



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

April 2020

President's Message

Happy April Everyone!

We hope that you and your family are healthy!

While we've had to cancel several events (The March and April regular meetings, Donate Life, and ANTS), Bob Houghton AD6QF has got us set up for "Eyeball" QSO's on Zoom. He's sent out several messages about the events, and we've held an FRC Board Meeting and TAG meetings by video teleconference. So far, it has proven to be very successful! Please email Bob if you would like to join any of the meetings; he can provide you the information on how to join us from home. You can show up to the meeting in your pajamas!

We are also doing nets on Wednesday night weekly on the Raytheon repeater (146.970, minus offset, PL 136.5 Hz) if you would like to check in by radio. We would like to hear from you!

We will have to see how things play out with the pandemic before we can resume regular meetings again (The city won't let us into the meeting room anyway...). Bob, AD6QF, Walter Clark, and Bill Webb, AB6OR, will have some interesting presentations at club meetings or online in the next few months. Bob will talk about his HF operating while camping by activating the Parks on the Air program, Bill will talk about some of the amazing things that can be done with 3D printing, and Walt will talk about how to make whiskey (maybe he'll bring some samples?)

We're always looking for speakers to talk about things they are interested in, and it doesn't have to be amateur radio. Please let us know if there's anything you'd like to talk about. We'd like to see you at the meeting!

PLEASE remember to renew your membership for 2020. Your \$20 goes towards the costs the club incurs each year: Postal Service charges, Club Insurance, gifts for the holiday dinner, and government fees that

are required to keep the club incorporated. Send your check to Gene Thorpe at the club PO Box or follow this link

<https://fullertonradioclub.org/application-renewal-form/>.

Thank you!

73,

Tom, WB2LRH

April FRC Meeting

**REMEMBER, WE WILL NOT BE
MEETING AT CHAPMAN ACTIVITY
CENTER!**

The April Club meeting will be presented by video teleconference using Zoom. Members will receive Zoom connection information by our *Groups.io*.

Presentation topic: Bill Webb AB6OR will provide a presentation on use of a 3D printer to make cases for ham radio projects. Some examples of ham radio projects that might need a custom case are QRP transmitters, code practice oscillators and test equipment.

Bill's presentation will be followed by members volunteering to share and talk about "the radio that they have owned the longest."

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

Board of Directors

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Walter Clark

Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ

Larry McDavid W6FUB

Paul Broden, K6MHD

Volunteers

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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

April FRC Board Meeting Minutes

The April 2020 FRC Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Tom Gaccione WB2LRH via Zoom (Coronavirus). Others present: Vice President Bob Houghton AD6QF; Treasurer Gene Thorpe; KB6CMO; Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB, Paul Broden K6MHD; Larry McDavid W6FUL; Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ and Walter Clark.

Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Checking - \$4,070.42; Savings - \$2,608.38.

Old Business:

Donate Life Run/Walk CANCELLED

Railroad Day CANCELLED

May 9 - ANTS in the Park POSTPONED

June 27 and 28 Field Day, depends on stay at home status by state

26 members/29 family members

New Business

Waiting to hear about testing by ARRL during coronavirus shutdown.

As of 4/3/2020 FRC is still not a tax exempt. May take up to 4 months to process.

Discussed ways to get more members in the club.

April general meeting speaker: Bill Webb; topic 3D printing

Next board meeting: 13 May 2020

Adjourned at 6:50 pm

Submitted by Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

Activity Reports of the Fullerton Radio Club (Technical Advisory Group) for April 2020

As you have seen elsewhere in this issue of Smoke Signals the TAG meeting and even the FRC Board Meeting was done online. **Bill Webb, Walter Clark, Joe Moell, Dick Bremer and Larry McDavid** usually have a lot to say at TAG. And you'd think with the

tacit understanding to not go out that we would have a lot of time to work on projects. But I guess not. The five of us just watched and occasionally commented. It was mostly a show for Dennis Kidder who we were so happy to hear from.

Tom Gaccione prepared a Power Point presentation that came over Zoom very conveniently. Tom is an analyst for Huntington Beach PD and showed us some data about police activity and how it changes as the COVID crisis continues. He also had five slides on the July 2019 earth quakes which showed movement on the Garlock Fault. Although kind of technical, it got a whole lot more interesting when Dennis and Lisa Kidder talked about their experience with the big one. Apparently it is still going on.

Tom had some rather interesting data concerning the COVID crisis and air pollution. He ended his talk with this bit of humor...

Special Announcement!

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has extended the list of "Essential Workers"



Dick Palmer held up his 97th QRP radio. It's a Genesis SDR-G3020. Maybe it doesn't count because he inherited it from a friend who is now a silent key. It is one more elaborate QRP kits in that there are over 400 parts. Dick doesn't have to do anymore soldering but he's frustrated by the poor instructions. He is responding to the challenge of getting it to work.

Dennis and Lisa Kidder had a lot of catching up to do. Dennis used to host TAG meetings at his house in Fullerton, and he expressed how happy he was to see us again. And we of course were all happy to see him and Lisa. It's been about a year that they've been married and about five years that Dennis has been in Inyokern. Lisa has since gotten a job

at China Lake and she almost enjoys the drive because of how uncrowded it is there in the desert. She's working remotely now of course so the drive is even shorter. Dennis brought us up to date on his getting acquainted with the environment, his antenna farm and the ham radio museum.

Dennis did have piece of hardware to share with us. It was the KiwiSDR (photo to the right). This is a 10kHz to 30 MHz Web-based SDR receiver that supports up to four simultaneous users.

Info at: <http://www.kiwisdr.com/>

It's \$299 from Seeed Studio:

<https://www.seeedstudio.com/KiwiSDR-Kit-p-2725.html>

This is a software defined radio so it's not too hard for them to make it available on line. That is so cool. Enter this into your URL field: <http://69.27.184.58:8073/>



After the meeting, Dennis emailed to me the above links and the next ones too:

- To try other WebSDRs around the world: <http://websdr.org/>
- KFS is my 'goto' site: <http://69.27.184.62:8901/>
- 2. AREDN -- Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network is freely available software to re-purpose consumer and commercial WiFi routers into a mesh network. Lots to browse at: <https://www.arednmesh.org/>
- This was presented at the San Diego Microwave Update some years back (you may have been there -- I don't remember). It is based on another project, Broadband Hamnet. There hasn't been much development on BBHN, but it's worth a read and worth playing with. The two CAN interoperate with simple changes to configuration: <http://www.broadband-hamnet.org/>
- I mentioned using MikroTik RouterBOARD WiFi boxes. They are on Amazon and very inexpensive! (Photo below.) This is the one I have been using from Amazon. Prices vary a lot, so make sure you shop around but you also have to get the right one compatible with the AREDN software -- hAP ac lite is the correct one.
- <https://www.amazon.com/Mikrotik-Version-Access-802-11ac-5-Port/dp/B07N33RT7Y>
- The AREDN Website has all the details and links to how you flash the new software. It is involved (requires some additional SW tools to be enabled on Windows machines) but not difficult.

Dennis calls his antenna farm and the ham shack "Faraday Fields (W6DQ/KF6QNG)." They are making progress restoring the place since the earthquake.

Below are a few photos to whet your appetite for now. When it is all done, we can do a live

tour. At this time, with only half of the 1500 sq ft completed, the other half is mostly storing radio to be moved to the soon-to-be-completed new half. I have several stations on the air right now, notably a Collins S-Line setup and a modern FlexRadio 6700 with an Alpha 87A amplifier.

One of the more interesting things that I am now 'curating' is a piece of furniture. (See the pics.) This desk belonged to Arthur Collins (Collins Radio). The B&W photo is an ad photo, probably from QST. Not certain of the date, but it would have been late 50's from the A-Line radios. That desk now sits in my radio shack. And it has radios from the same product line that Art has in the photo (32V3 transmitter and 75A-3 receiver). Quite an honor to have it.

4. Our earthquakes. There was no structural damage to any of the buildings here at Faraday Fields. A few things fell down in the house and some parts drawers were torn from there mountings in the workshop but most significant was what happened to my storage container here (see the pic below). It took a while to clean it up.

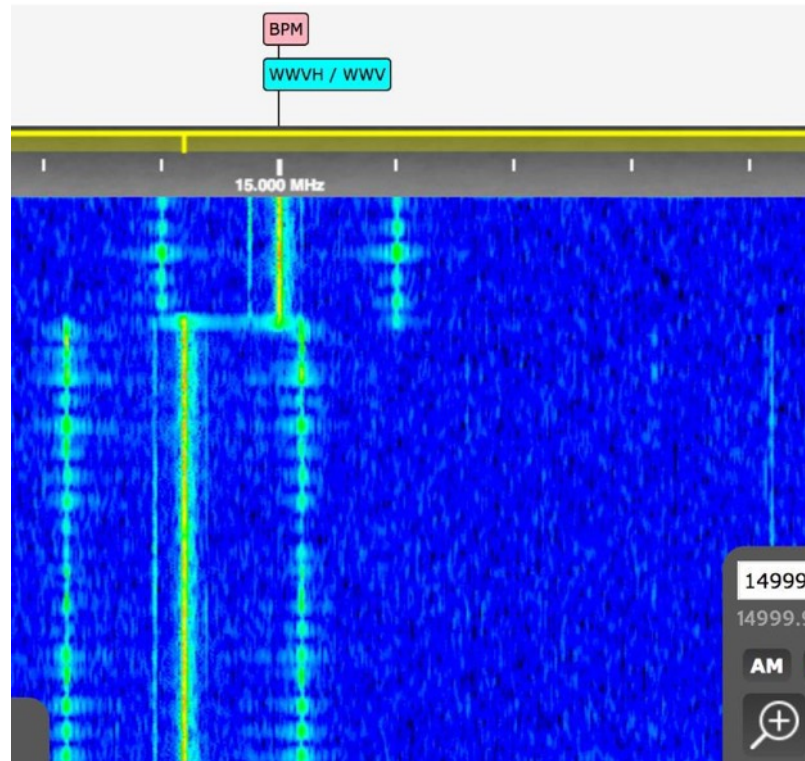
5. Last but not least ... a link to a fascinating video. I must say that it reminds me of LA during the '84 Olympics. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbA1px56XgM>

Anyway, I hope you can use some of this. Again, Lisa and I really enjoyed being included with TAG last night. It was great to see everyone as a 'group' and to be able to speak with all of you.

Take care, stay safe and well. Bye for now!

-dennis W6DQ
Inyokern CA (where it's still shakin')



MikroTik RouterBOARD



Workshop test bench



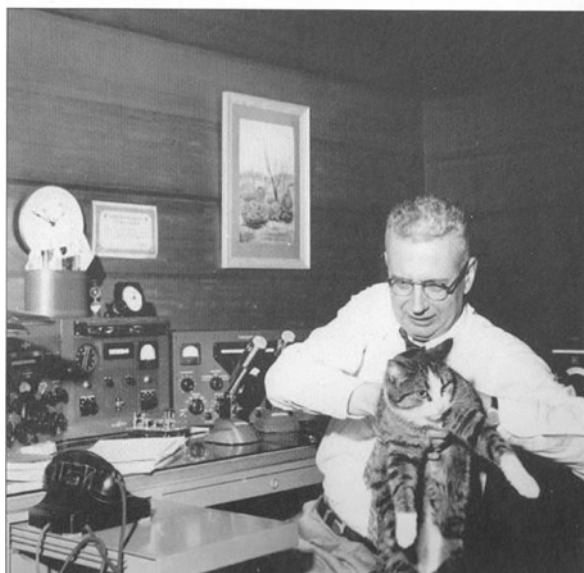
W6DQ hard at work



Broadcast transmitter 'gallery'



Arthur Collins at his home shack



Arthur's desk at W6DQ



Earthquake aftermath



Bill Webb AB6OR participating in a recent TAG meeting by use of ZOOM teleconferencing, with other participants shown at the top.

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.