



# Smoke Signals

## Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

### March 2021

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#### President's Column - March 2021

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Does anyone still read club newsletters?

Last week, I discarded a piece of technology that has been in every home I have lived in since I was a young child - a landline telephone. I have owned a cellphone for 25 years, and every year I have come to use the cellphone more and the landline less. For the past ten years or so, my wife and I have rarely picked up the landline phone. Long ago, I turned off the ringer and have let every incoming call go straight to voicemail. Rarely was it a call I had any desire to receive. (No thanks, I don't need that fake extended warranty on my car.)

So why did I continue to pay \$500 a year for a service that I rarely used and that annoyed me several times per day with "spam" and "scam" calls. I kept it because I had \*always\* had a landline phone and thought it might be \*strange\* (or even dangerous) not to have one. My son, who is in his late 30s, has never had a landline phone and said he didn't know of \*any\* of his friends or associates who have landline phones in their homes. In their businesses, yes. Homes no. I began to realize that this is a generational thing. I had a landline phone because I grew up with it and thought it was "normal." As it turns out, it is no longer "normal." but rather old-fashioned. I decided to disconnect. After I called AT&T to have them turn off the service, I felt strangely liberated. I realized I should have done this long ago.

I started thinking about this and wondering if there are things we are doing as a club that fall into the category of "Things we do because we have always done them?"

As I suspect is the case for most clubs, the Board of Directors of your club maintains a club membership roster. It isn't published anywhere publicly, but it helps the Board keep track of who the members are, their callsigns, if they have paid their membership dues, if they are on the [Groups.io](https://groups.io) mailing reflector, etc. One of the fields in the database is "street address." While that seems like a reasonable thing to keep track of, I wondered when was the last time we actually needed to use this information? For probably sixty years, *Smoke Signals* was printed in "dead tree format" and mailed by the USPS to every member's house. With, I believe, one exception, we no longer do this. In any case, if I needed

to know the address of a club member, it is very easy to look them up on [qrz.com](https://qrz.com). I think we ask for and collect postal addresses because we have always done so. At one time that information was critical to running the club, but probably no longer.

Can you think of other examples of things we continue to do out of habit?

Which brings me to my last question. With the many ways of receiving information that are at our disposal, do club members still read newsletters? I honestly don't know the answer. So, if you have read this please tell me so by sending an email to [AD6QF@arrl.net](mailto:AD6QF@arrl.net). If you haven't read this ... well, never mind.

Best 73,

Bob

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#### An update on our Wednesday night meeting format ...

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Over the past year, the format of our Wednesday night meetings has evolved. Rather than meeting at Walt's every 2nd Wednesday for TAG and having our Fullerton Radio Club General Meeting every 3rd Wednesday at the Chapman Activity Center, during the past year we have been meeting \*every\* Wednesday for a net at 7:30 followed by meeting on Zoom. At least for the next few months, let's assume the 2nd Wednesday will always be focused on folks in our Technical Activity Group who would like to share and talk about projects they are working on. Everyone is, of course, welcome. If we have a formal club speaker/presentation, we will still do that on the 3rd Wednesday. Otherwise, all the non-TAG days will be the 7:30 net / 8:00 meet, greet, share, and discuss meetings we have been having. None of this is a change of what we have been doing since March 2020, just a clarification.

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**Meeting date: March 17 2021;**

**On ZOOM! 8:00 PM**

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

**Board of Directors**

**President**

Bob Houghton AD6QF  
Email: bobhoughton@mac.com

**Vice President**

Paul Broden, K6MHD  
E-mail: pbroden@sbcglobal.net

**Secretary**

Linda Endsley, KJ6IHB

**Treasurer, Public Service, Membership**

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO  
E-mail: gtkb6cmo@juno.com

**Members At Large**

Richard Belansky, KG6UDD

Walter Clark

Tom Gaccione, WB2LRH

Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ

Larry McDavid W6FUB

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**Volunteers**

**T-Hunt**

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

**W6ULI License Trustee**

Albert Solomon, AG6OF  
E-mail: albertsolomon18@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor**

Paul Broden, K6MHD  
E-mail: pbroden@sbcglobal.net

**April FRC BOARD MEETING**

***The next Club Board meeting will be on  
April 14, 2021 and will be conducted  
using Zoom video conferencing  
platform.***

**5:40 PM**

***All Members are welcome.***

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**It's mid-March, and membership dues are due.  
Send your form and dues to Gene Thorpe at the  
club PO Box. A renewal form is included with this  
newsletter.**

**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)**

**March Club Board Meeting Minutes**

The March 2021 FRC Board meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm by Bob Houghton AD6QF via Zoom (Coronavirus). Others present: Vice President Paul Broden K6MHD, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO; Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB, Larry McDavid W6FUB; Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ and Walter Clark.

Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's report:**

Checking - \$4,286.42; Savings - \$2,608.70. As of 3/10/21. New deposits \$130.

New expenses: \$200 (insurance)

**Old Business:**

Renewals - 1 single and 3 family

38 paid and 3 life members as of 3/10/21

**New Business:**

Club liability has been renewed. \$200 reimbursement needed for Bob Houghton.

[Ed. Antennas In The Park was discussed briefly, with potential for delay. No action taken]

Next board meeting: 10 March 2021

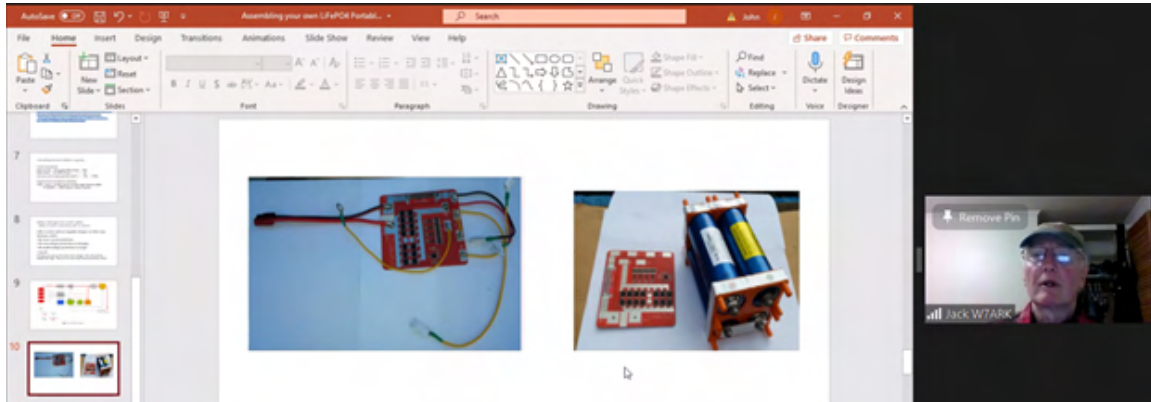
Adjourned at 6:20 pm

Submitted by Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

# TAG Activity Report for March 2021

The meeting was a quick one because NOVA was on a little earlier than usual.

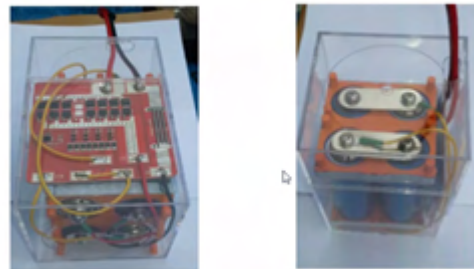
First up was **Jack Currie** W7ARK signing in all the way from Washington. He's actually been to a physically-present TAG meeting more than a year ago when he was in town visiting Dick Palmer. His discussion was accompanied by a Power Point slide show. What he did was make a battery power supply for his mobile rig.



Shown above is the finished battery and controller for it. He first analyzed how much power and for how long and that defined the size of the battery. He then soldered the appropriate shunts on the controller board. He shared with us the advantage of LiFePO4 type battery. His intention was to make the enclosure for it and found a source for sheet plastic to do just that and then discovered they had a box already made that was the exact right size for it. The supplier is TAP Plastics. Here's the webpage for their readymade enclosures:

[https://www.tapplastics.com/product/plastics/plastic\\_containers/clear\\_plastic\\_boxes/222](https://www.tapplastics.com/product/plastics/plastic_containers/clear_plastic_boxes/222)

The cell he purchased was about 5" long and cost \$25 each. Here's it's webpage:



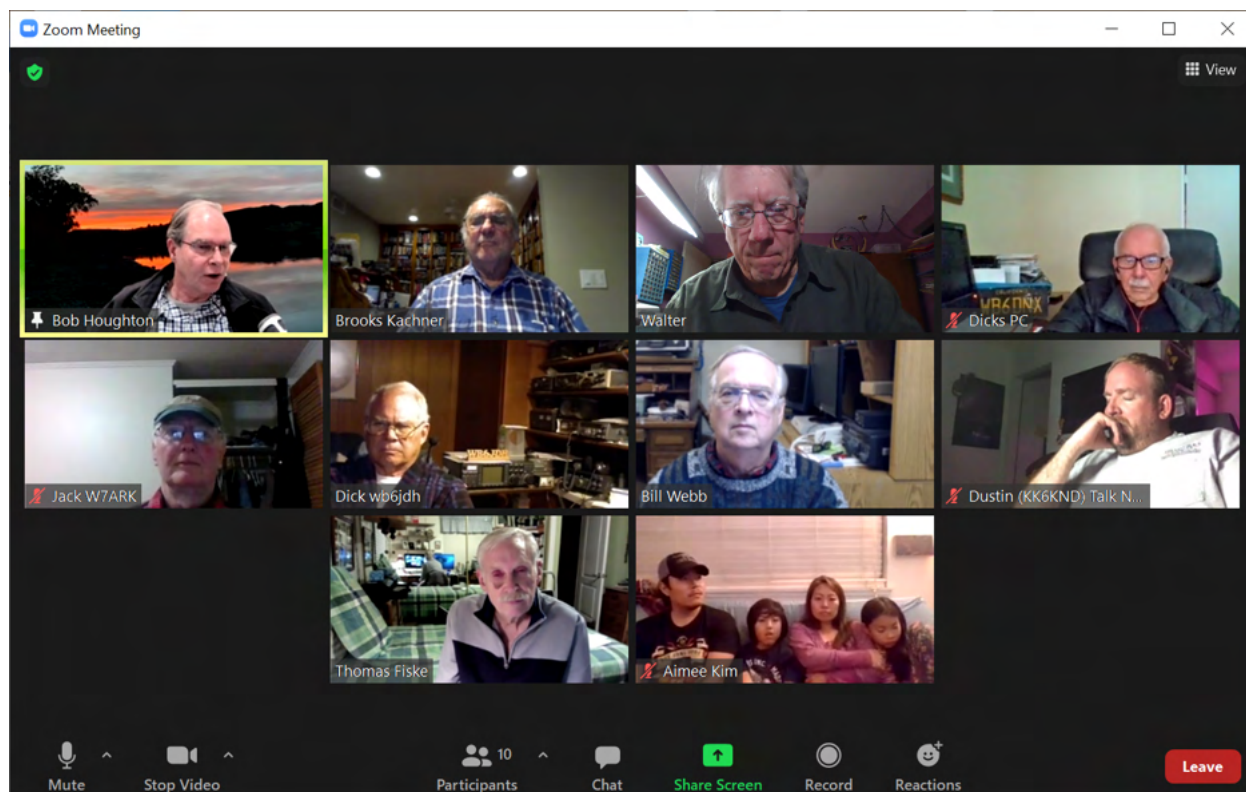
<https://www.batteryspace.com/lifepo438120pmsizecell32v10ah100asurgerate32whwith6mscrewterminal-unapproved.aspx>

Next up was **Bob Houghton**. He didn't have anything physical to show us. He's learning about Winlink. Winlink is a worldwide radio messaging system that uses the ham bands to provide radio interconnection services that include email with attachments. It fills in the gaps where there are no cellphone towers, let alone access to a cable. Bob has been attending a series of Zoom workshops put on by Scott MacGillivray KM6RTE on using Winlink for emergency communications. For more information, check out <https://winlink.org/>.



**Dick Palmer** for the first time in the history of TAG didn't build another QRP radio. He did share some of his experience with Jack Currie.

About 15 minutes into the meeting, here's the TAG participants. Not sure but it looks like Dustin dozed off there for a minute.





**Brooks Kachner** has been working on a very long-term project of evaluating all the different sources of double A batteries to see if there's any that seem like real bargains. The reason his milliampere-hour measurements take so much time is that he's evaluating them for small loads. Normally the data that is available are for discharges of maybe an hour or so. He has suffered a major setback when a fire destroyed his hard disk. We will see the graphs someday in a TAG report. He told us to expect a lot of different brands to have the exact same discharge curve.

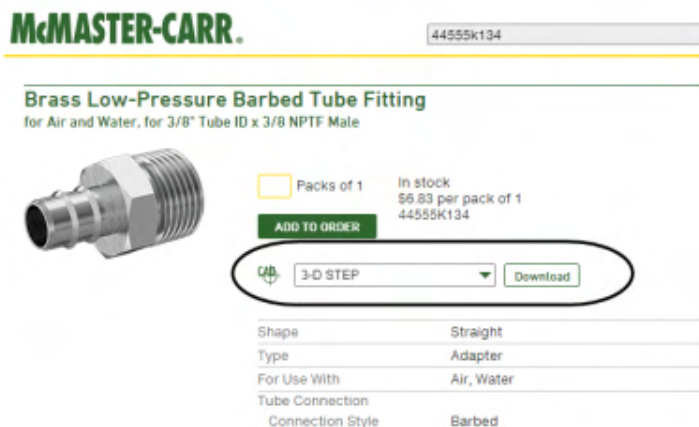
Another project he has gotten going is a Beagle Bone. And he wants to set up his own website.



**Bill Webb** is always ready with a presentation. This one was kind of short. It was how about McMaster Carr is supporting the 3D printer community. Here for example is a page out of their catalog.

**You can find a part, like a nut or a bolt in their on-line catalog and print it on a 3D printer for free.**

- 3D models are available in several formats.
- The easiest format to work with today is the STEP file. Most CAD Programs can import a STEP File.



In the slide above, Bill put an ellipse around the link to download the file for making this very part at home. For free.

Bill explained that 3D printing of most parts is either for evaluation or prototyping. McMaster-Carr is counting on you remembering where you got that part when you want more and made of metal. On the right is the above part made at Bill's home...



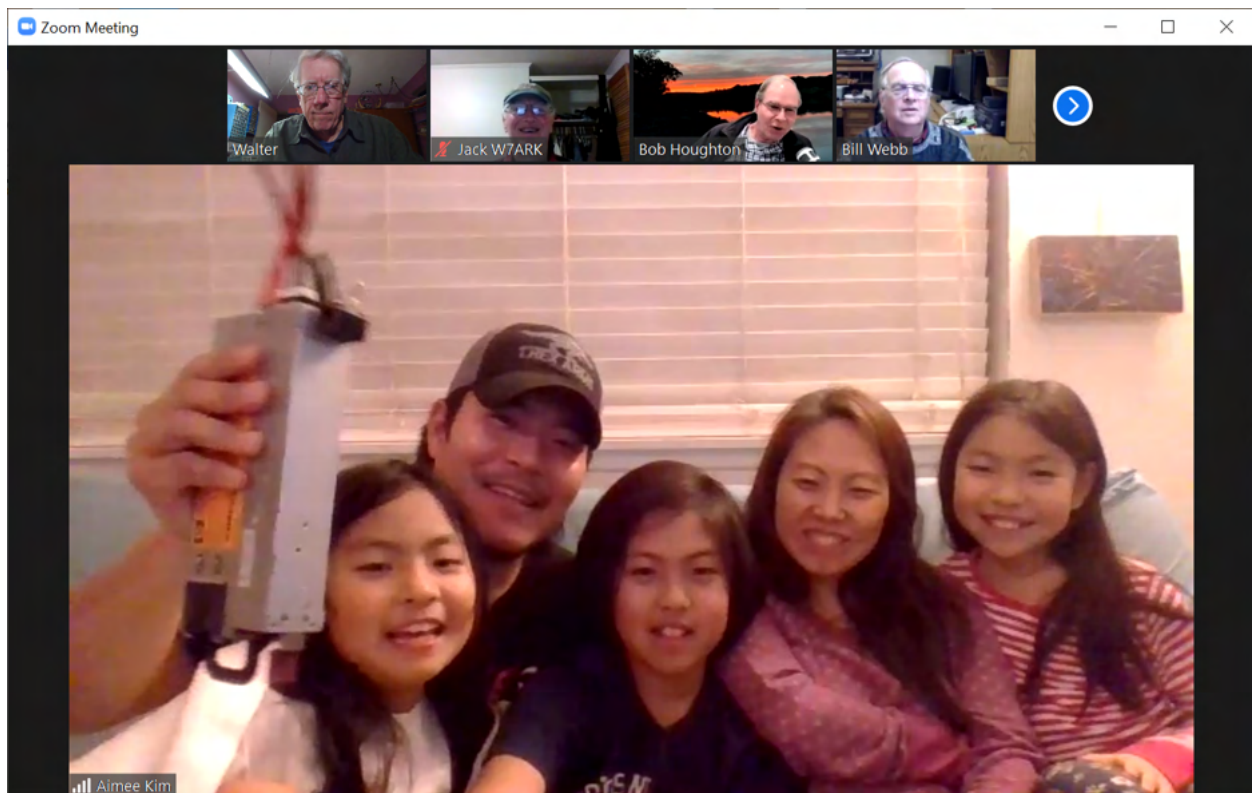
Here's the link to Bill's Power Point:

[https://1drv.ms/p/s!AmXKqAwyCrbxiYJ\\_mdMkNmkJR8Cotw?e=yEYoww](https://1drv.ms/p/s!AmXKqAwyCrbxiYJ_mdMkNmkJR8Cotw?e=yEYoww)

**Tom Fiske** talked about sun spots and the prospect of a good ionosphere coming up in the next 3 or 4 years. As for the eye, he said he rubbed it whilst he was sound asleep. Blood thinner medicine caused the under the skin bleeding. The morning after, he didn't recognize the face in the mirror.



**Leo Kim** is just one of four hams in that family. The youngest one on the left is working on her technician license. Leo is holding his present project a portable power supply of 13.8 volts and 5.4 amp hour capacity. Leo and Tom Fiske led a discussion on switching power supply noise.



**Dick Bremer** talked about his advisory capacity to the local CERT group. He's holding a Radius SP50 which he's recommending they adopt because it has an antenna connector. Using that for their fixed stations they can use a vertical monopole or even a vertical with gain for much greater range using the power levels they are limited to.




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## FRC Wednesday Net:

**Reminder: We're continuing to conduct a 2-meter net on Wednesday evenings. All members, prospective members and friends are welcome. Raytheon repeater, 7:30 PM: 146.970 (-) PL 136.5. This is followed by a chat session on Zoom at 8:00PM. Members will have the Zoom code, but we don't publish it openly to prevent unwanted interruptions.**

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### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member ☐ Yes ☐ No

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.**