



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

January 2018

January 2018 President's Column

New Years Greetings! A few random thoughts this month:

FRC is looking for a few good speakers (you, for example) for the 2018 meeting calendar. If you have a topic that you would like to talk to us about, please let me know, so we can get you on the calendar. Alternately, if you have a speaker in mind, let me know their (potential) topic and month(s) of availability.

I'm encouraged by the traffic at the revised Fullerton Radio Club website. Since refreshing the site in December, we have had 88 visitors who have made 564 page views. Please send me stuff! I would like pictures, comments, links, or anything else that you would like to see added to the website. I would like to be able to regularly post new content on the website, so that people (you) will be encouraged to visit regularly. I'm trying to add new stuff weekly. I would like some of you to try out the commenting feature that exists on most pages. I can't easily test it, as Wordpress recognizes my IP address and behaves differently than it will for

you.

AMSAT has been busy lately. As of Thursday evening, we have two new satellites carrying amateur transponders: Fox-1D and PicSat. From the AMSAT website (amsat.org):

"Fox-1D was successfully launched at 03:59 UTC on the PSLV-C40 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, India. UA9UIZ received and uploaded the first telemetry to AMSAT servers at 05:28 UTC. Initial telemetry values appear nominal."

Additionally, the PicSat 3U CubeSat carrying an amateur radio 145/435 MHz FM transponder was launched into Earth orbit on the same launch vehicle as Fox-1D. It looks like PicSat will be receive only for now but there are opportunities for you to be part of the data gathering network.

I have added a "Satellites" tab to the club website where I'll post additional information.

73, Bob - AD6QF

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OPEN
(This could be YOU)

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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

December Board Meeting Minutes

The December 2017 FRC Board meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Bob Houghton AD6QF. Others present: Vice President Walter Clark, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO and Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB. Director: Larry McDavid W6FUB. Member: Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZX.

Treasurer's report: Savings - \$2,607.26; Checking - \$4,273.01

Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Old Business:

The Holiday Dinner will be Friday, December 15.

New Business:

Officer installation will be at the holiday dinner.

Bob will make up a form for people to sign up at least one month during the year for guest speakers.

The pre-FRC general meeting dinner will continue at Black Bear.

The FRC website will be hosted by another site. The web site is in the process of being updated. (\$81.60 for hosting of web site)

Next board meeting: 3 JAN 2018

Adjourned at 8:03 pm

Submitted by Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

January Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

The January 2018 FRC Board meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Bob Houghton AD6QF. Others present: Vice President Walter Clark, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO and Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB. Directors: Larry McDavid W6FUB and Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ; Member: Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZX.

Treasurer's report: Savings - \$2,607.30; Checking - \$4,007.94

Minutes from the December were approved.

Old Business:

The Holiday dinner turned out nice.

New Business:

Received 2 renewals.

Please let Bob Houghton know when you plan to attend a pre-monthly general meeting for idea of attendance number.

Bob Houghton will be updating and adding links to the new web site.

Next board meeting: 7 FEB 2017

Adjourned at 7:56 pm

Submitted by Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

On-Foot Transmitter Hunting 1/28/18

The next southern California on-foot transmitter hunting session will be Sunday, January 28, 2018 at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area. All ages are welcome, so bring the family. A ham radio license and/or knowledge of radio equipment are not requirements. Try your hand at some easy two-meter transmitters set by Joe Moell K0OV and then a 5-fox two-meter international-rules course of low to moderate difficulty, designed and set by Marvin Johnston KE6HTS and Bill Wright WB6CMD. One or more fox transmitters on the 80-meter band may also be set up to try.

This radio-orienteeing session is being combined with a classic orienteeing session of the Los Angeles Orienteering Club (LAOC). That's why it's on Sunday, not Saturday. 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. He also has complete antenna/attenuator kit 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. 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.

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 10:00 AM. Hunters may start the courses at any time until 1 PM.

Courses close at 2:30 PM.

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 westbound. 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. Vehicular entrance and parking costs \$10 per vehicle. After the entry kiosk, continue to the first stop sign, go straight through the intersection and then turn left into the parking lot at the end of the short road. Look for the orange and white orienteeing flags. Talk-in on 146.52 MHz simplex.

More information is at www.homingin.com. If heavy rain is forecasted, check that site on January 27 for possible cancellation.

73, Joe Moell K0OV

HDSCS Activities

2017 end quietly overall for HDSCS. That doesn't mean there wasn't action, but fortunately, not much of the kind that wakes one up at 3 AM or keeps the group on site for many hours. The statistics for 2017 included: 1 emergency call out; 1 emergency standby operation; 3 planned standby operations; 5 drills; and 5 special events. Leadership also attended 10 multi-agency meetings; participated in 5 hospital related projects; and provided 5 training and workshop sessions.

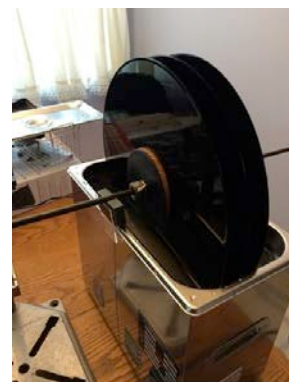
Now for 2018, HDSCS is looking at some new challenges, most specifically, interfacing with medical settings other than hospitals, looking at alternate communications support for their disaster plan. This latest mission is the result of the most recent regulations from Medicare-Medicaid that now impact skilled nursing facilities, long term care settings, free-standing dialysis centers, and community clinics.

Activity Reports of the Fullerton Radio Club (Technical Advisory Group)

Bob Houghton started the meeting defining the role of the advisory group. It is to volunteer as speakers or help find one. Several people stood up and started to leave. Bob reassured them that it was entirely voluntary. It was decided that five minute talks are OK and so Tom Gaccione volunteered to give five such short talks for the January meeting.

Bob also shared with us his experience with digitizing 5,000 slides. Scan Café is one he recommends. In retirement his plan is to vacation until he drops. The next trip is to Carlsbad Beach as a warm up and then to New Mexico, Arizona and Texas.

Bill Webb normally talks about his work with ESP-32, and Raspberry Pi to animate Alexa. But tonight he talked about another hobby of his; vinyl LPs. He described for us his ultrasonic cleaner. He also describe the ultimate cleaning method involving White Glue and lots and lots of patience. There was also some discussion on the technology of turntables.



Larry McDavid had a question for us. It had to with GPS errors and storm clouds. That became a discussion of course and there was much confirmation that it's bad. The conclusion was that GPS doesn't work in a valley, heavy storm or when lost in a forest. Everyone at the same time noted that in other words it's under the conditions when you most need it.

There was some discussion about weather on TV and home weather stations. Both Bill Webb and Larry McDavid have weather stations at the home. Bills is online and Walter has it constantly on his computer in the corner of the display. They compared rain fall measurements. Twice as much in Anaheim as in Orange.

Rich Belansky is getting involved with measuring nuclear particles and took step one of buying a photomultiplier. Beautiful. That will be mounted on a sodium iodide crystal; something he has yet to buy. Also in the future is a noiseless thousand-volt power supply and the circuitry to do the detection. His primary interest is demonstrating cosmic rays.



Dick Palmer bought a bag full of swap meet. (He is physically unable anything QRP-ish.) Inside was a oscilloscope about the size of a had a good time playing with that. some experience he has had surplus scopes; they are getting He is thinking about giving a talk on scopes. And of course we all undoubtedly be the best talk of the



QRP radios at a to walk away from dual channel cigarette pack. He He also shared buying really good better and cheaper. the history of O- thought that would year.

Dick Bremer brought in a small (~\$150) VCO signal generator. It is one of those Chinese modules which tend to have zero instruction manuals. Or useless ones anyway. Much of his time was taken up by everyone trying to advise him on which buttons to push. →

Walter Clark, our host, talked about his adventures in making a website; his first. He described a start that was completely stopped by . . . how shall I say it . . . dumbness. It was solved by having a neighbor show him what to do. It is now going swimmingly. Still a lot of work because there is so much to transfer. The website has to do with getting senior citizens on the trails of Fullerton. The biggest service he will be doing for the seniors is identifying parking places that are near the trails; something like twenty of them.

Tom Gaccione gave a brief preview of his multiple five minute talks for Wednesday's meetings.

Brooks Kachner has begun a project which captured everyone's interest here. He bought a battery discharger that integrates the current with hours. He was planning on give dollars per ampere hour. It different discharge rates and to see if they leak. shared with us that his garage extensive smoke damage contractor is continuously about May.



time to display the millampere keeping track of the cost to was suggested that he also try also taking them down to zero Last few meetings he burned down and there was throughout the house. His putting him off. It may be down

Last month TAG had a meeting but there was no newsletter report. There wasn't very many in attendance either. Here are the highlights.

John Stephenson talked about the "ASTEROID", which just happened to be ten times longer than it was wide and flying in at a speed far higher than anything ever observed. It was flying faster than falling from an infinite distance.

Tom Fiske brought in a project he built many years ago with the cute name of Mystery Induction Box. That's just to get attention. It was a way of measuring inductance in a filter circuit which gives the most accurate answer for the way inductors are used.

Dick Palmer is still making QRPs. The latest is a 20 meter and 40 meter. Two weeks earlier he was in Mesa AZ superstition mountains for a Hamfest. Huge surplus area and lots of QRP activities. Dick is getting involved with Norcal which became Ellacraft. There was discussion on the lost Dutchman Mine.

Larry McDavid told us about his shoulder injury and subsequent surgery. He also led a discussion on Harry Potter and its enormous popularity.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

Open to all Club members

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

Next Board Meeting
February 7, 2018

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

January Meeting:

Chapman Activity Center

2515 San Carlos Dr.
Fullerton, CA

March meeting will be:

Wednesday,
January 17, 2018

Topic? Come find out. This may be the meeting where we
identify a simpler method for selecting speakers. YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!

Meeting time: 7:00 PM
Visitors are welcome

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.