



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

July 2023

PrezSez

Field Day for FRC was a big success at Hillcrest Park. I visited mid-day on Saturday and was impressed with the array of antenna wires, radials and supports; the yellow flags were really needed to avoid walking into those. I counted eleven FRC members and a team of guests operating the GOTA station. The GOTA station had twelve sign-ins, a really good effort. Dick Palmer will have a report with more details, but it surely seemed everyone had fun without much stress.

Our weekly club Zoom meetings continue with good attendance. It is fun to hear what others are doing and to get some Show-and-Tell stories. If you have not participated, please do join us every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm. If you don't have the Zoom meeting link, send me an email and I'll supply it.

Think about on-line security. I had an incident (fortunately, the fraud it was unsuccessful) that caused me some stress and I am now incorporating Two-Factor-Authentication on all my critical on-line accounts. Many websites, especially those that have financial transactions, now allow some form of 2FA. I'll have more about this in a future article.

Larry W6FUB

Upcoming Meetings

The July regular club meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19, 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.

Additionally, the TAG meetings have resumed! Walter will provide invitations each month [if it's not too hot!]. There was no TAG meeting in July.

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

Board of Directors

President

Larry McDavid W6FUB
Email: lmcdavid@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: gtkb6cmo@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

***August 2023 FRC BOARD
MEETING***

The next Club Board meeting will be on

Wednesday, August 2, 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 Zoom meeting to show and share your story. Something old, new, or just of interest to hams.

Web site: www.FullertonRadioClub.org

The July 2023 Board meeting began with discussion regarding use of the closed caption function while using Zoom. It's been identified that when the closed caption function is activated within the Zoom program that each participant that has joined has the ability to activate at their Zoom site. Our Zoom site has the closed-caption function activated (thanks Bob). An activation symbol is located at the bottom of each Zoom screen.

The formal meeting began at 5:45PM on July 5 by use of 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, Walter Clark and Bart Pulverman WB6WUW. Absent was board member Bob Houghton AD6QF.

The June Board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved after discovery of two typographic errors.

Treasurer's Report.

Bank balance: \$6,420.22 with \$20 yet to be deposited.

Membership:

30 paid plus 1 life member as of 7/3/23. One renewal in July (Bill Phinzy). No new members this month.

Upcoming Activities:

- Field Day with GOTA station, Saturday & Sunday, June 24 – 25
- Letter to all FD attendees with invitation to club meeting with newsletter example by Larry

Old Business

- Field Day with GOTA station, Saturday & Sunday, June 24 – 25

New Business:

Discuss +/- of FD experience to improve next year's activity.

Meeting closed at 6:10

Submitted by secretary Paul Broden K6MHD

Fullerton Radio Club 2023 Field Day

Field day was held in the customary Hillcrest Park. This year's field day exercise was an effort to demonstrate the club's and associates' ability to meet the mission of conducting portable emergency communication operations. Since 1933, the ARRL sponsored event affords the amateur radio community -- now worldwide -- the ability to practice their skills for the benefit of the public good.

This year's field day sought to not only improve these skills but also leverage the club's resources to achieve a decent point score. Owing to limited antenna space, there were four antennas set up in the Hillcrest Park's "front lawn": a Cushcraft 80m-10m vertical, a homemade 20m/40m trap vertical, a 40m/20m trap dipole, and a VHF/UHF antenna. Also, this year -- as in the past few years -- there has been an emphasis on setting up a GOTA ("Get On The Air") station that invites visiting amateurs and "civilians" to operate in an effort to bring hams "back into the fold" and get visitors some hands-on experience.

The club operated "2A" in Orange ("ORG") county. Surprisingly, the 20m band was weak and spotty and not as fertile as in years previous. Moreover,

the proximity of the antennas cause interference and drastically cut down on the ability to make contacts. So, most of the attention was paid to the 40m and 15m bands. The conventional 40m phone station achieved 44 phone QSOs thanks to Dick Palmer, WB6JDH. However the 40m CW station only contributed 10 QSOs owing to the antenna interference. However, by running solely off battery power, each station garnered an additional 100 points. And, because the 40m phone was running off batteries being charged by solar cells, an additional 100 points was accrued as "natural power".

The GOTA station attracted two visiting operators -- Jenna Cannillis, WW0MAN, and Ethan Soe, AJ6WW, who turned in a total of 28 contacts at 5 points each for 140 points. They were coached by William Phinizy, K6WHP, which added another 100 points.

In summation, the club accounted for 990 bonus points, achieved as follows:

- 100% emergency power - 200 points (100 points for each station)
- Public location - 100 points (Hillcrest Park)
- Public information table - 100 points
- Copied W1AW Field Day message –

100 points.

- Natural power QSOs completed - 100 points (All 40m QSOs)
- Safety officer(s) - 100 points (Sincere thanks to Gene and Cheryl Thorpe)
- GOTA Station - 140 points (Thanks to Jenna Canillas, WW0MAN, and Ethan Soe, AJ6WW)
- GOTA Coach - 100 (William Phinizy, K6WHP)
- Entry submitted via ARRL web - 50 points

The club's overall submission -- bonus and operating -- was 1,298 points and, while this was not a high score, it was a decent start. Next year, a field day committee could consider such improvements/embellishments as:

- More stations and operators doing around the clock operation for more QSOs.
- Arraying the antennas around Hillcrest Park (both front and back) to eliminate interference.
- The addition of CW and Digital stations to double the points per QSOs.
- Passing traffic to the ARRL Section Manager and 10 other Winlink emails/NTS messages for 200 points.

Submitted by Dick Palmer WB6JDH

A few Hilcrest Park Field Day Photos (provided by Dick Palmer, Larry McDavid & Ethan Soe)





FRC member participation at Field Day: Dick Palmer, Gene Thorpe, Cheryl Thorpe, Bart Pulverman, Robert Canillas, Jenna Canillas, Bill Phinizy, Robert Gimbel, Ethan Soe, Tom Smith, John Mock

Field Day 2023 at Morningside

For the second year, the Morningside Mischief Makers enjoyed Field Day in a shady outdoor barbecue area of the Morningside senior community in northeast Fullerton. There are nine licensed hams living in Morningside, but only five are active on the air from their homes. I was surprised to discover that all of the currently inactive ones had never participated in a Field Day before. So we invited them all to come out, learn and participate.

We learned last year that radios and computers can get damp at

night in this shelter, so this was to be a daytime-only operation. At 11 AM, April WA6OPS began operation on 20-meter SSB using our simple Buddipole vertical antenna with one elevated radial. Later, Vi Barrett W6CBA took over on HF. We've been told by other groups that band conditions weren't very good in general, but 20-meters was great for us, with propagation changing throughout the afternoon and bringing us new states and sections to work. Later in the afternoon, I took over the HF station and worked 20-meter CW until sunset, when it

was time to take down the stations.

We also ran a VHF station with omni antennas for six meters, two meters and 70-centimeters. Upon arriving, new resident Mark Shapiro K6OGD spotted the VHF station, grabbed the mike and started making contacts.

They were plentiful, but only local, because 6-meters didn't open for DX.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV



Outdoors BBQ Area



Vi and April



Mark

(Photos by Joe Moell)

Hi FRC members,

Below you will find a list of possible improvements for Field Day next year based on our experience this year. Paul requested that I send this list to everyone as a starting point for our analysis of this year's Field Day so we can apply the lessons learned to Field Day 2024.

Please review these suggestions and then forward your additions to Paul Broden or me so we can add them to the list which we can then use for planning.

Field Day Improvement List

1. Reduce the coupling between transmitters by:
 - a. Place HF transmitters at opposite ends of the porch with the VHF/UHF station in the middle.

- b. Investigate the club purchase of professional quality tuned HF filters.
 - c. Locate one of the HF antennas on the top of the hill.
2. Bring our own "police line" tape to make flags for radials and guy wires (this year we fabricated flags from the stock of disposable cleaning towels that belonged to the janitors).
3. Make signs before Field Day directing people to the GOTA station.

Thank you and 73,
Bart WB6WUW

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.