



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

December 2023

Prez Sez

Another year is about wrapped-up for FRC. We had a big turnout for our Holiday Dinner, but the Sizzler room was so full we did not get to introduce our 2024 officers and members at large. Paul will confirm in this newsletter the result of our club vote on the presented slate. I gladly pass the baton as president and welcome the new club leadership. Our club board meetings are open to all and I invite you to participate in managing your club.

I've been testing fast-charge USB PD (Power Delivery) power supplies, and I just changed a remote temperature monitor from one that used 433 MHz to one that uses the 900 MHz band. I've talked about those in recent club Zoom meetings so you know my findings. Electronics around the home seem to take up a lot of my time! So far, I've avoided smart washing machines and refrigerators using IOT.

I maintain the club membership roster and struggle to keep it accurate. If any of you have moved or changed your email address in the past few years but not told me, please do so. Let's look forward to a Happy New Year and club activities for next year.....

Best wishes,
Larry McDavid W6FUB

2024 Officer Election Results.

President: Bob Houghton AD6QF
Vice President: Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ
Secretary: Paul Broden K6MHD
Treasurer: Gene Thorpe KB6CMO

Members at-large:

Bart Pulverman WB6WUW
Walter Clark
Larry McDavid W6FUB

Smoke Signals Editorial Update

This will be my final issue as *Smoke Signals* editor/publisher after twenty years serving the club. I took over the job after the death of Vince Vigus who, along with his wife Betsy, had served as editors for many years. Now it's time for another transition. From this date forward, or at least until future notice, all contributions to the Fullerton Radio Club Newsletter, *Smoke Signals*, should be sent to club President Bob Houghton AD6QF at: bobhoughton@me.com.

I offer my personal thanks to all who have provided input to *Smoke Signals* over the many years. However, I encourage ALL members – and friends too – to identify something that you can submit to Bob for publication. It doesn't have to be a long article, although I'm certain that Bob would appreciate those too. Maybe just something regarding a recent interesting ham project, or contacts made during a specific band opening, or even a portable station setup and contacts made during an outing. And add photos when available. It can be very frustrating to prepare for the newsletter publication without article submission. And if you have ideas as to how to improve the newsletter and overall communication within the club, please let Bob or one of the other Board Members know of your suggestions.

Thanks, and 73 for now
Paul Broden K6MHD

Fullerton Radio Club
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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: gtb6cmo@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

**January 2024 FRC BOARD
MEETING**

*The next Club Board meeting
will be on Wednesday, January 3,
2024*

*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 December 2023 Board Meeting started at 5:31PM on December 6 by use of Zoom with President Larry McDavid W6FUB presiding. Additional members present included Vice President Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD, Board Members Bob Houghton AD6QF, Walter Clark, and Bart Pulverman WB6WUW. Absent was treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO.

The November Board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- Bank balance: \$6,440.32 per Bob Houghton's listing and records.
- There were no new deposits identified.
- New expenditures include \$96 for web hosting charges. This fee was paid by Bob Houghton and a reimbursement check will be presented to him at the Club holiday dinner meeting. Additionally, the Club will owe Bob \$159.50 as reimbursement for his payment for the Zoom platform that we use regularly. Fees for next year's PO Box rental will be forthcoming soon. This annual fee will probably be increased from last year's charge.

Membership: The current roster shows 31 paid members and 1 life member as of 11/10/23. Members are encouraged to fill out the membership renewal form and pay at the Club holiday dinner. Forms will be provided at the dinner meeting. There were no renewals or new members since the last board meeting. Forms and payment may also be mailed.

Upcoming Activities:

- The annual holiday dinner meeting is calendared for Friday, December 15, at 5:30 PM, at Sizzler restaurant. Bob would like to have an approximate count of those planning to attend so he can inform the restaurant manager.

Items for the Newsletter:

- Publish the new 2024 officers list.
- Walt will prepare a report of the recent FRC visit to Fullerton Police Department.

Old Business:

- Paul Broden will cease editing Smoke Signals with the December issue.
- Bob Houghton has agreed to serve as the new Smoke Signals editor.

New Business:

- Potential changes to the newsletter will be a focus for 2024.
- Planning for Antennas in the Park and Field Day.
- New membership recruitment.
- Plans will be discussed for potential activation of Parks On The Air.
- Small group activities may be a new event potential.

There being no further discussions the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Submitted by Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD

*Wishing you Happy and Blessed
Holiday season to all.*

FRC Tour of Fullerton Police Station

The Fullerton Radio Club was given a tour of Fullerton Police Station by its Chief, Bob Dunn. The tour began in front of a large plaque where it was noticed that the top name, mayor Hans Kohlenberger (1939-44), had the same last name as one of our members, Roger Kohlenberger.

Hans Kohlenberger was Roger's grandfather's brother. (The name Kohlenberger has been on

the map of Fullerton businesses since the 30s.) The smaller plaque on the left indicates that the funds for this building were from the Works Progress Administration. The date on both is 1940 which is when the Brea Dam (which is entirely within the city limits of Fullerton) was built. Until 1962 this building was both city hall and the police station.



The architecture of this facility includes an extensive basement and this outdoor part of the basement. It is the lowest spot in the city and

often floods in a rainstorm. The basement under the building does of course serve a purpose. (Which will be described later.)



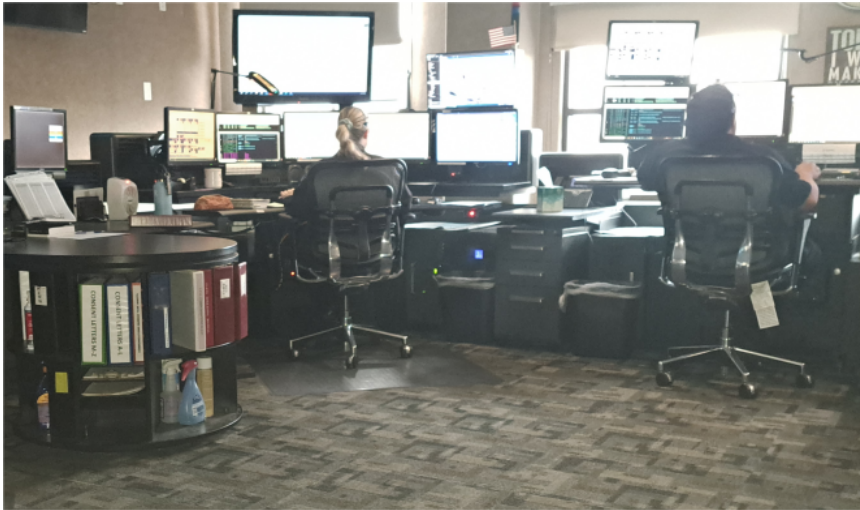
Our principal interest was the Drone Operation that is new to the department. Josh Manes and Louis Ramirez are two of the three certified drone operators. On the table is one of the two small ones. The big one shown here cost about \$40,000, which the Department acquired through grant funds. The drone's aerial perspective can be seen not just by the drone operators but by right-seat officers in units on the way to a scene. Present use is above crowds where police are already there. But



someday the goal is to launch the drone to the address being given to the 911 Call Center while the caller is still on the phone. While the unit is on its way, the right seat officer has a view of the situation before they have arrived. According to Chief Dunn, **Drones as First Responders** awaits funding to the tune of several hundred thousand dollars. That's because of restrictions imposed by the FAA which require direct line of site at every moment which requires handing off that control to people already in position throughout the city. It's a

manpower problem, not hardware. (The FAA may give up that direct-line-of-sight requirement when autonomous drones are trusted by them.) But imagine that; eyes on the situation can be measured in seconds rather than minutes. For more information on drone use in the police force, there is an excellent article which can be found using Google with the words: "11 Ways Police Departments Are Using Drones".

Commented [RD1]: This is accurate in a sense, however the officers would have to use their cell phones to access the data. That would be dangerous while driving. What it does do, though, is provide real-time updates to officers on their way to the scene via the licensed operators.



The picture of the 911 Control Center is the closest thing to what the members of Fullerton Radio Club do. Actually, what we do is more like what police departments did before they had computers as in the picture below...



This is what it used to look like where the only technology was a telephone and a radio transmitter. The Call Center now involves multiple computer screens which show not only where the caller is calling from but where all the units are at that moment. We learned that each

unit has two radios. One radio is like a party line in that all units can hear or talk at the same time. The other radio is more secure and more like a cellphone in that an operator (in this room) makes the connection. The party line (by tradition) can be overheard by anyone with a public service band scanner. It is something of a hobby for some people to monitor what is going on in the city that involve police units. It should be obvious that no "transmitter" of that frequency is sold to the public.

Chief Dunn knew of our interest in radio and spent a long time telling us about the controlled interconnecting of networks of communication

that is spread over the entire county which includes fire stations and Highway Patrol as well as sheriffs (county police).

Several of us in the Radio Club are also interested in guns. So, the last part of our tour was quite memorable; the target range in the basement. It was hosted by Rangemaster David Benedict. Perhaps the most important point about the gun range we learned from David is that there is sufficient training budget for every officer to be certified each month. That is something like twice the average for most police departments.



The above picture shows David and Chief Dunn describing how wire-tasers need both wires to hit leg and stomach; it's tricky. The other non-lethal weapons (on the table) are more natural in their use.

In another highlight of the tour, we got to meet Chief Dunn's secretary Carol Whitaker, and Kristy Wells who is a liaison officer. Kristy works with Nubbin, a docile and friendly K9 we got to play with. Nubbin normally does not go out on city patrols but stays around the station with the specialized role of lowering the anxiety of people who are brought to the police station. Nubbin can be brought to scenes to help victims work

through their interviews with our officers and process the trauma they have experienced. Tours of the police station are quite common with school age kids and Nubbin is quite popular with them. If you have a group who would like a tour, contact Kristy at

[<kristy.wells@fullertonPD.org>](mailto:kristy.wells@fullertonPD.org)

Article by Walter Clark

Commented [RD2]: Nubbin can be brought to scenes to help victims work through their interviews with our officers and process the trauma they have experienced.

January Zoom Meeting

The January regular club meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM, by 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. As Bob always reminds us, bring something to show and tell!

FRC Holiday Dinner Meeting



Fullerton Radio Club held its annual Holiday Dinner at Sizzler restaurant in Fullerton on Friday, December 15. This meeting was supposed to include the installation of newly elected club officers for 2024, however noise in the room from other dining groups made it difficult to provide announcements, therefore the “official” new officer announcement was bypassed. You’ll find the new officer listing on page one of this issue of Smoke Signals. Twenty-one club members and friends were in attendance. They were, in order of the sign-in sheet: Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU, Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Walter Clark, Bob Houghton AD6QF, Maijian Qian KJ6QLY, Roger Kohlenberger W6ZJE, Annie Kohlenberger, Piper Kohlenberger, Dick Palmer WB6JDH, Ann Palmer KG6EDB, Hunter Piper KA6HOF, Rich Belansky KG6UDD, Larry McDavid W6FUB, Paul Broden K6MHD, Irene Broden, April Moell WA6OPS, Joe Moell K0OV, John Mock K6AHY, Lois Mock, Bart Pulverman WB6WUW, Carren Pulverman.

IT'S TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It’s nearly the first of the year, and time to renew your club membership. The renewal / new member form is attached, below. Mail to the PO Box as listed.

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.