



# Smoke Signals

## Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

### March 2010

#### March FRC Program

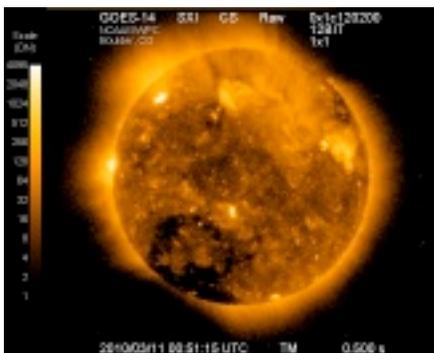
#### "A Whole New Sun?"

Our HF Bands today are finally opening for business. This week even Ten meters has been wide open for western hemisphere DX.

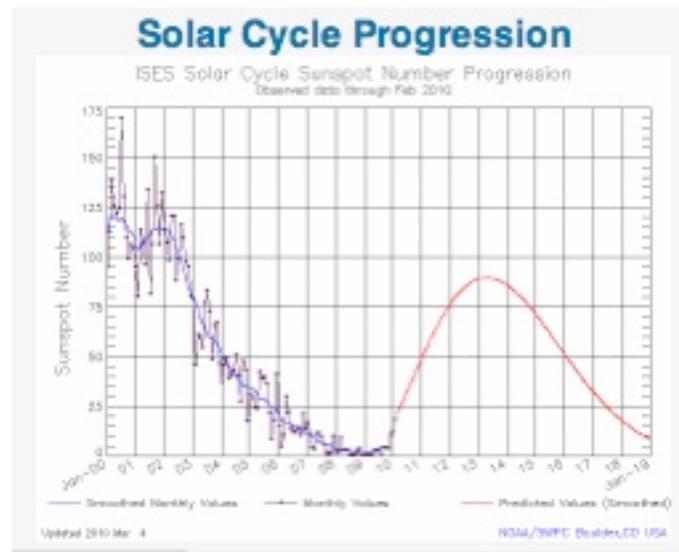
However, forecast of Cycle 24's Sun spot number upturn were earlier than the delayed appearance. Why? It has been a real surprise.

Until recently, our historic understanding of solar behavior has been slow to develop. How are we able to now see the sun in new & better ways?

The March meeting program will add some perspective to what's being discovered and how this is leading to new solar models and understanding on the impact to HF and VHF communications. Will solar weather forecasts be reliable?



Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE, first presented this program about 4 years ago so this time we can see what's changed and what's been updated. Awesome solar eruption and Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) video clips are included to help show how solar behavior can affect Propagation in the HF spectrum.



Interested friends are welcome to see what the "new" Sun looks like.

#### FRC March 2010 Meeting

**Wednesday, March 17, 2010**  
**Fullerton Senior Center**  
**340 W. Commonwealth Ave.**  
**Meeting time: 7:00 PM**  
**Subject: The Sun Spot Cycle**  
**Presenter: Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE**

## Fullerton Radio Club

P.O. Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92836-0545

### President

Robert Doidge, KI6KYW  
Phone: (714) 871-8721  
E-mail: ki6kyw@arrl.net

### Vice President

Albert Solomon, KI6RWU  
Phone: (714) 348-7938  
E-mail: albertsolomon18@yahoo.com

### Secretary

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

### Treasurer, Public Service & Membership

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 and Yahoo FRC-OC Group

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

### Trustee

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

### Directors

Larry McDavid, W6FUB  
Phone: (714) 630-5672  
Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ  
Phone: (714) 657-2862  
Alex Valdez, K9BLK  
Phone: (714) 672-0001  
Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE  
Phone: (714) 525-2109

### Newsletter Editor

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

### Show –and–Tell

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

**Web site: [www.FullertonRadioClub.com](http://www.FullertonRadioClub.com)**

## Membership Dues

It's March already, and numerous club members have not renewed their membership by paying dues. A Membership Application / Renewal form is attached to the end of this newsletter for your use.

### FRC T-Hunt 2/20/10

FRC VP Albert Solomon KI6RWU will probably always remember his first experience with FRC mobile transmitter hunting. He came to the starting point on February 20 to ride with Tom WB2LRH and me. We had a good signal and got a bearing, then my van wouldn't start. I've learned from bitter experience that when a battery dies in my van, it can't be revived, so after a quick jump from N6ZAV, I drove it home to install a new one. Tom and Al decided to call it a night and I soon discovered that the nearby car parts stores were already closed. I ended up calling the hider on his cell phone and taking my other car to meet the group at the restaurant, since the hunt was over by that time.

Richard Clark N6UZS had placed his hidden transmitter at the dead end of Avimore Drive in Yorba Linda, overlooking a sports park. He was trying to "load up" the high-tension lines overhead, but apparently he didn't succeed in fooling the hidere, who got there without too much trouble. Monte Variakojis KE6GQO did very well on this hunt by coming in from the south, parking at the sports park and walking in, saving about 2.5 odometer miles.

This was approximately the same location where Bruce and Karen Gallant, WB6DCC and WB6DCB, hid in the early 1980's. This was before the park was built and they were on the power line road atop the hill. At the end of that hunt, April Moell WA6OPS observed a small plane overhead, banking sharply. It soon crashed close to the 91 freeway. Years later, April was called to give testimony in the legal case that resulted from that accident.

Team	Odo
<u>Calls</u>	<u>Miles</u>
KE6GQO/guest	8.6
N6MJN	11.0
N6ZHZ/guest	12.3
N6AIN/WA6PYE	14.3

Come back next month, Albert, and we'll try to show you a better time.

73,  
Joe Moell K0OV

### Fullerton Airport Day - Saturday May 22, 2010

QST QST QST : Attention All Amateur Radio Operators

- Fullerton Airport Day Saturday May 22, 2010
- Hours of Event: 10:00am to 4:00pm.
- Our Hours: 0730 hrs to Finish (about 1600hrs.)
- Equipment Needed: 2mtr.HT w/Earphone/headset
- Wear Clothing for the weather, maybe WARM
- NEED 18 or so Amateur Radio Operators

Please contact Gene Thorpe KB6CMO if you can HELP with this event, more info to follow as we get closer to event.

[KB6CMO@ARRL.net](mailto:KB6CMO@ARRL.net) or 714-680-4258  
Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO

## Schabarum Park ARDF and antenna building 3/13/10

All are invited to an informal session of on-foot transmitter hunting on Saturday, March 13, at Schabarum Regional Park. A ham radio license and knowledge of radio equipment are not required. Experts will be on hand to teach you the basic techniques of on-foot radio direction-finding (RDF). Also expect to see some folks training to compete in the 2010 USA ARDF Championships that will be in Ohio on the third weekend of May.

If you are a beginner, there will be entry-level two-meter fox transmitters just for you, set by Joe Moell K0OV. For more experienced radio-orientees, there will be a 5-fox two-meter international-rules course of moderate difficulty, set by Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. An optional 80-meter fox transmitter may also be on the air.

If you don't have the antenna/attenuator system for on-foot foxhunting on two meters with your ham radio handi-talkie or scanner, you can easily make one during this session. Marvin Johnston KE6HTS will conduct a clinic for building his kits for measuring-tape yagis and for 90 dB offset-type attenuators. An assembled/tested attenuator in a special housing that goes inside the boom of the yagi is also available. Please register in advance by sending e-mail to [marvin@west.net](mailto:marvin@west.net), so he will have the kits reserved in your name waiting for you.

It takes about an hour to put the kits together with tools and soldering irons that will be provided. If you're not an electronic technician, don't worry because there will be plenty of experts to help you. We want you to succeed! Then with your HT and the kitbuilt equipment, you will be all set to hunt.

All transmitter hunting begins at 10 AM. The starting point for the advanced course will be a different part of the park, so if you plan to take on that course, please arrive at the gathering area before 10 AM so we can transport that group to the starting point and do starts at five-minute intervals. Beginners will start from the gathering area and will not need to be transported. The antenna/attenuator clinic will start at 11 AM and there will still be time to hunt the beginner transmitters after that. Courses will close at 3 PM. There are picnic tables and BBQ grills nearby, so you can bring your lunch or cook up something if you wish.

For the advanced 2-meter course, orienteering flags and electronic scoring will be used at each transmitter. If you have an "e-stick," be sure to bring it. A \$5 donation is requested for the advanced course to cover expenses related to the use of Los Angeles Orienteering Club's e-punch equipment and maps. The beginner course and the 80-meter transmitter hunt are free of charge and e-punch is not required for them.

If you have them, bring a handi-talkie, receiver, or scanner covering the two-meter band 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 that all batteries are fresh. For those with no radio gear, some extra ARDF receiver/antenna sets will be available. Be sure to bring anything you'll need while going after those radio foxes, such as munchies, bottled water and sunscreen. For map plotting, bring your own compass, protractor and pencil.

Trails are primitive in some areas of the park, so wear sturdy shoes. All ages are welcome, but young children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Schabarum Regional Park is on the south side of Colima Road, just east of Azusa Avenue in Hacienda Heights. (Thomas Guide Pg678-G4) There is a vehicular entry fee for the park, so carpooling would be a good idea. Upon passing through the entry gate, drive south (straight ahead, don't turn right) and continue to the end of the road (about 0.7 mile). Park in the last parking lot near the restrooms. Look for the orange and white orienteering flags and signs. Maps to help you navigate to the park are at [www.homingin.com](http://www.homingin.com)

Call K0OV on 146.52 simplex if you have trouble finding the gathering area within the park.

Questions? Send e-mail to the undersigned. If rain is forecasted, check [www.homingin.com](http://www.homingin.com) for possible cancellation.

73,  
Joe Moell K0OV  
[homingin@aol.com](mailto:homingin@aol.com)  
[www.homingin.com](http://www.homingin.com)

## Board Meeting Minutes

The March FRC Board meeting was opened by President Robert Doidge KI6KYW at 7:36 PM. Other members present included: VP Albert Solomon, KI6RWU, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD, Board Members Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, Larry McDavid W6FUB, Alex Valdez K9BLK, Bill Preston KZ3G, and club member Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU.

Minutes of the February Board Meeting were accepted as printed in Smoke Signals.

Treasurer's Report: As of the January 31 bank statement our treasury is: Checking account \$1,462.18 and Savings \$1,689.85. A check in the amount of \$25 will be issued by Friday of this week for our participation in RailRoad days.

Membership: We currently have 50 paid members. Approximately 7 – 8 members from last year's roll have not yet renewed their membership.

Public Service: The DonateLIFE Run/Walk will be held on May 1 at Cal State Fullerton. A new route has been established due to campus construction projects. A new map will be available prior to the event. Details of the event will be available soon, but Gene is looking for 20 - 25 volunteers now. A 2-meter HT with headset/earphones is needed for each operator.

RailRoad Days will also be held on the weekend of May 1 & 2. This year the event will be held in downtown Brea. Set-up will be Friday evening from 3 – 10 PM and Saturday morning from 7 – 8:30 AM. Details will be provided later, but volunteers are needed.

Airport Day will be held on May 22. We also need a total of 20 – 25 hams for this event, including members from other organizations.

OCCARO: Minutes of the February OCCARO meeting were circulated for review by the Board.

TAG meeting report: Bill Preston KZ3G reported for the Technical Advisory Group. Field Day activities are a priority for TAG discussion. Details will be provided soon, but Bill is looking for members who will be responsible for specific duties that will be described by the April meeting. All station equipment, including antennas, transmitters, tuners, etc., must be tested for proper function prior to the event! Current plans are to operate as a "2A" station as we have done in recent years.

Races Report: Gene KB6CMO reported that RACES groups in all OC cities will be outfitted with new equipment to include 2 radios/antennas & coax, a desktop computer with TNC and WINLINK capability for emergency communications. The equipment is to be funded by a UASI grant. Target for new equipment set-up is March 25.

Speaker: The March program speaker will be Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE. Subject; The Sun Spot Cycle.

The meeting was closed at 8:50 PM by President Robert Doidge.

Submitted by:  
Paul Broden K6MHD  
FRC Secretary

## Hospital Disaster Support Communication System (HDSCS) Update

HDSCS is now into its 30th year of backing up communications for hospitals in Orange County. We wonder if that might be a record for an emergency communications group in terms of continuous support and to as many as 35 different hospitals.

Our 2010 Orientation and Review Workshop, which was an all day activity, took place March 6 at Care Ambulance. Over 40 members attended this comprehensive event. Members who attend all day receive a special certificate of recognition for their efforts. A special moment at this workshop was a visit by Mike Steinkraus, the EMS Coordinator from

Emergency Medical Services of the Health Care Agency. He stopped by to express his thanks for our support to hospitals and hard work at staying prepared, but also to present HDSCS with a special Certificate of Appreciation in gratitude for 30 years of dedication and service to the hospitals of Orange County.

Be prepared! At the next meeting we'll have some "show and tell".

73  
April, WA6OPS

### FRC Regular Club Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month  
Fullerton Senior Center  
340 W. Commonwealth Ave.  
Fullerton, CA

**Next Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 17, 2010**

Dinner before the meeting at about 5:30 PM at:  
**Coco's Restaurant, 1011 N. Harbor Blvd.**

**Meeting time: 7:00 PM**

**Orange County Council of Amateur Radio Organizations (OCCARO)**  
[www.occaro.org](http://www.occaro.org)

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



**Janet Margelli**  
Manager  
KL7MF

933 N. Euclid Street  
Anaheim, CA 92801  
714-533-7373, 1-800-854-6046  
Fax 714-533-9485

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### FRC Board Meeting

Open to all members

Marie Callender's Restaurant  
126 Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia  
First Wednesday of each month

**Next Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 7, 2010**

QSO and dinner; 7:00 PM

**Meeting: 7:30 PM**

**FRC Tuesday Net**

**8:00 PM – 147.975 (-) PL 114.8**

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
Sat. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Tel: (714) 521-8080  
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**FRC Web site: [www.fullertonradioclub.com](http://www.fullertonradioclub.com)**

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

Fullerton Radio Club  
PO Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92836

(Please Print)

Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Email #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email #2: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member  Yes  No

Special Amateur Radio Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$20 per member, or \$25 per family. Students (full time) \$10  
**Bring your application and dues payment to the next meeting or mail to the above address.**