



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

November 2021

President's Column - November 2021

It's election time. As stated in Fullerton Radio Club's bylaws, we are required to hold an annual election for club officers and Board members-at-large. All board members serve one-year terms and must be re-certified annually by the club membership.

This is also the time when club members are encouraged to nominate members for board positions (with the nominee's consent). You may nominate members by email or at Wednesday night's 8 pm Zoom meeting.

Since we have not yet returned to meeting in person, we will be voting by email. Watch for an email from me later in the week.

The current slate of candidates is as follows:

President - Bob Houghton - AD6QF
Vice-President - Open (this could be you)
Treasurer - Gene Thorpe - KB6CMO
Secretary - Paul Broden - K6MHD

Member-at-Large

- Richard Belansky - KG6UDD
- Walter Clark
- Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ
- Larry McDavid - W6FUB

73,

Bob AD6QF

November Club Meeting:

**Wednesday, November 17
2021;
On ZOOM! - 8:00 PM**

The focus this month will be on Club Officer and Board member election. If you do not have the Zoom sign-in number and password send me (Paul Broden) or President Bob Houghton an email and we'll provide it to you. We don't publish the information with intent to avoid interruptions from uninvited persons!

Membership

A new year is close upon us, and Club memberships will be due for renewal. A membership/renewal application is attached to the end of this newsletter.

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
E-mail: gtkb6cmo@juno.com

Members At Large

Richard Belansky, KG6UDD

Walter Clark

Tom Gaccione, WB2LRH

Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ

Larry McDavid W6FUB

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

**December FRC BOARD
MEETING**

***The next Club Board meeting will be
on December 8, 2021. If all goes well
health wise we'll meet at Sizzler,
Harbor and Brea Boulevards. If
potential illness still abounds we'll
provide notice, and meet on Zoom.***

5:30 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

The November FRC Board meeting was called to order on November 3 at 5:40 PM remotely by Zoom. Those in attendance were: President Bob Houghton AD6QF, Vice President Paul Broden K6MHD, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Board Members Larry McDavid W6FUB, and Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ.

Minutes of the October Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurers report:

Savings account; \$2,608.84. Checking account; \$4155.72.

There were no new deposits or expenses reported. A \$96 fee for renewal of the website was paid by Bob Houghton. A reimbursement check will be required.

Membership:

No new members or current member renewals were identified

Upcoming club programs: No pending presentations were noted
Club meeting will continue on Zoom until further notice and until a satisfactory meeting place is identified.

Special Events:

None identified.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Gene Thorpe has been receiving multiple attempted email scams soliciting money in Bob Houghton's name.

Candidates for Club officers and Board members at-large were discussed. Candidates so far are: President; Bob Houghton: Vice President, Open; Treasurer, Gene Thorpe; Secretary, Paul Broden. Candidates, for at-large Board members are: Larry McDavid, and Robert Gimbel. Other current Board members will be contacted to see if they want to be candidates this year. Other nominations will be accepted during the November Club meeting (November 17). Your President will send voting instructions to all paid members by email.

The meeting ended at 5:54 PM.

Submitted by Paul Broden K6MHD, acting secretary

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Club member Gordon Levine WB6JVP is looking for someone who can, and is willing, to put up a rooftop TV antenna for him. Gordon says he no longer does ladders or rooftops (I know the feeling). The house is single-story, and Gordon is willing to pay for the installation. If you are willing and able to assist please call Gordon at: 1-714-638-7886.

A Bit of Nostalgia

This radio transmitter was designed in early 1930's for general aviation. Our GI's went to war with these in 1942. It was used in the L2, L3, L4 and L5 liaison aircraft and probably others. Ugh! Tubes! Shockley, Bardeen and Brattain didn't think of the transistor until 1947. It is crystal controlled and covers 2.5 to 6.7 MHz with 6.5 Watts from a pair of 6V6's

modulated by another pair. Am planning to put it on the air when the whimsy hits me. Have the companion receiver which has been repaired. Would anyone be interested in listening to the signal (AM), giving a report and recording? For your listening pleasure, audio is provided by a T-17 carbon mike!

John K6AHY



TAG

There was no TAG meeting in November, therefore, none of the usual photos and descriptions were provided by Walter Clark. Hopefully, next month! Walter deserves a bit of free time, and he took it. Your articles are always appreciated, Walter.

CUTTING METRIC MACHINE SCREWS TO LENGTH

I've been working recently on designs/developments that use metric fasteners. Locally, McFadden-Dale Hardware in Anaheim has a large open stock of metric fasteners of many kinds, in steel and stainless steel. Even so, the choices of screw length are sometimes limited and it is necessary to shorten a machine screw.

We probably all have a hand wire terminal crimper that also cuts Imperial bolts of 4, 6, 8 and 10 Imperial size; that's a handy bolt cutter but the tool is a poor terminal crimper so I use mine just for cutting Imperial size machine screws. I wanted a similar tool to use to cut metric screws to a desired length.

Turns out such a tool is uncommon here, and often rather pricey. Ultimately I found an acceptable metric crimper/cutter on Amazon identified as "Plier Type Pro's Kit 8PK-033" for about \$15 and ordered one as seen in the picture. It will strip metric gage insulated wire but I would never use this tool to crimp a terminal; there are far superior wire crimpers available. However, its bolt cutter works very well; I've used it for M4 machine screws with success. Be sure to deburr the cut end of the shortened screw.

No, I don't know the purpose of the part of the tool marked, "IGNITION TERMINALS."

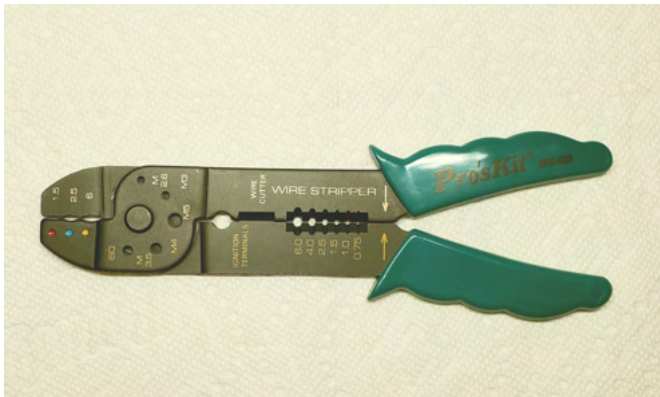
I have often spoken in the past about the difference between Phillips and PoziDriv screw heads. Most metric fasteners actually use PoziDriv screw heads (even when incongruously marked "Phillips") and need a PoziDriv screwdriver. For the small metric machine screws I've been working with, this dictates the use of a PZ0 size driver. This small size can be hard to find here. In fact, you are often greeted with a blank stare when asking for PoziDriv anything! Many PoziDriv screwdrivers are available on Amazon but the selection of PZ0 size is limited. I greatly favor screwdrivers made by Wiha but could not find the Wiha PZ0 size on Amazon or eBay.

Fortunately, Wiha has a US business entity and an extensive website; I found the PZ0 hand screwdriver I wanted there and ordered several at very reasonable price and low shipping cost; there is no minimum order and shipment/delivery was fast. Essentially every Wiha tool is available there directly from Wiha and you may find the prices there are lower than offered on-line elsewhere. Look for www.wihatools.com

You always can use another tool for your shop!.....

Best wishes,

Larry McDavid W6FUB



Winlink for the Win? Wanna play?

Some of you know that I often find myself in locations with no internet service (it's a personal problem). This past summer, I filled the email gaps by using a device called a Garmin Inreach Explorer. This Garmin device uses the Iridium satellite constellation to send and receive SMS messages and (very) short email messages. The service received mixed reviews (with at least one involving profanity) from the club members with whom I exchanged messages using this system. Some folks found the Garmin web interface difficult to use and kind of buggy, especially if the sender tried to exceed 160 characters. So I'm going to try something else...

The results of this summer's experiment led me to investigate a service called Winlink. Rather than being a commercial service, Winlink is designed, developed, and maintained by hams. It is designed to allow email to get through when there is no internet due to a disaster of some sort. It is a hybrid system, that carries email over the internet, where possible, but falls back to using amateur radio data modes (both VHF and HF) when the internet is not available. The main use scenario is this: Imagine being in a location where the communications infrastructure is damaged due to a disaster of some sort ... earthquake, hurricane, flood, etc. Most disasters are regional. If you can get a

message out of the affected area (sometimes called the "donut hole" by EMCOMM folk), then there will be infrastructure to carry the message to its destination. Winlink does just this. Between disasters, my use case is to be able to exchange email with friends and family when I do not have internet access due to being in a remote location.

Here is where you can play...

I am looking for FRC members who would like to learn about and experiment with Winlink. The main requirement is to be interested in learning something new (or perhaps becoming more proficient if you are already familiar with Winlink). The minimum hardware requirements are a computer running the Windows operating system and internet access. It is, of course, more interesting if you can interface a radio to your computer so you can send messages by radio. If you happen to be set up for one of the digital modes, you likely have all the equipment necessary.

I am not an expert with Winlink, so we would be learning this together.

If you want more information, there is lots of good information at winlink.org.

73,

Bob AD6QF

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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.