



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

July 2005

President's Corner

Hello all and welcome to July.

I hope you were able to spend the celebration of our country's 229th birthday with those you love... and if not, then at least those you can tolerate. Just kidding. I hope you took the time to really think about what signing that document so long ago meant not only to the people of the original 13 colonies, but also to the world as a whole since then.

For all the things America has done right and wrong, we are still the beacon of freedom to those whose homelands don't provide the security and liberties we do. And obviously there are those who continue to try and scare us and our supporters out of promoting this type of freedom for all on this planet. Please keep the people of London, Afghanistan and Iraq in your prayers as they fight against the persecutors of this dream.

First, I want to send my utmost thanks and appreciation to Bill (W6ZJE), our Vice-President. As a President, I couldn't ask for a more wonderful, entertaining and amazing Vice. He has stepped up many times over the past few months, and I don't want his efforts to go unnoticed. My unending thanks to you Bill.

The website is up and running again after a server switch. With the new server, we can offer the paying members with a new feature. Club email addresses. If you have a constantly changing email address, you can now have a Fullerton Radio Club email address. This can be your "permanent" email address, and can forward to your ISP. Just think... no more having to notify everyone when you change from AOL to Earthlink to SBC.

When everything is set up, we will post this information on the website. This will be for paying members only. In family memberships we will make the email address available to all persons named on the membership/dues statement.

Field Day has come and gone. I am so pleased we were still able to participate as two of our Board members had invasive procedures in the weeks preceding this event. We thank God that both of them are back in full health and raring to go. I also send thanks to those who took the time to help operate during Field Day. The results of Field Day will be available shortly, and we will post them on the website.

Our next event is the Orange County Fair. Our club is sponsoring the booth on July 27, 2005. We will need people to help out. The open slots are on the website under "Events Sign Up". We need people to answer questions, help kids send their names "CW", and promote Amateur Radio as a whole. Each shift is 3 hours. Your Treasurer Phil (WA6HOO) and I will be there all day and look forward to seeing you.

The benefit for those who do take a shift is: 1) **Free Admission to the Fair**. Before or after your shift you are free to experience the fair, and 2) **Free parking**. So look online at www.fullertonradioclub.org to see what shifts are available and sign up by emailing me at president@fullertonradioclub.org. I will schedule on a first-come basis, but if a conflict arises, I will contact the individuals and see if another time is acceptable.

A quick note: Disney Emergency Amateur Radio Service (DEARS) will be sponsoring a Special Event Station at Disneyland for the 50th Anniversary, on July 17. If you are in the park, stop by the second deck of Innoventions and say hi. If you are choosing to stay in a more sane location, check the July QST and CW magazines for frequencies.

Finally, the Treasurer, Phil, and I have informed the Board that we will not seek re-election next year. Phil is going to be working with the Whittier American Red Cross on re-organizing and coordinating their emergency radio operations, as well as creating an Emergency Amateur response system for LAX. I will be dedicating all my time to finishing my Bachelors, working on my Commission in the United States Navy Reserve, my flying career, and when not in the air, serving at my church.

This means a few things. First, we need our members to begin thinking about stepping up to fill these positions. Phil has taken our finances and incorporated them into Quicken. The transition would be virtually painless. Also, the current Board is filled with wonderful people who care about our club. They are a blessing to work with.

Second, Phil and I will also be unable to continue as Snack Coordinators, so someone needs to take this position under consideration. If you want to be popular with the club, the Snack Coordinator is the position.

During the remaining term, I will have some ideas that I hope we can do as a club, and I will bring these forth as the months proceed.

Until then, please take care. See you at the monthly meeting.

Karen Goodman (KG6USN)

July MEETING

History of Radio Station KFI, presented by Dino Darling, K6RIX

Wednesday, July 20, at the Fullerton Senior center, 340 W. Commonwealth

Third time's the charm – This time everything has been coordinated and the program will go on.

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Subject: Mount Pinos ARDF Saturday July 16

The last in a series of local events leading up to the USA ARDF Championships takes place on July 16 at Mt. Pinos in the Los Padres National Forest. It is open to anyone of any age, with or without a ham radio license.

This ARDF course will be "advanced" level, about the same length as typical national championship courses, with five two-meter transmitters. Although it is intended as training for experienced radio-orientees, it can be completed by newcomers who are capable of walking or running at high elevation for at least 5 kilometers. There will not be any short-range "beginner" transmitters, nor any 80-meter transmitters. Course-setter Marvin Johnston KE6HTS will be on hand to teach the basic techniques of on-foot direction-finding.

Mount Pinos terrain is mostly runnable forest. The air is clear, and there is no poison oak. Be sure to bring your own water. Scoring will be electronic. If you have an "e-stick," be sure to bring it. There will be a \$5 per person charge for the use of Los Angeles Orineteering Club's equipment.

Please be on time for this event. The radio-O group will meet at the McGill Campground day-use parking lot at 10:30 and carpool to the starting point at or near the Nordic Center (8300' elevation) three miles beyond the campground. We'll try to monitor 146.52 MHz simplex for ham operators, but may not be able to hear you if you're not close by.

Directions: Take Frazier Park exit and go west on Frazier Mountain Park Road. Continue 8 miles, passing Frazier Park and Lockwood Valley Road (which is your last chance for supplies and water). Four miles beyond the Lockwood Valley turnoff, stay left at the fork onto Mt Pinos Road. (If you reach Pine Mountain Club, turn around.) Go another five climbing, winding, miles to McGill Camp on your right. As you enter the campground, the day parking lot is on your right just before the road goes out to the campsites.

Overnight camping is available for \$12 per campsite on a first-come-first-served basis at McGill Campground. The campground is dry, so bring your own water.

As of June 2005, USFS Adventure Passes are no longer required at Mt. Pinos in the summer months.

Questions? Send e-mail to marvin@rain.org

73,
Joe Moell K0OV
www.homingin.com

FRC T-Hunt for Smoke Sigs

The June 18th Fullerton Radio Club T-Hunt was put on by Leonard Santos KG6RQQ, and Steve Wallis WA6PYE. Their one-watt transmitter and quarter-wave magmount were in Newport Beach at the east end of Beacon Bay, south of Harbor Island Drive and north of Balboa island. There are lots of roads but few bridges there.

Team	Corrected
<u>Calls</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
K6SNE/N6UZS	26.24
N6AIN	30.33
KF6GQ	27.30
K0OV	Unofficial
N6MJN	Unofficial



1. Cheryl KE6TZU & Manuel AE6SG



2. Bill's magic antenna tuner



3. Dead Power Supply



4. Fried diodes and resistors

“Murphy” operates W6ULI at Field Day.

As we all know, Murphy's Law prevails when we least expect it to do so. Such was the event at Field Day. Your Board planned ahead, or so we thought, and had the portable power generators refurbished so we wouldn't have the problems encountered in past years with units that were nearly impossible to start.

All went well as we raised the antennas, set up tables and equipment, stretched coax and power lines, and prepared to tune-up. Then we fired up the generators and Murphy took over as chief operator. When we began to tune up for 40 meters our results sounded like rapid gunfire. You've all heard the term 'tune for maximum smoke,' well smoke was certainly prevalent. The line of diodes and resistors on the input side of the power supply all exploded (see photo #4). None of us brilliant HAMS thought to check output voltage from the newly repaired generators. It appears that the output was unregulated, and 163 volts was just a tad too much input for the Samlex SEC 1223 switching supply. A lesson learned – the hard way! Interestingly, Bill Kohlenberger's Astron power supply survived the surge.

On another note, Photo #2 is really breadboard stuff. This shows Bill's home-brew antenna tuner that may look a bit crude, but really worked well with all antennas and transmitters to which it was connected. Beauty is only skin deep (but ugly goes clear to the bone).

Get those champagne bottles ready.

This week as most of you know Jack Gerritsen, who called himself KG6IRO, has been on trial for threatening the life of someone on a local repeater.

Back up to 27-April-2005, Gerritsen said on the air, "You jerks are all losers and I'm the winner". At 6 A.M. on 5-May he got an invite he couldn't refuse to ride in an FBI supplied car. - Prize number 1. This was followed by bail to the tune of \$250,000.00 cash, requiring him to put his house up and still borrow several 10's of thousands of dollars, this is Prize #2.

Those prizes were for Jamming an Army Mars frequency.

Also in April he made the threat which resulted in his State trial this week. Today he was convicted, remanded to custody and presented with his third prize, a guilty verdict and his 4th prize \$100,000 bail.

His next prize comes the morning of July 13, 2005 when he gets sentenced. In his future are two more potential prizes, conviction on the Federal charge and a nice long sentence in the Federal slammer.

Four out of six prizes isn't bad for a start, Yep he is the winner :)

How did he get so lucky ?

Well the person he threatened has a special needs daughter,

On the second threat he indicated he was on the way over and asked if the daughter was home.

The Jury was mostly Female.

I'm sure they could picture the significance of the threats.

The special needs daughter didn't hurt here either.

He made obscene sexual remarks on the repeater regarding activities people should carry out with their mothers. These were quoted verbatim in court, much to the shock of the ladies on the Jury.

His defense:

I was only retaliating in kind when people threatened me,

People threaten each other all the time on amateur radio.

Repeaters are really chat rooms where freedom of speech prevails and he was exercising his freedom of speech.

Army MARS frequencies are really chat rooms for amateurs in the Military, and no different than other amateur frequencies,

He gets another chance to explain this one to the Feds in October, he just won a postponement of that trial.

The Coast Guard jamming incident was fake, there was no vessel in distress.

(Well at least the Coast Guard guys got to go flying down to Mexico instead of working :) dfw

Finally, the Red Cross activity when there was a fear of Prado Dam breaking was just make believe, "the Red Cross has their own frequencies, they don't need or use amateur frequencies".

Sometimes good things happen to bad people, be glad he is a big winner.

You can help Jack win too. The DA has requested that the courtroom be filled to capacity with Hams for Jack's sentencing hearing on July 13th It will be in the morning but I don't have a time yet.

Location is El Monte Rio Hondo Court House on Valley Blvd in El Monte. I've asked for the correct mailing address.

Courteous letters to the Judge explaining the damage Jack did to our emergency communications capability can help Jack get the big prize he so rightfully deserves. Do Write and attend if at all possible. The DA's request is legitimate and was made to me personally.

I'm told that the DA was quite impressed and fired up by the many hours of recordings of Jack that he was presented with before the trial.

Here is contact info for the Judge:

Hon, Judge Craig Mitchell

Division 4

REF: Case 5R02481 People vs Jack Gerritsen

East District

El Monte Courthouse

11234 E. Valley Blvd.

El Monte, California 91731

Dan Welch - W6DFW

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IBM teams up for broadband over power line

By Marguerite Reardon, CNET News.com
Published on ZDNet News: July 11, 2005, 3:43 PM PT

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IBM is teaming up with CenterPoint Energy to test technology that could turn power lines into a high-speed network capable of delivering Internet access to consumers and providing real-time monitoring of the power grid, the companies said Monday.

IBM will help electric utility operator CenterPoint design, build and manage the new network. CenterPoint has already opened a center at one of its facilities in Houston to test the technology. In June, the utility started a limited pilot program providing broadband over power line, or BPL, service to roughly 220 consumers in the Houston area.

The pilot is expected to be completed in August. CenterPoint will then evaluate the possibility of market deployment. In the pilot program, CenterPoint is seeing download speeds up to two to three times faster than cable Internet service, a company spokeswoman said.

For several years, people have thought that BPL could allow electric companies to become a viable third alternative to the cable and telephone companies providing high-speed access to the Internet. But technical issues have kept the technology from being deployed widely. What's more, critics say turning electric utilities into consumer broadband providers will cost the industry billions of dollars because of the need to upgrade existing electrical grids.

But there has been renewed interest in the technology as companies like Google make significant investments in companies delivering BPL service. Supporters of the technology also say consumer broadband service is only one application that energy companies such as CenterPoint are considering as they look to deploy BPL technology.

"A lot of people have been focusing on BPL as the third competitive leg in the broadband market," said Raymond Blair, vice president for IBM's Broadband Over Powerlines initiatives. "But that is only the tip of the iceberg. The main reason utilities want BPL is to manage their businesses better."

Because BPL essentially turns the electrical grid into an Internet-based network, every device attached to the grid will be able to communicate with other devices on it. This means that BPL technology has the potential to develop a "smart grid," which could allow for such services as automated meter reading, real-time system monitoring, preventive maintenance and diagnostics, outage detection and restoration, as well as other potential applications.

"Today utilities are generally unable to see beyond our substations," said a CenterPoint spokeswoman. "But with BPL we could see the health and status of our network down to the outlet in the home. These smart grid technologies should result in improved system reliability and service for our electric customers."

An Internet-enabled power grid could also have helped prevent the Northeast power blackout in 2003, said IBM's Blair.

"Power companies would have been able to shut down parts of the network," he said. "Or they could have identified a weak transformer and proactively fixed it before it caused the entire blackout."

Club Meeting

Fullerton Senior Center
340 W. Commonwealth Ave.
Fullerton
QSO Time: 7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:30 PM

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

VE Sessions

For Information Contact

Bob Reitzel, KD6DA

(562) 691-1514

Or check the Fullerton Radio Club

Web Site:

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

Next VE Exam: **August 13, 2005**

***Please call one week in advance to
reserve a place***

Monthly Board Meeting

Open to all Members
Marie Callender's Restaurant
126 Yorba Linda Blvd.
Placentia

Next Board Meeting: August 3, 2005

Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM

Meeting: 7:30 PM

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**Orange County Council of Amateur Radio
Organizations (OCCARO) Web Site**

<http://qsl.net.occaro/>

Fullerton Radio Club Web Sites

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/KC6YHM>

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