



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

May 2023

PrezSez

Antennas in the Park was a great success this year! If you missed this club event at Hillcrest Park, you missed a lot of fun, ham radio activity and good food! We had a larger turn-out than last year and had several first-time visitors and T-Hunters. Gene has a head count from the sign-in sheet so we'll have a good count soon. I met and talked to several visitors, some new hams and some from surrounding cities. The whole idea of Ants is to build interest in ham radio and have some fun!

Dick Palmer WB6JDH set up a 20 m station with a loop antenna and even talked to W1AW, the ARRL station in Newington, Connecticut. Dick provided attendee guest station operation and a lot of fun was had. Numerous other contacts were made on VHF/UHF and Gene Thorpe KB6CMO provided site talk-in as well. We had several visitors walk by wondering what it was all about!

Joe K0OV and April WA6OPS Moell had a really active ARDF T-Hunt, with both beginner and more difficult hidden transmitters. Marvin Johnston

KE6HTS came down from Santa Barbara to host a T-Hunt beam antenna-building session in the morning and had lots of folks building these handy beams. Later, I noticed several of those builders reporting they had found hidden transmitters, so this was another big success. April shared another of her famous Fox Hunt cakes for dessert.

Hot grilled food for lunch was again cooked by Albert Solomon. Our expanded menu included burgers, mesquite chicken and flavorful sausages. No one went hungry and, in fact, there was little left over. Walter Clark learned to use a

mandoline, this one for slicing onions and tomatoes! Walking up and down the hill to the parking lot and hunting for hidden transmitters made everyone hungry so Albert was kept busy at the grill.

It is a busy time for FRC. Next month we plan to meet again at Hillcrest Park for the annual ARRL Field Day. We plan a modest group effort, focused on having fun and avoiding bleary eyes from all-night operating. Put this Field Day weekend on your calendar and drop by the park cabin; everyone is welcome to use the set-up equipment and make a few contacts.

Larry McDavid W6FUB

May 2023 FRC Regular Club Meeting

The May regular club meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17, at 7:00 PM, on Zoom at the usual address and passcode. If you need this connection information, please contact one of the Board members who will provide the information.

And tune in at the same time on every Wednesday for our club Zoom net.

Board of Directors

President

Larry McDavid W6FUB
Email: lmc david@lmceng.com

Vice President

Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ
E-mail: kg6wtq@arrl.net

Secretary

Paul Broden, K6MHD
E-mail: Pbroden53@gmail.com

Treasurer, Public Service, Membership

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO
E-mail: gtkb6c mo@juno.com

Members At Large

Walter Clark
Bob Houghton AD6QF
Bart Pulverman WB6WUW

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

June 2023 FRC BOARD MEETING

The next Club Board meeting will be on

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

*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 [Zoom] to show and share
your story. Something old, new, or just of interest to hams.**

Web site: www.FullertonRadioClub.org

May 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

The May 2023 Board meeting began with casual discussions at 5:32PM on May 3 by Zoom with President Larry McDavid W6FUB presiding. Additional members present were Vice President Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Board Members Bob Houghton AD6QF, Walter Clark and Bart Pulverman WB6WUW

Minutes from the April 2023 Board Meetings were unavailable due to illness of the secretary at that time.

Treasurer's report: US Bank checking account balance: \$6,760.27. No new expenditures were reported.

Club paid membership is 27, plus one life member. No renewals and no new members were identified this month.

Upcoming events:

- Antennas In The Park, Saturday, May 13: 9AM – 3PM
- Tour of Fullerton PD, Thursday, May 11; 10AM
- Potential of Field Day activity, June 24 & 25

Old Business:

- Walter Clark has arranged a tour of Fullerton Police Department, including the 911 dispatch center on Thursday, May 11 at 10AM. The tour was confirmed.
- Antennas In The Park event was confirmed for Saturday, May 13.
- The potential of Field Day activity was discussed briefly, with current interest expressed by Dick Palmer, Tom Smith and Bart Pulverman. Tune in to the club Wednesday Zoom meetings for updates and to express your participation interest.
- Bob Houghton provided an update on the submission of required state and federal tax reports. Both the California Franchise Tax Board form 199N and Federal (IRS) 990N have been submitted. Copies of the submissions have been provided to the Board members.

New Business: None identified

Announcements or discussions: None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59

Submitted by club secretary; Paul Broden K6MHD

MAINS/SOLAR ENERGY BALANCE

Late month cloudy days limited my solar production in April but I still gained "banked" energy over the month, even though I did run the house A/C just a bit late in the month. My city electrical energy meter records and displays my mains energy consumption and excess solar energy delivered to the power mains. I use a simple worksheet to record these data so I can see the trend.

Fortunately, I buy electrical energy from the City of Anaheim (not from Edison) and Anaheim allows me to "bank" that excess solar production for use when I have heavy energy use due to air conditioning later in the year. The city won't pay me for that energy production but will "bank" it for me for future use, kWh for kWh.

Anaheim has a low-rate "baseline" charge for the first 600 kWh in a two-month period; last I checked, that was \$0.10/ kWh. Even in high-usage hot months, I've never exceeded that baseline rate. I think So. Cal. Edison has a similar "baseline" rate, but I don't know the rate.

I have a neighbor's growing tree that is shading nearly half of my solar panels late afternoons in a few winter months but for now I'm living with that. I do have space and inverter capacity for two more panels but, given I'm overproducing now, the city won't approve adding the panels. I'm not sure I understand that logic...

My city electrical utility "Customer Charge" and "Underground Surcharge" (my only city electrical utility charges when solar production exceeds consumption) totaled \$10.22 for the previous two-month billing period.

The city imposed that "Underground Surcharge" fee to help support moving city high tension lines down from power poles and into underground high-tension cables. Virtually all overhead lines are gone already from the "tourist" areas and in many other city areas. A few years the city moved a 66 KV line near my home to underground and removed all the power poles; cable TV coax on smaller poles were also moved underground and those poles removed also. Street light poles remain and some have cell phone 5G hot spots but there are no overhead wires. All my home utilities are delivered underground and there are no overhead wires of any kind.

My solar system is monitored by Solar Edge, the solar inverter manufacturer, through an Internet link that updates about every 6 seconds; see attached report from late today. Remember the "Six Million Dollar Man" TV show? I'm now the 70 Million Watt Hour Man!

Larry McDavid W6FUB

METER READ DATE	ENERGY FROM CITY kWh		ENERGY TO CITY kWh		GAIN / LOSS kWh		PERIOD DAYS
	READING # 1	CHANGE	READING # 3	CHANGE	PERIOD	BANKED	
3/30/22	18635		14024		450	450	
5/27/22	19335	700	15336	1312	612	1062	58
6/6/22	19457	122	15544	208	86	1148	10
6/30/22	19825	368	16055	511	143	1291	24
7/28/22	20290	465	16590	535	70	1361	28
9/1/22	20966	676	17151	561	-115	1246	35
9/30/22	21572	606	17607	456	-150	1096	29
11/30/22	22392	820	18538	931	111	1207	61
12/31/22	22842	450	18826	288	-162	1045	31
2/1/23	23289	447	19186	360	-87	958	32
4/8/23	24079	790	20262	1076	286	1244	66
4/30/23	24333	254	20707	445	191	1435	22

THE WONDER OF ALL THAT RAIN

Rain seems to have made a difference in the mineral content of City of Anaheim tap water. I measure the dissolved solids (DS) of city water and my RO water on the first of each month. Usually, city water measures about 650 ppm DS and my RO water, after overnight drip, measures about 10-12 ppm.

But, on April 1 and on May 1, my RO water measured 4 ppm DS; city tap water measured 423 and 307 ppm, surely the lowest I've ever seen it.

I think this means Anaheim has increased pumping ground water and reduced purchasing water from out-of-area sources. Usually, water from snow melt and from the Colorado River has lower mineral content than local ground water. Locally pumped ground water costs less so I believe the city is taking advantage of all the recent rain. This new rain-fed ground water has not been in the ground long so has not dissolved much of the underground minerals, hence its DS is quite low for this area.

But it also means the city must now have the groundwater PFA purification systems working, else federal regs would not allow use of the PFA content previously measured in some city wells. Not much has been said about this, other than that the new purification systems were under construction.

Our rainy season may well be over for the summer but here on the flatlands of Anaheim I received an amazing 19.15 inches since January 1, 2023. **Since May 1, I received another 1.24 inches for a new total of 20.39 inches, a really wet year.** I observe the Santa Ana River and adjoining groundwater percolating basins as

I drive by and both have lots of water, an indication upstream dams are releasing water into the river. Orange County is taking advantage of this rain and local snow-sourced river water to replenish our underground aquifer. Unusual and surely a Wonder!

Larry McDavid W6FUB

Foxhunting Fun at Hillcrest Park

Back in 1998, the editor of CQ Magazine welcomed my idea of sponsoring a national weekend of hidden transmitter hunting, sometimes called foxhunting. Clubs and groups around the country were encouraged to hold foxhunts, both mobile and on-foot, using rules and procedures of their own choosing. In Orange County, the Fullerton Radio Club and a couple of other clubs banded together for the first Antennas-In-The-Park (AITP) event on that first Foxhunting Weekend. There was a barbecue lunch and a special cake for the occasion.

It's been an annual event ever since. The first AITP was at Tri-City Park in Placentia. It continued there until OC Parks took over administration of Tri-City and began imposing fees and other restrictions that made it much more difficult to hold AITP. So, in 2015, FRC moved the event to Hillcrest Park in Fullerton. For foxhunting, it's a much more interesting venue. It's only 40 acres, but the steep hills and dense vegetation add physical difficulty and make it easy to conceal transmitters so that hunters don't see others finding them. Often, hams travel from the Bay Area and elsewhere to try the new direction-finding courses.

One problem with Hillcrest Park has been the condition and scarcity of restrooms. Beginning in 2017, we have been fortunate to gather at the Izaak Walton cabin, which has made pop-up shelters and lengthy restroom treks unnecessary.

This year's AITP foxhunt on May 13 was one of the best. Marvin Johnston KE6HTS arrived from Santa Barbara with a box full of antenna/attenuator kits and all were soon built by enthusiastic newcomers. Then they tried them out with their handi-talkies on the two nearby practice transmitters to gain proficiency. After that, they were ready for the advanced course with five transmitters, some in the far reaches of the park. Going straight to the advanced course were Michael Hart KC6MEH and Scott Moore KF6IKO, who had recently returned from competing in the 2023 USA Radio-Orienteering Championships in Texas.

I am compiling the complete 2023 AITP foxhunting results and will post them soon at www.homingin.com. In closing, my thanks to all who made a successful AITP possible, especially Gene and Cheryl Thorpe, KB6CMO and KE6TZU, who arranged for access to the cabin. Albert Solomon AG6OF cooked up a great lunch with vittles brought by Bob Houghton AD6QF and Larry McDavid W6FUB. April Moell WA6OPS brought the traditional Foxhunting Weekend cake. Dick Palmer WB6JDH set up a HF ham station and got some attendees on the air. And everyone in attendance contributed to the enjoyment of the day.

73, Joe Moell K0OV



F ox Hunter Aaron Lin



April's Famous Cake

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

Mail to the above address.