Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

January 2013

President's Message

First of all let me say thank you, I think, for allowing me to serve as your next President. I'll do my best for you and our great hobby.

Our club has a rich history of service to our community and to all who participate and lead these activities goes a special "tip of the hat". If you are currently getting out and working the radio on behalf of any of the activities that the FRC supports I encourage you to continue your involvement. For those who may not be involved yet, or anyone who has taken a hiatus from their previous involvement, please consider that our franchise depends on the goodwill of the people we serve. As the spectrum becomes more and more precious and we compete for the little that we have we need for our Representatives in Congress to stand firm and continue to look on the Amateur Radio community as a net benefit to our nation. The big disasters such as Sandy and Katrina provide big headlines but that alone will not provide the impetus for Congress to hold fast in the face of the growing need for spectrum. It is the thousands of relatively small activities that we are involved in that provide the fabric that our involvement in Sandy and Katrina is embroidered on.

That said, during our January board meeting we discussed the core activities that FRC would be supporting this year, and the first one is the Fullerton Tennis Tournament which comes up on February second and third. Gene has already put out an email asking for volunteers and it would be really great if everyone in the club would consider doing at least a half day at one of the sites around the area calling in scores. If you are new this will help raise your understanding and confidence in participating in a net. If you have done lots of nets this activity gives you a chance to get your rig into action and also to mentor some of our new operators from a distance. If you can participate please let Gene know ASAP so he does not have to sweat it out as the deadline draws near. We need 45 ROs for this event and we want to do it right so let's start the year off right and get some airtime on our gear. More next month **……..**

January Meeting Topic

Atomic Power Beyond the Headlines

The January meeting of the Fullerton Radio Club will feature an overview of the nuclear power industry by Tom Gaccione, WB2LRH. Tom will present a little bit of the history of nuclear physics (no math or detailed physics) and some of the key players in the field. His talk will describe how both modern nuclear power plants and the power distribution system works and will cover topics including radioactive measurements, safety levels and the current status of the industry in the US and the world. The events that happened at Three Mile Island, the Ukraine and Japan will be covered and will include the different reactor designs that were implemented and what exactly occurred. The talk will conclude with the current status of the San Onofre facility.

After engineering school, Tom worked for short stints at plants in New York and California and participated in reviews of Three Mile Island and it's impact on the US industry. He worked in the Performance and Reliability department conducting and overseeing performance tests on the plant, reviewing design modifications, failure analysis, and implementation of component tracking systems for maintenance and reliability data. He still keeps in touch with staff at the plants as well as at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency. For the last 27 years at Hughes/ Raytheon, Tom has worked in the Microelectronics department working on RF amplifiers, oscillators, multipliers and Electronic Warfare systems for the F-14, F-15, and F/A-18 fighters as well as the Space Shuttle and numerous classified systems. He then progressed to antenna design implementing panel Electronically Scanned Airborne Radar arrays, specializing in antenna and RF measurements. He credits his early years as a ham for providing his diverse and wide-ranging interest in RF technologies. His ham radio activities include being responsible for several repeaters in Southern California and as an Assistant Coordinator for Hospital Disaster Group (HDSCS).

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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

January 2013 Board Meeting Minutes

President: Bill Preston KZ3G, called the January Board meeting to order at 7:28 PM. Others in attendance included: Vice President, Richard Belansky KG6UDD, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB, Board Members at Large: Larry McDavid W6FUB, Bill Kohlenberger W6ZJE, Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, and member Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU

Minutes of the December Board Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: Savings account; $3,072.24. Checking account; $2,158.28.

Old business:
Review of last year's events where Fullerton Radio Club participated: Antennas in the Park, tennis tournament, Donate Life, and La Palma Days

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:
Will gather information on items for a calendar of 2013 events

Membership to join OCCARO (new address P.O. Box 5565) will be submitted. Robert Gimbel will be the delegate; Larry McDavid will be the alternate delegate. Gene Thorpe will submit the $20.00 fee and will be the contact.

There are 10 new renewals as of today.

The Guest Speaker for the January general meeting will be Tom Gaccione. The topic will be nuclear power.

The tennis tournament will be February 2 and 3.

Donate Life is April 27

Antennas in the Park is May 2, the second Saturday of May. The Catalina group will be contacted about joining with us.

Fullerton Railroads Days is May 4 and 5; however, it was decided for the Fullerton Radio Club to not participate due to very few Fullerton residents' attendance at previous Railroad Days.

Emergency Communication – Gene Thorpe and Bill Kohlenberger will gather information

Fullerton Radio Club will continue to have the general meeting at the same location, Chapman Park.

Radio Class – Bill and Richard will work on finding students for a class.

2012 E-postcards were filed. Should be filed for 2013 between May 15 and Dec 31.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, February 6, 2012, at 7:30 PM.
The meeting was closed at 9:14 PM

Submitted by Secretary, Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

Hello Folks. It's Public Service time!

Yes, I need your HELP. In LESS than 23 days it is time for the Fullerton Jr. Tennis Tournament again. Two days only this time and 20 sites, so we need 45 + Amateur Radio Operators to help out with this event. Please check your calendars and let me know that you can help us out. Please send your information to:

KB6CMO@ARRL.net.

Thank You for your Help in the past and now. Dates are: Saturday February 2, Sunday 3, 2013.

Home Phone# 714-680-4258

God Bless America and You too.

Gene Thorpe,
KB6CMO

HDSCS Activities

New Year's Greetings!

Hope everyone has ha a chance to celebrate their favorite holiday and is looking forward to a good 2013. Wanted to share some of the HDSCS 2012 statistics. While 2012 was one of the quieter years for HDSCS, in terms of activations to hospitals, there was still a lot going on.

There was 1 emergency callout, but 2 emergency standbys. The standbys were initially emergency callouts, but while en route, or shortly after the initial responders got on site, the communications problem resolved or soon would be. In accordance with HDSCS protocol the initial responders stay on site for at least 30 minutes. We learned long ago that sometimes phone systems can go down again. It's been prudent to stay on site to make certain the system is operating under normal load.

There were 3 planned standby operations. Sometimes these include follow-up work on a phone system that caused an emergency call out, but hospitals often ask HDSCS communicators to be on site any time upgrades to phone or power systems take place. We are the "just in case" people and often need to be "night owls" as these activities typically take place in the middle of the night. Even though we might do nothing more than set up an internal network and do periodic check-ins, our being there gives comfort to the patient care staff who worry about a sudden loss of phones and the potential impact on patients.

HDSCS members participated in 7 drills. While we participated in two big multi-hospital drills, we also had members involved in smaller drills. The more experience the better and every drill has different features and objectives. It's also important for HDSCS communicators to have opportunities to drill at different hospitals over time. Helps in those real emergencies that involve a single hospital, but of course, we never know where someone might be when an emergency happens.

Members assisted with 4 public service events or demos on behalf of our hospitals or HDSCS. This includes participation in disaster fairs, information tables at special EMS conferences, and hospital based Field Day.

Coordinators and certified hospital communicators (CHCom) attended 22 meetings during the year. This is a decrease from previous years because the hospitals now meet once a month as one large group for disaster and drill planning purposes. There are other meetings, however, where HDSCS is represented, such as the Private Sector Terrorism Response Group; and when appropriate the HPP Advisory Group meetings for example.

There were 4 presentations about HDSCS to ham groups around the area. One of these presentations included "The Ins and Outs of Hospital Communications Support via Amateur Radio" given at the ARES Orange Section Seminar in Perris, California. A follow up to that will take place in February at the request of ARES members in Palm Springs and the surrounding area who want to develop a support group specific for the local hospitals.

Members were involved in 3 projects on behalf of our supported hospitals. All of these involved antenna upgrades/installs at supported hospitals.

There were 4 education/training meetings; our all day Orientation & Review Workshop; a half-day mini-workshop; two radio coach workshops; and a cross band repeater workshop. HDSCS now conducts one or more "radio coach" sessions during the year to verify functional radio capabilities of new members and to help any member who wants some help in better understanding how to use their own gear and to learn the nuances of the various repeaters HDSCS uses. Specialty workshops are provided based on member input and that's what led to the cross band repeat workshop at the end of the summer. For 2013 we already are putting together a "build a folding j-pole" workshop. The folding 'J' antenna can be a great asset inside a hospital during any internal communications problem. We will also have our 'Year End/Year Beginning' and Final Exam meeting at the end of January. After that meeting we will announce the 2012 Disaster Dozen and the 'Outstanding New Member'.

So there you have it. A lot goes on that often isn't noticeable to everyone. And the stats don't talk abt "Termite Month" or the weekly net training exercises. HDSCS is the most active group in Southern California if not the entire country when it comes to participation with and/or on behalf of served agencies.

If you'd like to know more check out our website, www.hdscs.org

73
April Moell, WA6OPS
District Emergency Coordinator
Hospital Disaster Support Communications System
Orange County, CA
emcom4hosp@aol.com

February Show and Tell Announcement

It is time again for the annual FRC "Show and Tell" to be held during our February monthly meeting. Now is the time to start thinking about something you might want to show and briefly talk about. These do not need to be formal presentations or prepared talks. Any topic you think might be of interest to club members or something that would make an interesting demonstration are all welcomed. Please send me a brief description of your topic or demonstration and how much time you will need to my email address at: **rhbelansky@raytheon.com**.

Next on-foot transmitter hunt January 12 near Santa Barbara

Lake Los Carneros Park in Goleta, CA will be the site of southern California's next international-style on-foot foxhunt on Saturday, January 12, 2013. A ham radio license and knowledge of radio equipment are not required. Experts will be on hand to teach the basic techniques of on-foot radio direction-finding (RDF). There is no charge for participation. 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. A limited amount of RDF gear will be available for loan. For those who want to build RDF gear for use with their own two-meter hand-held radios or scanners, Marvin will have kits for measuring-tape yagis and active attenuators. Also available is an assembled and tested assembly that includes the power switch, BNC connector, housing and battery, ready to install as the tape measure beam is built. Send e-mail to Marvin (marvin@west.net) to pre-register and get more information about equipment. The building session will only take place if there are sufficient advance registrations. If you already have equipment and just want to hunt transmitters, you don't need to pre-register. If it takes place, the building session will start at 9:30 AM. Please be prompt. Beginner transmitters will be on the air at that time. The main 5-fox hunt will start about 10:30 AM. Hunters may start the courses at any time until 1 PM. Courses close at 3 PM. Besides some easy fox transmitters just to help you learn and test your equipment, there will be a beginner-level international-rules course. The site area is slightly less than 140 acres. It is relatively flat, making it a good site for foxtailers of all skill levels. If you need some one-on-one help to get started at finding transmitters, just ask. Full-color orienteering maps will be available. Weather: In case of rainy or very wet conditions, the event might be postponed. If you're in doubt, check www.homingin.com before you set out to make sure that the event is a "go." Directions to Lake Los Carneros: From US 101 about 8 miles west of downtown Santa Barbara, take the Los Carneros Road exit, head north about 1/4 mile and turn right into the Stow House parking lot. There should be plenty of free parking. Look for the orange-and-white orienteering flag. The building session and hunt start will be in the picnic area, just east of the railroad depot. Ham radio talk-in is on the WB6OBB repeater, 147.000(-) PL 131.8. For your GPS navigation system: 300 North Los Carneros Road, Goleta, CA 34.44416N 119.85446W 73, Joe Moell K0OV

FRC Transmitter Hunts, November and December

Dave Balgie N6MJN usually finds transmitter hiding spots near his home in Costa Mesa, but for the November 17 FRC mobile transmitter hunt, he was on the far north boundary. His five-watt transmitter and horizontally-polarized four-element quad were in the parking lot of the theater complex at the Vincent Avenue exit of the 10 freeway in West Covina.

Team Calls	Odo Miles
WA6CYY	23.3
N6ZHZ	23.9
AB6PA/N6BOX	29.0
N6AIN/WA6PYE	30.5

The winner was Ron Allerdice WA6CYY, who also lives in Costa Mesa. He won the privilege of hiding for the December 15 hunt and he stayed close to home. Transmitters have been hidden along Back Bay Drive many times over the years since the boundaries were expanded to include that area. Ron did it a bit differently by attempting to bounce the signal off Catalina Island. He ran 120 watts into an 11-element yagi just three feet off the ground, pointed southwest. Don't stand in front of that antenna! Much of his signal may have bounced from buildings on Balboa Island back to the start, because all of the teams found Ron before 9:30 PM.

Team Calls	Odo Miles
N6MJN	24.7
N6AIN/WA6PYE	34.5
N6ZHZ	38.7
K6RBS	Unofficial

The next hunt will be Saturday, January 19 at 8 PM, starting from the top of Acacia Avenue in Fullerton. Ride-alongs are welcome.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

Sunspot Cycle 24?

Low Enough To Be Re-Forecast

FRC club opportunities in 2013 include both meetings and opportunities for "in the field" practice. Such events offer public service (P-S) communication that has to be no cost. As our club's 63 year history continues adding value to the community, we try to offer creative uses for our most interesting and communicative privilege-hobby.

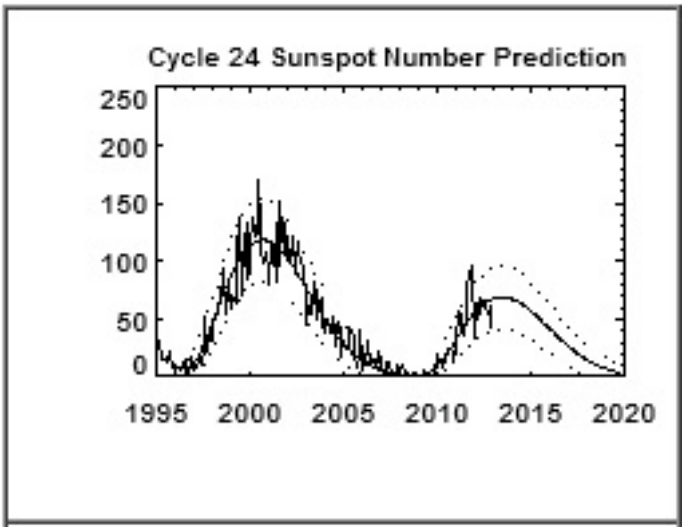
Before growth of the internet, HF operation, building and contesting, technical and educational topics filled the club calendar. For many non member local hams these activity types persist outside FRC. But FRC members have high interest and show priority support to using ham radio for serving and supporting our communities

Still, HF-DX, building, contesting and scientific learning is a valuable aspect of ham radio practice. Hams actually do provide useful aid during world scale disasters. So, current knowledge on how and when to use naturally occurring band affects remains essential to both hams and the broad public interest.

At Marshal Space Flight Center, NASA has issued a 2013 update forecast of solar status, including a revision for sunspot cycle #24, one of the lowest on record. It's a most interesting publication at **http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/predict.shtml**.

The peak is expected to Max. near 60, less than half of the Peak seen during 1948 cycle 18, where count averages near 150 gave very good conditions. By cycle 19, in 1960, Spot Avg's. rose to over 200, resulting in very strong band openings 160 through 10 meters. I was even able to hear a Mobile ham describe a destructive 1960 Alaska Easter Earthquake happening on 20 M in real time.

Cycle 24's, DX is more challenging. Bands 14 thru 30 MHz are active more often when counts rise above 50. So we can expect experimenters to search other propagation paths. For example, trans-equatorial HF, 6m and 2m scatter are still studied. Moon bounce on VHF through μwave lengths has been and still is tried by many Hams. Just ask Dennis, W6DQ.



2013 club activities offer Tennis, Donate Life, and Ants-in-the-park Operating proving our Ham radio is neither boring or on it's way out. Before the internet, traffic nets, Astronet, Hospital support nets and more were **the** world's social media. Get on more and have fun. 73, W6ZJE

[Ed. And then things can change unexpectedly. This past Tuesday, club member Gordon Levine reported "Tuesday Jan 8 0725 PST, Solar Flux - 150 A - 3 K - 1 sunspot number 196 Wow, go get 'em, folks. Gordon wb6jvp" Keep listening as things can change from day-to-day.]

So you think you're OLD

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Wal-Mart. 'Wal-Mart?' the preacher exclaimed. 'Why Wal-Mart?' 'Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week'

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Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, 'How old was your husband?' '98,' she replied: 'Two years older than me.' 'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented. She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'

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It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

FRC Regular Club Meeting

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

Next Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2013

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

FRC Board Meeting

Open to all members

Marie Callender's Restaurant
126 Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia
First Wednesday of each month.

Next Board Meeting
February 6, 2013

QSO and dinner; 7:00 PM

Meeting: 7:30 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.