



# Smoke Signals

## Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

### March 2012

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### SPECIAL MARCH PROGRAM

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*The program this month will provide an opportunity for FRC members and guests to learn about and personally examine a high-technology science instrument NASA flew to Mars in search of life on other planets. You won't want to miss the exceptional experience and you should invite your friends to visit our club meeting.*

Larry McDavid W6FUB was a design engineer and later technical director for the development of the Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer (GCMS) while working at Beckman Instruments. The GCMS was one of only two life-detection instruments NASA successfully rocketed to Mars on our country's bicentennial in 1976 aboard the two Viking Mars Lander spacecraft. These car-size craft soft-landed on Mars, dug in its soil and analyzed for organics as indicators of past and possible future life forms.

The GCMS fulfilled the performance goals of what was then a novel analysis technology that occupied the entire corner of a room at MIT but did so in a size of only one cubic foot and weighing only 30 pounds. Larry will show detailed pictures and explain the challenges overcome in the development of these instruments. He also has many component parts uniquely developed for the GCMS and which you can examine yourself.

But, you will have an additional truly exceptional opportunity to also see one of the complete GCMS instruments built for NASA but not flown to Mars. Member Dan Slater AG6HF happened to be in the right place at the right time to bid on the Development Test Unit (DTU) of the GCMS when NASA, with no need any longer after the two units had performed on the surface of Mars, surplused the unit. Dan bought this entire instrument and he will bring it to the meeting for you to see and examine. Truly, this is a unique opportunity to see a piece of interplanetary science instrumentation up close and personal. We all read about and many see pictures of this kind of

equipment but we seldom get to inspect up-close and handle the hardware as you will be able to do at our March meeting. Bring your friends and enjoy this exceptional experience.

**See a photo of the GCMS unit on page 3.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Larry McDavid W6FUB has held an Extra class license for many years but was first licensed in 1955 in Texas, where he was active on 6 meter AM and on RTTY, upgrading to a Johnson Ranger driving a home brew pair of 813's. Larry now lives in Anaheim and runs a Yaesu FT-920 driving a Force 12 C3 on a 70-foot motorized crank-up tower.

Larry is a graduate mechanical engineer and worked as Engineering Manager for Beckman Instruments, TRW and Molex for over 30 years. Larry has managed the development of Martian life detection instruments, Earth-orbiting instruments that detected the arctic ozone hole and medical monitors that enhanced the survival rate for very premature babies. Currently retired, Larry most recently managed engineering for automotive airbag crash sensors and other position sensors and holds several patents for sensor devices. While at TRW and Molex, Larry studied high-reliability wire terminations and developed special-purpose wire crimp technology.

In addition to his ham radio activities, Larry is an active amateur astronomer, sundial enthusiast and antique scientific instrument collector. In pursuit of the darkness of total solar eclipses, Larry has traveled to remote sites in Bolivia, Mexico and Europe. Larry is an ARRL member and maintains an active role in local chapters of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society of Materials and several electronic packaging societies.

Larry has a son, Matthew KF6FDY and daughter, Erica, both continuing their college studies.

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### Remember the new meeting location

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

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

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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)**

## **March 2012 Board Meeting Minutes**

President Albert Solomon KI6WRU called the March 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, Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ, and members Paul Broden K6MHD, Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU and Joe Moell K0OV.

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

Treasurer's report: Savings account; \$3,089.07. Checking account; \$1,940.56.

**Old business:**

Larry reported 41 paid and lifetime members. Payment for dues needs to be submitted if not already sent.

There will be NO Field Day event this year as a club. Will have a list of other participating clubs in Smoke Signals.

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

Next Technician class will be starting May 5.

Railroad Days this year will be May 5 and 6. The Club will not participate this year due to cost and limited member participation in the past.

Airport Days will be a weekend in September. No official date yet.

Antennas in the Park will be on May 12. Robert KG6WTQ will contact the Catalina group.

The April general meeting presenter will be Larry McDavid .

The dinners at Coco's 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.

**New Business:**

TAG Team meeting March 14 at Coco's, 7pm

OC Fair – OCARO will meet on March 14 and will discuss OC Fair.

July Board Meeting - was voted to hold meeting on Tuesday, July 3 since the first Wednesday falls on July 4.

December Holiday dinner – was voted to have on Friday, December 14.

Baker to Vegas run will be April 21-22 (honorary mention).

The next Board meeting will be April 4, 2012, at 7 PM.

The meeting was closed at 8:17 PM

Submitted by Secretary, Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

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**Remember, it's a new year and Club dues are due.**

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## HDSCS report

HDSCS coordinators were in attendance at the Blue/Green Net hospital disaster planning meeting this past week. There was continued discussion on hospital evacuation procedures for an upcoming drill. Focus will be on use of ambulance strike team and testing the use of an emergency transport "hand off" form. HDSCS communicators have been requested to not only respond to the EMS DOC in this drill but to respond with the EMS command vehicle to the hospital that will do the evacuation. Hospitals are also making requests for communicators. Coordinators also attending a Hospital Preparedness Planning meeting.

On Saturday the 2012 Orientation and Review Workshop was held at Care Ambulance. This 8AM-5PM educational session reviewed HDSCS ARES organization structure and it's value in serving hospitals; radio protocols; hospital messaging and net procedures; repeater functions and understanding interference; hospital environment and more. Rob Viera of Care Ambulance provided information about ambulance operations in Orange County and Dr. Sam Stratton taught the group more about how emergency departments function and explained aspects of daily triage versus disaster triaging.

It was a long day but it was full of camaraderie, good learning, and great food.

## FRC T-hunt Report

Ron Allerdice WA6CYY was hider for the FRC mobile T-hunt on February 18. He was in Sunset Aquatic Park, Seal Beach. It was a tie for first and second place on the odometers, but "Crenshaw" correction factors gave the win to Mike Box N6BOX and Glenn Tobey AB6PA, who will be the hiderees on March 17. Come on out and find them! The hunt starts at 8 PM from the top of Acacia Avenue in Fullerton.

<u>Team Calls</u>	<u>Odo Miles</u>
N6MJN	24.6
N6BOX/AB6PA	24.6
N6AIN/WA6PYE/KI6WRU	30.0

73,  
Joe Moell K0OV

## Try This When You're 91

CLUB MEMBER JOHN WRIGHT IS6MOM HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF FRC FOR ABOUT A YEAR. HE IS 91 YEARS OLD AND JUST PASSED THE GENERAL LICENSE EXAM. TOM FISKE AASTF TOOK HIM TO THE TEST PLACE AND ALSO PROVIDED SOME LESSONS. BUT JOHN DID ALMOST ALL THE WORK HIMSELF. HE DESERVES A HEAP OF CREDIT. TOM WILL LEND HIM A TS-430 RIGHT AWAY TO GET ON THE GENERAL CLASS AIRWAVES. THEY ALREADY PUT UP A LONG WIRE ANTENNA AND A GROUND AT HIS HOUSE. SO HE IS READY TO GO.

**CONGRATULATIONS JOHN!**

## Cover Story Photo



GCMS unit as described in the March meeting profile – page 1

### FRC Regular Club Meeting

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

**Next Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 21, 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)

### 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 4, 2012**

QSO and dinner; 7:00 PM

**Meeting: 7:30 PM**

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



**Janet Margelli**  
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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.**