

FRC Members,

The December 2011 issue of Smoke Signals is provided only as email this month due to the tight time restriction after monthly Board meeting, need to issue the newsletter before the holiday dinner, and limited time on my calendar.

Club officers for 2012 are listed in minutes from the December board meeting (thanks Cheryl).

President's Message

Greetings one and all, the end of the year has arrived and what a wonderful year it has been. I would like to thank everyone for their support this year and wish you a happy holiday season. The instillation dinner is coming up and I am looking forward to seeing you there. Also I would like to remind you to pay your membership dues for next year. We have lots of volunteer opportunities coming up and as this club is great when it comes to filling those roles I hope to see you out there. And as I come to the end of this message I would again like to wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

Albert Solomon, KI6WRU

Board Meeting Minutes

President Albert Solomon KI6WRU called the December Board meeting to order at 7:36 PM. Meeting attendees included VP Richard Belansky KG6UDD, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, members-at-large Larry McDavid W6FUB, Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, Bill Preston KZ3G, OCCARO Representative Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, and club member Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU.

Membership: 10 renewals for 2012 have been received. Dues are now due.
Minutes of the November Board Meeting were approved as printed in Smoke Signals.

Treasurer's report: Checking; \$2299.62 – Savings; \$1691.86 POBox bill presented for payment.

Old Business

- No updates on the outcome of HamCon.
- OCCARO will meet 14DEC2011. Larry McDavid resigned as secretary. They are looking for OC Fair chairperson.
- Names of 2012 Club officers were presented. President Albert Solomon KI6WRU, VP Richard Belansky KG6UDD, Secretary Linda Endsleyv KJ6IHB, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Editor Paul Broden K6MHD, Members-at-large Larry McDavid W6FUB, Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, Bill Preston KZ3G, OCCARO Representative Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ
- Community service events:
 1. Fullerton Junior Tennis Tournament: No specifics yet usually Jan/Feb (Fullerton Tennis Center remodeled. Gene/Bill K to see if they can reinstall antenna)
 2. Railroad Days May 5& 6
 3. Donate Life April 28.
 4. Antennas-in-the-park No date determined
 5. Field Day June

The request for communicator support for a Hawaiian-theme event at Fullerton High School was cancelled per Albert Solomon.

- Possible Ham classes were discussed. Tabled until next month.
- Meetings will continue to be held at Chaman Park until at least May 2012. (Except of course this month's holiday dinner at Marie Callender's on Friday Dec 16. (No meeting on Wednesday Dec 21). Progress is being made on the new community center.

New Business:

- Discussion regarding the bands being open. [Ed. See article below]

No further business identified. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM

Submitted by Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU

Solar Cycle 24 Is Now Delivering!

November 2010 Smoke Signals, "Solar Cycle 24? What's up?" was the question. Contrary to forecasts, HF band openings failed to happen on schedule. Sunspot count (SSC) was even zero at times during last year. Too few ions were on tap to propagate RF for DX well. Even sun's radiation measured cooler than normal. Solar satellite observatories offered previously unavailable first time images with new clues. Yet some solar scientists, forecast both an active and a weaker Cycle 24, based on historical data and new models.

Now its December 2011, a year later, at long last HF bands have been reconnected by this surprise rise in SSC to charge a working ionosphere. That's even with no new government expense or taxes. From 6 meters to 160 meters, bands are again HOT.

A quick recent test on 10m yielded three S9+ QSOs. Using only 100 watts, hams in Michigan, Juno Alaska, and the south pacific Island of Tonga were easy contacts. For the Tonga "pile-up" patience was needed and did work. Now I'm convinced that "whole-world" band conditions are back ON! SS count 131.7 and "A" index averages 4.6, the last weeks of November made "awesome" conditions. Low "A" and "K" indexes indicate Geo magnetic affects yield band conditions quality.

Solar data at < <http://www.arrl.org/news/the-k7ra-solar-update-193> > the ARRL web site is a helpful resource. At, < <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/> > latest NOAA Solar Cycle plots plots of SSC, Solar Flux, & "A" index are shown. A lower SSC peak (forecast), but next 2012 Field Day should still yield higher scores and be even more fun than in recent years.

If you are only on 2m, 1.25m or 70cm VHF anytime bands and are being deprived of the chance to try out HF ham radio, ask FRC members on HF if they can demonstrate. Most of us like to show our HF stations. See an active magnetic Sun Below

73 De Bill K., W6ZJE
