November 2017 President’s column

The Fullerton Radio Club officer election for 2018 will take place on Wednesday, November 15 at the usual time and place. At the moment, we do not have a nominee for the position of Vice President. I’m asking all of you to consider stepping forward and volunteering to run for the position.

At the November TAG meeting, we had a productive discussion about the challenges of attracting guest speakers for the Club, and the effect that has on people’s willingness to serve as Vice President. As I said at the last meeting, I am determined to see the responsibility for getting guest speakers shared across the club, rather than being the sole responsibility of the Vice President.

Walter and I made the appeal to the TAG participants that rather than it being the sole responsibility of the FRC Vice President to attract guest speakers, instead TAG needs to to take on this challenge as a group. If there is one thing that TAG members have in common, it is that we like to solve problems, right? We have a problem to solve.

I have asked all the folks who regularly participate in the TAG meetings, to commit to (a) either sharing one of their projects or interests as a presentation during 2018, (b) teaming up with one or more people to give a group presentation, or (c) approaching someone outside the club and inviting them to present as a guest speaker. (d) All of the above is also a correct answer.

I hope to see you at Wednesday’s meeting.

Before the meeting, why not join us for dinner and conversation at 5 o’clock at the Black Bear Diner? Also, remember to get your Christmas Dinner reservations and membership renewals to Gene. I know he’ll be more than happy to take your money at the meeting.

73,
Bob - AD6QF

November Meeting:

Chapman Activity Center
2515 San Carlos Dr.
Fullerton, CA

Meeting time: 7:00 PM
Visitors are welcome

See Page 9 for location details

Elections

It’s already November, and time for election of Club officers for next year. Here’s the slate of candidates:

President: Bob Houghton AD6QF
Vice President: Currently Open
Secretary: Linda Endsley KJ6IHB
Treasurer: Gene Thorpe KB6CMO

Plus a minimum of one Board Member at-large from the selection below (all of them can serve, if elected):

Board at-large candidates: Richard Belansky KG6UDD, Paul Broden K6MHD, Walter Clark, Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ, Larry McDavid W6FUB, Albert Solomon AG6OF
President  
Bob Houghton AD6QF  
Phone: (714) 446-0520  
E-mail: bobhoughton@mac.com

Vice President  
Walter Clark  
Phone: (714)-882-9647  
E-mail: walterclark@roadrunner.com

Secretary  
Linda Endsley, KJ6IHB  
Phone: (714) 992-4645  
E-mail: lindiend@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer, Public Service, Membership  
Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO  
Phone: (714) 680-4258  
E-mail: kb6cmo@juno.com

HDSCS  
April Moell, WA6OPS  
Phone: (714) 879-6895  
Emergency Coordinator, HDSCS  
E-mail: emcom4hosp@aol.com  
www.hdscs.org

T-Hunt  
Joe Moell, K0OV  
http://www.homingin.com  
E-mail: homingin@aol.com

OCCARO Representatives  
Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ

License Trustee  
Albert Solomon, AG6OF  
Phone: (714) 476-9638  
E-mail: albertsolomon18@gmail.com

Directors  
Larry McDavid, W6FUB  
Phone: (714) 630-5672  
Robert Gimbel, KG6WTQ  
Phone: (714) 657-2862  
Albert Solomon, AG6OF  
Phone: (714) 476-9638  
Richard Belansky, KG6UDD  
Phone: (714) 970-6385

Director & Newsletter Editor  
Paul Broden, K6MHD  
Phone: (714) 871-9478  
E-mail: pbroden@sbcglobal.net

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

The November 2017 FRC Board meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Bob Houghton AD6QF. Others present: Vice President Walter Clark, Treasurer Gene Thorpe KB6CMO and Secretary Linda Endsley KJ6IHB. Directors: Larry McDavid W6FUB, Paul Broden K6MHD, Richard Belansky KG6UDD, and Robert Gimbel KG6WTQ. Member: Cheryl Thorpe KE6TZU.

Treasurer’s report: Savings - $2,607.22; Checking- $3,943.01 + 330.01

Minutes from the October were approved after correction that TAG members will be receiving the newsletters.

Old Business:

The Boy Scout project has been put on hold.

The Holiday Dinner will be Friday, December 15.

New Business:

Elections are coming up.

Received one new member and one renewal.

Authorized $250 for raffle items. Walter motioned, Larry seconded.

Next year the Holiday dinner form needs lines added for guests.

Next board meeting: 6 DEC 2017

Adjourned at 7:57 pm

Submitted by Linda Endsley KJ6IHB

BOARD MEETING  
Open to all Club members  
Marie Callender's Restaurant  
126 Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia  
First Wednesday of each month.  
Next Board Meeting  
December 6, 2017  
QSO and dinner; 7:00 PM  
Meeting: 7:30 PM

HOLIDAY DINNER MENU

You will note something different on the holiday dinner menu this year! No, not a change in menu items or price, but the form now offers opportunity to pay 2018 membership dues along with the dinner reservation. Maybe this will encourage all of us to PAY UP NOW!
An Extra-Class Radio Amateur, BRIAN THORSON is Vice President of the San Bernardino Microwave Society. He has been active in the annual ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest since 2009, and also operates on HF, 2 meters, 220 MHz and 440 MHz. During a 23 year career with Southern California Edison (SCE), he worked in the Telecomm, Public Affairs, Transmission Engineering and Corporate Safety departments. As the SCE Corporate Radio Frequency Safety Officer, Brian developed and taught workshops on antenna safety and RF exposure. When the utilities converted to wireless smart meters, he authored and performed the first test plan in California for radio frequency exposure from wireless “smart” utility meters. Recently retired, Prior to Edison, Brian worked in several fields including electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), satellite communications, television broadcast engineering, technical writing, and medical electronics. He has traveled abroad to 30 foreign countries on 4 continents. Brian and his family live in Corona, California.

TOPIC: Utility Power Line RF Interference (RFI)

Radio Amateurs trying to receive voice and data from long distance contacts are often frustrated by the level of electronic noise invading their antennas. Increasingly, they find the power company’s high voltage power lines are the source. Most electric utilities have an interference resolution programs and they often can solve RFI issues. The introduction of wireless (smart) utility meters in recent years has added a new dimension to an old problem. This presentation includes factual information on the traditional and more recent utility sources of RFI, methods to locate and verify RFI sources, and an insider’s look at electric utility companies and their interference reduction programs. Insider tips on getting the utility’s attention and expediting service will also be given. Brian will hand out a free power line interference filter to one lucky attendee of this presentation.

A Love Story?
I will seek you and find you …
I shall take you to bed and have my way with you.
I will make you ache, shake & sweat until you moan and groan.
I will make you beg for mercy and beg me to stop.
I will exhaust you to the point that you will be relieved when I’m finished with you.
And, when I am finished you will be weak for days.

All my love; The Flu
(Author unknown)

P.S. Get your mind out of the gutter; it’s flu season.
Go get your flu shot.

What’s the difference between a Harley motorcycle and a Hoover vacuum cleaner?

Location of the dirt bag!
(from Smoke Signals, March 2001)
The first part of the meeting was a discussion on ways in which the Technical Advisory Group can support the club in getting guest speakers. The discussion was opened by TAG host, Walter Clark followed by Bob Houghton. It went on for nearly a half an hour with everyone contributing ideas on what they can do. One highlight of the discussion was that two short subjects could be done on the same evening. There were at least six speakers for 2018 inspired by this discussion. Five more are needed.

The case was well made that most if not all speakers for the Third Wednesday meeting (the main club meeting) must come from this advisory group. It was also made clear (in previous meetings) that the Hospital Group, the T-Hunters as well as TAG are part of the Fullerton Radio Club. It thus cannot be allowed to flounder. If there’s no speaker, there’s no reason to have an FRC. That is all it is. The three subordinate groups don’t require finding a speaker. Keeping them going is a given.

Larry McDavid is still recovering from a shoulder injury and because of that he’s been watching a lot of TV and finally has had it with his lame remote and got a new one. The lesson he shared with us is, don’t stop at a “universal” remote. You can find the exact replacement on eBay.

Another eBay find was Fast Rise-Time Pulser from Leo Bodnar (about $70). Larry mentioned its use for testing lab instruments and in particular the oscilloscope.

Bill Webb brought his current project which is an internet linked thermometer inspired by Walter Clark. Walter wanted a wall thermometer that displayed what the temperature was out under the tree in the back yard and a curve from whatever now temperature is to hour from now. Rather than base it on yesterday’s temperature, Bill chose to use a more accurate prediction and that’s from a weather bureau. He chose a weather website which caters to amateur weather stations called the “Weather Underground.” Parsing that turned out to involve about 17 pages of code. This is because he is after very specific information on that website. Here Bill is holding the part of the device that would be in the tree. The display is by way of the web so it can be anywhere in the world. The part in his hand uses an ESP32 which is a Chinese version of an Arduino. Bill says it’s far better and the user support group is immensely valuable. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ESP32

John Stephenson is a longtime friend of Walter Clark and Bill’s. John’s most expensive interest is flying (he owns a Grumman Yankee). He’s also into astronomy and most recently The Society of Creative Anachronism. Here he is dressed in the appropriate garb for the period of the crossbow he made. It has a magnetic latch which is not period of course, but he showed how convenient it is.
Tom Fisk described his interest in ham radio as having a 40 year gap. His getting back into it is associated with much more technical matters. He brought to the meeting something he encourages everyone to buy. It is an SWR power meter from MFJ. This particular one is for the VHF and much more affordable than the Byrd. He pointed out that with it you are not only aware of how much power you are radiating but in conjunction with an antenna tuner, you can tweak it for maximum output.

FRC long time member Dave Reinhard WW6I was at the TAG meeting and what he shared with us is the trials and tribulations of getting the call sign he wanted as a recent Extra Class ham. He and Bob Houghton talked about getting the call sign on your car’s license plate. Although the DMV treats the ham as a kind of public service individual and makes the license affordable (it is not considered a vanity plate) it seems to take a long time and requires jumping through lots of bureaucratic hurdles. Larry McDavid shared his experience with the city of Orange police who apparently are unaware of call sign as a special category of license. Bob said that Larry will no longer be subject to this because of some automated system going in that involves cameras in the bumper of police cars.

Tom Gaccione is the one that gets pizza for us. Thank you Tom. Normally his progress reports are quite extensive, but the tenting of his house is what took his interest this month.

Here he’s holding a remote thermometer which Larry brought in to show us. It is also an eBay purchase.
Walter Clark and Dick Bremer shared the same project. They picked up some 2.4 and 5.6 GHz antennas at the last SBMS (microwave hams) meeting. Dick took one apart shown here being held by Brooks Kachner. It is a very strange form of waveguide slot antenna where one side of the waveguide is open. Walter demonstrated the polarization and the narrowness of the beam divergence with a Field Strength Meter. The one Dick opened up he put on a spectrum analyzer and found it to be what he thought was an unusually wide bandwidth for a slotted array.

The large slot antenna on the right below Walter demonstrated it to have a narrower spread than the smaller white antenna, but it didn’t seem as strong at the peak. The difference in design is probably 70 years.

The plate antenna is 5.6 GHz and is probably like the ones you see on top of a signal light. No one seemed to know where it came from. One mystery as to why it is diamond shaped Tom Gaccion suggested is that the structure of channels in the back are (called a corporation) works out best if it is shaped like that. The front are dipole like structures. Polarization is vertical when the flat spot on the diamond is on the bottom. The paint can is Walter's enclosed source of 2.4 GHz.
Brooks Kachner had nothing electronic to report because for the past 5 weeks he’s been living with his wife in a hotel room while his house is being professionally cleaned of smoke damage. It seems that his garage caught fire. He was home but it remains a complete mystery as to how it got started. The most curious event is that the intense heat melted the solder of a water pipe. It burst and the spray of water put the fire out by the time the fire department got there. They hosed down the place anyway, which of course did its own damage.

Dick Palmer brought in yet another QRP radio. This one is different than most of his (he has over 62) in that it is a side band radio which mean voice only. It was a kit by a favorite kit builder (and friend of Dick’s). It had over 160 parts to solder in including a microcontroller that supervised the microphone push to talk. The band covered was the 80 meter band from 3.78 MHz to 4.0. He brought an auto-antenna-tuner so he could use Walter’s G5RV antenna. The attempt was to listen in to the AM net Dennis Kidder is a member of. His SSB only radio would not be able to hear the voice but it was able to see there was someone on the air there.

In keeping with the other TAG members who described how they obtained vanity callsigns, Joe Moell related that he got his K0OV callsign 40 years ago when the FCC first offered special-request callsigns to Extra Class hams. Back then, they weren't called "vanity callsigns." He also gave a report on the all-on-foot transmitter hunt at Bonelli Regional Park on November 4. There were eight two-meter transmitters throughout the park (three easy and five more difficult), plus one 80-meter transmitter. Among those trying to find all the transmitters was our own President Bob Houghton. For hams who prefer transmitter hunting in a car instead of on foot, Joe told about the upcoming six-meter transmitter hunt, which starts in Riverside with a boundary of 20 miles. There is only one hidden transmitter on this hunt, which take place twice a year. A full-size beam on six meters is too big to put on a car, so most hunters use small loop antennas. A few use shrunken versions of a Yagi or quad, and one hunter uses a Doppler set.

Bob Houghton attended the Saturday ARDF session at Bonelli Park. He used his Kenwood TH-d72 radio (which has a GPS) to record the track of his 4.7 mile stroll through the park, giving him an opportunity to become reacquainted with the features of Google Earth Pro. Although Bob has owned this radio for five years, he is only now exploring its computer-assisted capabilities, since until recently he only had access to Mac-OS computers. He recently bought a low-end Lenovo laptop, just to run SDR and other ham radio related software which is Windows only.
NOTE!
The pre-meeting dinner for October will be at **The Black Bear Diner**, Northwest corner of Harbor Boulevard and Berkeley. Dinner time will be 5:00 PM.
Fullerton Radio Club Welcomes Members and Guests to our Holiday Dinner
Friday, December 15, 2017. QSO time starts at 6:30
Dinner will be served promptly at 7:00 PM
At Marie Callender’s Restaurant – Kraemer at Yorba Linda Boulevard, Placentia

Menu: Select from one entrée, plus dessert.

No. 1: Salad Bar and Soup
Crisp greens, fresh fruit, garden vegetables and an array of special salad, plus all the necessary garnishes to complete our masterpiece. Visit the salad bar as often as you like. Served with toasted garlic bread or our famous golden cornbread.

No. 2: Chicken Broccoli Fettuccini
Fettuccini and spinach tortellini, with slices of grilled chicken breast and fresh broccoli in a creamy sauce. Served with a crisp green salad and toasted garlic bread.

No. 3: Chicken Pot Pie of the Day
Tender chunks of chicken with seasonings and vegetables. Served with a crisp green salad.

No. 4: Marie’s Home-style Meatloaf
Meatloaf topped with a tasty old-fashioned gravy. Served with mashed potatoes and fresh vegetables.

No. 5: Oven Roasted Turkey Dinner
Hand carved slices of fresh roasted turkey with our special apple-walnut dressing. Topped with giblet gravy and served with cranberry sauce.

For dessert, make your choice from the following pie selection.

- Lemon – Slightly tart and slightly sweet, this pie is topped with light and airy meringue.
- Apple – Fresh apples slightly spiced with cinnamon.
- Pumpkin – Pumpkin, spice, and everything nice have made this an American favorite.

Served with your choice of coffee, tea or soft drink.

ALL FOR THE PRICE OF $23.00. Tip and tax included.
Cash-and-carry bar available.

Please return this form with your payment to the Fullerton Radio Club meeting on November 15, or mail no later than December 1 to: Fullerton Radio Club, P.O. Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92836-0545
Make checks payable to: Fullerton Radio Club

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For server only:
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I’ll be attending but not eating: ______ Name: ____________________
Call Sign: ____________________ Phone: ____________________

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION
Fullerton Radio Club
PO Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92836

(Please Print)
Name #1: ____________________ Call: ____________________ Class: ____________________
Name #2: ____________________ Call: ____________________ Class: ____________________
Phone #1: ____________________ Email #1: ____________________
Phone #2: ____________________ Email #2: ____________________

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.