



# Smoke Signals

## Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

### October 2017

#### October 2017 President's column

The Christmas trees are on display at Costco, so I guess that must mean that September is now (barely) past us. This is also a reminder that this coming Wednesday is the time to nominate new club officers.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Vice-President, Walter Clark, for doing an outstanding job of recruiting and scheduling guest speakers for the past two years. Although Walter has decided not to seek another term as VP, he has expressed his willingness to continue on the Board in the role of member-at-large.

As I'm sure you know, coming up with a good guest speaker month after month is a daunting task - made more difficult by the low turnout at our monthly club meetings. It is difficult (dare I say embarrassing?) to ask a potential speaker to prepare a talk, give up an evening, and sometimes drive many miles so that they can present to a group of ten to twelve people. Before Larry's talk on Wednesday, I'd like us to try to brainstorm some ways to reduce the pressure on the VP position, perhaps by distributing the responsibility across a larger group of people. This is a promise I would like to make to anyone who is willing to step up and run for the VP position. Anyone?

We had a nice dinner and a good turnout at the Black Bear Diner last month, why not come and join us this Wednesday before the meeting. The fun starts at 5 o'clock. If not, I hope I will see lots of you at the meeting.

73, Bob - AD6QF

#### October Meeting Presentation

The October meeting will feature Larry McDavid W6FUB, with a presentation of his experience observing the recent total solar eclipse. Larry has some amazing photographs that of the eclipse, as well as a description of the event and activities. Larry indicates:

***"I observed a glorious total solar eclipse from near Casper, Wyoming on Monday, August 21, 2017. No clouds were seen and the weather was cool and quite pleasant with strong sunlight. At eclipse totally there were unexpected streamers and unexpected structural detail in the bright white solar corona, three red coronal prominences, and a superb diamond ring at third contact. Simply Wow!"***

Come and hear Larry's description of an eclipse and daytime darkness, and see these astounding photos.

#### October Meeting:

##### **Chapman Activity Center**

2515 San Carlos Dr.

Fullerton, CA

March meeting will be:

**Wednesday,**  
**October 18, 2017**

**Meeting time: 7:00 PM**

**Visitors are 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.org](http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org)**

**October Board Meeting**

Club President Bob Houghton AD6QF called the October Board Meeting to order at 7:26 PM. Additional members present included Vice President Walter Clark, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Board Members Larry McDavid W6FUB, Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, Richard Belanski KG6UDD, Paul Broden K6MHD, and club members Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU, and Bill Preston KZ3G.

Minutes from the September board meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurers Report: Checking; \$3,943.01; Savings \$2,207.18 (as of the most recent bank statement – August)

Membership: One membership renewal. No new members

The remainder of the Board Meeting took subjects out of order so VP Walter Clark could be excused early.

Officer elections were discussed, and VP Walter Clark indicated he would not seek re-election. Walter is willing to remain on the board if elected as a member-at-large.

A nominating committee has been appointed and will present a slate of candidates at the October club meeting.

Walter presented an idea for obtaining suggested speakers for club meetings.

It has been noted that the TAG meetings are better attended than regular club meetings. The question has been asked as to whether the TAG attendees are actually members of the club for receipt of the newsletter because many are not listed as paid club members. The board will be considering clarification of what constitutes club membership. A suggestion has been made that the newsletter could include a listing of paid memberships. For now the newsletter will be provided to all that may be considered as regular club and TAG members until the membership definition issue is clarified.

The holiday dinner menu and invitation will be redesigned this year to add the option for payment of next year's membership dues at the time of submitting the menu and dinner order.

The proposed use of legacy monies from Bill Kohlengerger's equipment sale will be reviewed. Potential use for Boy Scout Eagle projects will be discussed with Robert Doidge KI6KYW as a scouting representative.

Dinner before the club meeting will be at the Black Bear Diner again this month.

The meeting was closed at 8:25 PM

Minutes submitted by Paul Broden K6MHD

## On-Foot Transmitter Hunt November 4

Southern California's next on-foot transmitter hunting session will be Saturday, November 4, 2017 at Bonelli Regional Park. It is suitable for both beginner and intermediate level transmitter hunters. All ages are welcome, so bring the family. Try your hand at some easy two-meter transmitters set by Joe Moell K0OV plus a 5-fox two-meter international-rules course of beginner-to-moderate difficulty, set by Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. One or more fox transmitters on the 80-meter band may also be set up to try. Experts will be on hand to help you.

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 attenuator circuit boards. 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](mailto: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.

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 freeway north of I-10, take the Via Verde exit and go east through the entrance to the park. Go approximately 1/4 mile beyond the entrance and turn left into the parking lot for the Snack Shoppe (formerly the bike rental stand). Look for the orange-and-white orienteering flag directing you to the starting area. Talk-in is on 146.97 MHz simplex.

If heavy rain is forecasted, check [www.homingin.com](http://www.homingin.com) on November 3 for possible cancellation.

73, Joe Moell K0OV

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### HDSCS News

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Members of the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS) of Orange County went on alert for the wind-driven "Canyon 2 Fire" on October 9, 2017. By 2:00 PM that day, 2000 acres had burned and homes were on fire in the cities of Anaheim, Orange and Tustin. At 3:50 PM, HDSCS leaders received a pager activation from HeathSouth Tustin Rehabilitation Center. The Disaster Coordinator was concerned about the possibility of needing to evacuate the 48-bed facility. Assistant Coordinator Ken Simpson W6KOS lives four miles away, responded in just a few minutes, and set up his equipment in the

hospital's Command Center, connecting to the rooftop antenna. Other members stood by on the HDSCS net, with Net Controls April Moell WA6OPS and Paul Broden K6MHD. At 6:40 PM, it was determined that evacuation would not be unnecessary and operations there were secured.

The second Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) and partners drill for 2017 in Orange County took place on October 7. In this "armchair" drill, our members do not physically go to the hospitals, but instead they simulate being at the hospitals in the various cities. The emphasis of this exercise is communications and message-handling with the city and county RACES groups. It is important for them to realize that we automatically go to hospitals in their cities during disasters. They need to understand the types of tactical messages that may need to pass between hospitals and local government. It's good practice for the various groups to move to each others' frequencies and to learn about their net procedures. This time, the scenario was extremely high temperatures and a major power failure. HDSCS simulated operations at twenty medical facilities plus the Orange County Health Care Agency. Sixteen city RACES groups, plus the county RACES and OC Red Cross exchanged messages and inquiries. HDSCS Net Control operator was Joe Moell K0OV. Bob Houghton AD6QF operated from the county's Emergency Operations Center. Other participating Fullerton Radio Club members were Paul Broden K6MHD, Tom Gaccione WB2LRH and April Moell WA6OPS.

73, April Moell WA6OPS



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### October TAG Activity Reports

#### for The Technical Advisory Group of the Fullerton Radio Club

The main focus of this meeting was **Art Boondry's** optical band communication demonstration.

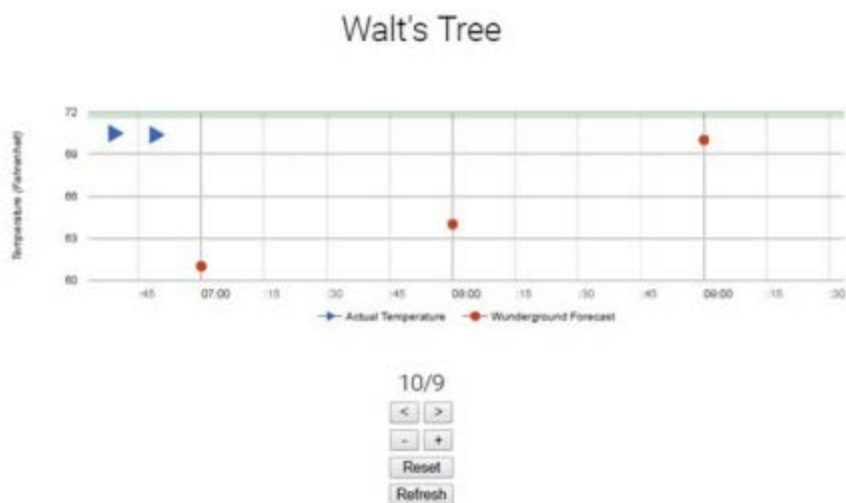
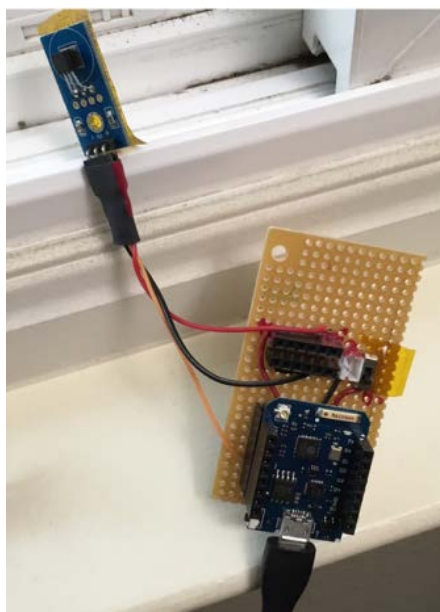


It was only a distance of a foot or so, but it showed his source and detector working in the AM mode. Although it passed through an RF driven Bragg Cell, he was unable to demonstrate beam steering. Just for fun he demonstrated what a TV remote sounds like when decoded with his AM detector.

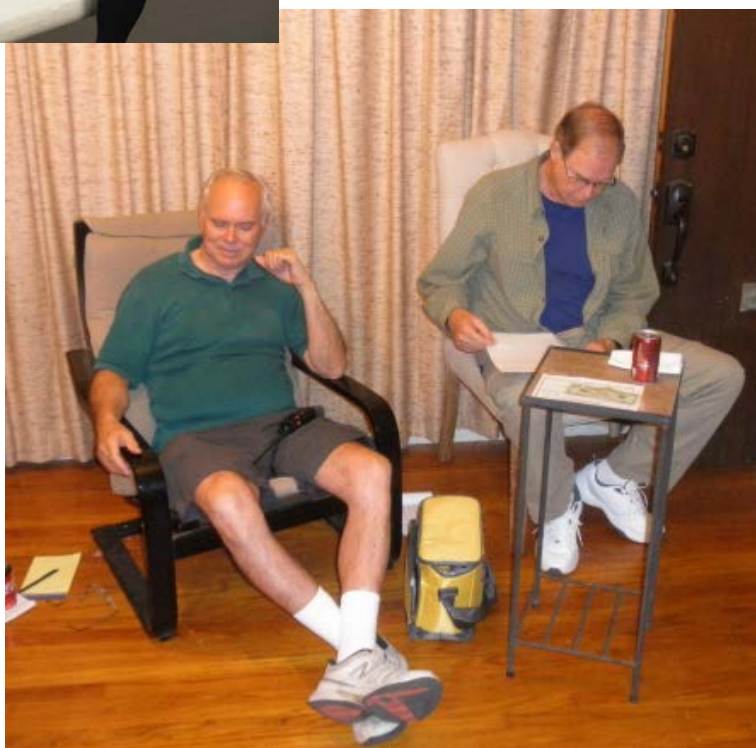
**Bill Webb** discussed his "Next Hour Thermometer". This is a project requested by the TAG host Walter Clark. Three things are unique about this household thermometer.

1. You hang the sensor part of it outside where you tend to be, like under a tree, not hanging on a wall.
2. The display is on your computer in the form of a web page on the internet.
3. The most amazing part is that it gathers weather bureau prediction of local temps for the next hour and then offsets that to fit the actual measured temperature at the "now" value.

One of the biggest problems was the size of the data from the weather bureau (Weather Underground). He needed an additional computer to parse that stream for the temperatures. This may be solved in the next release of the microcontroller he is using. There seems to be a lot of interest in this invention.



Guest **Ron** became a recovery. Band Two- of as a notes while Some



**Martin** is very active in CERT and ham to be more involved with the communications part of disaster. He bought a BaoFeng 8-Watt Dual Way Radio which the guys approved good first radio. Ron was taking the guys were firing advice to him. items like a discussion about PL was appreciated by others.

**Bob Houghton** brought a several year old SDR which plugs into the USB port on the side of your laptop. It receives from 30 MHz to 1.8 GHz. He's not familiar yet with the software (Airspy dialect of SDR#). He also brought a 30 year old handy talky and led a discussion on how they've changed through the years.



This is probably **Bill Preston's** last TAG meeting. His move date from Fullerton to Texas is the end of this month. He's in the midst of selling or giving away household items. He may have given away his tower to one of the TAG members last night.

**Dick Bremer** told about his dealings with the Brea EOC management concerning antenna installation. Dick donated about 200 feet of hardline so the antenna can be on the same building as the EOC.

Dick also reported on his purchase of a 5 GHz transverter board. He then lead a discussion on transverters for our guests.

**Tom Curlee** is getting pretty serious again with an old hobby of his: HF. Yes long wire stuff. What's new this time is JT65 and FT8 digital modes to get some DX ranges without waiting for ideal conditions. In the past three months he's made contact with 67 countries. He is continuing the fictional story that he's cleaning his garage. Well he might be telling the truth this time because he's sold over \$3,000 more than he's bought on eBay.

**Rich Belansky** has been attending FR symposiums (for Raytheon) and has been preparing presentations on using SDRs for propagation studies.



**Tom Gaccione** was asked by our host (Walter) to describe the function and history of the Hospital Group. This of course is a good review for all of us but was mostly for our two guests Ron Martin and Chris Greazel.

**Walter Clark** reported on his use of GPS data which is part of pictures taken with a cell phone, to identify places in parks and trails for benches. He's working with the Fullerton Parks Department to assist Boy Scouts in doing good deed merit badge projects. This is part of Walter's recent interest in making the trails in Fullerton more accessible for seniors. Several members gave Walter suggestions for people and groups that are already doing things like that.



**Benjamin Yu** KK6RMX says he's rapidly gaining experience being on the air and enjoying his time in the hospital group. He's studying IRLP, EchoLink and APRS. He explained that both IRLP and EchoLink are like bridges between ham radio and voice over internet. He's studying to get his general class license and shopping, or rather saving his money for a really nice Kenwood for his shack.

Ben went to ham con last weekend and visited all the hardware booths. The talk he was particularly interested in was on mesh networks and in particular AREDN.

**Chris Greazel** is a guest and relative of Ron Martin, the other guest. Chris has deep interest in engineering and technology and applies that in his work which has mostly to do with good old sketching even though he has lots of experience with digital art and 3D printing. He's done the conceptual artwork on cars of the present and space ships of the future.

At the close of the meeting, Walter and Bob pointed out the need for TAG members to support the main club by attending the main meeting.

## **FRC Mobile T-Hunt Report**

Everyone must have been busy on August 19, because only the team of Glenn Tobey AB6PA and Bill Greganti KG6EEK were at the starting point for the Fullerton Radio Club's mobile T-hunt. So they were both first and last to arrive at the hiding location of Steve Wallis WA6PYE and Deryl Crawford N6AIN, which was in Avocado Heights, an unincorporated area next to City of Industry.

Their reward was the task of hiding for the September 16 hunt. They chose the end of Hidden Canyon Road in Anaheim Hills, which wasn't too difficult for the two teams that came out.

Team Calls	Odo Miles
WA6CYY	17.6
N6AIN/WA6PYE	14.6

With fewer teams out on the hunts lately, your chances of winning are better than they have been in a long time. Why not give it a try? The next hunt will be

on Saturday, October 21, starting at 8 PM from the top of Acacia Avenue in Fullerton. The transmitter of Ron Allerdice WA6CYY will put out a continuous signal on 146.565 MHz. The rules require it to be east of the 605 freeway, south of the 10 freeway, west of Prado Dam and north of Pacific Coast Highway.

73, Joe Moell K0OV



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#### 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 1, 2017**

QSO and dinner; 7:00 PM  
**Meeting: 7:30 PM**

#### NOTE!

The pre-meeting dinner for October will be at **The Black Bear Diner**, Northwest corner of Harbor Boulevard and Berkeley. Dinner time will be 5:00 PM

#### Puerto Rico News Inquiries

Advisory: Requests for Information from the Public and the Press

Many individuals have loved ones in Puerto Rico and they are understandably hopeful that Amateur Radio operators can relay messages to them. As a result, some are contacting amateurs with requests to pass message traffic to the island.

At the same time, individual amateurs and clubs have reported that local press representatives have contacted them to request information about Amateur Radio involvement in Puerto Rico. This is likely to increase as word spreads in the national media about our activities. For inquiries from the public, ARRL advises that these

individuals should be informed that amateurs traveling to the island to support the American Red Cross effort will be tasked with handling outbound traffic *only*. With that in mind, members of the public should access the American Red Cross Safe and Well System online at <https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>. Status information from friends and relatives in Puerto Rico will be entered into the system as it arrives from amateurs stationed there.

For press inquiries, please ask reporters to contact ARRL directly at [newsmedia@arrl.org](mailto:newsmedia@arrl.org). A system has been established at ARRL Headquarters to respond to press inquiries in a timely and accurate manner.

#### Reserve The Date

The club Holiday Dinner Meeting will be on Friday, December 15. Details, reservation form and menu will be in the November Smoke Signals.

#### REMEMBER

Nominations for Club officers for 2018 will be presented at the October club meeting. We need candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Board Member(s) At-Large (at least one at-large member). Nominations from the floor will be accepted, if the nominee has given permission for the nomination. **VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED.**

#### 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.**