Highway, go north on Topanga Canyon Boulevard to just past Old Topanga Canyon Road. Either way, watch for a "Topanga State Park" sign and turn east onto Entrada Road. (This is a dangerous corner.) Go about a mile, bearing left at the fork. We will gather at the end of the parking lot in the shaded picnic area. Look for the orange and white orienteering flag. Talk-in on 146.52 MHz simplex. Vehicular entrance and parking costs \$10 per vehicle. A map and GPS coordinates are at www.homingin.com

73, Joe Moell K0OV

Email from Mack Garret and Gordon West as of 5:30PM Sunday July 31

"Our ham radio operation is a blue ribbon WINNER!

Judging took place yesterday and today, and the judges came back to hear the ol' time radios playing their familiar tunes, plus some air time on ATV, and even had a chance to tlk over the airwaves and pound some brass!

"We selected YOUR booth, not as a booth, but as a live action demonstration of what ham radio is all about." said one of the judges.

"You get everyone involved who walked by, hearing the sounds of a foreign station, dots and dashes, fun TV, and those great old fashioned radios playing that fun great music! You show them the stuff, live, and on the air! "

[Ed.: Note, this is a tribute to all clubs and organizations that participated in the OC Fair Amateur Radio booth. Fullerton Radio Club covered one day at the booth, and the HDSCS group covered three days. For those who missed out as part of the HAM booth, remember there is always next year.]

Announcement of HamCon transmitter hunts

Two Ways to Hunt Hidden Transmitters at HamCon 2011.

The Fullerton Radio Club presents two opportunities to win prizes while doing radio direction finding during Hamcon 2011, the annual ARRL Southwestern Division Convention headquartered in Torrance.

On Friday evening, September 9, there will be a mobile T-hunt starting from a location near the convention hotel at 7 PM. It will be scored by elapsed time, first finders win. Only convention badge holders are eligible to win prizes. For the exact starting point, call the hider on the hunt frequency (146.565 MHz simplex) after 6 PM on Friday.

Then on Sunday, September 11, there will be an all-on-foot two-meter transmitter hunting session at a nearby park. A ham radio license is not required and there is no age limit. This is primarily a hunt for individuals, but teams of two persons are OK. Only one set of RDF equipment is allowed per team. Visually-challenged persons are invited to participate, but are urged to pair up with a sighted person on the course.

This on-foot hunt is intended to be a suitable challenge to both beginner and experienced transmitter hunters. There will be prizes for the best hunters, but only convention badge holders are eligible to win them. Bring your receivers, scanners, directional antennas, attenuators, and other equipment suitable for on-foot RDF. If you don't have RDF equipment, plan to attend the workshop for building two-meter measuring-tape yagis and offset attenuators that will take place before the Sunday transmitter hunt.

For more information on both hunts, including the location and starting time of the on-foot event, visit the Fullerton Radio Club and Hospital Disaster Support Communications System table at the convention during exhibit hours Friday or Saturday. For information about how to do transmitter hunting and direction finding, visit www.homingin.com.

73,

Joe Moell K0OV

FRC T-Hunt Report

Steve Wallis WA6PYE took the easy way out for the Fullerton Radio Club mobile transmitter hunt on July 16. He put a low-power transmitter in the strip mall on the southwest corner of Euclid and Rosecrans in Fullerton. You might think that this would make for a very easy hunt, and it was that for Dave Balgie N6MJN, who found it very quickly. But one team drove over 19 miles to get there. They were fooled by signal reflections in the hills, and perhaps they kept thinking that it had to be much farther away.

Team <u>Calls</u>	Odo <u>Miles</u>
N6MJN	4.2
N6AIN	6.0
N6BOX/AB6PA	19.1

73, Joe Moell K0OV

Is The Next Sun Spot Cycle, #25, Going To Happen?

A Sky & Telescope News report that solar astronomers are accumulating astonishing new Solar Data. It seems to show no signs that conditions needed to begin Cycle 25 are yet occurring. While Cycle 24 showed its start in Cycle 23, we're seeing lower sunspot activity than occurred in Cycle 23. Other data leads to the suspicion that Cycle 25 may show

fewer, maybe even no sunspots, a DX Bummer. Compare the circles in the figure on page 5.

<http://www.nso.edu/press/SolarActivityDrop.html>

"This is highly unusual and unexpected," Dr. Frank Hill, associate director of the NSO's Solar Synoptic Network, said of the results. "But the fact that three completely different views of the Sun point in the same direction is a powerful indicator that the sunspot cycle may be going into hibernation."

Spot numbers and other solar activity rise and fall about every 11 years, which is half of the Sun's 22-year magnetic interval since the Sun's magnetic poles reverse with each cycle. An immediate question is whether this slowdown presages a second Maunder Minimum, a 70-year period with virtually no sunspots during 1645-1715.

In response to news inquiries and stories, Dr. Frank Hill issued a follow-up statement:

"We are NOT predicting a mini-ice age. We are predicting the behavior of the solar cycle. In my opinion, it is a huge leap from that to an abrupt global cooling, since the connections between solar activity and climate are still very poorly understood. My understanding is that current calculations suggest only a 0.3 degree C decrease from a Maunder-like minimum, too small for an ice age. It is unfortunate that the global warming/cooling studies have become so politically polarizing."

More to come so we need to stay tuned & get your QSOs in on HF while we have a few spots to go.
73 de W6ZJE

ANNOUNCING
THE NEXT SW DIVISION CONVENTION

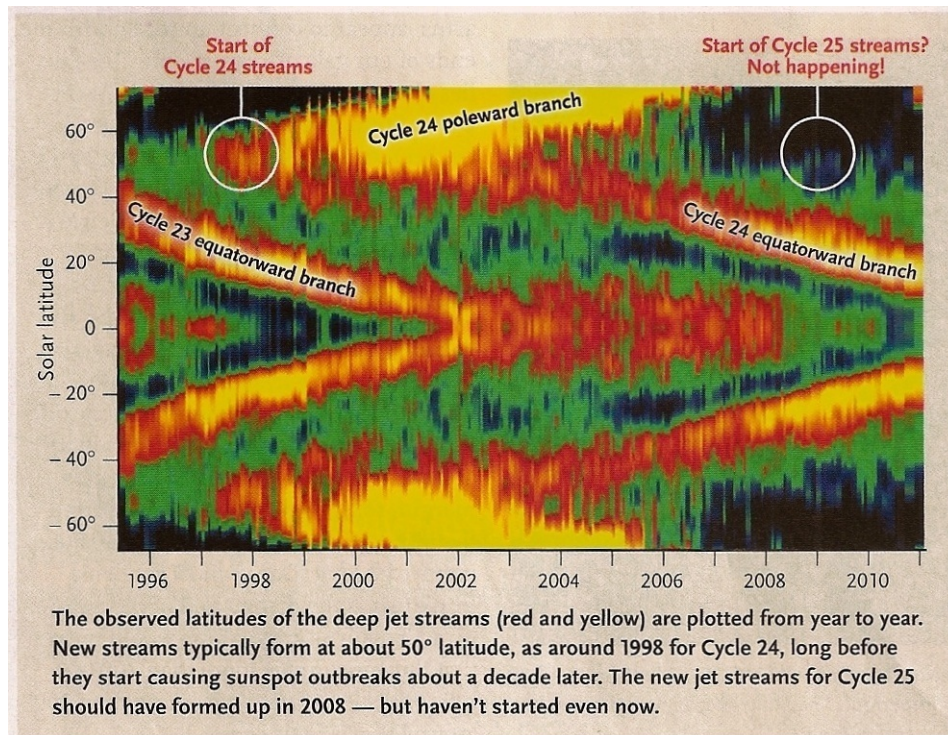


HAMCON 2011
ARRL Southwest Division
Amateur Radio Convention
“COMMUNICATIONS
AROUND THE WORLD”
September 9, 10, & 11, 2011

Marriott Torrance South Bay
3635 Fashion Way, Torrance, CA 90503 1-800-228-9290
Hotel Reservation Code: HAMCON

COME JOIN THE FUN
AND
EXPERIENCE WHAT HAM RADIO HAS TO OFFER

Sunspot Figure (See page 4 for associated article)



FRC Regular Club Meeting

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

Next Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 17, 2011

Dinner before the meeting at about 5:30 PM at:
Coco's Restaurant, 1011 N. Harbor Blvd.

Meeting time: 7:00 PM

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

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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FRC Board Meeting

Open to all members

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

Next Board Meeting
September 7, 2011

QSO and dinner; 7:00 PM

Meeting: 7:30 PM

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Sat. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Tel: (714) 521-8080
Fax: (714) 521-8920

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FRC Web site: www.fullertonradioclub.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

Fullerton Radio Club
PO Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92836

(Please Print)

Name #1 _____

Call: _____

Class: _____

Name #2 _____

Call: _____

Class: _____

Name #3 _____

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.