



Smoke Signals

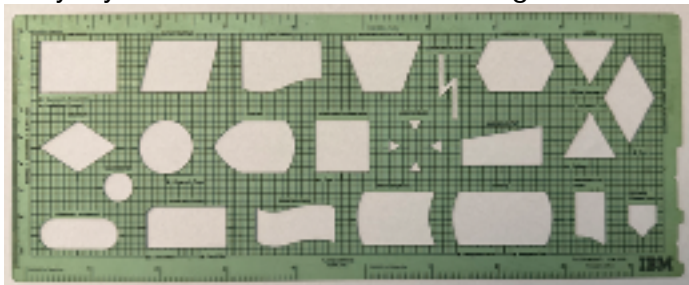
Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

September 2026

President's Report

Templates for Learning

Here's a photo of an IBM GX-20-8020-2 flow charting template from my drafting and systems design days. I've been the original owner since the late 1970's and the only other exact model of it is in the Smithsonian's American History Museum's collection. I used this in school as well as several jobs over my career. The instructions reference the classics like punch tape and cards and also "Information display by online indicators, video devices, console printers, plotters, etc." Once Visio (later, Microsoft Visio) came around, I admit I used the template less and less. Somehow, the template was always there in a drawer of odd scales, triangles, rulers and such. Both my father and grandfather were draftsmen and artists, so that's likely my attachment to this sort of thing.



Given our club's demographics, I'm sure many club members still have templates similar to this for electrical engineering or other design work in your tool collections. Templates are a handy timesaver and I picked mine up figuring it would be a good starting point for sketching out ideas and working through class assignments. Using the template as a guide, it helped build foundational thinking skills, all I had to do was use good logical thinking and the right shapes. At a recent TAG meeting, I was reminded of high school vocational clubs that helped me grow early skills and allow competition with other schools in various trades like electronics, auto shop, drafting and so on. Today, amateur radio clubs around the world continue to further skills, do competitions, and mentor others.

Speaking of all this, Fullerton Radio Club's Ham Basics class returns this fall to provide foundational skills, and as we saw earlier this year, will continue to cover a myriad of subjects and skill sets. Bob

Houghton and I are excited to bring these back into the club schedule. It is a great time to share your knowledge as well - and if not there, then how about in this newsletter as an article, as well?

We will also continue with our second Saturdays of the month at Hillcrest Park with more on antennas with inverted-V antenna exercises in October and a group Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) exercise planned for November. Come and learn with us!

Our weekly nets on Wednesday nights can help keep you and your gear ready and tested. We do two versions each Wednesday, one on the repeater and one using another band or mode. Watch for the announcement each week and see if you can join us on one or both check-ins. We intentionally change things around to keep us all on our toes. All of this, plus we enjoy hearing from everyone!

Finally, there's always something new at our Technical Activity Group (or, TAG, aka *Talkative Aging Guys*) the second Wednesday each month at Walter Clark's home in Fullerton. Ask for directions if you'd like to come join the group. See the minutes from the August issue later in this newsletter.

Oh, and I should mention the Smithsonian isn't exhibiting *their template* at this time, so if you want to see it, mine's available for viewing. Maybe I'll bring it to an upcoming TAG meeting.

Hope to see you soon or hear you on the air!

73,

Ray Rounds, K6RAX
President

Annual Board Nominations

Fullerton Radio Club's annual Board nominations are coming up in October. We have an opening for Secretary requiring one 30 minute Zoom meeting per month on the first Wednesday of each month. Please reach out to Ray Rounds or Bob Houghton if you are interested in this important role.

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

Board of Directors

President

Ray Rounds K6RAX

Vice President

Bob Houghton AD6QF

Secretary

Ted Schulman KO6FKX

Treasurer

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO

Members At Large

Walter Clark

Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ

Larry McDavid W6FUB

Bart Pulverman WB6WUW

Volunteers

Membership

Bob Houghton AD6QF

T-Hunt

Joe Moell, K0OV

<http://www.homingin.com>

Email: homingin@aol.com

W6ULI License Trustee

Albert Solomon, AG6OF

Newsletter Editor

Bob Houghton, AD6QF

Groups.io List Manager

Larry McDavid, W6FUB

Club Contact email: AD6QF@ARRL.ORG

FRC September 2, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

The monthly FRC Board Meeting was called to order by President Ray Rounds K6RAX at 5:31 pm on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 via Zoom.

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

Board Members Absent: Gene Thorpe KB6CMO (excused) and Robert Gimbal KG6WTQ

The August Board Meeting Minutes were approved by consensus without corrections.

Treasurer's Report:

Ray updated the group on the Treasurer's report:

- We had new deposits of \$20 (Ed Roth K0NW) plus \$0.02 interest
- There were no new expenditures during the month
- August 31 bank state balance was \$5,543.57

Membership:

Bob updated the group on the Membership report:

- One new member: Ed Roth, K0NW and no renewals
- Bob's records show 37 paid members plus 1 life member = 38 members as of 8/31/26

Old Business:

- There was no old business carried over from the prior month.

New Business:

Ray updated the group on the new business items:

- The radio equipment survey will be finalized and out to members in September. this is to help plan training, exercises and discussions for the club.
- There will be no Hillcrest Park meetup in September. Instead we go to Maker Faire OC, Costa Mesa. Details will be out to the group by the coming weekend.
- Reviewed the Nominating Committee process and the timeline. All in attendance offered to serve in the coming year except for Ted Schulman who opted not to serve. It is not yet determined whether Gene Thorpe will serve in 2027 (Bob and Ray to meet and discuss with Gene). For these reasons, Ray appointed Bob to the Nominating Committee with him and no others offered to join.
- Reminded everyone that the next Board meeting is on October 7, 2026, 5:30 PM via Zoom

There were no further items brought forward and the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 PM.

Submitted by Ted Schulman KO6FKX

Want to join or renew?



OR:

Go to fullertonradioclub.org
and click on Join/Renew

FRC Foxhunter Wins Medals in Oregon

By Joe Moell K0OV

Every spring at Hillcrest Park, the Fullerton Radio Club's Antennas-In-The-Park gathering and barbecue includes an on-foot radio direction finding contest called a "foxhunt." For most of the participants, it's just a walk up and down the hills with a directional antenna and radio, looking for the beeping transmitters. But for some, it's important practice for their next international competition.

In forests around the country, USA's annual championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) bring together the most serious and intrepid fans of the sport. On August 12, thirty of them gathered in a big forest near Portland, Oregon for four days of competition.

It could be said that the Portland area is the cradle of ARDF in the USA. In 1991, the Friendship Radiosport Games hosted our country's first international-rules on-foot transmitter hunt. Visiting enthusiasts from Russia and Japan came to Forest Park in the City of Roses to compete against the Northwest ELT Team and some southern California transmitter hunters on two-meter FM. Then in 1999, the first Region 2 ARDF Championships of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) took place in forests near Portland. Those classic foxhunts on two meters and 80 meters drew competitors from all over the USA and six foreign countries.

Our Hillcrest Park hunts use the same transmitting format as classic ARDF championship hunts, as promulgated by IARU. There are five same-frequency transmitters within the park, each on the air for sixty seconds in numerical sequence. Hunters on the course need to keep mental track of the bearings to each fox transmitter as they move because when one unkeys, it won't be heard again for four minutes. Hunters are individually timed and scoring is determined first by number of foxes found and second by elapsed time.

Comparing our Hillcrest foxhunt to the national and international championships is a bit like comparing a miniature golf game to the PGA tournament. The

goal of finding all transmitters in the shortest time is the same, but 40-acre Hillcrest Park is tiny compared to the typical 1000-acre forests where championships take place. Just before each hunt, championship foxhunters get an orienteering map of the venue. Start and finish locations (usually not the same place) are marked on the map as well as elevation contours and colors representing types of vegetation, but nothing else.

Hunters are divided into twelve categories by age and gender. They are individually timed and start at five-minute intervals to prevent a follow-the-leader situation. Course lengths are measured by a direct path from the start to each of the five transmitters in optimum sequence and then to the finish. A typical 5-fox Hillcrest course measures about one kilometer. Of course nobody is able to go by a direct path, so the actual distances traveled are considerably longer.

In addition to the two classic courses (two meter AM and 80-meter CW), championships include a sprint contest on 80 meters with a shortened 10-fox course and 12-second transmissions. There is also a foxoring contest on 80 meters in which the competitors use orienteering maps to navigate to within 100 meters of each of twelve QRP transmitters, then use direction-finding to close in.

Regular participants in our Hillcrest foxhunts include Bill Wright WB6CMD of Winchester, Scott Moore KF6IKO of Santa Barbara and Michael Hart KC6MEH of Chatsworth. All three traveled to Oregon for this year's USA and IARU Region 2 Championships, which came very close to being cancelled. The organizers had arranged for the four events to take place in four well-mapped forest sites in the shadow of Mt. Hood, but in early August, wildfires broke out all over the state.

The Grasshopper Fire northeast of Mt. Hood ignited almost 100,000 acres. The resulting smoke and congestion made all of the planned sites except Skyline Sno-Park unusable or inaccessible. The Forest Service gave permission to move all of the ARDF events to Skyline. Course designers managed to shoehorn them all onto that map, with just a small reduction in course lengths.

Bill, Scott and Michael competed against each other in the M60 category for men ages 60 to 69.

Afterward, it was Bill who stood on the winners' podium. He finished second among USA's M60 competitors in the two-meter classic (course length 3.9 km), 80-meter classic (3.75 km) and sprint (1.6 km) events. He was third in foxoring (5.5 km).

There is a detailed report on these championships with a link to complete results at www.homingin.com. That Homing In site also has photos and stories of FRC's Antennas-In-The-Park foxhunts and more information about championship ARDF. Next year's USA championships are being planned for locations in the mountains of New Mexico.

Try foxhunting at Hillcrest Park next spring and you might decide that championship ARDF is for you.



Carrying a small 80-meter ARDF receiver/antenna set, Bill Wright WB6CMD approaches the finish line on the first day of competition at the 2026 USA ARDF Championships in Oregon.

Maker Faire OC Field Trip

On Saturday, June 12, six FRC members met at Maker Faire OC and visited the various exhibits and demonstrations at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa. There were “Makers” showing their 3D printing, robotics, drones, Legos, school tech clubs, even ham radio and more. A very interesting time was had by all. Wayne Yoshida KH6WZ, known to several club members, hosted a display entitled *Not Your Grandpa's Ham Radio*. A few “ham celebrities” including YouTuber Josh Nass KI6NAZ and Gordon West WB6NOA were present.

