



President's Notes for April 2014

That was a great presentation we had for our March meeting! Steve Kaatz, K8SDK, spoke about his operating maritime mobile near Antarctica. We saw many of the pictures he'd taken during the trip, which sounded like a wonderful once-in-a-lifetime experience, and got to hear about the joys and pitfalls of operating on a ship near the bottom of the world.

If you are thinking about going to the ARRL Centennial Convention, you should definitely get your hotel reservations soon. Two of the official convention hotels are now sold out, according to the convention website. Registration has been open for some time; I registered my uncle and myself recently.

Recently, I was finally able to convert my Ubiquity Rocket M2 router into a mesh network node. Unfortunately, I'm not able to set it up easily, not until I get a longer Ethernet cable. The router requires two Ethernet cables to function, one from the router to the Power Over Ethernet (POE) module, and one from the POE module to the computer connected to the node. Right now, one of the cables I have is much shorter than the other, putting a cramp in setting it up properly. So I just have to go to Best Buy or wherever. Now I wonder if there are any mesh nodes set up on a permanent or semi-permanent basis around here.

During the March 30 net, regular participant Mike, KD8QBA, informed us of the death of AMSAT-NA board member Tony Monteiro, AA2TX, who'd

been of tremendous help to Mike and the others involved in constructing \$50Sat, which is now orbiting the earth. Mike said that the team would be changing the satellite's beacon messages to make one of them a tribute to Tony: "73 AA2TX". That sounds like a wonderful tribute to a Silent Key.

This month is April, so the meeting format will change slightly in order to accommodate the necessary annual business. We'll be presenting the required annual activity report, inventory report and treasurer's report. We will also be electing new officers for the coming year. This year, both Dave, N8HKU and I will have hit the 2-year consecutive limit for serving in our respective offices. Please consider that when deciding whom to nominate and elect. We also will be filling a vacancy in the secretary position; consider accepting a nomination for that post. Hope to see you all there!

73,

Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2013**

Minutes, FARL Club Meeting – March 13th, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Roger, KD8CSE at 18:37 (6:37p.m.)

7 members were present at meeting start.

Roger Reini, KD8CSE

Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ
Rod Deyo, K8SGL
David Treharne, N8HKU
Bill Boyke, N8OZV
Rusty Einzen, N8RGI
Chris Jenks, KD8VPJ
Steve Kaatz, K8SDK (Guest)

Minutes from prior meeting:

Minutes from Feb, 2014, were reviewed:

Motion to approve minutes made by Pat, 2nd by Rod. Minutes approved.

Treasurers Report:

Pat, WD8JDZ read the report. Monthly phone bill paid. Motion to accept as read Rod, 2nd by Bill. Minutes approved. Selling of Autoshow and AutoRama tickets should result in a \$500 net to the club. Thank you Bill, Boyke!

Board of Directors Meeting: No formal meeting was held.

Committee Reports:

Repeaters: All is OK with the 2m and 220 machines. No changes to the 440 Machine.

Sunday Night Net: We still meet at 8pm on Sunday. Perhaps less participation some weeks than in the past.

Education and Training: Have not officially scheduled this yet, but expect to start up in April, per Bill, N8OZV. Testing session will be held

near the end of May, 2014. Would like to have new hams be able to participate in Field Day!

Communication - Newsletter/Website: Send any items to Roger, Dave, or to Rajiv. Website is up and running.

Historian: No news, historian John Turowski was not present. Looking to vote in a new historian during the April elections.

Equipment Inventory: Up to date.

FERA: Need club president or vice president to attend FERA meetings. Roger and Dave to be invited. Roger to attend the next meeting on the 20th of this month.

Unfinished/Current Business:

Replacing the landline at the repeater. The phone service exceeds \$75 per month, and is a significant drain on club resources. Need to replace this with an alternative. See new business.

New Business and Announcements:

Disposition of spare repeater, currently with Murray, KE8UM: OK to house it with the current 2m and 220 MHz machines. It does have its own housing. Need to schedule with when to put it up.

Club Elections in April: Roger, KD8CSE and Dave, N8HKU are term limited in their current positions. Also, Club Secretary position is vacant.

Free Table at Milford Swap: Roger has the ticket.

Replacing the AT&T phone line at the 2m and 220 MHz repeater: Dave, N8HKU proposed changing the phone from a landline to a cell phone service. The cell phone is a telecommunications product, and is eligible to meet the control requirements on the repeaters. Other repeaters have the same type of control. To interface a cell phone to the repeater, an interface box is needed, as the repeater controller needs a standard telephone interface. Devices exist to connect a cellphone via Bluetooth to a standard phone system in a residential house. This device would allow the repeater to “see” a standard phone line.

Bill Boyke, N8OZV, volunteered to look to add a line to his Verizon plan for \$10 per month that would be used for the repeater control. He thinks he can get a free phone for this connection. Dave, N8HKU, has an older phone available if this does not work.

Dave, N8HKU put a motion to purchase a cell phone interface box for up to \$50.00. Rod 2nd the motion. Motion was approved.

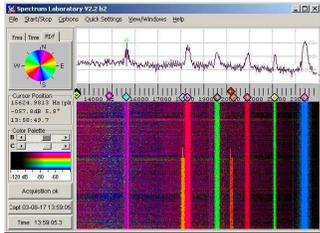
Presentation Topic:

Maritime Mobile in Antarctica by Steve, K8SDK. Steve took the club through the process to set up and operate a Maritime Mobile HF station from the Bridge of the National Geographic Explorer ship, along with what it is like to take a vacation cruise in Antarctica in December. Many thanks to Steve for providing us this look!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

David Treharne, N8HKU
Club Vice President

Amateur Radio-Developed Software Assisting in Search for Missing Airliner – ARRL



US Navy personnel helping to look for missing Malaysia Air Flight MH370 are using the signal-processing and analysis package Spectrum Laboratory by Wolf Buescher, DL4YHF, to analyze recently detected 37.5 kHz “pings” that may be from the missing plane’s “black box.” Some Spectrum Laboratory

screen shots as seen aboard the Australian Defense Vessel Ocean Shield were shown on TV. The US Navy personnel are guests aboard the Australian ship. VLF experimenter Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, said the software is the same package Amateur Radio experimenters used recently to detect [transatlantic signals](http://www.arrl.org/news/hams-experimental-vlf-signals-heard-in-the-uk-europe) (<http://www.arrl.org/news/hams-experimental-vlf-signals-heard-in-the-uk-europe>) on 29 kHz.

“Wolf’s package is very first-rate software, and I know that there have been other professional uses, but this was quite an interesting one!” Ziegler said.

The software began as a simple DOS-based FFT program, but it is now a specialized audio analyzer, filter, frequency converter, hum filter, data logger and more, and it is available for [download](http://www.gsl.net/dl4yhf/spectra1.html#download) (<http://www.gsl.net/dl4yhf/spectra1.html#download>) from DL4YHF’s Amateur Radio Software site.

Buescher said he was skeptical about the initial “ping” detection by one of the search vessels, but now, he says, “the spectrogram taken by the US team aboard Ocean Shield is convincing.” He said a screenshot from Australian TV clearly shows the “bip-bip-bip” ultrasonic bursts or pings, “just as they should look,” rather than a “just a wobbly carrier that comes and goes.”

“In slow-CW terms, it would be an ‘outstanding signal.’” Buescher said. “Now keeping fingers crossed that the [“black box”] batteries last a bit longer than specified. The experts say the pinger’s battery usually degrades slowly, instead of going QRT abruptly.”



Club Repeater Information

The Ford Amateur Radio League operates 3 club repeaters under the club K8UTT license. All the repeaters are located in the Dearborn, MI area near the Southfield Freeway. All repeaters are open for members and guests to operate.

Repeater	Output Freq	Input Freq	Tone
2 M Repeater	145.270	-600 KHz	100 Hz PL
1 1/4 M Repeater	224.520	-1.6 MHz	100 Hz PL
70 cm Repeater	443.425	+5 MHz	107.2 PL

Club Net: 8pm on Sunday, 2 and 1-1/4 Meter Repeaters!



Classes and Exams

The following amateur radio clubs conduct license exams throughout the year. Many clubs allow walk-ins but pre-registration will insure an exam is available for you when you attend.

Club Name	Contact Person	Phone	Email
Ford Amateur Radio League	Bill Boyke	313-805-8877	wboyke@ford.com
South Lyon ARC	Christian Anderson	248-437-3088	K8VJ@arr.net
Motor City ARC	Don Novak	734-281-7030	K8THU@arrl.net
Hazel Park ARC	Jerry Begel	248-543-2284	w9npi@comcast.net
USECA ARC	Joseph Kennedy	586-977-7222	N8OZ@arrl.net
ARROW Assn	Roger Place	734-663-4625	merrogplace@aol.com

Some of the above clubs also conduct license classes. Please contact them for additional information.



2012-2013 Club Officers

Please contact any of the officers for information regarding the Ford Amateur Radio League, or go to the club website at www.k8utt.org for current events and activities.

President	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
Vice President	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Treasurer	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
Secretary	John Turowski	N8NWA	313-258-1996
Repeater Chair	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
K8UTT Trustee	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Activity Chair	Bill Boyke	N80ZV	313-805-8877
Bolt Editor	Rajiv Paul	KD8LHF	313-405-2573



Club Meetings

The Ford Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Thursday of each month, except for Christmas and the summer months July and August. The meetings are held at 6:30 PM at the Ford Engine Manufacturing & Development Offices (EMDO) building. EMDO (located at 17000 Southfield Rd, Allen Park, MI) is south of I-94 on the east side of Southfield just north of the Allen Park Municipal offices. Park in the front of the building and come into the main lobby at the side. Knock on the inside door on the right if no one is standing there to let you in.



Next Club Meeting: April 10, 2014 at 6:30PM
Topic: Yearly Club Review and Elections!

The Ford Amateur Radio League
PO Box 2711
Dearborn, MI 48123