



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

February 2008

PREZ SPEAKS

Rain and cold! Well, that's California Winter. Of course, we don't have ice and snow bringing down our antennas as I hear much talk about on several ham radio email reflectors. Still, one rain storm (LA style) did drive me up on my roof at midnight to investigate the source of a small leak around one of my roof antenna supports. Later careful checking showed that there was so much wind that the rain was being driven under the flashing where the mast passes through the roof. That's Weather! With clearing seasonal weather and increasing sunspot cycle activity, we should all be thinking of our antennas. Get 'em up and get 'em high!

This month we will hear about the Donate Life event we help support each year at CSUF. Event director Kathleen Hostert will explain what it's all about. This year the Run/Walk Challenge event is scheduled for Saturday, April 26. There is typically a massive turnout for this event and the communications help we provide is important to its success.

Yes, it is a new year—and a new FRC membership year. Many of you have renewed already but some still need to do so. Please help our Membership Chairman, Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, by renewing your membership and paying your dues now. Our dues are not costly but are important to fund the many events we organize for you during the year. Look for the renewal form in this newsletter or see Gene at the club meeting.

Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, Bill Preston KZ3G, Mark Shapiro K6OGD, Gary Miller KA6GPC and others are conducting another ham license class, this time with many CERT members wanting to get their license. The previous class last year was very successful and resulted in several new FRC members. Help is always welcome at these classes and you are invited to drop by and share your experiences with the prospective new hams.

Bureaucratic decisions sometimes overlook facts. Many California hams were astonished to see a "space" character appear in their vehicle ham call license plates recently. It appears some DMV bureaucrat made a decision to add the "space" character without checking its significance. Fortunately, thanks to the efforts of many who complained and several who "worked the system," this bad decision has been reversed and our call sign plates once

again show our correct FCC-issued call. If you received new license plates with the erroneous spacing, bring a copy of your ham license to a DMV office; they now have a directive memo on how to issue new plates at no cost. Look for more details in this Smoke Signals.

Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, our never-tiring public service coordinator, has lots of activities in need of our support. Gene will have completed the annual Tennis Tournament communications support by the time you get this newsletter; look for his report in this newsletter. This new year brings another Donate Life Run/Walk, Railroad Days and Antennas in the Park. These events all require some advance planning and Gene just can't do it alone, so please support Gene with your volunteered help.

Remember that FRC membership renewals are now due. We look forward to another busy club year so rejoin now!

I enjoy the Show-and-Tell each month and hope you do, too! I'll have a thing or two again this month but I don't want to be the only one showing and telling so find something of interest and bring it or plan to talk briefly about some interesting thing you've done. Remember, this is not a big presentation, just stand up and show what you've brought; if practical, pass it around the room for folks to enjoy.

Remember our dinner at the Carrow's Restaurant on Harbor Boulevard near Brea Boulevard about 6:00 PM before each club meeting. And, remember to bring a Show-and-Tell item for the meeting!

Larry W6FUB

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Featured this month will be a special presentation of the OneLegacy **Donate Life 5K/1K Run/Walk** at Cal State Fullerton that we support as communicators. Come hear the organization's founder speak on the subject of organ and tissue donation. We will also discuss how the ham radio community supports this event.

**Fullerton Senior Center
Wednesday, February 20
340 W. Commonwealth
7:00 QSO – Meeting at 7:30PM**

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

President

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

Vice President

Bill Preston; KZ3G
Phone:
E-mail: billpreston@adelphia.net

Secretary

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

Treasurer & Membership

Robert Gimbel; KG6WTQ
Phone:
E-mail:

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

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

Show-and-Tell

Bring something to the meeting of interest to other hams and share your story. Something old, something new, or just something interesting.

February Meeting Topic

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Kathleen Hostert is a Community Partnership Coordinator for the Organ Recovery Agency OneLegacy. Kathleen's task is to educate Southern California on the importance and ever growing need of organ and tissue donation and bring this issue into the workplace. OneLegacy is a Federally funded, Federally designated non-profit and works with families who are experiencing the loss of a loved one through brain death. Hospitals in Southern California are required by law to contact OneLegacy when someone has been declared brain dead in the hospital to come out and evaluate the patient and approach the family for end of life decisions such as organ and tissue donation.

Kathleen has her own personal connection to donation. Kathleen's husband Craig was diagnosed in 1985 with a kidney disease and was told that within 10 years his kidneys would fail and he would be on dialysis. Kathleen was 6 months pregnant when Craig started dialysis, which was three times a week, three hours a session. After 2 years on dialysis, Kathleen was tested to give her husband a kidney and was blessed to find out that they were a match! It has been almost 10 years since the transplant and so far...so good.....knock on wood.

Since then, Kathleen & Craig have felt the need to do whatever they can to help the other 90,000 people still waiting for a life saving transplant. Kathleen quit her job as a schoolteacher and went to work with OneLegacy where she focuses on organ donation education. **Craig and Kathleen started the DonateLIFE Run/Walk, and the 6th Annual event will be held at Cal State Fullerton on Saturday, April 26, 2008. Last year they had over 5,000 participants, with 16 Mayors and County officials in attendance.**

Come to the meeting to learn about this life-saving project, and also to hear how **Fullerton Radio Club** and other hams support the Donate Life Run/Walk event. Kathleen will inform you about how to sign up as a potential organ or tissue donor, and you will be inspired enough to follow through. Be prepared to volunteer as a communicator on April 26. It starts early – 7:00 AM, but is usually finished by about 10:00 AM. Plan NOW! Contact Gene Thorpe KB6CMO (714-680-4258) if you can help with this great community service event.

QST – QST – QST
Upcoming Public Service Event

DonateLIFE 5K/1K FUN WALK – RUN

Saturday, April 26, 2008
California State University Fullerton
Hours: 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM or earlier
Needed: 25 or more Amateur Radio Operators
PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE
Contact Gene Thorpe KB6CMO 714-680-4258

QST QST QST

As an Amateur Radio Operator from California, I am pleased to let all Amateurs know that the DMV has sent a memo to all its offices that our plates are not to have a space and will be issued the way the FCC issued to us.

If you received plates with a space after your number or anywhere in your call sign, Please take them back to the DMV and ask for an exchange. Be polite, be considerate and respectful when requesting the change.

Again, a big thanks to all who spoke out and let the DMV know that this was incorrect. Many spent hours of their time helping to develop petitions and template letters.

Thank YOU! Make sure that you tell all your friends who are not ARRL members about the success that we have had and so that they can turn in their spaced plates too!



Special Member Recognition
The Board has voted to make Paul Lieb KH6HME a life member of Fullerton Radio Club. Paul is one of the founding members of the club. His name is found on the articles of incorporation.

CELL PHONES v. HAM RADIOS

On July 1, 2008 a new law goes into effect in California prohibiting use of cellular phones while driving a motor vehicle. Many hams and other operators of mobile 2-way radios have asked how this law might apply to us. Well, it doesn't! Here's a few quotes from California DMV about the new law, including remarks about use of radios.

Minors (under 18 years of age) are prohibited from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone, including a hands-free device, and/or a mobile service device (pagers, texting devices, laptops, etc.)

Drivers 18 years of age and older are prohibited from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless device unless a hands-free device is used.

Exceptions: (18 and older)

Emergency situations, for example: calls to law enforcement, health care provider, fire department, etc.

- emergency service providers operating an authorized emergency vehicle during the course of employment.
- while operating a vehicle on private property.
- a person operating a commercial motor truck or truck tractor (excluding pickups), implements of husbandry, farm vehicle, school bus, transit vehicle, or tow truck, if using a two-way radio operated by a "push-to-talk" feature that does not require the device to be close to the ear.

Here's also a selection from the new law FAQ's that apply to the 18 and older crowd.

Q. May I use a dedicated two-way radio while driving?

A. Yes. The use of dedicated two-way radios such as walkie-talkies and Citizen Band (CB) radios, which are not part of a wireless telephone, is not affected by the new law.

Q. May I use a speaker-phone feature and hold the phone in my hand, but not to my ear?

A. No. The law requires you use a hands-free device with your phone. A "push-to-talk" feature is not allowed.

Q. My car has a built-in hands-free mobile phone feature. Is this adequate or do I have to buy additional equipment.

A. No. You do not need to purchase additional equipment. You may use your vehicle's hands-free mobile phone feature.

For the under 18 group.

Q. May I use a cellular phone with a hands-free device if I am under 18?

A. No. You cannot use a wireless telephone to speak or text, even if it is equipped with a hands free device or speaker-phone feature if you are under the age of 18. You are also prohibited from using other type of mobile service devices, for example, specialized mobile radios, broadband personal communication devices, handheld devices or laptop computers, pagers, or tow-way messaging and texting devices. **Exception: Permitted in emergency situations.** [Sounds like mobile ham radios are a no-no for the under 18s.]

Check the entire story at:
www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws

Board Minutes Feb 6, 2008

Meeting began at 7:34 P.M. at Marie Callender's in Placentia. Members present for Fullerton Radio Club board meeting; President Larry McDavid, Vice President Bill Preston, Secretary Gary Miller, Treasurer Robert Gimbel, Smoke Signals Editor Paul Broden, Board Member Gene Thorpe, Board Member Tom Curlee, Members Bill Kohlenberger and Cheryl Thorpe

Treasurer's Report: The club now has 2051.77 in checking and \$1684.19 in savings. We currently have 30 paid up members. The large increase is from the clubs share of money from HamCon last September. Dues for 2008 are now due and can be mailed to our PO or paid at the next meeting. Speaker / Topic for Feb.: Kathleen Hosteret / Donate for Life

Tech. License: Class is currently in progress. Ten future hams are taking the course.

Railroad Days: A check will be sent for \$65.00. This will cover the booth site and for the electrical hookup.

Field Day: The Cabin at Hillcrest Park is all ready reserved for the club according to Gene.

Antennas in the Park: The Super System has again been invited to join us in May.

World Radio: We are once again listed in the club section of World Radio and on their web site.

Orange County Fair: \$20.00 for dues and a \$50.00 donation to OCARO for the fair was approved by the board.

KH6HME is to be honored with a Life Membership. Paul was with the club all the way back in the beginning.

Events to keep in mind:

Feb. 20 General Meeting. Bring something to share with the group.

February 9 Tennis Tournament

April 26 Donate for Life

May 3-4 Railroad Days

Antenna in the Park, A Saturday in May

Meeting ended at 8:23 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc

Secretary Fullerton Radio Club FRC MOBILE T-HUNT REPORT

With help from April WA6OPS and Tom WB2LRH, I put the antenna along a walkway of Deer Canyon Preserve Park in Anaheim Hills. The transmitter was a hundred feet from East Hollow Oak Road, next to a park entrance. The long horizontal yagi at the end of a very long coax run was aimed to light up the other end of the canyon, along Canyon Rim Road. With only about a quarter watt, there was enough signal at the start but apparently it disappeared as hunters left the hill. Perhaps that's why Deryl N6AIN reported that he and his ridealongs went to Santiago Canyon Road. Dave N6MJN did much better, but he also put on an extra mile or two due to the bounces.

Team	Odo
Calls	Miles
N6MJN	14.5
N6AIN/KG6YGB/KG6YGD	41.0
N6VCW/K6JCH	Didn't find

It was good to have newcomers John N6VCW and John K6JCH attempting the hunt. Unfortunately, they lost the signal. Better luck next time!

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

Next ARDF at Hillcrest Park on March 8, 2008

Hillcrest Park in Fullerton is an ideal location for beginners to become proficient at on-foot transmitter hunting. On Saturday, March 8, this park will be filled with transmitters to find. All ages are welcome. There is no charge for participation. A ham radio license and/or knowledge of radio equipment are not required.

Transmitters will go on the air around 10:30 AM. Hunters may start any time until 1:00 PM. Courses close at 3:00 PM. There are plenty of picnic

tables, so you can bring your lunch.

Bring any 2-meter RDF "sniffing" gear you have. If you don't have any, just bring your HT or scanner. A limited number of RDF sets will be available for loan. Also be sure to bring anything you'll need while going after those radio foxes, such as munchies, bottled water and sunscreen. Make sure all batteries are fresh.

Weather: In case of rainy or very wet conditions, the event will be postponed for one week. If bad weather threatens, check the Homing In site <www.homingin.com> or call on the 146.97(-) PL136.5 repeater before you set out to make sure that the event is a "go."

Hillcrest Park in Fullerton is bounded on the west by Harbor Boulevard, on the north by Brea Boulevard, on the east by Lemon Street and on the south by Valley View Drive. From the 91 Freeway, take the Harbor Boulevard exit and go north about 1.8 miles to Valley View.

The hunt will begin in the Lower Picnic Area. Park in the lot north of Valley View, midway between Harbor and Lemon. (Map at www.homingin.com) Look for the orange and white orienteering flag at the entrance to the parking lot. Talk-in is on K6QEHR, 146.97(-) PL 136.5.

In addition to the two-meter band, international ARDF championships also include an 80-meter band event. At least one optional 80m transmitter (3547 KHz) will be on the air for you to try.

Questions? Send e-mail to homingin@aol.com.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

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

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

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

FRC Regular Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month
Fullerton Senior Center
340 West Commonwealth Ave.
QSO 7:00 PM – Meeting 7:30 PM

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Dinner 6:00 PM at Carrow's, Harbor at Brea
before the meeting

Fullerton Radio Club Web Site

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

Hidden Transmitter Hunt

FRC operates a 2-meter mobile T-Hunt every 3rd Saturday. We meet at the corner of Acacia Avenue and Skyline Drive in Fullerton at 8:00 PM sharp for deployment on the hunt. There is no need to be a licensed ham to participate.

FRC Tuesday Net

Remember the FRC Tuesday evening net meets at 8:00 PM on 147.975 (-) PL 114.8
Join us!

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

<http://www.occaro.org>

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Janet Margelli
Manager
KL7MF

933 N. Euclid Street
Anaheim, CA 92801
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[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.