



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

May 2012

President's Message

Hi everyone, hope your springtime is growing well. First I would like to thank everyone who helped with the DonateLIFE event on the 28th of April. Second I would like to ask the members to get more involved with the club. We have had a drop off in attendance at our meetings and the activities that we do not have the involvement that they should from the members. There have been some ideas thrown about for having a bar-b-que and also getting together for the various radio contests there are. Also we have wonderful individuals that go above and beyond for this club and they have my utmost gratitude and I think one way to show them that we appreciate them is to say yes when they ask for your help. I thank you all for being a part of the Fullerton Radio Club and would like to hear some suggestions for bringing this club closer together. Another thing that I would like to bring up is the Tuesday night net. I know that I am just as guilty as most if not all of you in that there has been no check-ins or any one actually running it. I would like to hear some ways to get it back up and running aside from moving to a different day or repeater. I have an idea that I will bring up at the general meeting and get your feed back on it. Other than that I have an article that I did for another newsletter and decided to bring it over here for your thoughts. If I get good feed back it will be separate from my president's message and will hopefully continue as a series and could expand. Have a nice day and hope to see you at the next meeting.

Albert Solomon KI6WRU
President of the Fullerton Radio Club

Albert's Apps,

I was wondering what to write here while playing around on my phone and it came to me, Apps! Phones these days are getting more and more powerful and so are able to do some incredible things, some of those things are applications for ham radio. A few apps that I have found useful my self are "Signals", "Echo link", and "Callsign database". These are only a few of the ones out there and over the next few months I will try new ones out and give you my review. For now I will tell you a little about the ones I mentioned. "Signals" is an app that gives information on codes and signs that people use such as 10 codes for police, hand and arm signals for planes, and even sign language alphabet, but what I like it for is the cw-morse code and "Q" signals. "Echolink" lets you use the repeaters that are hooked up to the internet through your phone. And last but not least is the "callsign database" that lets you look up ham licenses on your phone. I will give a more in depth review of these if there is interest in them or I will check out new ones and review them. All of these apps are available for android devices and maybe for the iphone. For any questions about these or other apps please

ask or if you would like me to review a specific app let me know and I will see what I can do. That's all for now and I will see you all at the next meeting.

Albert Solomon KI6WRU

May Meeting Topic

"How Your Cell Phone Really Works"

Ken Miller, K6CTW, will present a talk discussing a radio that probably all of us have had a successful QSO, however, few of us know how it really works.

Ken was originally licensed as a novice with the call-sign WN2BKC in Madison, NJ in 1967. He passed his General Class test in New York City and became WB2BKC where he began a life-long fascination with CW and the National Traffic System. He has held a number of call-signs since with finally settling on his present call K6CTW. During 1994 thru 2004 he worked at several companies within the cellular phone industry. He is currently a Senior Principal Engineer at Raytheon located in Fullerton and, on occasion during his free time, plays with radios.

The meeting will start promptly at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 16, at **Chapman Activity Center, 2515 San Carlos Drive, Fullerton, CA 92831.**

Antennas In The Park

This Saturday, May 12, FRC will be conducting its annual Antennas In The Park event at Tri-City Park in Placentia. We will be operating HF, VHF and UHF stations with purpose of Ham-Fun and introduction of amateur radio to the public. Bring your friends who may be interested in ham radio. The event begins at about 10:00 AM, but you can come as early as you want. Someone will be there early to reserve the space. A primary feature of the event will be the on-foot hidden transmitter hunt. See the April issue of Smoke Signals for additional details and location map.

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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

May 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

President Albert Solomon KI6WRU called the May Board meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Others in attendance include Vice President Richard Belansky KG6UDD, Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB, Directors Larry McDavid W6FUB, Bill Preston KZ3G, Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ, Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, and members, April Moell WA6OPS and Joe Moell K0OV.

Minutes of the April Board meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's report: Savings account; \$ 3,071.44. Checking account; \$ 2,200.56

Old business:

No new members or renewals for April. Payment for dues are past due if not paid, and need 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.

Next Technician class will be starting May 5. Class, 1 pm, Cedar Hill Mobile Home Park. Need to have the textbook before class and bring the textbook to class. Contact Bill Preston, KZ3G for more information.

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. For Antennas in the Park, someone needs to get there early enough (6:30am – 7:00am) to secure the area. Robert KG6WTQ will contact the Catalina group and let Albert know about food. Albert will get the club banner and canapé. Bring your own food. Will check to see if BBQs are still there. Albert will check if WARA will come.

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.

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:

DonateLife went well according to the volunteers.

TAG Team meeting will be at Coco's, May 9, 7pm.
Come early if you want to eat.

OCARA meeting - June 13.

Baker to Vegas was April 21 and 22. Albert said it went well. There were a lot of heat-related problems.

The May general meeting presenter TBA.

The next Board meeting will be June 6, 2012, at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was closed at 8:20 PM

Submitted by Secretary, Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

[FRC-OC] Registration open for USA ARDF Championships

Registrations are now being accepted for USA's annual championships of on-foot transmitter hunting, which will take place during the week and weekend after Memorial Day. The site will be the forests near Mt. Laguna Village, about 45 miles east of San Diego. Activities will get under way on Wednesday and Thursday, May 30 - 31, when an optional two-day "training camp" will take place. The official championships opening will take place on Friday, June 1 with practice and equipment testing sessions. The two-meter contest will take place on Saturday, June 2, after which all will gather for a banquet in the evening. Sunday's schedule includes the 80-meter contest and an awards ceremony, timed to end in mid-afternoon to accommodate those who must hurry home. Even if you have never competed in a formal ARDF event before, you are welcome at the USA and IARU Region 2 Championships. The courses will be open to all, beginner and expert alike, with or without a ham radio license. USA's best are expected to attend and they are always helpful to newcomers. The training camp is an outstanding opportunity and highly recommended for first-timers. National ARDF Championships are for individuals only. No teaming or assistance on the course is permitted. Participants are divided into six age categories for males and five age categories for females in accordance with standard IARU rules. Medals for first, second and third places will be awarded in each category on each band. The official event Web page at www.homingin.com has the registration form. It is important for participants to register right away. The organizers need an accurate head count and assurances that there will be sufficient attendees. It's also important to make reservations now if you want to stay at the event headquarters, which is Laguna Mountain Lodge. (Nearby camping is also available.) Transportation and lodging information is on the event Web page, as well as

the daily schedule, competition rules, transmitter and map information. For questions and regular updates, you can subscribe to a group mailing list for participants and others interested in these championships. If you have been attending and enjoying our local ARDF sessions, it's time now to take the next step. We look forward to seeing you at the USA Championships! Joe Moell
KoOV USA ARDF Coordinator
www.homingin.com

k0ov@homingin.com

FRC Transmitter Hunt, April 21

Dave Balgie N6MJN was hider for the April FRC transmitter hunt. He used a flea-power (100 milliwatt) transmitter with a 5/8 wavelength vertical in the parking lot of the In-and-Out Burger restaurant on Carson Street, just west of the 605 freeway.

Team Calls	Odo Miles
N6AIN/WA6PYE	15.7
N6ZHZ	29.5

The next hunt will be Saturday, May 19 at 8 PM, starting from the top of Acacia Avenue in Fullerton.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

A Big Thank You from DonateLIFE

To ALL of Our "Amateur Radio Operator" Friends: This Event would not have been possible if it were not for People like You, who volunteered a good part of their time to make events like DonateLIFE's Run/Walk happen. We want to give you ALL a BIG THANK YOU for volunteering to help out with this event this year "2012" and hope to see you around for other events this year and in the years to come.

Again a Big Thank You to All who help with the DonateLIFE Run/Walk and to My Wife Cheryl, who took over as Team Leader at the Last Minute as I went into the hospital for back surgery on Wednesday April 18, 2012. I am getting better every day and again Thanks for your help, every one of you. GT

God Bless America and You too.

Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO

Special Event Announcement MSWE 2012

Museum Ships Weekend 2012 – June 2 2012 0000Z June 3 2012 2359Z. Activating IOTA NA-143 (Pelican Is.) Brazos Valley ARC will be operating from radio rooms of WWII Submarine USS Cavalla and Destroyer Escort USS Stewart from Seawolf Park on Pelican Is. in Galveston, Texas. We will be operating on 10-40 meters (SSB and CW). Be a part of living history as we commemorate the actions of these ships and crews. More information at <http://www.bvarc.org/index.php?page=ms>. Special Event QSL via KK5W (QRZ.com).

Ron Litt, K5HM
Event Coordinator

HDSCS Activities Report

HDSCS has had some excellent educational opportunities lately and kept busy with a standby operation, helping with the DonateLIFE Walk/Run, and a hospital antenna install.

A procurement transplant coordinator from OneLegacy taught us about the procedures involved at a hospital once a patient has become a donor. It's crucial that the body be kept in a condition to allow for the procurement of viable tissue. All of this is very interesting, but why would emergency communicators need to understand any of this? These events can occur any time and so do communications failures. HDSCS isn't just in the hospital in a major area-wide emergency but in those times when a phone system fails or a backhoe rips through fiberoptic cables. Emergency communicators are of greatest help when they are familiar with medical terminology and procedures and this is one of them.

We also just had our special advisor member, Dr. Kate Hutton, K6HTN, from Cal Tech, educate our members about the impact of earthquakes on hospitals. It was a great, but somewhat unnerving, presentation as Dr. Hutton discussed the faults that can affect Orange County and potential damage we might see at hospitals. This all helps us to be better prepared at home, at work, and when at the hospitals.

College Hospital in Costa Mesa asked for communicators to once again be on site while the last stage of expanded distribution of emergency power was completed. Well, Murphy was lurking, and during some of the work and arc caused a fire and, in short order, commercial power went down too. At the request of the disaster coordinator an additional two communicators were deployed to the facility as a precautionary measure. While the phone system stayed intact, the hams on site were useful in handling short status reports and updates that freed the main phone system for patient communications preventing overload which can often compromise phone communications in any emergency situation. It is also good practice for the hams when they are on site during a standby operation.

Fortunately the operators were well prepared to be on site with extra batteries and plenty of portable light. It's dark enough when on emergency power but with all power down, everywhere is dark.

Members of the HDSCS antenna team assisted in the installation of a new tri-band antenna at Kindred Westminster. This hospital had one of the original discons from the mid 1980s and it was barely functional. With federal grant funding antennas and coax have become available for hospitals in Orange County identified by HDSCS as "in need".

The DonateLIFE Walk/Run, while not an HDSCS event, was an excellent public service opportunity for our members. Taking advantage of an organized activity that required a functional net and also forced communicators to be portable and flexible was great practice for our participating members.

73
April, WA6OPS
HDSCS
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DonateLIFE 2012

In 2003, the first DonateLIFE (then known as Gift of Life) run-walk was held in April at Cal State University Fullerton. There were 1,000 participants & about 20 hams. This year, on April 28th, there were approx 11,000 participants & 27 hams. For 10 years amateur radio operators have stepped up to provide communications for this event. As in the past, our team was made up of hams from various organizations. There were hams with a lot of experience & others for whom this was their first public service event. We had 20 hams out on the course: April Moell WA6OPS, Shelley Doidge KI6WUJ, Joe Moell K0OV, Starla Rogers KI6SHG, Mark Zdunich WA6BRD, Jerry VanderZyl KF4YE, Dave Reinhard KJ6REP, Chris Sanders KE6BRY, Gary Sanders KC6TWZ, Albert Solomon KI6WRU, Craig Williams KJ6PRQ, David Reed KJ6PQT, Helen Solomon KJ6IEN, Alfredo Alba K6EGA, Linda Endsley KJ6IHB, Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, Robert Doidge KI6KYW, Nick Payne KG6WEF, Walter Ehrmann KI6OIW, Ken Simpson W6KOS. There were also 3 shadows: David Curlee KE6IPY, James Payne KB6WUM, Tom Smith KB6A, a bike mobile: Tom Gaccione WB2LRH, 2 net control operators: Alex Valdez K9BLK, Paul Broden K6MHD, & team leader Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU. (Gene Thorpe KB6CMO was monitoring from home recovering from back surgery & in contact with net control & team leader) This group of hams came together & provided much appreciated info to the people in charge. Although the first year Kathleen Hostert (who came up with the idea of the run-walk after donating one of her kidneys to her husband Craig) wasn't sure of the need for our participation, she has indicated every year since that she is glad that she made the decision to accept our services. She sends her thanks & Gene & I do also.

Submitted by Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU

FRC Regular Club Meeting

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

Next Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 16, 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

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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
June 6, 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.