



# Smoke Signals

## Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

February 2011

### Presidents Message

Hi everyone, it's February, the month of love and presidents. It's also time to start thinking of Field Day. This year we would like to improve on what we have done these past couple of years and have fun while doing it. If you have any input for field day let one of the TAG group members know or you may come to the meetings and share your thoughts, we would love to have you. Also we need volunteers for the DonateLIFE run/walk coming soon. For information see Gene KB6CMO and he will be glad for your support. Thank you for your support in the club and have a radio filled month.

Albert KI6WRU

### Humor

Golf as I hear it.

Three men, each with untreated hearing loss, finished their round of golf.

The first one said, "*Windy, isn't it?*"

"No." the second man replied, "*It's Thursday.*"

That's when the third man chimed in, "*So am I. Lets get a beer.*"

### February 16, 2011 FRC Meeting Topic

#### *Working Amateur Satellites with an HT*

AMSAT area coordinator Clint Bradford, K6LCS, will be presenting his "*Working Amateur Satellites With Your HT*" session at our **February 16, 2011 meeting**.

Attendees may find it helpful to download Clint's four-page tutorial before the meeting from:  
<http://web.me.com/clintbradford/Work-Sat/Home.html>.

Location: Fullerton Senior Center  
340 W. Commonwealth.

Time: 7:00 PM – Visitors welcome

### FRC January Transmitter Hunt

Dave Balgie N6MJN usually hides transmitters near his home in Costa Mesa, but for the hunt on January 15, he picked a spot along Crossroads Parkway, just south of the 60 Freeway and north of Rose Hills Memorial Park. If you point a beam at Mt. Baldy from there, the hills block the direct signal and bearings at the start are toward Mt. Baldy. That's what happened this time, but the hunters figured it out before putting on too many miles.

Team Calls	Odo Miles
K0OV/WB2LRH	33.4
N6AIN/WA6PYE	38.8
73, Joe Moell K0OV	

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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](http://www.FullertonRadioClub.com)**

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## February Board Meeting Minutes

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President Albert Solomon KI6WRU opened the February Board meeting at 7:30 pm at Marie Canender's restaurant. Additional members present included VP Richard Belansky KG6UDD, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD, Directors Larry McDavid W6FUB, Bill Preston KZ3G, Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, OCCARO Representative Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, HDSCS Coordinator April Moell WA6OPS, and T-Hunt Chairman Joe Moell K0OV.

Minutes from the January Board meeting were approved as published in Smoke Signals.

Treasurer's Report: Checking; \$1,769.76. Savings; \$1,691.24.

Public Service: The Sunday afternoon portion of the Jr. Tennis Tournament was rained out and will be repeated on Saturday, February 5 at 9 sites. Gene needs 13 hams to cover the event. The DonatELIFE event is scheduled for Saturday, April 30. Gene will be looking for numerous volunteers to assist with communication. The event will be at Cal State, Fullerton.

There was no Old Business for discussion.

New Business: The City of Fullerton will be demolishing the Senior Center sometime in June for construction of the newly planned Community Center. We will need to find an alternate site for Club meetings. Gene KB6CMO will follow-up with the City to checking options that they may have identified.

OCCARO: Annual dues of \$20 are due, plus consideration of a donation to the OC Fair booth. A motion was made to donate \$100 for the fair booth. The motion passed. Larry McDavid W6FUB was appointed as an alternate delegate to OCCARO so he can continue as organization Secretary, if needed.

900MHz Repeater: The Club has been offered a 900MHz repeater. A committee consisting of Bill KZ3G, Joe K0OV, and Bill W6ZJE, and perhaps others, will review value to the club, potential location sites, and other issues, with report back to the Board.

HamCon 2011: A location is being sought for the on-foot T-Hunt. The Mobile T-Hunt has already been planned.

AITP: The Club is considering moving Antennas In The Park back to the Spring, potentially May 7. Secretary Paul K6MHD will check the City of Placentia event calendar to see that there are no competing events at Tri-City Park on that date.

Reminders were noted that all input for the February issue of Smoke Signals are due by no later than Wednesday, February 9. Also, the next TAG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, at the QTH of W6DQ.

The meeting was closed at 8:24 pm.

Secretary, Paul Broden K6MHD

## Report from the ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator Orange Section

The new ARRL web site is slowly evolving towards a finished product and one of the features slow to return was access to the ARRL club database. With 41 ARRL clubs in the Orange section it was tedious to go through each individual club record to track information when the Big List was once available for bulk download. After many emails to League headquarters the data base was restored as it was prior to December 2009 and more recently the link was added to the ARRL web site but its not clear how the 'repair' was advertised to all ARRL volunteers and officials. Big List features now include Adobe PDF output for those who prefer the format. I have an issue with equipment reviews, data capable radios should include data related tests giving information about the reliability for data transfers, specifically packet data. For example, frequency stability, internal noise, modulation techniques and quality affect performance. It is not easy to extract test information of this type but let's see what the future brings to us.

Winter Events: There were at least four notable club events this winter designed to draw club members into the fold. What is it that makes hooking up a battery-powered rig to a make-shift antenna out in the desert or city park that is so attractive? It's hard to answer that question but here is an easy observation, club members are drawn to these events to play radio and visit.

Orange County Amateur Radio Club 'Portable in the Park' event held at the Jeffrey Preserve in Irvine last November. The point was to have a day in the park where guests could operate HF Stations from solar power and batteries. Some of us brought our own portable HF rigs and after putting up a number of antennas all of us were quickly making CW and SSB contacts. Luckily conditions on 20 meters were good for QRP and low power and one DX contact into Europe was completed. Another event is scheduled for this February. See [www.w6ze.org](http://www.w6ze.org) for more information.

Palm Springs Desert RATS, 'RATS in the Desert Adventure' where RATS members packed up RVs and headed out to the desert near the Salton Sea for a long weekend to play radio. After locating a

suitable spot in the barren desert a group of club members setup a full wave 40 meter loop antenna supported by those popular military masts and operated QRP and 100 watts till late in each star lit evening. This large antenna was an excellent club project as there are many facets to assembling home made components and erecting the masts. Another highlight was a 20-pound deep fried turkey for dinner cooked by club president Peter VE7REZ/W6. Needless to say everyone enjoyed the radio station, the tasty fried turkey and tamales.

Quartzfest 2011 is a very unique ham radio event spanning seven days in the desert south of Quartzsite Arizona. The event is organized by the Escapees RV Club, new camp hosts Steve and Linda packed the week with many events and presentations, the event list is very large and well advertised, see [www.quartzfest.org](http://www.quartzfest.org). The weather was perfect, blue daytime skies and clear star filled evenings. Temperatures ranged from the mid 40s to 70s, nearly perfect. A couple of highlights include the annual antenna shootout and antenna walkabout. If anyone is short on antenna ideas, a visit to Quartzfest will fill a large notebook with details for all types of static and mechanized mobile and fixed antennas. As a member of the Desert RATS, our 40 meter loop antenna performed very well while managing the antenna shootout and exchanging signal information with shootout monitor stations located across California, Nevada and Washington.

The [quartzfest.org](http://quartzfest.org) web site contains many photos of the activities and antennas. This is my 5th year at Quartzfest and in my opinion I would estimate this event had about 50% greater attendance than 2010.

Palm Springs Desert RATS and Palm Springs DX Club Hamfest located at the Boskovich Estate just off Highway 111 and Gene Autry Drive. The location is an easy drive from Orange County as many folks from Huntington Beach and Santa Ana stopped to say hello. For those of us who have been around the block a few times, this hamfest has much of the charm of an old time fashion hamfest with lots of friendly folks, gear, raffle tickets and food. The parking was sufficient with a large area designated for visitor's cars, RVs and

vendor parking. Numerous tail-gaters selling new and vintage gear filled the remaining open spaces in and around the entrance to the hamfest building which is actually an extremely large garage. Near the entrance tents protected both vendors and various radio and EmmComm displays. Michael Brennan setup his very large military radio & antenna display alongside an old WWII tent to complete an authentic setting, it proved to be a popular display. Inside, the garage was very busy with vendors or representatives from the ARRL, Byonics, CQ Magazine, HRO, Yaesu, Impulse Electronics, RF Parts, NiCD Lady and the Club Consignment table to name a few. Things were even busier when it was time to announce the winning raffle numbers to the crowd. Congratulations to club President Peter Reinzuch VE7REZ, Gary & Susi Boskovich KD6QLT, The Palm Springs DX Club and their excellent organization team for this event.

This was the club's 2nd annual hamfest and more are planned for the future. Attendance was perhaps 50% greater then last year and the potential to grow and fulfill the need for more ham radio events in the south land is excellent. See you there next year.

Club Projects: What are you doing for club projects? QRP, Antennas, APRS, Power Supplies, How to (?); I'd like to hear from you.

Event Calendar: OCARC is hosting another Radio in the Park event scheduled for this February, see [www.w6ze.org](http://www.w6ze.org) for details. Yuma Hamfest February 17, see [www.yumahamfest.org](http://www.yumahamfest.org)

Links:  
ARRL Club Big List:  
<http://www.arrl.org/big-club-list>  
ARRL Club Update Link  
<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/forms/fsd2/>  
Orange Section Web Site:  
<http://www.orange-arrl.org/web/>  
SW Division Convention and Hamfest:  
<http://www.orange-arrl.org/web/>

73s ... Bill Prats K6ACJ ARRL Orange Section Affiliated Club Coordinator

# A La Mirada Regional Park Signal-Antenna Success

Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE

The experience gained by all of us who joined the volunteer radio team supporting Fullerton's Jr. Tennis series turned out to be a highly valued gift opportunity. Especially this year, Jan. 29 & 30, 2011. Sunday rain added Msg. traffic & soon stopped play.

Exchanging Tennis traffic from LMRP as power can be only by battery, my 5-watt battery HT & an old 4 element +14db gain Quad served the day. Still, there were more problems.

Players check-in table at LMRP is usually set between VHF shields, (really 12ft high court fences), and the table & Radio had to be moved around, due to wet courts.

As atmosphere inversions, humidity and weather changes path loss, antennas on handhelds, or even verticals often either needed more gain or power to pass over 5 miles of hill tops to N6ME. Besides, there's often QRM/QRN at the repeater site to get by. Most of these conditions have occurred several times in former tennis matches.

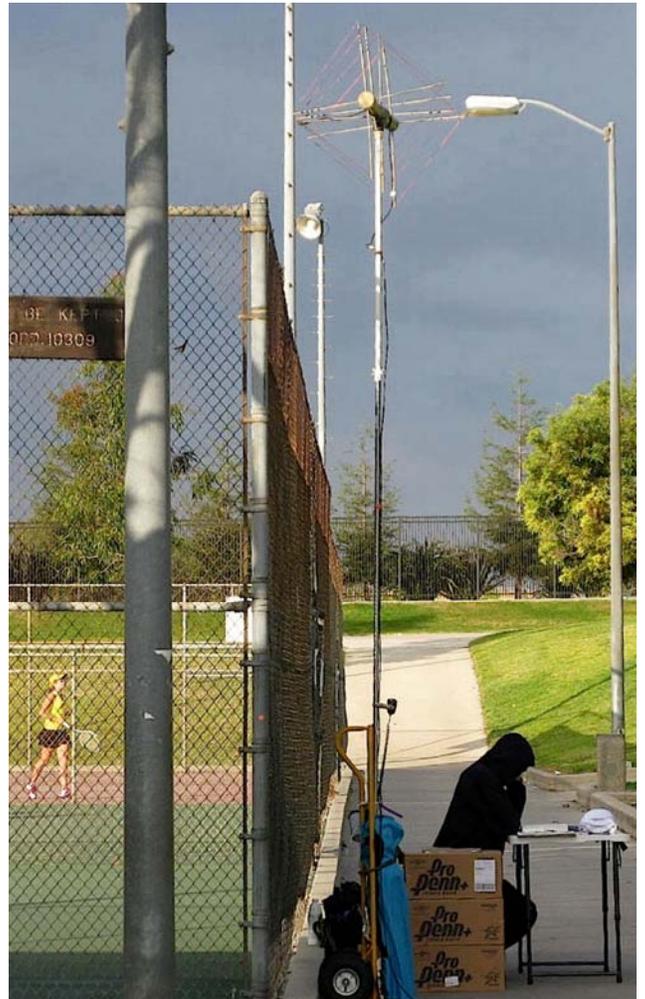
A hand truck dolly made antenna moves quick & easy. The 1976 home-brew 4-Element 2-M quad mounted on a 4 ft piece of 1-inch schedule 20 PVC, stiffened by a 3/4 dowel, on a 1-inch electrical conduit, raised it just over the T court fence. The picture saves 1000 words. Boy scout rope knots & Velcro secured the Pipe to the dolly.

I used 0.2 watt during most of the time on Saturday and Sunday, even while the weather changed. Local Temperature inversions helped bend the signal path over the hills to the repeater. When a need to access N6ME by over-riding QRM or QRN, 5 watts handheld power quieted the noise.

During previous years dry Santa Ana winds blew away the helpful air inversion boundary layer. Less ducted RF weakened Tennis Sig's passed over the hills to N6ME.

Photo:

**LMRP Check-in Desk.** A 14 ft high, PVC Pole & Electrical conduit support the Quad Ant. Clears the Tennis court fence by ~2ft



Repeater access with my HT's full 5 watts and quad gain was still possible. A quick test using a half wave J-Pole in place of the quad gave a noisy and marginal signal into the repeater. The Quad antenna Gain, +14db over J-Pole's +6 db was clearly preferable.

I first tested this design in 1975, and in late 1976 sketched for Smoke Signals construction details for this 2-meter Quad. Word spread from Oregon to Arizona leading to many successful copies being built. It can fit in a backpack and was used on 11,000ft Graveyard Peak above Fresno in the Sierras. For those interested, PDF copies will be posted on our FRC web site and possibly on FRC-OC.

73 De W6ZJE.

## FRC Regular Club Meeting

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

**Next Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 16, 2011**

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)

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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**  
**March 2, 2011**

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.**