



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

May 2008

PREZ SPEAKS

May is a very busy month for FRC. By the time you receive this newsletter we will have completed Railroad Days and, perhaps, even Antennas in the Park. Railroad Days attendance was up this year and we had many visitors stop by our booth and ask about our club; we hope to see some of those visit and get their licenses. There was the usual mass of model trains (these used to be for kids but based on what I saw quite a few adults are into a second childhood!) and the huge Santa Fe 3751 steam engine was back again. This year several of us waited around Sunday until about 7:45 PM to see that engine drive out with gusto!

Antennas in the park on May 17 will be a great success with both WARA and Fam-Comm clubs supporting the event this year. Your club promotes this park event as an outreach for ham radio, and we put up lots of antennas to operate both HF and VHF stations. Park visitors often stop by and watch, and the T-Hunt coordinated by Joe Moell always attracts a lot of attention as the on-foot hunters run around the park with strange antennas in hand! With three clubs helping with food this year we expect lots to eat!

At our May meeting we will enjoy a very special presentation, "Disneyland Pyrotechnics - Magic In the Sky" by Frances Marquez of DLR Pyrotechnics. Frances coordinates the fireworks at Disneyland and will explain how that massive nightly show is planned and run. I can feel the shock waves at my home as these pyrotechnics are launched but there have been big changes in the technology used, with ever more geometric shapes seen in the sky. Come and learn more about this OLD and NEW form of entertainment!

Our FRC-OC Yahoo Group now has 29 members! Those of you who have joined our FRC-OC Group have received some interesting email announcements and comments from members. Those of you, who have not yet joined, please do so! I've sent several invitation emails through Yahoo but I understand some of you have perceived those emails as spam and deleted them before taking the needed action to join the club Group. But, you don't need an invitation email to join; just browse over to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and enter FRC-OC in the Find a Group text box; from that group homepage, you can join our club Group.

I used the FRC-OC group to describe a power failure at my home and to show pictures of how Anaheim Utilities responded with a clever temporary repair. I reported the

sad death of LB Cebik, famous for his lifelong work on antennas and antenna modeling. Joe Moell announced a fox hunt. There have been group discussions about batteries and battery chargers and timely announcements of upcoming events. Did you get all these interesting emails? To do so, you must join the free FRC-OC club Group.

Field Day is almost upon us! Now, this event takes some planning. We had fun and did very well indeed last year so we are very fortunate to have Manuel Borges volunteer again as Field Day Chairman. The Fam-Comm club has asked to join us for Field Day so we should have even more fun with more folks participating. We have already reserved the same Isaac Walton Cabin in Hillcrest Park; that was comfortable and convenient last year. Mark your calendar and join us for Field Day 2008 on June 28-29.

We have numerous new members this year and that is very good news. 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.

I enjoy the Show-and-Tell each month and hope you do, too! Please find something of interest and bring it or plan to talk briefly about something you've done. Remember, this need not be a big presentation, just stand up and show what you've brought; if practical, pass it around the room for folks to enjoy.

Join us for dinner at the Carrow's Restaurant on Harbor Boulevard near Brea Boulevard about 6:00 PM before each club meeting.

Larry W6FUB

May 2008 Meeting

FIREWORKS

NO, NOT SKYROCKETS ON SITE -- but

**Frances Marques of DLR Pyrotechnics
Describing the nightly fireworks;
Disneyland Pyrotechnics - Magic In the Sky
Wednesday, May 21
Fullerton Senior Center - 7:30 PM**

Fullerton Radio Club
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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.

Subject: Rehab radio opportunity

This is a follow-up to my announcement at the last FRC meeting. Art Varnum WB6DAD needs some help getting on the air. Art is an old time ham and former aerospace engineer who suffered a stroke several years ago. He is wheelchair-bound at home with severe vision impairment and a subtle inattention to his left side. Aside from some short-term memory problems, his intellect is quite intact. He has a full-time attendant for his daily care, but wants some assistance to get on the ham bands, particularly 20 meters. There are no other hams in his family. We have verified that his license is current in the FCC database. His equipment is set up and functional, and the rotor on his beam antenna has been recently repaired. However, it might be good to find a way to elevate the equipment so it is at eye level to his wheelchair position. Also, more light on his operating table would be a big help. If you can spare some time to help Art by acting as a "second op" to sit with him, be sure that he is within the ham bands and help him to properly operate his equipment, he would be very grateful. Although you can call him at any reasonable hour, the best time is late morning or early afternoon. His phone is 714-871-6733. Your help, even for short periods, would mean a great deal to Art. Feel free to call either of us with any questions at 714-879-6895.

Thanks and 73, Joe and April Moell

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WHO?	Amateur Radio / Ham Radio Operators
WHAT?	Fifteen (15) Radio Operators / Day
WHERE?	Cal State Long Beach
WHEN?	Saturday June 14: 0730 – 1600 Hours Sunday, June 15, 2008: 0730 –1400 Hours
WHY?	SPECIAL OLYMPICS
HOW?	Communications Support
Contact?	Mark Lidikay KE6TNM EMAIL: ke6tnm@southbaye.com

This is an annual Volunteer Opportunity for a very special event!

Don't miss this opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of these Special Olympics participants.

Check your calendars NOW. Call and volunteer TODAY.

Communicators Needed

Save this date – July 4, 2008.

The City of La Palma will be hosting a 5K/1K Run/Walk on Friday July 4, 2008, and requests assistance from Hams to be along the route as emergency/safety communicators. If you can help contact Larry Tichauer KE6EKE, La Palma RACES ltichauer@sbcglobal.com for more information regarding hours and place to meet.

Next on-foot foxhunt May 17 in Placentia

The next southern California on-foot direction-finding event is especially for beginners. It will be Saturday, May 17, 2008 at Tri-City Park in Placentia, as part of the annual "Antennas In The Park" event, organized by the Fullerton Radio Club. It's also in celebration of the eleventh annual CQ Worldwide Foxhunting Weekend. All ages are welcome, so bring the family. We're expecting members of the Western Amateur Radio Association (WARA) and Fam-Comm Amateur Radio Association, as well as transmitter hunters from all over southern California.

Radio activities get under way at 10 AM. Beginning around 11:30, a cookout and potluck will precede the transmitter hunts, which will start around 12:30 PM. There will be grilled hamburgers, kosher hot dogs, strip steaks and chicken breasts, as well as an array of condiments, beverages and utensils. There is no fixed price for the BBQ, but there will be a donation jar to offset some of the clubs' expenses.

Plans are to have hidden transmitters on the 3.5, 146, and 222 MHz bands. These transmitter hunts will be simple, informal and intended primarily for newcomers. Experienced ARDFers will be present to help you get started. There will be no charge for participation in the hunts.

If you have them, bring a hand-talkie, receiver, or scanner for each person who will be going ARDFing. If you have directional antennas, attenuators, or other on-foot RDF equipment, be sure to bring that too. Make sure all

batteries are fresh. For those with no radio gear, some extra ARDF receiver/antenna sets will be available.

Besides the transmitter hunts and cookout, there will be some antenna building and testing for Field Day and radio-controlled sailboating. Expect to find at least one HF ham station on the air in the park. The traditional Worldwide Foxhunting Weekend cake will be served for dessert to participants in the transmitter hunt. Canopies and tables will be set up, but if you plan on doing a lot of sitting around, please bring a lawn chair.

The entrance to Tri-City Park is at the corner of North Kraemer Boulevard and East Golden Avenue in Placentia. (Map at www.homingin.com) The BBQ and hunt start will be in the northeast corner (to the right as you enter the park). Look for the orange and white Orienteering flag and the radio club banners. Entry and parking are free, but empty spaces near the picnic site may be difficult to find if the park is crowded, so consider carpooling.

Call K0OV on K6QEH/R, 146.97(-) PL 136.5 for two-meter talk-in.

73, Joe Moell K0OV

Board Minutes May 8, 2008

Meeting began at 7:40 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, Board Member Gene Thorpe, Smoke Signals Editor Paul Broden, Visitor Ken Knowles K16KUI representing Fam-Comm.

Minutes were corrected to remove Tom Curlee from attending the April board meeting.

Treasurer Report: The club now has 2086.27 in checking and \$1684.19 in savings. We now have 46 paid up members.

Railroad Days went well, even had some contacts on HF. Board wishes to put an ad in the flyer next year that is handed out at the event.

Field Day: Fam-Comm will possibly have some members joining us up at the cabin.

Antennas in the Par: In addition to Fam-Comm, WARA will join in the activities. Larry has worked out the details. Each club has a list of items to bring and will be responsible for at the picnic. Larry was given a check for forty dollars to purchase items the club has agreed to supply.

Yahoo: The reflector now has 25 FRC members signed up.

Orange County Fair Booth: A sign-up sheet will be at the May meeting. Twelve names were submitted in order to get tickets and parking permits.

Donation: A short tower, rotor and quad are being donated to the club by Jose Camaraza.

Liability Insurance: A check will be put in the mail for \$454. This is the clubs most expensive yearly expense.

EQSL: Larry will change the password on EQSL. Gordon, WB6JVP and the treasurer will be responsible for maintaining a log of W6ULI contacts after they have the new password. Gordon is not aware of this yet. He makes almost all the contacts except for Field Day.

Volunteers: Radio operators will be needed in the early morning of July 4th in the city of La Palma. See Gene, for more information.

Events to keep in mind:

May 17 Antennas in the Park: Tri-City Park

May 21 General Meeting: Fireworks at Disneyland presented by Frances Marquez

Field Day June 28-29 at Hillcrest Park Meeting ended at 8:48 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc
Secretary Fullerton Radio Club

ANTENNAS IN THE PARK

FRC will be hosting the annual **Antennas in the Park** event – or as we affectionately call it – **ANTS**, again this year along with two additionally clubs. This year WARA and Fam-Comm clubs will join us as co-sponsors and participants. A key purpose for the event is public awareness of Amateur Radio as a hobby. Signs at the site will invite the public see what we do and get a taste of “HAM.”

We will be operating a variety of bands, with multiple antennas and radios. As noted in the columns to the left, there will be an on-foot T-Hunt thanks to Joe and April Moell. Oh yes, then there is the Bar-B-Q; we will be well fed. It's a fun time, and you will have an opportunity to meet other hams, as well as promote Amateur Radio within the community.

Come out on Saturday, May 17 and join us and **bring your friends or anyone that may have an interest in Ham radio**. Set-up will be any time after about 8AM, the event begins at 10AM, and we will go to about 3PM or later if interest is sufficient to continue.

Location: Tri-City Park on Kraemer Boulevard south of Imperial at East Golden Avenue in Placentia. See map of Tri-City Park on page 5 for ANTS location in the park. We will also have signs posted in the park to direct you to the spot.

Speaking of Antennas

Jose Camaraza N6VTY, a local but inactive ham, donated some antenna, tower and miscellaneous items and these were passed on to Robby and Bill Preston who are trying to get an HF station on the

air from their home in Fullerton. I [Larry W6FUB] volunteered my little truck and helped to relocate the items. The tower appears to consist of two 10-foot sections of Rohn 25G and the beam is a so-far unidentified quad. All we know about the quad is that it was manufactured in Canada; if anyone is familiar with a Canadian quad maker, please let Bill know. We thank Jose for his generous donation and I'm sure that Robby and his dad will make good use of the equipment. Here are a few snapshots of the tower at Robby and Bill's home.



THANK YOU from DonateLIFE

Folks; Thanks for Volunteering to work the DonateLIFE 5K/1k Run/Walk on Saturday April 26, 2008. A Great Day was had by ALL. The event was a Big Success, thanks to all for your help. We had a minor first aid, and a lost child which was found in a very few minutes later and taken to the DonateLIFE booth and

reunited with her mom. GREAT DAY!

David Curlee KE6IPY, Mike Krueger N6MIK, Robby Preston KI6KYX, April Moell WA6OPS & Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE were all "shadows" of top personnel for the walk. Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU & Robert Doidge KI6KYW shared responsibilities as net control. Paul Broden K6MHD was assigned to the ambulance. Phil Pacier AD6NH was bike mobile. At the water stations were Joe Moell K0OV, Dick Bruno N6ISY, & Chuck Pacier AE6YJ. On the course were Paul Stone KQ6RJ, Tom Tracey KD6FIC, Roman Kamienski KG6QMZ, Gary Miller KA6GPC, Tom Gaccione WB2LRH, Martin LaRocue N6NTH, Mark Zdunich WA6BRD, Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, Bill Preston KZ3G, Orv Gossman KI6ORV, Rick Carpenter W6SRD, & Paul Johnson KI6OJC. Gene Thorpe KB6CMO was team leader. Many thanks go out to all of these radio operators for volunteering their Saturday morning to provide communications for the 6th annual of this run/walk event. With over 6000 runners/walkers on the course, having ROs throughout the area gives those in charge a sense of safety that quick communication can provide. We are looking forward to doing it again next year.

Again, Thanks for all of your help. Have a great summer time. Thanks from the DonateLIFE staff and myself for the Fullerton Radio Club.

Gene Thorpe KB6CMO
FRC Public Service Coordinator

FRC Monthly Board Meeting

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

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 4, 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, May 21, 2008
Dinner 6:00 PM at Carrow's, Harbor at Brea

Fullerton Radio Club Web Site

<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

FRC Tuesday Net

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

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 at 8:00 PM sharp for deployment on the hunt. You are invited. There is no need to be a licensed ham to participate.

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

<http://www.occaro.org>

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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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.