



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

April 2010

FRC Field Day Information Update

Field Day 2010 is fast approaching and your Field Day Committee needs you to step up to one or more of the many positions available for this year's extravaganza. This is a big event so we will need for everyone to take charge and be responsible for at least one specific area within the overall structure.

After reading the tea leaves spread around the TAG table last night (Wednesday) it seems that our best approach is to follow the generally accepted ARRL guidelines, up to a point. The point at which we choose to deviate has to do with our own special needs and the limited manpower available to us. This year, as we did last year, we will run in the 2A category. This means two full HF stations, one VHF/UHF station and one GOTA station. The VHF/UHF station can work from 6 meters up and in different modes, but only one frequency and mode at any given time. We will qualify for a GOTA station but we will only implement it if we have resources available and new members or friends who are interested in participation.

Our strategy is to take the long-term view and focus on education and coaching to develop operator competency and technical skills. To that end we will organize our teams around band captains (accomplished operators) within the appropriate time slots for those bands. As this suggests, we will not be operating on all bands during all time slots. This will allow for more scheduling flexibility and greater educational opportunity.

Each team will consist of a band captain with the appropriate license, one recorder with at least some experience and one field day novice. During each time slot the responsibilities will be swapped around such that the maximum amount of instruction is achieved. Our primary goal is to upgrade the overall skill level of our club.

The transmitter captains will determine our time slots, and we will operate as long as we have full teams participating. The band captain, or a suitable appointed substitute, must be present and actively leading the team at all times. The objective is to rotate the recorder and the field day novice into the operator's position as soon as they are comfortable in doing so. This will allow the band captain to provide quality coaching on radio settings and operation as well as on air techniques. While we're about it there's nothing

wrong with racking up a few points but this is definitely a secondary objective.

This year, thanks to two of our members who have already volunteered, we will have a full up, automated, computer network for recording our results. This system will also inform us immediately if we are attempting to enter incorrect data or duplicate stations. It will also make things much easier to summarize our results and then forward them to the contest officials.

Our plan for this year is to have several practice sessions before Field Day so we can have total confidence in our gear and in our own ability to use same. This should allow us to be set up and fully operational before the official kick-off time.

There are many more details to be worked out but the most important thing for now is to get signed up for the specific areas you would like to be responsible for and then put together your own action plan. As you can see from the Field Day Volunteers list there are a variety of things that need to be done so everyone should find ways to contribute to the overall success of Fullerton Radio Club Field Day 2010. Some of the "Captain" positions already have volunteers, but we need more: – WE NEED YOU. Further assignment and duty descriptions will be discussed at the April Club meeting. Volunteer names will be received at that time as well.

Bill Preston KZ3G, Field Day Chairman

FIELD DAY VOLUNTEERS

VHF/UHF CAPTAIN	_____
#1 HF TRANSMITTER CAPTAIN	_____
#2 HF TRANSMITTER CAPTAIN	_____
ANTENNA DESIGN CAPTAIN	_____
ANTENNA WRANGLER CAPTAIN	_____
LOG CABIN CAPTAIN	_____
COMPUTER NETWORK CAPTAIN	_____
GOTA STATION CAPTAIN	_____
ADMIN/BONUS POINT CAPTAIN	_____
FOOD CAPTAIN	_____
SAFETY CAPTAIN	_____

April FRC Meeting

Fullerton Radio Club will meet at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at the Fullerton Senior Center, 340 W. Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton. The location is across the street from the Library. See page 2 for program details. Visitors are welcome.

Fullerton Radio Club

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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

DonateLIFE Run/Walk

FOLKS, This year's DonateLIFE Run/Walk is less than a month away. If you have NOT already signed up, please sign up ASAP. We still need about 15 Amateur Radio Operators for this event. It is a short day's event from 0700 to about 1000 hrs. Even "New" Hams come work this event. Date: Saturday May 1, 2010 at CSUF. After the R/W, there is a Health Festival and a Concert- All-4-One! Please E-mail me your info ASAP. Thanks to those who have volunteered already. Hope to hear from you very soon.

73's Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO HP#714-680-4258

March FRC T-Hunt Report

The March 20 Fullerton Radio Club transmitter hunt was put on by Monte Variakojis KE6GQO. He claimed that he didn't know the FRC hunt boundaries but thought it would be all right to put his transmitter on Balboa Peninsula at the entrance of a parking lot near the pier. His transmitter was an HTX-202 running about one watt into a homemade 5-element arrow shaft yagi. All seven teams figured out that he was beyond the Pacific Coast Highway boundary by almost a mile and found him. Most of them thought at first that Monte was on Balboa Island, so the ferry operators got used to taking vehicles with strange antennas from the island to the peninsula.

Team	Odo
<u>Calls</u>	<u>Miles</u>
N6MJN	23.2
N6AIN/WA6PYE	24.5
KF6GQ	25.0
K0OV/WB2LRH/KI6RWU	26.5
N6ZHZ	31.4
KI6LYZ/family	38.0 (First hunt!)
N6LN	39.0

73, Joe Moell K0OV

April Meeting Program

Our speaker for Wednesday's meeting will be Donna Boston, emergency manager for the Orange County Sheriff's Department. She has two daughters, is on the steering committee for ReadyOC and is affectionately known as "O.C.'s Emergency Mom." Donna will be speaking about Emergency Preparedness and what we should do to be ready for the next disaster. She was featured in an article in the Orange County Register titled "Getting the family ready for an emergency" By Carine Nadel on Dec. 23, 2009.

FRC Regular Club Meeting

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

Next Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 21, 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

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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, May 5, 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

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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.