



# Smoke Signals

## Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

### September 2016

#### September Meeting

Our September speaker is Violet Barrett, Vi. Her callsign since 1948 is W6CBA. Vi was into ham radio in a very serious way from the start, doing CW with an 800 Watt amplifier. It was only much later that she got a job as a radio dispatcher at the FBI. She will tell us about her journey in ham radio and some stories about her work in the Los Angeles offices of the FBI. She retired early to raise a family and was the switchboard operator and receptionist for the Whittier School District. Since retiring from that she has volunteered at the Whittier Police station and has been doing that for 20 years now. She will tell us about some of the famous people that she knew through radio and some interesting facts about the bureau.



Vi Barrett in her dispatcher years

#### 2017 Solar Eclipse

I have reservations to join a tour group to Casper, Wyoming for the August 21, 2017 total solar eclipse. This will be a quick 4-day trip without extended sightseeing in Wyoming. I could extend that period perhaps but I don't think I will. Here is a web link to a very interactive NASA website on this eclipse: <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEgoogle/SEgoogle2001/SE2017Aug21Tgoogle.html> You can zoom the map and click anywhere to get details about eclipse duration and times. If you zoom out you can see the full eclipse path across the United States. Because of the location of this path, this will be the most-observed-ever solar eclipse. So observed that hotel accommodations along the eclipse path are mostly already sold out. Some hotels in desirable locations are charging \$300/night and demanding 5-day stays! My tour group made hotel reservations a year ago. But, you could get a hotel off the eclipse path and drive that day to the central path. In Casper the eclipse period of totality will be 2 minutes 26 seconds. The longest-possible duration of totality for any eclipse (not this one) is about 7.5 minutes. The solar eclipse I observed in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico was close to the maximum. It's all about celestial mechanics! For this 2017 eclipse, the longest period of totality will be 2 minutes 40 seconds near Nashville, Tennessee. I encourage all of you to observe this eclipse somewhere along the path of totality; it's a huge path right through the central US. Generally, you must travel to remote locations to observe eclipses. I've been to six, most in really remote international locations. One eclipse took me to the altiplano of Bolivia at 15,000 feet elevation, many miles from any road! If you've never seen a total solar eclipse, this is a nearby opportunity and you should! You will never have seen anything like it! Totality is the only time you can actually naked-eye (no filter glasses are used during totality) see the solar corona around the sun, extending 2-3 solar diameters out. Air temperature falls quickly during totality and you get a good sense how much energy we get from our sun!

Larry McDavid W6FUB

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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.org](http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org)**

**September 2016 Board Meeting Minutes**

The September 2016 FRC Board meeting was called to order by President Albert Solomon AG6OF at 7:30pm. Present: Vice President Walter Clark, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO, Secretary: Linda Endsley KJ6IHB. Directors: Larry McDavid W6FUB , Paul Broden K6MHD, Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ and members Richard Belansky KG6UDD, Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU, Helen Solomon KJ6IEN and Bob Houghton AD6QF.

**Treasurer's report:**

Checking - \$1,990.04, Savings - \$4,606.69

August minutes approved.

Old Business:

More articles are needed for input in the newsletters.

New Business:

Membership remains the same.

Hamcon will be in 2017 in Torrance. Due to lack of volunteers, Fullerton Radio Club will not be participating as a sponsor.

Speaker for the August general meeting – Vi Barrett, W6CBA

Albert will attend the next meeting of the L.A. area Council of Amateur Clubs.

Need to select a committee for the election of new executive board members for next year. Walter volunteered to be on the committee. We will ask for volunteers for the committee at the next general meeting in September.

Future speakers: October – Bob Turner, Difference between RACES and ARES; November – Wayne Spring, Restoring “Boat Anchors”

Next board meeting: 05 OCTOBER 2016

Adjourned at 8:04 pm

Submitted by Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

## On-foot Transmitter Hunters Win Medals in Bulgaria

Fifteen of USA's best on-foot hidden transmitter hunters are bringing home medals from Albena, Bulgaria, where the Eighteenth World Cup and World Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) took place from August 29 through September 9. Two of the participants live in southern California and are regular participants in our on-foot transmitter hunting sessions in local parks.

Over 400 competitors representing 39 nations took to the courses near Varna, a popular resort city on the Black Sea coast. They were divided into six age categories for males and five for females, in accordance with rules of the International Amateur Radio Union.

The nine men and six women on USA's team ranged in age from 26 to 74 and came from eight states. They won their places on the team by their excellent performances in the 2016 USA ARDF Championships near Killeen, Texas and the 2015 USA ARDF Championships in Elbert, Colorado. The southern Californians were Bill Wright WB6CMD of Murrieta and Bill Smathers KG6HXX of Santa Barbara. Both learned the sport in our local sessions and then competed in the USA championships. They didn't win medals in Bulgaria, but they had a great time, met some new ARDF friends and learned how to do

much better next time.

Winning medals for the USA in Bulgaria this year were Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI, who took gold in the sprint event, being first to find all ten required transmitters on a 2.7 kilometer course. Vadim also won bronze in classic races on both the two meter and 80-meter bands. Alla Mezhevaya of Rockford, IL was second in the W35 category of the two-meter classic, finding all required transmitters on a 5.8 kilometer course. Ruth Bromer WB4QZG of Raleigh, NC took third place in the sprint event and shared a team medal with Karla Leach KC7BLA in the 80-meter classic. More information and a link to complete results are at [www.homingin.com](http://www.homingin.com).

This is the tenth time that USA has fielded a team for the World Championships, which take place in even-numbered years in various countries around the world. The last time that Bulgaria hosted was in 2006, when USA won its first World Championships medal. All of the team members agree that we've come a long way since then, and our southern California on-foot transmitter hunting sessions are helping to produce the ARDF Team USA's of the future.

73, Joe Moell K0OV

ARRL ARDF Coordinator

## Amateur Radio Parity Act

Hi all,

Most of you probably know that the Amateur Radio Parity Act passed the House this week without

objection. Now it goes to the Senate.

For those of us who live in an HOA restricted community, this bill provides additional rights for the reasonable accommodation of ham antennas in communities that currently ban antennas of any sort. The ARRL has a form that allows you to send a letter, with your name and address to Senators Boxer and Feinstein, urging them to support this bill. Based on the House vote, I think this looks to have a good chance of passing the Senate.

I literally takes just a minute and will go a long way to helping our hobby as more and more people live in restricted communities.

<https://arrrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act>

73, Bob Rowland

## New Flu Vaccine for Seniors

I believe the information below will be of interest to each of us, most of whom are older adults. Flu can be a serious illness, especially for seniors, so a flu shot is recommended each year.

I recently got a flu shot at Costco, free with Medicare, else \$15. It is convenient for me to use Costco for this since I'm in Costco often. The flu shot is administered by a Costco pharmacist and is arranged, with a bit of paperwork, at the Costco pharmacy.

The CDC recommends everyone 6 months old and older get a seasonal flu shot. Yes, young children are included.

But, for the first time ever, I was offered the option of choosing between two different flu vaccines

at Costco. The first option is for the standard vaccine that any adult can get as in previous years. But, now, there is a second option for a "Senior" flu vaccine for those age 65 and older. I later discovered there are two different "Senior" flu vaccines available according to the CDC.

The Costco pharmacist explained that the Senior vaccine offered more protection for seniors, who often have reduced immune response. The senior vaccine Costco is offering has a milky white color in the syringe, unlike the normal vaccine.

One type of senior flu vaccine is described as having four times the amount of antigen (higher quantity of the active ingredient) as the normal vaccine. The other type of senior vaccine instead includes an adjuvant, an ingredient added to a vaccine to create a stronger immune response to vaccination; otherwise, it has the same amount of virus antigen as the standard flu vaccine. Two manufacturers provide the two types of senior vaccines. Here is a link to a CDC article on the new senior vaccines:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/65over.htm>

The Fullerton Costco I used had the "FLUAD" senior flu vaccine available at the same price; this vaccine includes the milky white MF59 adjuvant, an oil-in-water emulsion of squalene oil. Squalene, a naturally occurring substance found in humans, animals and plants, is highly purified for the vaccine manufacturing process. Its effect is to increase the immune response to the flu vaccine antigens.

Most flu vaccines are trivalent. That is, they contain antigens for three flu viruses. Each year the CDC selects

the three most-likely viruses to cause flu illness and to use in the flu vaccines. Of course, they can be wrong and the vaccine not protect against an unexpected flu virus. But, I believe I have benefited from the flu vaccine each year so I get the flu shot each year.

There is also a quadrivalent flu vaccine with four virus antigens but I don't know about its availability.

Anyway, at Costco I opted for the new senior version of the flu vaccine. I always have slight soreness at the injection site from these vaccines but consider it worth the short-term mild discomfort to reduce the likelihood of getting the flu in the coming year. I don't notice any difference in this mild discomfort as a result of selecting the new senior vaccine.

So, the flu vaccines are available now and I recommend you not wait to get the flu shot later. Vaccine effectiveness continues well into next year.

Ask if you have questions.  
Larry McDavid W6FUB

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### FRC Mobile Transmitter Hunts

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Bob Miller N6ZHZ and David Whittlesey KK6JDC were responsible for hiding the two-meter hidden transmitter on Saturday, August 20. They picked the parking lot of Pantera Elementary School in the hills of Diamond Bar, giving plenty of good signal bounces to the hunters. The school is across the street from Pantera Park, where Joe and April Moell hid a transmitter a few years ago. Here are the results:

<u>Team Calls</u>	<u>Odo Miles</u>
AB6PA	21.0
WA6CYY	22.5
N6MJN	23.4
N6AIN/WA6PYE	24.8
K0OV	Unofficial

Glenn Tobey AB6PA was the winner and will hide the next hunt on Saturday, September 17. Hiders will gather at the top of Acacia Avenue in Fullerton to await the continuous signal on 146.565 MHz at 8 PM.

73, Joe Moell K0OV

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**You're Invited! ARRL Pacific Division Ham Radio Convention -- October 14, 15 and 16, 2016**

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*The ARRL Pacific Division and the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club Present:*

**PACIFICON 2016 - October 14, 15 and 16, 2016**

- **The ARRL Pacific Division Convention!**
- **One of the Largest West Coast Vendor Shows of Amateur Radio Gear!**
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**[www.PACIFICON.org](http://www.PACIFICON.org)**

## Last Month

The photo below was taken at the August Club meeting with John Norman KF6DPJ making his presentation of activities related to the San Bernardino Sherriff's Cave and Technical Rescue Team. It was an interesting presentation. Sure would have been nice if we'd had a larger attendance! Where were YOU?



## REMEMBER

Meetings are back to:  
**Chapman Activity Center**

2515 San Carlos Dr.

Fullerton, CA

The September meeting will be on:

**Wednesday,  
September 21, 2016**

Dinner before the meeting at 5:30 PM at:

**Sizzler**

**1401 N. Harbor Blvd.**

**Fullerton**

**Meeting time: 7:00 PM**

**Visitors are welcome**

## FRC Board Meeting

**Open to all Club members**

**Marie Callender's Restaurant**

126 Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia

First Wednesday of each month.

**Next Board Meeting**

**October 5, 2016**

QSO and dinner; 7:00 PM

**Meeting: 7:30 PM**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

Fullerton Radio Club

PO Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92836

(Please Print)

Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name #2 \_\_\_\_\_

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.**