



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

January 2024

President's Column

To quote Yogi Berra, "It's like déjà vu all over again." Once again, I find myself your ~~reluctant~~ enthusiastic leader for the next year. On behalf of the entire club, I'd like to thank Larry McDavid for serving as Fullerton Radio Club President for the past year.

While I continue to value and enjoy our weekly Zoom interactions, I'd like to see if we can introduce some additional activities this year in addition to our Antennas in the Park and Field Day efforts. I need your help in determining what shape those activities might take, but I have a few ideas. Throughout this last year, I've had some interesting conversations with club members exploring new (to me at least) modes. Dick Palmer and John Mock have collaborated in getting WSJT-X and Digirig running on several combinations of radios and computers. At the Holiday Dinner, Rich Belansky and I discovered that we have some common interests around Software Defined Radios (SDRs) and digital modes. I'd like to find ways to spread (share) these conversations more widely among club members. A couple of members recently suggested that we bring back the weekly net. Maybe there is a way to do this while giving us an opportunity to expand the scope of the net beyond 2 meter FM.

Many years ago, I used to attend meetings of the North Orange County Computer Club. (As it turns out, Larry McDavid was a founding member, although we did not know each other back then.) One aspect of the structure of that club (the way the meetings were organized) that I liked was this: In the morning, there were multiple small group meetings held in classrooms and organized around narrow topics, such as operating systems, programming, spreadsheets, database programs and so on. They called these special interest groups (or SIGS for short). After lunch, all the club participants convened in the large auditorium for the main meeting, usually consisting of a general interest presentation.

I'd like to try forming some SIGs around topics that are of interest to some of our members. I would propose that we meet (online, in person, or a combination of both) and choose a mutually convenient time and day for these smaller meetings. It would be my hope that a SIG could explore a topic and then report back to the entire club at a regular meeting. I'll need your help in forming a plan to try this idea out.

Let's start a conversation about how this might work.

Fullerton Radio Club
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JANUARY 2024 FRC BOARD MEETING

The January 2024 FRC board meeting was called to order at 5:30PM on Wednesday, January 3 by our newly elected President Bob Houghton AD6QF. All the board members were present.

The December board meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- The bank balance indicates \$6503.34 as of the December bank statement.
- New deposits of \$325 were made from membership renewals.
- * New expenditures include \$96 to Bob Houghton for reimbursement of his payment of website renewal, and \$166 to Gene Thorpe for renewal of the PO box.

Membership:

Bob's records show 21 members have paid their renewal dues for 2024, plus we have one life member. There are no recorded new members. Two renewals have been received that are not yet deposited in the bank.

Old Business:

- We had 21 members and guests at the December holiday dinner meeting.
- Bob Houghton will take over duties as *Smoke Signals* editor.

New Business:

- A proposal has been made to restart the club on-the-air net. We will explore options for doing this differently than the old roll call-check in method. A goal is to make the net interesting with new ideas. Board members are encouraged to listen to other nets and determine suggestions for conductance of the net if it is restarted. The weekly Zoom meeting will remain in effect, with emphasis on the third week meeting as usual.
- Another proposal was to form a few Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Ideas and topics are solicited from any member. To be discussed at a future board meeting. Ideas discussed so far include SDR, Winlink, Digital Radio.
- Bob will submit the required annual IRS form 990N and State FTB form 199N.

There being no further business for discussion the meeting was adjourned at 5:55PM

Submitted by Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD

Smoke Signals has a new editor

After serving for more than 20 years, Paul Broden has decided to retire as editor of *Smoke Signals*. I, along with all the club members, would like to thank Paul for all of the time he has donated to the club in this capacity. As Paul has often reminded us, *Smoke Signals* is our newsletter, and can only be as good as the content that is submitted by club members.