



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

October 2026

President's Report

Radios can be quite useful in everyday life. From amateur radio club communications to simple family radio walkie talkies, they keep us in touch in many different environments. My wife and I have a travel trailer and we found family radios convenient to use when navigating into a back-in-only campsite and also when we are out walking with the dogs. On our way up to Yosemite via Lee Vining and the Tioga Pass, I thought about the lack of cell service and was going to follow my wife and her sister pulling a trailer ahead of me in my pick up truck. I brought my two GMRS radios to use figuring the 5W transmitting power might be better than the half watt walkie-talkies we had stowed away somewhere.

We set a primary and secondary channel to use preprogrammed into the radios and tested them ahead of time. During the drive up the mountain we had them turned on and every so often we'd hear a crackle of conversation here and there, but nothing intelligible. We arrived at a point where road maintenance was going on. I could hear a little more of the partial conversions. We waited our turn for a flagman to let our group go on up the hill with me at the end of the line and my wife ahead of me. As traffic started to move and I passed the flag man, I heard on my handheld "The last car is a dark Toyota Tacoma with an antenna on top". Someone up the road answered with a "roger that". I never considered I'd be the subject of conversation, much less be monitoring the open frequency the road team was using.

Here's the moment recreated with AI:



New Member Update

We welcome Nathan Lee K06PFX to Fullerton Radio Club. Nathan holds a new Technician License and is an electrical engineering student at Cal Poly Pomona.

Upcoming Hillcrest Activities

Over October and November, we will focus on antennas at Hillcrest Park for the monthly second Saturday exercises, with the goal of an NVIS exercise between two teams in November. This should be a good learning experience for anyone interested in the subject.

Ham Basics - Coming Soon!

We are working out topics and scheduling for our Ham Basics classes which have been on hiatus for the summer months. Have an idea for a topic or want more information on an amateur radio skill? Let me know via k6rax@arrl.net.

Fullerton Radio Club
On the Air from Southern California

Board of Directors

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Ray Rounds, K6RAX

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Bob Houghton, AD6QF

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Ted Schulman, KO6FKX

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Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ

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T-Hunt

Joe Moell, K0OV

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Email: homingin@aol.com

W6ULI License Trustee

Albert Solomon, AG6OF

Newsletter Editor

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City of Fullerton Liaison

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO

Groups.io List Manager

Larry McDavid, W6FUB

Club Contact email: AD6QF@ARRL.ORG

FRC October 7, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

The monthly FRC Board Meeting was called to order by President Ray Rounds K6RAX at 5:31 PM on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 via Zoom.

Board Members Present: Ray Rounds K6RAX, Bob Houghton AD6QF, Ted Schulman KO6FKX, Walter Clark, Larry McDavid W6FUB, Bart Pulverman WB6WUW, Robert Gimbal KG6WTQ

Board Members Absent: Gene Thorpe KB6CMO (excused)

The September Board Meeting Minutes were approved by consensus without correction.

Treasurer's Report:

Bob updated the group on the Treasurer's report:

- There were new deposits of \$10 (Nathan Lee, KO6PFX) plus \$0.02 interest
- New expenditures: None
- Upcoming expenditures: Web site renewal \$156 for two years, \$20 for updating California Statement of Information. Bob will request payment after each item has been processed.
- Bank balance: \$5,553.59 as of September 30 bank statement.

Membership:

Bob updated the group on the Membership report:

- We have a new member: Nathan Lee, KO6PFX, a sophomore at Cal Poly Pomona.
- There were no renewals.
- Bob's records show 38 paid members plus 1 life member = 39 members as of 9/30/26

Old Business:

Ray updated the group on Old Business:

- He mentioned the radio equipment survey had been sent and that ten had responded so far. Will cut off the survey after providing another few weeks for members to complete it. Ray mentioned he may use Gemini or another AI to mine the data, Ted brought up privacy and Ray briefly reminded him what was being stored, acknowledged Ted's observation, and then the subject was discussed further.
- The bank account vesting changes were completed on September 24 without issue. The special meeting minutes were attached and will be summarized in the newsletter. Ray thanked the Board for their participation in the special meeting and also reminded the Board regarding the confidential nature of this information.

New Business:

Ray updated the group on the new business items:

As of 10/1/26, the Nominating Committee Slate of candidates for November elections are:

- Ray Rounds, President (second term)
- Bob Houghton, Vice-President
- Larry McDavid, Treasurer
- Secretary - Open Position
- Robert Gimbel, Member At Large
- Walter Clark, Member At Large
- Bart Pulverman, Member At Large

Ray discussed the open Secretary position and asked the Board for suggestions on possible candidates; none were offered for discussion. The subject of the updated California Statement of Information (SOI) filing was discussed and we will hold off until after the elections and mailing address changes before doing that. It was mentioned that another local club has a combined officer position of Treasurer/Secretary. This would likely make sense and will be discussed as a potential by-law change in the future.

Ray also mentioned closing the post office box in October. The new mailing address is being used on the membership/renewal forms and we will ask for the PO Box to forward information to the President's home address. This will be the address used on the SOI each year. Bob also reminded the group that we typically send out the membership/renewal forms ahead of the December holiday gathering where most members bring their renewal checks.

Ray reminded the group about the upcoming Hillcrest Park meet-up on October 10.

The next Board meeting will be November 4, 2026, 5:30 PM via Zoom

There were no further items brought forward and the meeting was adjourned after a motion from Bob and seconded by Bart, at 5:56 PM.

Submitted by Ted Schulman KO6FKX

Want to join or renew?



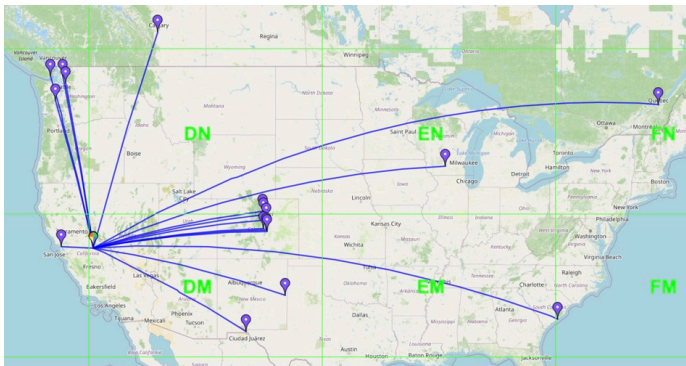
OR:

Go to fullertonradioclub.org
and click on Join/Renew

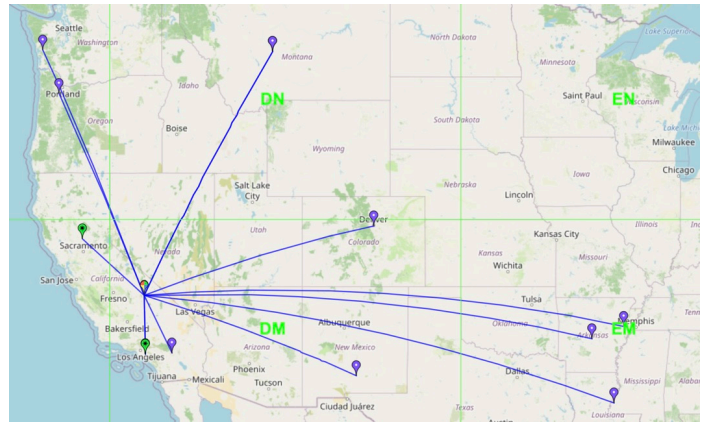
POTA Report

Ray Rounds, K6RAX

In September, I had two POTA activations; one at Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park from the campground we stayed at. I used a 17' whip on 20 and 40 meters with limited SSB action going on so moved to FT-8 and picked up much more mid-day traffic above the noise level, completing the activation with 17 QSO's. Here's a map of the QSO locations and my campsite (note the brown bear box in the background):



I also activated Alabama Hills Scenic National Recreation Area near Lone Pine, CA. This was done with a 20m EFHW (end-fed half wave) wire elevated to about 35 feet at the far end and about five or six feet at the feed point end. I spent three hours at the park in a day-use pull-out area using 40m and 20m. Three contacts were on 40m (thanks, Bob and Joe!) and 10 on 20m. Here is that map and a view of the park.



Next up will be Carlsbad State Beach in mid-October.

FRC Holiday Dinner - Save the Date!

Come and celebrate the season with your FRC Friends and Family. Wednesday December 16 at 5:30 pm. Sizzler 1401 North Harbor Blvd. Fullerton

EmComm Jamboree Field Trip

Ray Rounds, K6RAX

In late September, Jesse James, Bob Houghton and I went an emcomm event at the Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy in Tustin. The event was broken up into two parts, a speakers' area and displays by operators of their radio setups.

The speakers covered a wide variety of topics, including Starlink for emergency services, using POTA techniques for EmComm (quick setup, take down), "go kits" for Winlink and filing reports via Winlink forms, a presentation on ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) and deployments, and the BEACON 2027 emergency exercise scheduled for April 2027. There was much good information covered in each 15 minute speaker's slot.

There were a dozen or more vehicles with radio setups on display, each showing radios, communications nodes, antennas and go-box deployments. All presenters were there to share about what they do with their organization.

I appreciated the volunteers who put this together and the speakers and presenters who took time to educate. Here are a few photos of the event.



Hillcrest Report

Bob Houghton, AD6QF

On Saturday October 10, nine FRC members met at Hillcrest Park for an NVIS (Near-Vertical-Incident-Skywave) test. The goal was to find antenna configurations that produced patterns which optimized reception in an approximately 200 mile radius.

Four 40 meter dipoles of various configurations were set-up and systematically tested. Each antenna was connected, in turn, to the same transmitter using WSJT-X to transmit FT8.

Three of the antennas were tested at two different heights for a total of seven transmissions.

The propagation was tracked using PSK Reporter and maps showing the locations at which signals from each test were received were captured.

The results indicated that for the antennas that were tested at two heights, the lower of the two positions were better received within the 200 mile zone.

On Saturday, November 14, We will send a team into the field to test QSOs using NVIS propagation.

Winlink Forms

Ray Rounds, K6RAX

Many have likely heard about a program called Winlink, which allows email between call signs and/or email addresses over radio frequency transmissions using different modulation modes. Usually these simple messages are sent over UHF/VHF packet radio or HF modes like ARDOP, VARA, PACTOR and others.

What happens when the data in messages need to be formatted? Imagine a situation where certain data related to an event (weather, a disaster, and so on) needs to be sent and used by someone else? We can't rely on a line-by-line entry of data in an email to be suitable for import into some data collection process after we've sent it.

Enter: **Winlink Forms**! These are standardized forms, similar to a fillable PDF document, that

are built into Winlink. Operators can choose from a library of templates such as a weather report, situation report, resource request, welfare message, or ICS emergency-management forms. Winlink converts the information into a compact message for transmission.

Forms are especially useful during emergency communications because they help ensure that important details are collected consistently, reduce typing errors, and making messages easier for served agencies and other operators to interpret.

If you participate in Winlink Wednesdays, you'll see that an ICS-213 (General Message) form is an option for checking in. Here's an example form. See <https://winlinkwednesday.net> for more details on their weekly check-ins. Watch for a Winlink exercise soon during our Wednesday evening dual mode net as well.

General Message (ICS 213)			
Load ICS213 INITIAL Data		Form Instructions	
1. Incident Name: Winlink Wednesday			
2. To (Name/Position): Net Control			
3. From (Name/Position): KW6GB, Net Participant			
4. Subject: Winlink Wednesday Check-in		5. Date: 2021-10-27	6. Time: 23:23
7. Message: KW6GB, Greg, Front Royal, Warren, VA (HF)			
8. Approved by: G. Butler		Position / Title: Net Participant	
Save ICS213 INITIAL Data		Submit	Reset Form
			Ver 41.11