



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

August 2022

President's Column August 2022

My comments this month are regarding the Second Century column in the August issue of QST written by ARRL CEO David Minster. My comments will have more context if you take a few moments and first read his editorial. I have provided a link to the article below:

<https://bit.ly/FRC0001>

Having read David Minster's Second Century column titled A New Advocacy to Manage Risk in the August issue of QST, I am still trying to deconstruct what he is suggesting as a new endeavor for the ARRL. Is ARRL proposing to save sole-proprietor ham businesses by acquiring them when their owner can no longer continue? That sounds far-fetched to me, but I think that is what he is suggesting.

The Second Century column did get me thinking about the fact that many amateur radio products and services are run by one person. What will happen to those products and services once the person running the show retires (or dies).

There are many such enterprises. A few that come to mind...

APRS - with Bob Bruninga's recent passing, who will carry the torch for APRS? Will TAPR take the ball? What will happen to the aprs.org website? While there are thousands of users of APRS, a quick look at aprs.org reminded me that almost all of the innovations connected with APRS came from one person's mind and efforts.

Speaking of APRS, when you want to look up someone's aprs activity, you are almost sure to use APRS.fi. This website is written, run, and maintained by one person who does it as a hobby. Heikki Hannikainen is a one-man operation with a day job. What happens to aprs.fi if he gets tired of it?

Elecraft is not a one person operation. They have about 40 employees. But almost everything they produce comes from the brain of Wayne (hey that rhymes!) Burdick, N6KR.

The list is long: Arrow Antennas, Wolf River Coils (okay two guys), SOTABeams, Buddipole, Byonics, the list goes on.

Is this a made-up problem, or is it something for hams to be concerned about? Does the ARRL have a role in finding a solution? What do you think?

73, Bob AD6QF

August ZOOM Meeting Wednesday, August 24; 7:00 PM

Speaker: Mark Warrick KM6ZPO

Title: "AREDN Mesh in SoCal: Justifying the Challenge to Realize Its Full Potential".

Three years ago, my wife and I were looking for a way to communicate where cell service was spotty at best. The search for a solution has turned into a passionate hobby that I enjoy almost every day. I have spent the past three years doing experiments: buying, building, and testing all sorts of equipment. Along my journey I trained myself to be an emergency communicator by completing the EC-016 courses through FEMA and was temporarily one of the emergency coordinators for OC Heart. Today I'm on the radio team for Anaheim RACES. I enjoy doing SOTAs and POTAs for fun and to continue to refine my communications equipment and skills both in the analog and digital worlds.

As I look back at these past three years, I realize there was a major fork in the road in 2019. Had my wife and I gone the other direction and bought satellite phones, I wouldn't be asked to speak to a group about this hobby (and I would have saved thousands of dollars!). I'm glad I chose the harder route - to study for months, to pass a test, to eagerly wait for my license, to push the PTT and call out "CQ, CQ, CQ" for the first time. I found a hobby which has no end.

I'm also glad I got involved in emergency communications. Rather than just being an appliance operator, I decided to learn everything I could not only to enjoy the hobby more, but to be able to provide a valuable service to the community.

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***September 2022 FRC BOARD
MEETING***

The next Club Board meeting will be on

September 7, 2022

*Due to decisions made by the Board we will
continue to hold the meeting by Zoom at the
usual Zoom ID and passcode.*

Meeting time: 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

FRC Board Meeting

The August FRC Board meeting was postponed, then cancelled due to issues related to on-line and Zoom communications during President Bob Houghton's vacation journeys into areas where internet services were minimal or nonexistent. The following statement from Larry McDavid summarizes planned business activities to establish a new bank account in preparation for closing the existing Bank of America Checking and Savings accounts.

"Gene Thorpe, Paul Broden and I met today [Monday, August 8, 2022] at US Bank in Sunny Hills and opened a new, Non-Profit Business Checking account for FRC. This account is bank fee-free and offers all the features we had at B of A. Gene wrote a club check for \$1000 to deposit in the new checking account.

Gene will merge the present B of A checking and savings accounts and close the remaining account; the plan is to get a B of A Cashier's Check to move the balance to USB.

We previously closed the safe deposit box at B of A so this will get us completely out of B of A.

Turns out this Sunny Hills USB branch is just across Bastanchury Road from where Gene has his personal checking account so the new USB account will be convenient for Gene.

It took a while to find a new bank that will allow us to open a non-Profit checking account with our 501(c)(7) federal status, an account that is fee-free, but we finally got there!"

NOTE: There will be no TAG meetings until October when, hopefully, the weather will be better.

Short Newsletter!

Obviously, we didn't receive much to print this month. Please begin to think of something to submit for next month.