



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

February 2018

February 2018 President's Column

I'm happy to report that our FRC website continues to get a fair amount of traffic (over 600 views from nine countries since the refresh).

I'm also pleased that the website seems to be bringing FRC to the attention of some new people. Recently, I have had email conversations with two people who left comments on the website - Nestor, who is studying for his license, and another, Tom KM6PQY, who was licensed three weeks ago. I have invited them both to join us at the next FRC meeting. Hopefully, we will get to meet one or both of them Wednesday.

Thursday, I had the opportunity to have lunch with Ben, KK6RMX. Ben is one of our newest members and is also a member of the HDSCS group. If you haven't seen him for a couple of months, it's because he has been busy working in New York for his software business, but he's back in California for a couple of weeks. When he is in town, he often monitors the 146.97 repeater. Give him a shout.

One reason for a club to have a website is for outreach, so I have been thinking about who our audience might be. I think the ham community can be grouped by four levels of experience.

Nestor represents the first group of people we would like to reach - prospective hams, who may be studying for their license, or just wondering what this "ham thing" is all about. Tom represents the next group - recently licensed

folks who are wanting to get started, need some practical (on the air) experience, and maybe some help getting through the steep part of the "new ham" learning curve. Ben is in the third group - he has had his license for three years, but only recently has found a club and become more active. As a software developer, Ben has a technical background, but is looking for other people to interact with and learn from. The fourth group are long-time experienced hams, who have "been there - done that." TAG members, I'm looking at you. This diversity of experience presents a challenge for a club.

So...Here is your homework for this month: How does a small club like ours go about providing experiences and activities to engage all four of these groups. I'll ask you your thoughts this Wednesday. Come prepared!

73, Bob - AD6QF

February Meeting:

Chapman Activity Center

2515 San Carlos Dr.

Fullerton, CA

March meeting will be:

Wednesday,

February 21, 2018

Topic? Propagation; presentation by Bob

Houghton AD6QF

Meeting time: 7:00 PM

Visitors are welcome

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

President

Bob Houghton AD6QF
Phone: (714) 446-0520
E-mail: bobhoughton@mac.com

Vice President

OPEN
(This could be YOU)

Secretary

Linda Endsley, KJ6IHB
Phone: (714) 992-4645
E-mail: lindieend@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer, Public Service, Membership

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO
Phone: (714) 680-4258
E-mail: kb6cmo@juno.com

HDSCS

April Moell, WA6OPS
Phone: (714) 879-6895
Emergency Coordinator, HDSCS
E-mail: emcom4hosp@aol.com
www.hdscs.org

T-Hunt

Joe Moell, K0OV
http://www.homingin.com
E-mail: homingin@aol.com

License Trustee

Albert Solomon, AG6OF
Phone: (714) 476-9638
E-mail: albertsolomon18@gmail.com

Directors

Richard Belansky, KG6UDD
Phone: (714) 970-6385

Walter Clark
Phone: (714)-882-9647
E-mail: walterclark@roadrunner.com

Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ
Phone: (714) 657-2862

Larry McDavid, W6FUB
Phone: (714) 630-5672

Albert Solomon, AG6OF
Phone: (714) 476-9638

Director & Newsletter Editor

Paul Broden, K6MHD
Phone: (714) 871-9478
E-mail: pbroden@sbcglobal.net

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

February 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

The February 2018 FRC Board meeting was called to order at 8:15pm by Vice President Walter Clark. Others present: Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO and Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB. Directors: Larry McDavid W6FUB, Richard Belansky KG6UDD, and Paul Broden K6MHD; Member: Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU and Bill Preston KZ3G. Visitor Irene Broden.

Treasurer's report: Savings - \$2,607.34; Checking - \$4,286.68

Minutes from the January were approved.

Old Business:

No report for the Boy Scout project.

SparkleCon was in Fullerton. Some activities consisted of different projects, young people making FM radios.

New Business:

Received 4 renewals.

Bob Houghton will be the speaker for the monthly general meeting. The subject will be RF propagation.

Donate Life will be April 28.

Antennas in the Park will be in May. Joe Moell will be contacted for an exact date.

Paul will process the Form 990.

Next board meeting: 7 MAR 2018

Adjourned at 8:09 pm

Submitted by Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

USA ARDF Championships in Northern California

The 2018 USA championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) will take place June 13-17 near Truckee, California, which is along Interstate 80 about 100 miles northeast of Sacramento and 33 miles southwest of Reno, Nevada. The competition sites are at about 6300 feet elevation near Donner Summit.

An optional training day will be held on Wednesday, June 13. Thursday will be devoted to foxoring, a combination of radio direction finding and classic orienteering. Friday morning will be the sprint event, followed by a model event for equipment testing and a competitor briefing.

Classic two-meter and 80-meter competitions will take place Saturday and Sunday, respectively. There will be an awards banquet on Saturday evening for presentation of medals for foxoring, sprint and two-meter classic. Awards for 80-meter classic will be given Sunday afternoon immediately after the competition, in time for those who most leave to get home.

The Event Information Page in the homingin.com Web site includes the technical details, lodging, site embargoes, tourism, weather and much more. Information about the sport of ARDF, including equipment and techniques, can also be found in this site. Registration will open soon.

Please pass this message along to anyone interested in on-foot hidden transmitter hunting.

Thanks and 73,
Joe Moell K0OV

Donate Life Run Walk" Saturday April 28, 2018" Save The Date

Folks, please save this date for this year's Donate Life Run/Walk/Family Festival on Saturday April 28, 2018. Time: 0630 - 11:30 hrs. Please let me know if you can help us with this event on CSUF. Please send a return E-mail with Your Name, CallSign, CPhone Number, to KB6CMO@ARRL.net.

God Bless America & U 2

Gene Thorpe KB6CMO

For someone who likes to rebuild old radios!

I have an old (c: 1961) Hallicrafter SR-150, 100 watt (input) combined tube & transistor transceiver to give to someone that would like to tinker or rebuild. Hasn't been operated in about 10 years, so capacitors condition is unknown. Comes with power supply and operator's manual. I think it's better to give away than put into electronic waste recycle bin! See me at the meeting on Wednesday or call phone number below.

Paul Broden K6MHD
714-815-3185

March BOARD MEETING

Open to all Club members

Marie Callender's Restaurant

126 Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia
First Wednesday of each month.

Next Board Meeting

March 7, 2018

QSO and dinner; 6:30 PM

Meeting: 7:30 PM

Activity Reports of the Fullerton Radio Club (Technical Advisory Group) for February 2018

Bill Preston was us visiting from Texas last night. He and his family is all moved in there. His connection to Fullerton is a father-in-law that's in an assisted living place. He was staying in an RV just long enough to be at our TAG as well as the FRC board meeting. He shared with us his work on a kind of out-building at his new home that will eventually be cleared out and modified into a ham shack. His yard is bigger than he's used to but the house is smaller which he says he will have to adjust to. His oldest, Mike, has graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering but having trouble getting a job in the area around the University and they are thinking of another two years for a masters degree. His younger son, Robbie, is a math and Computer Security minor with another year to go.

Bill enthusiastically recommended a speaker from SORA on the subject D-STAR. That began a long discussion on the maturity and usefulness of D-STAR.

Walter Clark, (the host) confessed to losing interest in science. His new love is local history and parks. He loves to walk the 28 miles of trails in Fullerton and is maintaining a website to record his observations which is focused on making the trails accessible to seniors. Or rather to encourage them to go out. It is www.fullertonWalks.com A neighbor brought him an old smoke alarm and so Walt explained how the 40 year old smoke alarms worked. That led to a discussion on the different types of smoke alarms for different applications.

Tom Gaccione had many things to share but of most interest to the newsletter readers is the projected orbit of Elon Musk's Tesla. There was, of course, the continuing saga of Tom's power supply for his transceiver. The problem has to do with turning the unit on and off. He gave us an update on the Mars Curiosity rover. It has logged eleven miles. 6 years beyond the design life. He also told us the nature of the almost live fire data to local fire departments in the recent fires north of us.

Bob Houghton confessed to his addiction to camping. (He will miss the March meeting but will be speaker at the one coming up Wednesday. He went into a little more detail on D-STAR. He said Walter will be the speaker at March's meeting on the subject of Electric Trains as transportation. Bill Phinizy will be a speaker later on ham radio and civil air patrol.

Larry McDavid announced he's a grandpa for the third time. He mentioned the quality of the Channel Five video drone. But spent most of his time talking about the Edison Cell he brought to show us. He went into how they were better is one way than lead acid and where they were used because of that superiority.

Bill Webb told us more about his experience with Amazon Alexa and "skills" as they call programs there. He has gotten lots of "swag" which they hand out instead of money. He demonstrated one of his skills by calling on Alexa to do ohms law as an audio calculator. It was really spooky to hear a lady that smart. (Just kidding Jessie.) He has Alexa controlling the lights, the sound system, weather station and a crazy obsession Bill has about his garage door. (He even has hydrocarbon gas warning. Sheesh.) He was having trouble sensing when the door was open because of the randomness of where it settles. So he bought an acoustic range finder to sense the door. He brought in a spare and demonstrated its use to us. What he is very impressed with is how much useful amusement he gets with components that are so cheap. The acoustic range finder for example was only \$1.

Dick Palmer is preparing to go to Yuma this Friday. He complained about another gathering in Williams. He is looking forward to the Yuma trip to meet his QRP buddies and of course take some scopes to sell.



Bill Preston our guest of honor is holding the business end of an Edison Cell that Larry McDavid brought. Dick Palmer in the back is talking to the pole. There was somebody in the chair but there's only so much one can take on QRP radios.



Bill Webb is holding the Arduino that he whipped together to demonstrate a sensor he uses on his garage door system.



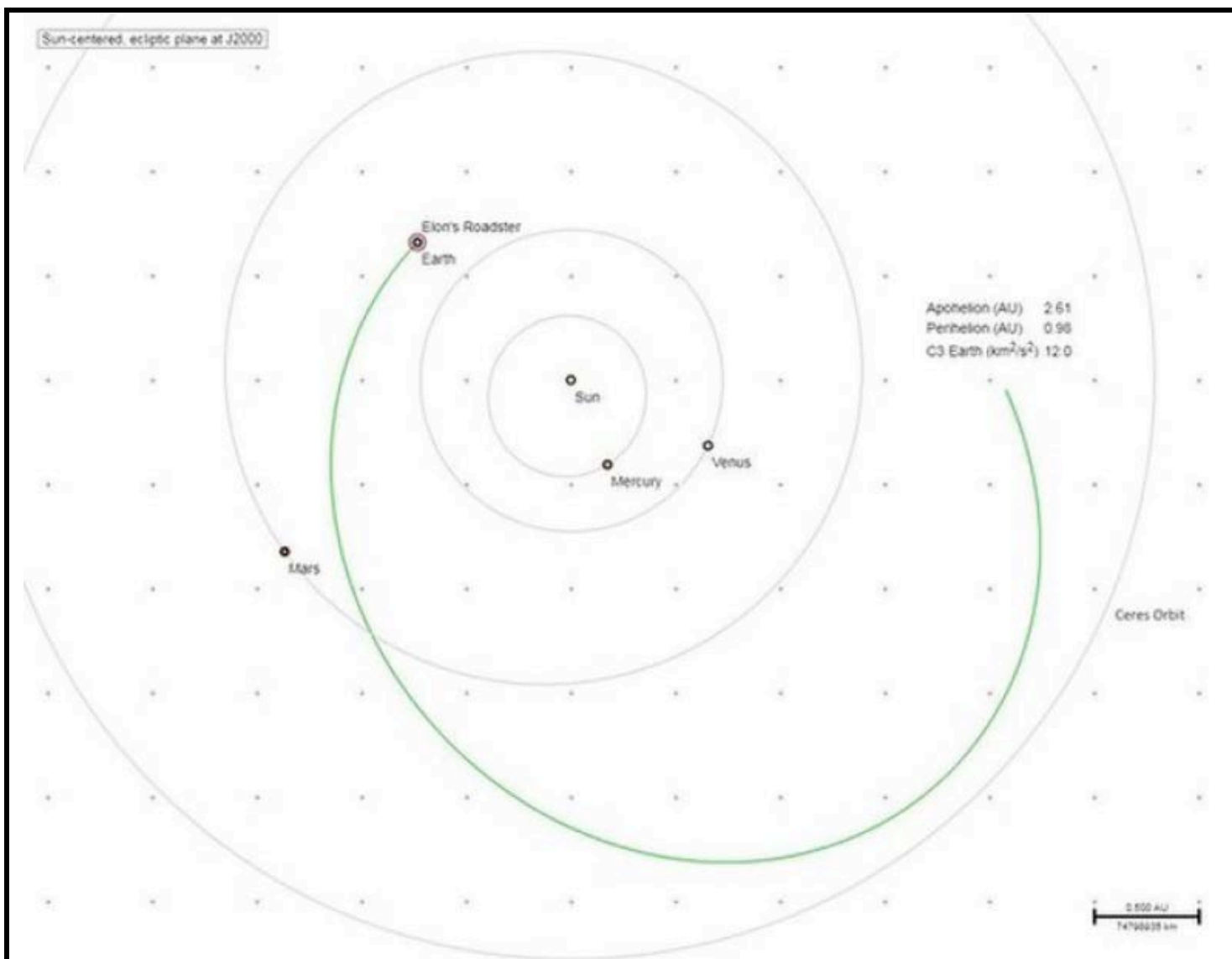
The round thing Bill Webb brought in to play with. It's Amazon's Echo Dot. It has a speaker/microphone (and LEDs to dazzle) and just enough electronics to communicate with Alexa. Well by way of Bill's cellphone which he had in his pocket. He turned on what is in most cellphones, the ability to serve as a WiFi hotspot. That enables the Echo to get on the Internet. The Rectangular thing is merely a battery source. On top is the Arduino to demonstrate the acoustic sensor mentioned above.



Walter showed a "vintage" as ebay calls anything of no value... smoke alarm.



Tom Gaccione talked about the path of the Curiosity rover. We had a good laugh at who took the picture?



Tom also talked about the projected orbit of Elon Musk's car... It's a projection, not a location. He said the car is still relatively close to earth.

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.

The Testing Session invitation, below, may not be for you unless you're ready to upgrade your license, but you might know of someone who is looking for a VE session and license exam. So ... pass it on!

Hospital Disaster Support Communications System (HDSCS)



Testing Session For Amateur Radio Licenses



When: Saturday, March 3, 2018

Where: Care Ambulance Headquarters
1517 W. Braden Court, Orange, CA 92868

Time: 9:00 AM to noon



Please plan to arrive at 9:00 AM to be tested for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses. Pre-registration is required. Contact Ken Simpson W6KOS at (714) 651-6535 or W6KOS@arrl.net to register and get more testing information.

You can also visit with HDSCS members and leaders to learn about this all-volunteer Amateur Radio group that backs up communications for Orange County hospitals. See our communicators' disaster boxes and portable gear that they use to relay critical messages in emergencies.

For other questions, call April Moell WA6OPS at (714) 879-6895.

Directions at www.hdscs.org.

