



Smoke Signals

Newsletter of Fullerton Radio Club

December 2016



ITS PARTY TIME

Friday Night is the Club Holiday Dinner and Installation party at Marie Calendar's restaurant, near the corner of Yorba Linda and Kraemer Boulevards, Placentia. I trust that you have reservations for dinner! But if you don't, you can still come at about 7:30 for participation in the door prizes. If you're not there, too bad, but you will be missed.



Installation of Club Officers

Officers for the Fullerton Radio Club will be installed, with passing of the baton during the Holiday Dinner meeting. Your 2017 officers were voted into office by acclimation at the regular November club meeting. New officers are:

- President: Bob Houghton AD6QF
- Vice President: Walter Clark
- Secretary: Linda Endsley KJ6IHB
- Treasurer: Gene Thorpe KB6CMO
- Board Members At-Large

Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ

Richard Belansky KG6UDD

Larry McDavid W6FUB

Albert Solomon AG6OF

Paul Broden K6MHD



Happy Holidays

Fullerton Radio Club
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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

December 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Treasurer's report:

Savings - \$2,606.78; Checking- \$3,969.04

November minutes were approved with the correction that Larry renewed the OCCARO domain name, not web site; (was reimbursed by Chris), and bank account numbers were reversed with actual numbers being; Savings - \$2,606.74, Checking - \$3,990.04.

Old Business:

The Christmas dinner will be on Friday, December 16th.

New Business:

No new or renewal memberships. Next year need to include renewal form in December newsletter.

Bob Houghton will look into a trip to Goldstone Tracking Station.

Board discussed the Yahoo group and functionality.

Donate Life Run will be on April 29. Save the date

Next board meeting: 4 JAN 2016

Adjourned at 8:27 pm

Submitted by Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

Yuma Hamfest

The Yuma Hamfest is just a little over two months away on February 17-18, and we would like to ask that you, your club or group help us in spreading the word about our event. Yuma has become the site of one of the largest hamfests in the southwestern U.S. and will be the site of the ARRL Arizona Section Convention for 2017.

We feature commercial vendors, tailgating, grand prizes worth over \$25,000, on-site RV camping, free parking, seminars held in parallel tracks, \$8 amateur license testing, DXCC card checking, an antenna clinic & transmitter hunt, our famous "Buzzard BBQ" dinner, a near-space balloon launch, great hourly door prizes, a hospitality area, the "Country Store" consignment sales area, and much more.

Admission is only \$5, tailgating spots are \$10 for the weekend, and we offer a food concession run by a professional chef. Our "Buzzard BBQ" dinner is only \$10. We hope you and members of your club mark February 17-18 on your calendars and plan on attending the Arizona Section Convention in Yuma.

Please check our website at www.yumahamfest.org for more information. If you have questions, contact us at info@yumahamfest.org or by phone at 928-305-1034. If you can, please announce information about the Yuma Hamfest via your club's newsletter, meetings or local nets. Thank you very much for your help.

Attached is a flyer for the 2017 Yuma Hamfest. Please note the change in the talk-in frequency.

Roger Hunt, K7MEX
Volunteer, Yuma Hamfest

2017 Arizona Section Convention

Yuma Hamfest

Yuma, Arizona

Feb. 17 & 18, 2017



Yuma County Fairgrounds
2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona

www.yumahamfest.org

Check the Website for Additional Information

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon | Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm | Hamfest Dinner & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm |
|---|---|---|

Vendors & Exhibitors
Consignment Sales
License Testing
Hourly Door Prizes
On-site RV Camping
Hamfest Dinner
ARRL Speaker
Transmitter Hunt
\$5.00 Admission

Tailgating (Swap Meet)
Full Seminar Schedule
DXCC Card Checking
Incredible Grand Prizes
Emergency Preparedness
Admission Prize
Hospitality Area
Near Space Balloon Launch
Antenna Clinic

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.780 (-) PL 103.5 Hz

Email Contact: info@yumahamfest.org



We are proud to have the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of our event.

The Yuma Hamfest is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sanctioned event.



Presented by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization

FRC Mobile T-hunt Report

Dave Balgie N6MJN picked an old favorite place to hide the transmitter for the Fullerton Radio Club transmitter hunt on November 19. He was parked just off Pellissier Place in Whittier, very close to the junction of freeways 60 and 605. This is a favorite area because it can be difficult to find, depending on how the hider aims the transmit antenna. Only two hunters were out and it took over an hour for each of them to get there.

| <u>Team Calls</u> | <u>Odo Miles</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|
| WA6CYY | 24.2 |
| N6AIN/WA6PYE | 26.4 |

The holiday season won't stop these intrepid transmitter hunters. The next hunt will be on December 17, the third Saturday, as usual. The signal goes on the air on 146.565 at 8 PM and the hunters will be waiting at the top of Acadia Avenue in Fullerton.

73,
Joe Moell K0OV

HDSCS ACTIVITIES

The year has ended with a little extra excitement for HDSCS. Two major activities kept us hopping: the Statewide Medical & Health Exercise, and a hospital phone outage.

The week before Thanksgiving found HDSCS communicators responding to hospitals as part of the yearly Statewide Medical and Health Exercise. This yearly event involves hospitals throughout the state exercising their disaster plans. The California State Emergency Services Authority provides the scenario and educational materials to use as a lead up to the drill. This simulated emergency helps hospitals meet their requirement to have two drills each year that stresses the facilities' disaster plans.

This year's storyline was a mass casualty incident involving a train accident that included a school bus with students from outside the immediate area. There were many similarities to the 2002 Placentia train collision. The one big difference was the surge of pediatric patients to the hospitals. Not all hospitals treat children and some hospitals can only handle small numbers of children, i.e., under 10. That created issues in terms of dispatch to hospitals as well as tracking the pediatric patients to help reunite them with parents.

Hospitals using HDSCS communicators had to initiate the HDSCS paging system that required a 3 digit number, unique to each hospital and county Emergency Medical Services, to be used. This year was the best compliance by the hospitals in using this activation procedure. Over 20 HDSCS radio operators participated in this morning drill that lasted about 4 hours. The communications problems were similar to those experienced in the Placentia train crash with phone system overload, and often delays of information over the emergency networks which included digital methods, hospital walkie talkies, and fax machines. The majority of communications were between hospitals and the county Health Emergency Operations Center (HEOC), but with some hospitals having sister hospitals in the county, there were Amateur Radio back communications provided to those hospitals.

FRC members who participated were: Paul Broden, K6MHD; Tom Gaccione, WB2LRH; Bob Houghton, AD6QF; Ted Kramer, NB6N; April Moell, WA6OPS; Joe Moell, K0OV; and Dave Reinhard, KJ6REP.

Then on Monday, December 12, around 1:15PM, phones went down at Anaheim Global Medical Center, the former Western Medical Center Anaheim. In accordance with the hospital emergency plan, HDSCS was contacted using the HDSCS Call-Up sheet. The assistant disaster coordinator informed Joe Moell, K0OV of the problem and the request for multiple operators to back-up communications. A call over a local repeater used by HDSCS, found Bob Houghton, AD6QF and April Moell, WA6OPS ready to put HDSCS into action. Ultimately WA6OPS became the base station/net control with AD6QF; Paul Broden, K6MHD; Dale Petes, KI6ANS; and Joe Moell, K0OV responding to the hospital. Three operators provided internal communications with AD6QF staying in contact with WA6OPS for outside communications. The initial responders are all FRC members. A relief operator responded after 5PM and two other communicators were preparing to start relieving other operators when the phone system was declared stable. The HDSCS communicators on site at the conclusion were incorporated in the debriefing with the hospital staff. This phone outage was the 123rd emergency and the 97th phone outage to which HDSCS has responded since 1980.

April Moell WA6OPS, HDSCS Coordinator

A Ham's Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
by a signal with power.

It smoked a small diode,
and, I swear, shook the tower.
Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
And the DX Packet Cluster,
While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,
And a little old driver
Who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas,
To clean up the bands.
He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.
While Mom and I hid

Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.
He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till

The station was grounded.
He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before-
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV.
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box.

A new rig? I thought!
A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!

(If he thought I'd been bad
It might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
That I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent.
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!
He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.

Seventy-Three."
Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good-bye.
I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.
Oh, too late, for his final
Came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.
The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

(c)1996 Gary Pearce KN4AQ
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Many of you will be familiar with Gary Pierce's (KN4AQ) YouTube videos. Ten years before YouTube was invented, Gary wrote his version of Clement Clarke Moore's famous poem. If you would like to watch the YouTube version (complete with narration, mellow jazz guitar, and some cool old images from QST) type the following link into your web browser: bit.ly/FRCXMAS

Membership!

It's almost 2017, and time for renewal of Club membership. By-laws for the Club remind us that membership "... renewals are due in January. Dues become delinquent at the end of March." Along with membership renewal is the need to participate in Club activities, **including attendance of regular meetings**. Our VP has done an amazing job in arranging some excellent presentations at the meetings, but attendance continues at a low level with average of around only 14 in attendance. **WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!** A membership application/renewal form is attached to this newsletter. Let's all renew early this year (you can actually do it before year-end – maybe at the party tomorrow night.) And, you might invite a friend. One other thing; although our VP is doing a great job in finding speakers for Club meetings, we **ALL** should be trying to identify topics and speakers that would be of interest to the Club. If/when you do find such a speaker please provide information to Walter. Lets try to make his job a little easier.

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.