



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

February 2026

President's Report

I'm finishing writing this from Chino Hills State Park where I'm making a second try at activating on POTA. I'm reminded often of the 1785 Robert Burns poem "To A Mouse" where he wisely states "The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley". That last phrase translates to "often go awry". At the time Burns wrote this poem, the world wouldn't know about radio transmissions for another 110 years, but he might as well have been prophesying to the preparedness needed for radio field work. What makes all of this fun? The beauty around me, the camaraderie, problem solving, and (hopefully) doing better next time.

I'm pleased with the turnouts for our Tuesday night Ham Basics sessions where 10-12 club members are getting together weekly both to help and to learn. Our goal is for everyone to be confident on the air. Thanks to the experienced Elmers in our group and the members for joining in. Want details on this? Drop Bob Houghton, AD6QF an email at ad6qf@arrl.org for more information.

One of our members, Harish Patel, took Ham Basics to heart a couple weekends ago when three of us went to visit another club at a park in Claremont. We were interested to see their version of FRC's "Hillcrest Park Saturdays". We got there a little before the other club and Harish quickly setup an antenna and radio for some 20m practice. No sooner did he get on the air did he run into an operator looking to activate a park on POTA. Score one for a hunter QSO for KO6FJT! He also ran into a net in Oklahoma and reported in as a visitor. Between setup and contacts, he did this within 15 minutes!

Our Wednesday night check-ins and Zoom meetings, plus second Saturdays at Hillcrest are great ways to join in and get on the air.

Not a member yet? Join us at <https://fullertonradioclub.org/> where we have a membership/renewal form and a calendar of upcoming events. We hope to see you at one of them soon!

A (tiny) new favorite

by Bob Houghton AD6QF

Sometimes, it isn't the newest or fanciest radio that catches one's attention. At the January TAG meeting, Larry McDavid had brought a collection of radio-related give-away items that he no longer wanted. Among this collection of "stuff" was a tiny Alinco DJ-S11 2 meter handheld transceiver. My wife and I regularly walk the trails near our house, and are often within a couple of miles of the K6QEH repeater. A tiny radio like this is quite handy as it will unobtrusively slip into a shirt pocket.

When I first got the radio home and installed 3 AA cells, I was disappointed that it did not power up. Oh well, it was free and it *is* over 25 years old! A few days later, I decided to take it apart and discovered a small patch of corrosion on the circuit board that was causing a poor connection. Fifteen minutes with a bottle of alcohol (for the radio, not me), a pencil eraser, and some deoxit and Voila! the radio came to life.

With a power output of 340 mW, and a tiny folding antenna, it won't reach many repeaters, but it is great for my K6QEH neighborhood use case. As the YouTube Preppers like to say, this is now my EDC (every-day carry).

It is strangely sad to me that tiny "niche" radios like the DJ-S11 and Yaesu VX-3r are no longer manufactured. Who recalls the Alinco

"credit card" sized transceivers?



Fullerton Radio Club
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FRC February 4, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

The monthly FRC Board Meeting was called to order by President Ray Rounds K6RAX at 5:31pm on Wednesday, February 4 2026 via Zoom.

Board Members Present: Ray Rounds K6RAX, Bob Houghton AD6QF, Ted Schulman KO6FKX, Walter Clark, Larry McDavid W6FUB, and Bart Pulverman WB6WUW

Board Members Absent: Gene Thorpe KB6CMO and Robert Gimbal KG6WTQ

The January Board Meeting Minutes were approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report:

- New deposits: \$130.00 plus \$0.02 interest
- New expenditures: \$159.90 (Annual Zoom renewal), \$200.00 (ARRL Insurance renewal)
- Bank balance: \$5,888.05 as of January 31 bank statement.

Membership:

- New members: 2
- Renewals: 8
- Club records show 33 paid members plus 1 life member = 34 members as of 2/4/26.

Old Business:

- Ray covered the recent Ham Basics Learning classes on Tuesdays at 7pm as well as activities on January 10th at Hillcrest Park and Winter Field Day on January 24. All were well attended.

New Business:

- Two items covering FRC's Zoom renewal and ARRL insurance were approved for a total of \$359.90 to be reimbursed to Bob this month.
- Walter discussed the TAG group and that he didn't believe there was a need to expand membership in any particular way. Bart brought up an idea to use Zoom to allow remote participants at the tag meeting. After some discussion, Ray requested this be raised at the next TAG meeting and then the Board may be updated.
- Ray mentioned that he has appointed Bob as Membership Chairman, this role more clearly follows the process balancing renewals and membership funds against the membership roster. Ray thanked Larry for his assistance in continuing to maintain the rosters using Bob's tracking.
- Bob reminded the group to shred or delete old rosters when a replacement roster set is distributed due to sensitive information being contained in them.
- Bob also reviewed documents which each Board member should have a copy of, including: the 1950 Articles of Incorporation, California Statement of Information form, FRC by-Laws, and the rosters. This provides a distributed backup of documents in the event they are required. Bob will check to see if Paul Broden K6MHD or Gene have the original articles of incorporation.
- Ray mentioned the upcoming Saturday in the Park on 2/14/26 and asked for any ideas on a topic for that meet up.

There were no further items brought forward and the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Submitted by Ted Schulman KO6FKX, Secretary

