

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

April, 2007 - President's Note

Congratulations to our new Club Officers for 2007:

President:	Dave Treharne, N8HKU
Vice President:	Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ
Treasurer:	Bill Brezina, WA8HEA
Secretary:	Roger Reini, KD8CSE
Activities Manager:	Bill Boyke, N8OZV

For a bit of a change of pace, we swapped the positions of Bill, WA8HEA, and Pat, WD8JDZ. Pat is now our club Vice President, and Bill takes over as Treasurer. Roger joins us as club Secretary, and Bill Boyke has volunteered to be Activities Manager. Please feel free to contact any of us with suggestions on activities, issues, articles of interest, and any presentations/projects you wish to share with us.

Keep your lowband antennas handy: I have copied an article from Space.com in this newsletter, and it brings the news that scientists do not believe we have yet hit the bottom of the solar cycle, yet. Now, they are anticipating the cycle to bottom out potentially as late as March of 2008. The next peak is expected now in 2011. With half of the scientists predicting an excellent next cycle, and have a weak one, there is no consensus position. There is just so much we do not know about the ultimate source of energy for our planet! In the meanwhile, the lower frequencies are going to have the best propagation potential. Keep listening to the higher frequencies this summer, though, as they can become active! Last month, I did a presentation on the Sun and Propagation. Please check out the club website for the presentation if you are interested.

Michigan QSO Party: I joined in on the Michigan QSO party this year for a while. I think this was my first time participating. I could only join in for a couple of hours, but had a good time being half contester, have State of Michigan promoter! It is fun being the "hunted" party on the band, allowing me to call CQ and get operators to find me. I ended up working only 40 meters in the late afternoon, given the time I had available. I worked 5 counties in Michigan, and 18 other states, for a total of 45 contacts. I worked a lot of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Some were asking for signal reports, as they were just reinstalling their antennas after the terrible Nor'easter storm that hit them the week before. Some of them were hearing a bit better than they were transmitting, as they needed to work on their SWR a bit more. I was happy to give them some feedback, and log them into the contest log. Next year, I hope to work some 80 meters at night, possibly gaining a few more Michigan counties. I managed to work the counties adjacent to me, including Washtenaw, Wayne, and Monroe. I then skipped up to the North side with Mackinaw and Marquette counties. The Saturday of the contest was pretty nice, so I wonder if more of our fellow residents were not out and about as I was through part of the day.

Please join us for our May meeting. I believe Bill, WA8HEA, has a presentation on Green (military) radios and a demo of a PRC-47 100 watt HF transceiver used in the Vietnam era.

I will be traveling down to Dayton for Hamvention this year. I am probably going to stay overnight Saturday at friends of my wife's in Kettering. I hope to see you there! I will monitor the Tin Lizzy output with a 100Hz PL and tone squelch. I will also have my cell phone 734-476-1666.

73,
Dave
N8HKU
FARL Club President

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FARL Minutes from April, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM by Dave, N8HKU.

Reading of the minutes from March waived. Ivan, N8AMT, moved they be accepted; Pat, WD8JDZ, seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report from Pat, WD8JDZ: the club has \$3524.30 in its coffers at this time. He also submitted the yearly financial report that is submitted to FERA.

Board of Directors: the club received more equipment from the estate of Bill Hogue, SK, including a hand mike and an MFJ manual tuner. This equipment is now part of the club equipment list on the club website.

Repeaters: all functional and in good working order, even the 220 MHz repeater. Phone patch codes -- Dave will get with Murray for the current codes

Radio class: Bill Boyke, N8OZV, told of his current training of several high school students to receive Technician licenses. On a related note, Ivan, N8AMT, mentioned that April 28 was National Test and Become a Ham Day, and that the Livonia Amateur Radio Club was holding a VE session at the Livonia Police Station that day from noon until 3 PM.

Newsletter: Bill Brezina, WA8HEA, was continuing work on preparing a laptop for Rusty to use for editing the newsletter.

Website: the website is up to date. Send any updates to Dave, N8HKU.

Elections: With 8 attendees present, and with 3 needed for a quorum, a quorum was present, and the scheduled elections could take place. Bill Boyke, N8OZV, led the attendees through the nomination process and conducted the votes. Only one position, treasurer, faced restrictions on who was eligible for the position, as Pat, WD8JDZ, had already served the maximum two consecutive terms. For each position except Vice-President, there was only one nomination; therefore, those nominees were all elected by acclamation. The only contested election was for Vice-President, where Pat Quinn and Bill Brezina were the nominees. Pat Quinn was elected by a count of 5-2 (1 abstention). The officers of the Ford Amateur Radio League for 2007-08 are: President, Dave Treharne; Vice-President, Pat Quinn; Treasurer, Bill Brezina; Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Roger Reini; and Activities Manager, Bill Boyke.

Club Special Event Station: we discussed possible dates and locations for a club special event station to commemorate the club's over 50 years in existence. Among the sites proposed were Hines Park, Maybury Park, Ford Field in Dearborn, and in front of the Henry Ford Museum. The consensus preferred location was in Dearborn. Bill Boyke will work on securing a location. Possible dates include August 11-12 and 18-19. September 15 is out, as that conflicts with the PEAC bike ride.

Sunday night net: The Sunday night net on the 2-meter repeater (8 PM every Sunday night) is still going strong. This past Sunday (8th), there were 5 check-ins, including a ham visiting from Ithaca, NY.

Club Calendar: Programs and presenters are needed for later in the year -- September, October and November. Volunteers are needed; contact Dave if you wish to volunteer.

Field Day: Still need a chairperson for the event.

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Compact Fluorescent Lights: while energy efficient, they have the potential to raise the HF noise floor in your shack.

Presentation: The Sun and Radio Propagation by Dave Treharne, N8HKU.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Minutes recorded by Roger Reini, KD8CSE

Sun's Next Cycle of Fury Delayed

[Tarig Malik](#)

Staff Writer

[SPACE.com](#) *Thu Apr 26, 2:00 PM ET*

The Sun's next cycle of solar storms will brew up later than expected, though astronomers are split on just how strong the star's tempests will be.

Initially expected to begin last fall, the [Sun's 11-year storm season](#) is now pegged to begin in March 2008 and hit its peak near the end of 2011, according to a new forecast compiled by a panel of solar experts for the Space Weather Center at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The 12-member panel split into two equal camps, one predicting a weak season while the other expects a strong one, though both facets are not anticipating the Sun set any new records in coming years.

"By giving a long-term outlook, we're advancing a new field - space climate - that's still in its infancy," said retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. David Johnson, director of NOAA's [National Weather Service](#) in Boulder, Colorado. "Issuing a cycle prediction of the onset this far in advance lies on the very edge of what we know about the Sun."

[Sunspots, solar flares and intense explosions](#) known as coronal mass ejections are [hallmarks of the Sun's storm cycle](#), the latter two belching charged particles at such extreme intensities that they can interfere with satellite communications, power grids and Earth, and force astronauts in space to take shelter in reinforced areas of their vehicles such as the Russian segments of the [International Space Station](#) (ISS). The solar storms also amplify Earth's auroras, or the northern and southern lights, when their charged particles interact with the planet's magnetic field.

The Sun's solar cycle is measured by its maximum number of sunspots, blemishes that indicate cooler regions of strong magnetic activity. More sunspots hint at the greater likelihood of more major solar storms during a given season, though most cycles tend to range between about 75 and 155 sunspots, NOAA officials said.

One half of the Solar Cycle 24 panel predicted that the upcoming season could be moderately strong, peaking out with up to 140 sunspots, give or take 20, by October 2011. The panel's other faction, however, predicted a more serene 90-sunspot maximum, plus or minus 10, for Solar Cycle 24. Those estimates are expected to be refined the first year after the Sun's closing storm season, Solar Cycle 23, NOAA officials said.

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"The panelists in each camp have clear views on why they believe in their prediction, why they might be wrong and what it would take to change their minds," said NOAA Space Environment Center scientist Douglas Biesecker, who chaired the panel, in a statement.

Biesecker said that despite the panel's division on the Sun cycle's intensity, all members have a high confidence that the season will begin in March 2008. They represent the third panel to [predict an upcoming solar cycle](#), with previous incarnations meeting in 1989 and 1996. Included in the current panel's debate was the importance of the Sun's magnetic fields near its poles during the waning years of previous solar cycles, NOAA officials said.

"We're on the verge of understanding and agreeing on which precursors are the most important in predicting future solar activity," Biesecker added.

Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day (AMRAD) – May 26th, 2007

ARMAD is an annual, non-political, Amateur Radio Public Service project that stands for **A**mateur **R**adio **M**military **A**ppreciation **D**ay. We work with National Military Appreciation Month during the month of May. We also provide other events, and work with other groups as requested during the year. Amateur Radio Operators from around the world team up during this joint effort to allow the people from our communities to gather at public locations such as shopping centers, parks, VA hospitals, and sporting events to express verbal positive support "LIVE" over two way radio for members of the Military, Veterans, Reserves, National Guard, Retired, Coalition Forces, and military support groups. Many of us have friends, relatives, and neighbors that are active duty, and past members of the armed forces. ARMAD gives us the chance to support one another, and to express our thanks and appreciation to those that sacrifice and serve in the Armed Forces. Join us on Frequency, or set up your own, and let us know where you are operating. The main purpose is to get activity on the air. Event information can be found at <http://www.armad.net/index.htm> or contact KC9HAJ@yahoo.com.

Operations from Ft. Wayne, Indiana, on IRLP (Node 9258), Echolink (Nodes: 267069-ARMAD conference, 6154-Wash. D.C. conference, 106819-KB9IBW, and 16686-KB9RLW), local VHF/UHF, and HF (7260 mhz, 14260 mhz, and 21290 mhz +/- QRM).

Membership Dues Due

Please check the address label on your newsletter. It shows the date your Tin Lizzy Club dues are due to be paid. Please bring your dues to any club meeting and turn them in to a Club officer and they will get them to the Treasurer. You can also send a check (made out to the Ford Amateur Radio League) via snail mail to: Bill Brezina (WA8HEA), 7346 Charlesworth St., Dearborn Heights, MI, 48127, or to the Club PO Box address. Members overdue by 1 year will be dropped from the newsletter mailing list. Please keep your dues current.

FERA Ticket Sales

FERA discount admission tickets are now available for Cedar Point, Kings Island and Geauga Lake parks. Tickets can be obtained from Bill Boyke (N8OZV), Bill Brezina (WA8HEA) and Dave Treharne (N8HKU). The revenue from discount tickets and Entertainment books provide a significant amount of our club income so please tell your friends and family members to get their

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tickets from us. A flyer with ticket prices has been included in this newsletter or you can go to the FERA website (www.fera.org) for the latest information on ticket and travel discounts.

Note on Ralph Chrysler, KC8QFX:

Ralph's son Doug reported on May 1st that Ralph is currently at Botsford Hospital with some health and medication issues. Doug noted Ralph would love any cards and notes sent to him. His home address is: 7327 Bramell Ave, Detroit, MI 48239

Club Meeting Information

The Ford Amateur Radio Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month, except for Christmas and the summer months (July & August). The meetings are held at 7 PM at the Ford Engine Manufacturing & Development Offices (EMDO) building. EMDO is located at 17000 Southfield Rd, Allen Park, MI, on the east side of Southfield just north of the Allen Park Municipal offices. Park in the front of the building and come to the front door near the flagpole. Knock on the door if no one is standing there to let you in.

Members who cannot make it to EMDO due to illness or other travel limitations may use a dial-in number (313-323-6737; passcode 19153130#) to participate in a conference call.

Meeting agendas start with club business items followed by a short break. Presentations on selected ham radio topics of interest are given after the break. Anyone wishing to present a topic can contact Dave Treharne (N8HKU) or Pat Quinn (WD8JDZ).

Club Repeater Information

The Ford Amateur Radio League operates 3 repeaters under the K8UTT call. The repeaters are located in the Dearborn, MI, area and are open for members and guests to operate. Phone line access is permitted to club members with touch tone dial capability and the auto patch code. The club operates a net on the 2 Meter repeater every Sunday evening at 8 PM local time. Please contact the following people if there is any problem with a repeater listed below:

<u>Band</u>	<u>Output</u>	<u>Input</u>	<u>PL Freq</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
2 Meters	145.270 Mhz	144.670 Mhz	100 Hz	Dave Treharne	734-476-1666
1.25 Meters	224.520 Mhz	222.920 Mhz	100 Hz	Murray Scott	248-734-1704
70 CM	443.425 Mhz	448.450 Mhz	107.2 Hz	Bob Krause	248-437-6634

2007-2008 Club Officers

Please contact any of the officers for information regarding the Ford Amateur Radio League, or go to the club website at www.geocities.com/capecanaverall/hall/2183/ for current events and activities.

President	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Vice President	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
Treasurer	Bill Brezina	WA8HEA	313-563-2905
Recording Secretary	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
Repeater Chair	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
K8UTT Trustee	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666

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