



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

June 2006

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Wow! It's hard to recognize that summer is here. Although it won't "officially" be summer until June 21, today's weather says it's already upon us. One of the summer's highlights for hams is always Field Day, and it is no different for FRC – FD activities are planned, and our hope is that **you** will be a part of the plan and station operation (see page 3 for further field day information).

Speaking of things coming earlier than expected, I'd like to plant some ideas for the end of this year, specifically related to Club officer selection, which won't occur until October for nominations and November for elections. Why so early? Because the Board would like you to carefully consider the future of the Club, partly by selection of best-choice candidates for office and, most hopefully, that you will be willing and eager to take some of the officer duties. Most officers and board members have served repeatedly over several years, and we believe the Club can benefit by input from many of you who have yet to serve in one of the leadership roles. Don't say no, at least not yet; give it some serious thought; discuss it with others if you need to; then, when the time comes, be ready to say yes when asked if you will run for office. I can tell you in advance that there will be some openings for officers and board members for year 2007!

Hope to see you on Wednesday, June 21 at the Fullerton Senior Center – 7:30 PM – – – AND AT FIELD DAY

73 for now,
Paul Broden, K6MHD
President

HAMS AT ORANGE COUNTY FAIR

This is a reminder that FRC has committed to staff the ham radio booth at the Orange County Fair this year on **Wednesday, July 26, 2006.**

This year, the Fair changed its exhibit operating hours for weekdays (still closed on Mondays) to 12:00 noon to 11:00 PM, so we don't need to staff the booth from 10:00 AM as in the past. The volunteers for the first time slot need to arrive by 11:45 AM, however.

FRC is required to always have at least one person in the booth at all times when the Fair is open on that Wednesday. So, we need to identify the volunteers who

work the Fair this year. We can discuss this at the FRC general meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2006.

The booth will be completely set up and ready to use; you need only turn on the equipment already installed. There will be plenty of excellent radios and antennas. And, there will be new CW keys this year to teach Fair visitors (particularly children) to send their name in Morse code and get a certificate.

The Fair theme this year is, "Flower Power." Each booth also has a theme; the ham radio booth theme is, "Ham Radio is Blooming." Booth volunteers are encouraged to wear colorful shirts, including Hawaiian shirts.

Upon arriving at the booth for volunteer duty, each volunteer is required to complete the "Volunteer Application" form and place it in the designated file folder in the booth. This form must remain in the booth at all times throughout the entire Fair.

Booth volunteers are requested to wear their club badges!

There is an "always on" talk-in or inquiry frequency available. Squawk simplex 144.330 MHz with 173.8 Hz PL.

I now have the free admission tickets and the free parking passes. Parking is very convenient with a free shuttle bus to the lot. I'll distribute these tickets to volunteers at the June club meeting.

Remember that booth volunteers get free parking and free admission to the Fair. You are welcome to arrive early or stay after booth duty and visit the entire Fair. This is a very convenient and low-cost way to visit the Fair!

It's Free! It's fun! Volunteer!

Best wishes,

Larry McDavid, W6FUB

JUNE MEETING PLANS

This month we will catch up with part of the plans we missed last month. 1. Larry Mc David will demonstrate how to prepare "reliable" crimped Anderson connectors. Larry is truly an expert on **Really Reliable Crimping Technology** that is more reliable than when soldered. We'll surely learn much! 2. Gary Miller will tell about some **PSK-31** experiences.

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

President

Paul Broden; K6MHD
Phone: (714) 871-9478
E-mail: pbroden@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE
Phone: (714) 525-2109
E-mail: cw4w6zje@pacbell.net

Secretary

Gary Miller; KA6GPC
Phone: (714) 529-2893
E-mail: KA6GPC@aol.com

Treasurer & Membership

Manuel Borges; AE6SG
Phone: (714) 871-4947
E-mail: ae6sg@yahoo.com

Public Service

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO
Phone: (714) 680-4258
E-mail: kb6cmo@ARRL.net

HDSCS

April Moell, WA6OPS
Phone: (714) 879-6895
Emergency Coordinator, HDSCS
E-mail: emcom4hosp@aol.com
www.hdscs.org

T-Hunt

Joe Moell, K0OV
http://www.homingin.com
E-mail: homingin@aol.com

OCCARO Representative

Larry McDavid, W6FUB
Phone: (714) 630-5672
E-mail: Lmcdavid@Lmceng.com

Trustee & VE Testing

Bob Reitzel, KD6DA
Phone: (562) 691-1514
E-mail: breitzel@juno.com
Packet: KD6DA@WB6YHM-2

Directors

Karen Goodman, KG6USN
Phone: (562) 693-5404
(Immediate Past President)

Cheryl Thorpe, KE6TZU
Phone: (714) 680-4258

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO
Phone: (714) 680-4258

Tom Curlee, WB6UZZ
Phone: (714) 871-0337

Newsletter Editor

Paul Broden, K6MHD
Phone: (714) 871-9478
E-mail: pbroden@sbcglobal.net

ANTENNAS-IN-THE-PARK FOX HUNT REPORT

On-foot hidden transmitter hunting was clearly the most popular activity at this year's Antennas In The Park (AITP), an outdoor ham radio day in Placentia sponsored by the Fullerton Radio Club. As one group tested a monster 15-meter beam on a portable crank-up tower, others set out to find nine radio foxes.

It was good to see newcomers learning to do radio direction finding with help from those with more experience. There were just three "practice" transmitters, all within 100 yards of the AITP picnic area. Results for them as follows:

<u>NAME AND CALL</u>	<u>FOXES - TIME</u>	
Paul Grable with Richard Clark N6UZS	3	0:25:10
Garrick Wood (age 5) with his dad Travis AE6GA	3	0:29:23
Daniel Welch KG6WAP (age 9) with his parents Mike KG6FWH and Cindy KG6HLN	3	1:11:36
Aaron Bentley KA6MKU	3	1:27:24

The practice foxes were enough for the two pre-teens, but others gave the ARDF course a try. It was a chance to experience international-rules hunting with five transmitters on one frequency, each on the air for one minute at a time in sequence. The entire hunt area was just 60 acres, so a direct route on the course was less than 1.5 kilometers. But there were some surprises to it, including some strange "waveguide effect" bearings from fox #5. Nevertheless, for 20-year-old Jay Thompson W6JAY it was just a sprint.

<u>Name and call</u>	<u>Foxes - Time</u>	
Jay Thompson W6JAY	5	0:36:03
Marvin Johnston KE6HTS	5	0:55:12
Bill Smathers KG6HXX	5	0:58:22
Paul Grable with Richard Clark N6UZS	3	1:55:10

The 80-meter transmitter was in the tall tree area of the park. Two hunters made short work of it. Also when Dick Dabney W5UFZ had trouble with his two-meter RDF setup, he pulled out his 80-meter set and found that one, untimed.

<u>Name and call</u>	<u>Time</u>
Jay Thompson W6JAY	6:37
Bill Smathers KG6HXX	8:13

AITP would not be complete without the annual National Foxhunting Weekend cake, courtesy of April Moell WA6OPS, who is also our official fox wrangler and field medic. This year's special dessert featured frosting-jet printed photos of competitors at the 2006 USA ARDF Championships in North Carolina.

Photos of this event are now posted at www.homingin.com

Many thanks to President Paul Broden K6MHD and other leaders of the Fullerton Radio Club for making all the arrangements that resulted in a day of fun at Tri-City Park. Thanks to all who came out, and see you next time!

Joe Moell K0OV
homingin@aol.com

Recent Events Photos



FIELD DAY ACTIVITY PLANS

(June 24 – 25, 2006)

Field Day will be upon us sooner than we can believe. We will be operating at a new location this year due to construction on the hill at Hillcrest Park. No traffic is permitted within the main portion of the park; therefore, we've looked for an alternate location that is easy to get to, and has ample opportunity for public access for us to demonstrate amateur radio communication. Gene has worked with the City of Fullerton so that we can now use the lower portion of Hillcrest Park on the Brea Boulevard side of the park. Turn onto Brea Boulevard from Harbor Boulevard and you will find this portion of the park immediately on your right. For those of you who have been around Fullerton for some time, this is where the old duck pond was located. We will be setting up at about 8:00 AM Saturday morning, with intent to begin operation as soon as all the equipment has been checked out. Typically we begin operation at about 10:00 AM, and continue for 24 hours. Your assistance in both set-up and operation will be appreciated. We will have a signup list at the June Club meeting for identification of times that you can be present. Please come and share the event even if you only have a short time available.

QST – QST – QST

ATTENTION: ALL AMATEUR
RADIO OPERATORS
Please save SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 16, 2006 for:
FULLERTON MUNICIPAL
AIRPORT OPEN HOUSE

Amateur Radio Operators are needed for this event. Please save this date. More info to follow as we get closer to the event. No plane rides this year.

Please contact: Gene Thorpe
KB6CMO if you would like to work this event.
KB6CMO@ARRL.net 714-680-4258.

FULLERTON RADIO CLUB T-HUNT

Monte Variakojis KE6GQO hid the Fullerton Radio Club transmitter club for the first time on May 20. He put it in Santiago Hills Park in the city of Orange near the intersection of Jamboree and Chapman. It was an HTX-202 transmitting one watt into an omnidirectional 5/8 whip placed in a baby stroller. This park's altitude is approximately 550 feet and it's surrounded by hills in all directions. This seemed to cause some nice signal reflections for the hunters.

<u>Calls</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
N6AIN/WA6PYE	17.1
KF6GQ	17.25

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

LADIES DAY VE SESSION

It was "Ladies Day" at Bob's Garage on Saturday, June 10. Three YL's were the only applicants at the session and all three met the requirements for the Technician level license.

On July 1, 2006 (next month) a new Element 2 Technician Class question pool becomes effective for all exams through June 30, 2010. The new pool has an increased emphasis on the more practical aspects of entry-level amateur radio and all diagrams have been dropped from the original pool leaving a valid pool of 392 questions for the element 2 examination.

The next VE session will be held at Bob's Garage on the 12th of August, 2006. Call Bob at (562) 691-1514 one week prior to that date to pre-register.

OC FAIR

Here is an excerpt describing some of the capabilities at the ham radio booth for this year's OC Fair:

The beam for 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 m already in place on the tower beside the Ham booth on the fairgrounds. Loads great, 1.1 to 1. Pointed east for minimum carnival QRN from all their machines!

Shorty with the Win System will have IRLP and a local opened-up repeater link at the booth, so we can demo IRLP easily from the booth with a HT. Opened up means the box so ham types can look inside and see the goodies!

The ATN group will have ATV, both TX and RX, thru the Santiago repeater, so lots of local and distant ATV for the full fair run.

The Icom 756 Pro II and 910 will turn some heads, too! Lots of interactive radios for fairgoers to play with, on FRS channels, to demo how to make contacts over the air. Two vintage shortwave receivers, too, working with headphones to hear short wave sounds.

The CW board is new from Gordon West - two J-38's tied into separate freq. tone elements, plus LED light-ups, plus Bencher Paddles to a hidden AEA MorseMachine, with a speaker (not too loud) as more fun for the fairgoers.

OCCARO members, if you have a demo for the month long fair, we need to include it in the booth plans!

So, as you can see, planning for the OD Fair by OCCARO is well underway.

Our clubs need to organize how we will staff the booth and what club-specific information we need to provide.

Board Minutes June 7, 2006

Meeting began at 7:42 P.M. at Marie Callender's in Placentia
Members present for Fullerton Radio Club board meeting: Vice President Bill Kohlenberger, Secretary Gary Miller, Treasurer Manuel Borges, Board Members Gene Thorpe, Cheryl Thorpe; OCCARO Representative Larry McDavid

Speakers/ Topic for June; Discuss Preparations for Field Day, plus, Show-&-Tellers Larry Mc David, Gary Miller. Really Reliable Crimping Technology, PSK31 experiences on 10 and 20 meters.

Field Day Gene reported that insurance coverage and permits have been acquired. The event will be at the base of Hillcrest Park, where Harbor and Brea Blvd. are joined. A sign up sheet will be at this month's meeting. If we have enough operators, we will stay active all night and end about noon Sunday. Some members will try a practice run prior to this event.

Orange County Fair, July 26th for the entire day. Volunteers will get a free pass and parking. The board needs to know how many members can attend that day and help "man" the booth.

Fullerton Airport Day, Sept. 16. The City will once again have Airport Days, but no flights as in prior years. Gene needs up to ten operators for the day.

Installation Dinner Will tentatively be at Marie Callender's like in previous years. We are hoping to have it Dec 15, a Friday. Again, other clubs will be invited.

Raffle; drawing this month

Meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc
Secretary Fullerton Radio Club

Monthly Board Meeting

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

Next Board Meeting: July 5, 2006

Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:30 PM

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

www.occaro.org

Fullerton Radio Club Web Site

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

VE Sessions

For Information Contact
Bob Reitzel, KD6DA
(562) 691-1514

Next VE Exams: **August 12, 2006**

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

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**FULLERTON RADIO CLUB
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION
P.O. BOX 545, FULLERTON, CA 92836**

[Please Print]

Name #1; _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____ ARRL Member Yes No

Name #2; _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____ ARRL Member Yes No

Dues are \$20 per member, or \$25 per family, Student (Full-time) \$10.00

Bring your dues payment to the next meeting or mail to the above PO Box.