



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

March 2011

URGENT – 440 BAND IN DANGER

A bill has been introduced into congress identified as the *First Responder Act of 2011*. At first indication this bill, HR607, sounds like a great idea, but there is a portion of the bill that asks for the 420 - 450 amateur band to be put up for sale.

The situation is explained in an article provided by ARRL (see the web site below for the URL for this web site. Cut and paste the address to your browser to open the article). Read it carefully and completely! There is more at risk than the 440 ham band.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/spectrum-management-bill-threatens-amateur-frequencies>

You are all encouraged to contact our US Congresspersons and urge him/her to vote NO on the bill as it is currently worded. Provide the Congressperson with clear explanation of how Hams are already a key portion of what is identified as emergency communication First Responders, and why the existing bill will be detrimental to the intended purpose. Names and addresses of the Congresspersons are provided below.

Pass the word on to all Hams, with request that they respond requesting the NO vote.

US Senators

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
or

312 N. Spring Street, Suite1748
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Senator Dianne Feinstein

331 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

or

11111 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite915
Los Angeles, CA 90025

US Representatives (north Orange County)

Representative Gary Miller
1800 E. Lambert Road, Suite 150
Brea, CA 92821

Representative Edward R. Royce
1110 E. Chapman Avenue, Suite 207
Orange, CA 92869

Representative Lorreta Sanchez
12397 Lewis Street, Suite 101
Garden Grove, CA 92840

[Note: if you Google their names you can also find email addresses]

March Club Meeting

Roger Wells will be presenting a talk on beekeeping at our March 16, 2011 meeting. Learn the fundamentals of beekeeping for the novice, see some of the special apparatus, taste some varieties of honey and learn how to avoid getting stung. There may even be a discussion how bees communicate without ham radio!

**Location: Fullerton Senior Center
340 W. Commonwealth Ave**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2011
7:00 PM Sharp!**

Visitors Welcome

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

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E-mail: pbroden@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer, Public Service & Membership

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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

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Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ
(714) 657-2862
E-mail: kg6wtq@gmail.com
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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

March Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

President Albert Solomon KI6WRU called the Directors meeting to order at 7:32 on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. Others present included VP Richard Belansky KG6UDD, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary Paul Broden K6MHD, Directors Larry McDavid W6FUB, Bill Preston KZ3G, OCCARO representative Robert, Gimbel LG6WTQ. HDSCS Coordinator April Moell WA6OPS, T-Hunt director Joe Moell K0OV, and club member Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU.

The February Director's meeting minutes were approved as presented in smoke Signals.

Treasurer's Report: Checking, \$1853.76; checking \$1691.24. The club now has 45 paid members.

Public Service: DonateLIFE event; April 30 at Cal State Fullerton. Approximately 25 AROs will be needed. [See article elsewhere in Smoke Signals.]

Old Business: Availability of a 900MHz repeater for FRC use will be discussed at the TAG meeting.

HAMCON 2011 is scheduled for September. No updates available.

Joe K0OV indicated that it is becoming more difficult to access locations for T-Hunts. Many places now require permits and insurance.

The club meeting place will be changing due to the city project to rebuild the Senior Center as a Community Center this year. The March and April club meeting will remain at the Senior Center. Additional information is provided elsewhere in Smoke Signals. Antennas-in-the-park is targeted for the month of May, with Saturday May 14 preferred. An organization committee is needed.

Joe K0OV requested assistance for collection and removal of equipment remaining from the estate of Bruce Mueller K6KQT(SK). The project is set for Saturday, March 5, and Joe needs volunteers to assist.

New Business: The Orange County Fair Ham Radio booth chairman will again be Mack Garrett KD6KSP. No date was given for the fair. Additional information to be provided in later issues of Smoke Signals.

The Southern California Railway Plaza Association has requested FRC support for this year's Railroad Days on April 30 and May 1. The Director's decision is that we will not attend this year.

Concern was raised by Larry W6FUB that many banks are now charging a monthly fee for maintenance of savings and checking accounts. Gene KB6CMO indicates that this has not impacted our accounts.

The meeting was closed at 8:41 PM

Submitted by Paul Broden K6MHD, Club Secretary

Radio Cautions

Rick Soikkeli AE6RS passes on a caution about the new Wouxon hand-helds. When they're turned off, they have enough internal current leakage to drain the batteries in about two weeks. Lithium-ion batteries can be permanently damaged by draining them to zero, and of course it isn't good for alkalines, either. So after using your Wouxon, be sure to remove the battery pack before putting it back in your go-kit.

Additional "issues" have been identified including: one tracked down this weekend. There's a couple different models of this radio-- I have one of the standard ones: KG-UV2D. The problem is a GROUND LOOP that occurs when running it off 12 volt DC (charger stand on auto power) with an external antenna sharing the vehicle ground. Even with the radio turned OFF-- you will hear a faint whine from the speaker that sounds like engine noise while idling. (That's with the engine OFF). When the radio is turned on and the squelch opens, you'll hear this annoying whine amplified loudly in the audio. This does NOT appear to affect transmission-- only reception. If you remove the radio from the charger stand -or- you disconnect the vehicle antenna, you have no problem with audio at all.

Public Service Event

DonateLIFE 5K/1K FunRun on Saturday 30 April 2011 from 0700 to 1000 hours or so, at Cal State Fullerton. We will need 25 Amateur Radio Operators or more. Send your Name, Callsign & Phone# to: Gene Thorpe KB6CMO at 714-680-4258 or KB6CMO@ARRL.net if you can help. More info to follow. 73's GT

Club Meeting Location Change

The City of Fullerton has begun a redevelopment project that will build a new Community Center on the site of the Boys and Girls Club and the current Senior Center. Those who have driven by recently will note that the Boys and Girls Club building has already been demolished to make room for the project. The latest information we have is that the Senior Center will be demolished some time in late May or early June. Obviously, this means that we will need to move our meeting location. At this time we expect to remain at the Senior Center for the March and April meetings, but are not fully sure about May.

Gene KB6CMO has been in frequent contact with the City regarding relocation options. It now looks as if we will be meeting at the Red Cross building at the corner of Lemon Street and Valley View (southeast portion of Hillcrest Park) for a few months. Further relocation may occur. Watch Smoke Signals and our web page for updates.

Remember: The March and April meetings will remain at the Senior Center (unless we receive further notice from the City).

Next on-foot transmitter hunt at Santa Fe Dam, Sunday March 13

Southern California's next on-foot direction-finding session will be at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area on Sunday, March 13. It's intended for beginner and intermediate level transmitter hunters. All ages are welcome, so bring the family. A ham radio license and/or 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). This session is being combined with a classic orienteering session of the Los Angeles Orienteering Club (LAOC). That's why it's on Sunday, not Saturday. If you are a beginner, there will be entry-level two-meter fox transmitters just for you, set by Joe Moell K0OV. For persons of average experience or above, there will be a 5-fox two-meter international-rules course of low to 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 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, so he will have the kits reserved in your name waiting for you. Kitbuilding starts promptly at 10 AM, followed by the beginner hunt. The main 5-fox hunt will commence at 10 AM also. Hunters may start out on the courses at any time until 1 PM. Courses close at 2:30 PM. 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. 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. There will be a \$7 donation for the advanced course to cover expenses related to the use of Los Angeles Orienteering Club's e-punch equipment and maps (\$5 for LAOC members). No donation is requested for the beginner course and the 80-meter transmitter hunt. A limited amount of radio direction finding gear will be available for loan. If you have receivers, scanners, directional antennas, attenuators, or other equipment suitable for on-foot RDF, be sure to bring it. Make sure all batteries are fresh. Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area is in the city of Irwindale near the

intersection of the 605 and 210 freeways. From 605 northbound, take the Live Oak Avenue exit and go east. From 605 southbound, take Arrow Highway exit and go east. In both cases, you will merge into Arrow Highway westbound. The park entrance will be on your left, opposite Azusa Canyon Road. Alternately, from the 210 freeway, exit at Irwindale Avenue, go south to Arrow Highway, turn right (west) and look for the park entrance on your right opposite Azusa Canyon Road. Vehicular entrance and parking costs \$10 per vehicle. After the entry kiosk, continue to the first stop sign, go straight through the intersection and then turn left into the parking lot at the end of the short road. See the map below for more details. Look for the orange and white orienteering flag. Talk-in on 146.52 MHz simplex. A map to this location is at www.homingin.com. For your GPS navigation system, it's at 15501 East Arrow Highway, Irwindale, 34.113484N, 117.941549W. If you have questions, send e-mail to k0ov@homingin.com. If rain is forecasted, check www.homingin.com for possible cancellation. The park office will not have updated information about this event.

73, Joe Moell K0OV

FRC Regular Club Meeting

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

Next Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 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

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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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
April 6, 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
Fax: (714) 521-8920

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FRC Web site: 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.