



# Smoke Signals

## Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

### February 2012

#### President's Message

Hi all, its February and this summer-like season is treating us very well. It is time to start thinking about Field-Day 2012. First, I would like to thank those who helped out last year; you did a wonderful job.

For this year we would like to see more of the club participate in all aspects of the event. Depending on the overall response we get we will be deciding at this months meeting if we will be participating as a club this year. We need operators, set-up, take-down, and others in order to run the site. I would hate to have to make the decision to not have our own field-day but from the past years turn out we are not looking as if we will be able to do it. Please think about your ability to help out your club and let us, the board, know if you want to help. Other than that, have a good day and look forward to seeing you soon.

Albert Solomon KI6WRU

[Editor's note: ARRL has released the rules for this year's Field-Day. You can check these out at [www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day); then click on the link for rules, entry forms and information packets.]

#### February Meeting

Several of our members have graciously volunteered to participate in a prearranged "show and tell" on Wednesday, February 15. This potpourri of demonstrations will include examples of antenna analyzers presented by Dennis Kidder, W6DQ, Bill Preston, KZ3G, and Bill Kohlenberger, W6ZJE.

Learn all about these important tools that enables one to characterize and quantify the performance of their antenna systems.

In addition, Larry McDavid, W6FUB, will present an example of a precision, yet, affordable (thanks to eBay) frequency standard.

#### Remember

We're still meeting at **Chapman Activity Center, 2515 San Carlos Drive, Fullerton, CA 92831. Third Wednesday of each month. 7 PM Sharp!**

For those coming to dinner at Coco's before the meeting, please note that the time for dinner has been moved up to **5:00 PM** to allow adequate time to get to Chapman Activity Center and set up the chairs, tables, etc. before the meeting.

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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)**

## February 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

President Albert Solomon KI6WRU called the February Board meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Others in attendance include Vice President Richard Belansky KG6UDD, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB, Directors Larry McDavid W6FUB, Bill Preston KZ3G, Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, and members Paul Broden K6MHD, and Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU.

Minutes of the January Board meeting were reviewed and approved as published in Smoke Signals.

Treasurer's report: Savings account; \$ 1,692.07. Checking account; \$ 2,037.50. Paid out \$52.00 for safe deposit box. Total does not include HamCon check, \$1,193.00.

**Old business:**

Larry reported 37 paid and lifetime members. Payment for dues needs to be submitted if not already sent.

Will discuss at next general meeting the amount of interest of participation to have a Field Day event this year.

Junior Tennis Tournament last Saturday had 11 sites and 5 on Sunday. The Yorba Linda High School facilities' staff was very helpful.

Need to have an extra antenna to be able to use at events when a better antenna is needed. There is an extra antenna to use, and Mike will pick it up.

Donate Life is scheduled for April 28. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year, and a larger crowd is expected. Volunteers are needed.

Next Technician class date is still being discussed.

Railroad Days this year will be May 5 and 6.

Airport Days - The date for has not been set yet.

Antennas in the Park date is being discussed. Will check on May 12 or 19.

**New Business:**

The March general meeting will be share and tell with Dennis, Larry, and Bill.

The dinners before the general meetings will be at 5 PM SHARP and will be ending prior to 7 PM so that the general meetings will be able to start on time and end on time.

The next Board meeting will be March 7, 2012, at 7 PM.

The meeting was closed at 8:18 PM

Submitted by Secretary, Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

## HDSCS REPORT

2011 was a quieter year than usual, but overall HDSCS communicators were involved in 3 emergency callouts, 2 standby operations, 4 drills, and 7 public service and/or demonstration activities with hospitals. Coordinators participated in 30 hospital meetings and inservices, and there were 8 hospital field trips or special project activities. Presentation highlights included speaking at the Yuma Hamfest in Arizona, introducing the HDSCS Poster at the California Hospital Association Conference, and a two-hour talk at the ARRL Southwest Division Convention.

Of course the best way to end the year is when we can take our radios into the hospitals, not for a phone outage, but to link patients with the North Pole station. On December 16, six HDSCS communicators with radio gear and special antenna set up, got patients at Children's Hospital of Orange County connected with "NPØLE", Santa, at his station in the office just off his very busy workshop. It was windy with gusts over 70mph up north and the sounds of hammers, giggles, baby dolls, trains and more could be heard in the background as Santa chatted with each patient. The elves had Santa's computer files current allowing him to address each patient by name and discuss everything from the items on their list, to their teachers, a pet at home, the need to eat better, and even knowing one patient was a twin and the twin's name. Wow! Can't share the stories of every one of the almost 50 patients we visited, but below is one very special moment of the 2011 North Pole Network.

We entered the room of one very ill little four-year-old girl. She sat up and looked at us with her sunken eyes with dark circles underneath. A few tufts of hair persisted across the top of her head. A devoted but tired looking mom sat on the bed with her. My heart ached as I knew how poorly she felt and I knew how much her mother wanted to change positions with her...if only she could. I would be grateful if we could just bring a smile and a little moment or two of happiness and fun. Lo and behold, Santa knew her by name and knew about the stuffed toys filling up most of the bed. The elves giggled in the background as Santa chatted. A smile almost broke through her tiny, frail lips but there wasn't much energy in her body to help her. Santa went down the list that had been in her letter. I could see surprise flicker through what had just been eyes full of discomfort and almost despair. Such a big burden for such a tiny girl. When asked if she would leave anything for Santa, a quiet

voice offered, "Cookies." Santa gave a hearty laugh and proclaimed once again how much he liked cookies, but that Mrs. Claus was trying to get him to cut back. The mother laughed creating a look of great interest on the part of little Ariana. I queried mom and daughter about what might be left for the reindeer. Ariana looked at her mom, so I placed the microphone up to mom's face and we got the word that carrots would be left for Rudolph and friends. Everyone including Ariana got "Merry Christmas" out for Santa and elves to hear over the radio waves. Just then, this petite patient lunged with every bit of energy she could muster into her mother's arms. I wasn't quite sure if we'd scared Ariana or what at that moment. Then mother turned and looked up at us and shared, "Oh, she's so relieved.....she was sure Christmas would be canceled because she was sick and in the hospital."

I obviously could go on and on. We had Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer sung over the radio to Santa by a four year old and it was all by memory. One 5 year old told Santa she loved him and missed him. A dad started crying when Santa knew his son's name. A little boy wanted to leave cookies for Santa and cupcakes for Rudolph. But none of us will ever forget that when you believe, Christmas will never be canceled.

73

April, WA6OPS

## FRC Transmitter Hunt Report

Dave Balgie N6MJN hid a very-QRP transmitter for the FRC transmitter hunt on January 21. He was only running about ten milliwatts into an 11-element horizontally polarized yagi from El Modena Park in Orange, at the corner of Hewes and Flower. Some teams had extra mileage because they drove right past it.

Team	Odo
<u>Calls</u>	<u>Miles</u>
WA6CYY	14.3
N6AIN/WA6PYE	25.4
AB6PA/N6BOX	37.3
N6ZH/KI6WRV	48.7

Come on out for the next hunt, which will be February 17, starting at 8 PM from the top of Skyline Drive in Fullerton, just east of Acacia. Beginners are welcome!

Joe Moell K0OV

## ***Video of FRC's HamCon Foxhunt on the Web***

An 18-minute video of the on-foot transmitter hunt (ROCA) that FRC sponsored for the ARRL Southwestern Division convention (HamCon) last September is now on YouTube here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HCmcIL0cOY>

This event took place at Angel's Gate Park in San Pedro. It started and ended at the Fort MacArthur Military Museum there. This video was shot and edited by Dennis DuVall W7QHO, a regular volunteer at the museum.

Thanks again to Gene and Cheryl Thorpe, who went to many HamCon meetings as the convention was being organized. Thanks also to the other volunteers that made this event a success.

Joe Moell K0OV

## **Fullerton Junior Tennis Tournament 2012**

The people came. Officials arrived to check the courts & nets to see if they met the standards, & then spent the day refereeing games as needed. Volunteers came to check the players in, get them on courts, & take the scores after the games finished. The players, 10 to 18 years old, boys & girls, came toting bags of tennis gear, ready to see if they could hold their own against their opponent. Parents, families, friends & coaches came to cheer for their player. And then

there were the Amateur Radio Operators there to call in scores to Net Control & check on players who did not show up at their appointed time as well as a few other minor issues.

There were 11 sites on Saturday, 28JAN2012 & 5 on Sunday, 29JAN2012 that we had an ARO at. Some had done it before: Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Dave Curlee KE6IPY, Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU, Marty LaRocue N6NTH, Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, Mark Pugh KI6SHD, Ryan Pugh KI6SHE, Bill Preston KZ3G, Albert Solomon KI6WRU, Helen Solomon KJ6IEN, Robert Doidge KI6KYW, Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, & Larry Tichauer KE6AKE. For some it was their first time: Linda Endsley KJ6IHB, Dave Reinhard KJ6REP, & Mikel Turner W4OPS. Mark Shapiro K6OGD was on stand-by & Robert Zeigler KF6EVX monitored the event. All did a great job. Some were able to use just an HT while others set up larger antennas/ mobile rigs. This is one of the few public service events that you are guaranteed to actually use your radio every couple of hours & not just to check in/ check out. By the ARO's calling in the scores, the event coordinator was able to have the scores input in the computer so the players could check how their opponent did in their previous sets. Most played at least 2 rounds each day as long as they won. (Some even played doubles matches also).

A final thank-you to those who gave up 1 or 2 days to do this public service event. It was greatly appreciated by Dave, the event coordinator, & Bonnie, the lead official.

God Bless America and You too.

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO

### FRC Regular Club Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month  
**Chapman Activity Center**  
2515 San Carlos Dr.  
Fullerton, CA

**Next Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 15, 2012**

Dinner before the meeting at 5:00 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



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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 7, 2012**

QSO and dinner; 7:00 PM

**Meeting: 7:30 PM**

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.**