



# Smoke Signals

## Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

### June 2021

#### President's Column - June 2021

As I am sure most of you know, ARRL Field Day is next week, on Saturday June 26. Based on some previous discussions at our Wednesday Zoom meetings, we have decided to forgo the overnight operation this year and operate Saturday from 11 am until about 8 pm. We have successfully secured a permit from the City of Fullerton to use the Izaak Walton League Cabin and accompanying lawn areas at Hillcrest Park in Fullerton from 7 am until 8 pm.

So far, the following people have expressed interest in participating: Paul Broden, Gene Thorpe, Cheryl Thorpe, Tom Hall, Tom Smith, Joe Moell, April Moell, Dean Syn, and The Kims.

The agenda for this Wednesday's Zoom meeting will be solely for Field Day planning. We need to determine the following.

- When do we need to set up? (Friday afternoon? Saturday morning?)
- Who is available to set-up, operate, and tear-down and at what times?
- How should we organize meals? What equipment do we need and what is available?
- Will there be a separate GOTA station or can we just pause operating if we have a GOTA visitor?
- We have some decisions to make, and lots of planning to do.

**If you can contribute to the effort, please join us  
Wednesday night at 8 pm on Zoom.**

73, Bob

#### FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES

Hi all,

Field Day is next week, on Saturday June 26. Several people have expressed interest, but If we are going to

successfully participate, we have lots of organizing to do.

As previously discussed, we have decided to forgo the overnight operation this year and operate Saturday from 11 am until about 8 pm at the Izaak Walton League Cabin and accompanying lawn areas at Hillcrest Park in Fullerton from 7 am until 8 pm.

So far, the following people have expressed interest in participating: Paul Broden, Gene Thorpe, Cheryl Thorpe, Tom Hall, Tom Smith, Joe Moell, April Moell, Larry McDavid, Dean Syn, and The Kims.

The agenda for this Wednesday's Zoom meeting will be solely for Field Day planning. We need to determine the following.

- When do we need to set up? (Friday afternoon? Saturday morning? What time?)
- Who is available to set-up, operate, and tear-down and at what times?
- How should we organize meals? On your own? Organize meal runs?
- What equipment do we need and what is available?
- Who can bring what?
- What bands do we plan to operate on?
- What are our antenna plans?
- Will there be a separate GOTA station or can we just pause operating if we have a GOTA visitor?

We have some decisions to make, and lots of planning to do if we are going to do this.

As I have said before, there are many club members with \*way\* more field day experience than me. As club president, I feel obligated to try to facilitate this, but don't look to me to be the main planner, because I don't have the experience or skill set to do that.

If you can contribute to the effort, please join us Wednesday night at 8 pm on Zoom.

**There will be no 7:30 2 m net this week.**

73, Bob

**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: Pbroden53@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Linda Endsley, KJ6IHB

**Treasurer, Public Service, Membership**

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO  
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**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: Pbroden53@gmail.com

**July FRC BOARD  
MEETING**

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

***5:40 PM***

***All Members are welcome.***

**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)**

**June Board Meeting Minutes**

The June 2021 FRC Board meeting was called to order at 5:50 pm by Bob Houghton AD6QF via Zoom (Coronavirus). Others present: Vice President Paul Broden K6MHD, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO; Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB, and Board Members Larry McDavid W6FUB; and Walter Clark.

Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report:

Checking - \$4,118.52; Savings - \$2,608.74. As of 5/12/21.  
Same from last month.

43 paid members, and 2 life members) as of 05/12/21. Same from last month.

Old Business:

Field Days will be June 26 only for our participation. Larry will pick up the coffee. Food selections to be discussed later. Need to decide who will be doing logging, setup and breakdown.

New Business:

Future reimbursements will notate item reimbursed.

Next board meeting: 14 July 2021

Adjourned at 6:10 pm

Submitted by Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

## Rooftop TV Antenna: Who needs cable or satellite?

I'm not so agile as I once was, but I still manage some 2-story roof antenna work. I use only off-air TV reception but was starting to have difficulty receiving some local TV channels. My outdoor TV antenna was quite old and several elements had fallen off. Time to replace that antenna that still used 300 Ohm Z twin lead cable!

Though my two-story house roof slopes, I can stand on the sloping roof at the house chimney, reach up and remove the nuts holding the TV antenna to the chimney mount mast. That made replacing the old TV antenna myself practical. I have numerous other kinds of antennas on my roof but none is mounted so high as that yagi TV antenna.

The new digital TV antenna is a short yagi for UHF and high-band VHF digital TV signals. The new antenna replaces a full-size old TV antenna; the new one uses RG-6 coax and is short, extending on only one side of the mast attached to my chimney mount. I got the new antenna from Amazon as RCA Model ANT751. After connecting the new off-air TV antenna, I scanned the TV for signals and found 178 digital channels! That gives me all the local TV channels and seven PBS channels. Who needs cable or satellite TV?

While on the roof replacing that old TV antenna, I noticed one attic turbine ventilator was not turning. In fact, the turbine blade would not rotate at all. Something else to replace! I just got a disappointing surprise!

I went up on my roof and removed the failed turbine ventilator head. That was easy--just three 1/4-inch hex head sheet metal screws; it came right off. I've ordered two replacement heads from Home Depot; not stocked in-store but free delivery to my Placentia store. The other (I have two) ventilator is working correctly but is the same age as the one that failed. The heads cost only \$30 each.

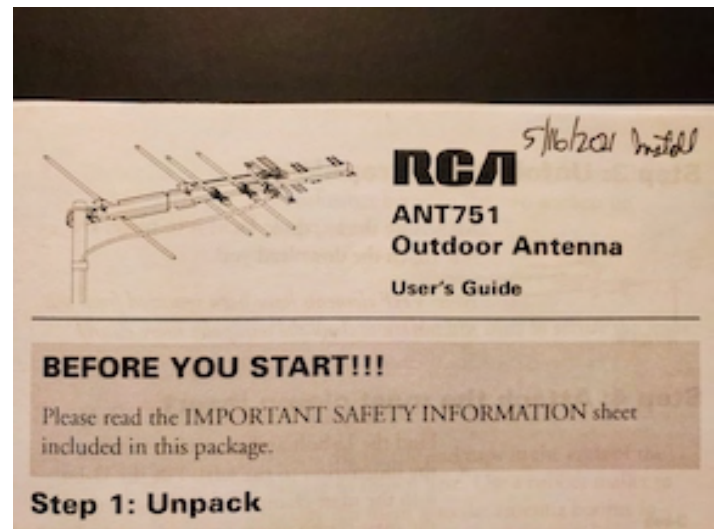
However, when I removed the failed turbine head, I discovered the folks who installed my radiant-barrier attic thermal insulation perhaps ten years ago had not cut a hole in that added insulation for this one ventilator! So, after that insulation was installed, this ventilator never worked as a ventilator. I used a sharp knife and cut the hole while I was on the roof. Though the roof slopes at that location, I could sit down to work.

That insulation was installed by the same crew in which one young worker put his foot in the wrong place and fell all the way through the ceiling of my upstairs bedroom! Lucky guy--if he had hit his head on the way down, he could have been seriously injured.

Not all turbine ventilators allow just the head to be replaced. Fortunately, this one (marked Sears) did, so it is not necessary to mess with roofing shingles. That, I could not have done myself.

Best wishes,

Larry McDavid W6FUB



RCA ANT751 TV Antenna

## TAG Activity Report for June 2021

This meeting was the first since March 2020 that was an in-person event. Zoom seems to have been a part of our lives for 14 months. Is there even a word for non-zoom meeting? It was in Walter's backyard. The pre-meeting discussion was on the AA battery, cost, reliability and so on. We will have a slide show next month from Brooks Katchner. He has become quite the expert because he has a "discharger" that measures the milliampere hours. Also part of the pre-meeting was cookies that Dick Palmer brought. They were root-beer flavored. That seemed to bring back memories of grandmas cookies of several of us.

**The theme of the meeting** was supposed to be "pass the junk." Surely after 14 months there's been an accumulation of stuff that is unwanted but too good to throw away. But no. The only junk is what Walter, your reporter brought; wire, connectors, and the laser in the background.



The idea was that each person would take home stuff and pretend to find use in it but do what the original owner couldn't bring himself to do: throw it away. Turns out **Larry McDavid** brought an antenna (upper right in the picture above) that Bill Webb really could use. And the 3-D printed experiments Bill brought, was enjoyed by Leo Kim's youngest daughter. She didn't take them home but were enjoyed two days later by three little girls that visit Walter on Fridays.



**Bill Webb** also brought a Raspberry Pi Picos to show Dick Palmer. Dick had the most technical discussion. It is was on a "Magnetic Loop" antenna. They sit sideways to the on coming radiation. They sense the magnetic component of an electro-magnetic wave. Apparently, they are tricky to tune but have a large frequency range.

Walter lives under the glide slope to the Fullerton Airport and because we were outside, the conversation was sometimes about airplanes. Brooks shared his experience; his first love, a J3 Cub. The most exciting moment for him was getting out of the way of an F-105 on approach.



**Dick Bremer** had an excuse for not doing any hammin'. He is now the foster parents of his great grandchildren. This seems to be a familiar experience for him, having brought up grandchildren the same way.

**Leo Kim** brought his kids; Justus, Audrey, and Brielle who probably were a little board by all the discussion. Justus and Audrey, both have their ham license. Leo is looking for a new career. He is retired from the Long Beach Police Force and of course we all had to contribute ideas for what he could do. The consensus was something to do with security electronics. This would combine his interest in electronics with his experience with security.



**Larry McDavid** told us the story of his maintaining an antenna atop his 2-story house. To make sure he didn't fall off, he arranged for a harness and tether with a radius of travel that was just short of death. He had to do a bit of research and shared that with us about climbing towers. We learned about carabiners, ascenders, rappel devices (descenders) and the two kinds of lines; kinetic and static.

We went back into the house where **Dick Palmer** shared an earlier hobby; indoor rubber band powered model airplanes. He opened the box and carefully lifted the plane out. He did this inside because the slightest breeze would break the plane. He flew these at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. He thinks one of them is still stuck in the rafters.



Walt

## 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.**