



President's Notes, December 2011

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

In December, it is time for our annual holiday get together as a club. After an email vote, the club has decided to head out to the Mexican Fiesta Restaurant on Ford Rd at Telegraph on Thursday, December 8th. We will meet there at 6:30pm, and the reservation is under the name "Radio Club." The Manager there thought that would work out the best for us. What speaks Christmas season more than Red tomatoes and Green peppers? I hope that you can come, we can all enjoy the food, remember the club events of the past year, and begin to consider our activities for 2012.

We had an active year as a club in 2011. Bill Boyke, N8OZV, led training sessions and test examinations at Building 2 at Ford. Many club members gave presentations this year on Flex Radio, Linux, Antennas, APRS, and Field Day. Our club and the LARC put on a very successful Field Day, making a lot more contacts than last year. We participated in the July Detroit Maker Faire, giving a lot a tech-minded people a look at how Amateur Radio operates, and also giving training and examination sessions. In August, we gave the Komen group a helping hand by helping provide communication support at rest stops and in vehicles for their Ride for the Cure, along with the Ann Arbor Arrow and Chelsea clubs. We provided similar support to the annual PEAC bike ride in September, populating rest stops and SAG wagons. I certainly enjoyed all of the activities the club participated on this year, and I look forward to next year!

One activity we were unable to perform as of this writing is the annual Speaking with Santa, or Radio Santa event at Mott's Children's Hospital. The beginning of the Christmas season has coincided with their move from their 1960's era building into a brand new facility. The move is happening December 4th, and the staff was unsure how smooth it would go and how to plan an event such as ours. However, Bill Boyke is keeping in touch with the hospital in case they are able to plan for us to be there. As none of us have seen the new building, we do not know where the Santa's will be or how easy it will be to communicate between floors. The new building is designed with a lot more windows for natural light, and is designed for private rooms to help keep things quiet for

family visits and help in infection control. I hope that we do get the opportunity to spread the Christmas spirit!

During November, I was off to the Sweepstakes in search of a clean sweep on the SSB portion of the annual ARRL operating event. While I was galloping out of the gate on Saturday evening, my Icom 745 decided to come up lame after only ½ hour of operation. I was just starting a contact with the LAX section on 15m when I the other operator called me to come back to him after I completed my transmission. Pressing the foot switch transmit button put the radio into transmit mode, but the output power meter read 0.0. Nothing was coming out. The LAX station abandoned me and went off for other contacts. My little radio refused to put anything out on SSB, and only 20 watts or so on CW. I stared at the radio for a few minutes, tried to power it up and down a couple of times, and then formulated a plan B. Since I was storing the club Yaesu FT990 radio, I brought it out of storage and hooked it up at the station. I had good instructions on setting it up, since I had set it up for Field Day and Maker Faire this past summer. I was back on the bands and back in the hunt again. This contest had 160m-10m all in play this year. I never made it down to 160, but there was plenty of activity otherwise. So much activity that I did not get to call CQ all that much. I had a hard time finding a clear enough spot, in spite of the quieter reception that the Yaesu radio provided me over the older Icom. I ended up working 71 of the possible 80 sections. The magic bounce of the radio waves provided for some very strange patterns for me. I generally pick up the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico early in the contest. Not this year, as I put neither island in my log. I recorded many from North Dakota, but none from South Dakota. I had the Northern Territories and Alaska in the log early, but never hooked up with the normally reliable Quebec. The old adage is true, you will always be able to communicate with somebody on the airwaves, but not always with who you intend to communicate with.

73,
Dave
N8HKU.

**Ford Amateur Radio League** (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club)
Club Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2011**Minutes, FARL Club Meeting – November 10th, 2011**

Meeting was called to order at 18:40 (6:40 pm) by Roger, KD8CSE, presiding for Dave, N8HKU

3 members were present for most of the meeting; 4 were present for a brief period

1 guest was present

****Post meeting note:** A quorum is $\frac{1}{2}$ the average of the prior 3 meetings. The average of the prior 3 meetings was 9 members, meaning that 5 members are required for a quorum, rounding up.**

Minutes from prior meeting: Minutes from the October meeting were read and approved as written.

Treasurer Report: Report was read by Pat, WD8JDZ. The only significant expense was the phone bill. He did mention the equipment insurance situation; this would be addressed in Unfinished/Current Business.

No Board of Directors Meeting**Committee Reports:****Repeaters:**

Status unchanged from previous month. Repeater phone patch instructions: ask Dave, N8HKU if needed.

The 2 mtr is still working the same.

The 220 is operating.

The 440 was down for a while, but was heard again. It is in need of restoration.

Education and Training: New training efforts will be on Fridays, between 11a.m. & 12 noon in the Ford Bldg 2 café conference room. There will be a testing session Nov. 18 at 11 AM. There are four Extra Class VE's at Ford now, and they are expected to be available for the session. Ivan, N8AMT, volunteered to serve if necessary.

Historian: The historian was absent tonight, so nothing new to report. For historical info, contact John, N8NWA at N8NWA@yahoo.com

Communication - Newsletter/Website:

For articles to be put in the newsletter. Contact Rajiv, KD8LHF.

For website info, contact Dave, N8HKU.

There was an inquiry about whether any hard copies of the newsletter were still being mailed; Roger did not know.

FERA News: No new news.

Unfinished/Current Business:

Equipment Insurance: Treasurer Pat, WD8JDZ, compared the equipment insurance offerings of our current carrier (Marsh) and the new ARRL-sponsored carrier (Hayes). He found that the coverage for both policies was the same (\$1 mil/2 mil) but that the cost for the Hayes policy was significantly less (\$200 for Hayes versus \$320 for Marsh), and he recommended going with Hayes. There was a vote taken, and by a 4-0 result, the members approved the recommendation. It could not immediately be determined if there was a quorum, so the vote may only have been advisory. Since the existing policy expires December 1, the Board of Directors may need to act.

New Business:

Radio Santa: According to Bill Boyke, N8OZV, as relayed by Roger: Radio Santa is currently off for this year, as the hospital's move into the new building is expected to last through Christmas. However, the Mott staff still wants to host some type of event if circumstances permit. Bill will attempt to contact the staff Nov. 11 and will relay updates to the officers. Watch the Tin Lizzy mailing list for updates

Christmas dinner: due to the lack of members present, there were few suggestions for a Christmas dinner location, the main one being Mexican Fiesta. James, W8ISS, suggested having the dinner on a Sunday at one of the hotel brunches in the area. Subsequent to the meeting, Dick, KW8B, suggested Richter's. There was no vote taken on the dinner. Watch the Tin Lizzy mailing list for updates.

Break:

Program: - Video on The Last Big Field Day (W3AO's 50A operation at Field Day 2003)

****Board of Directors Meeting****November 22, 2011**

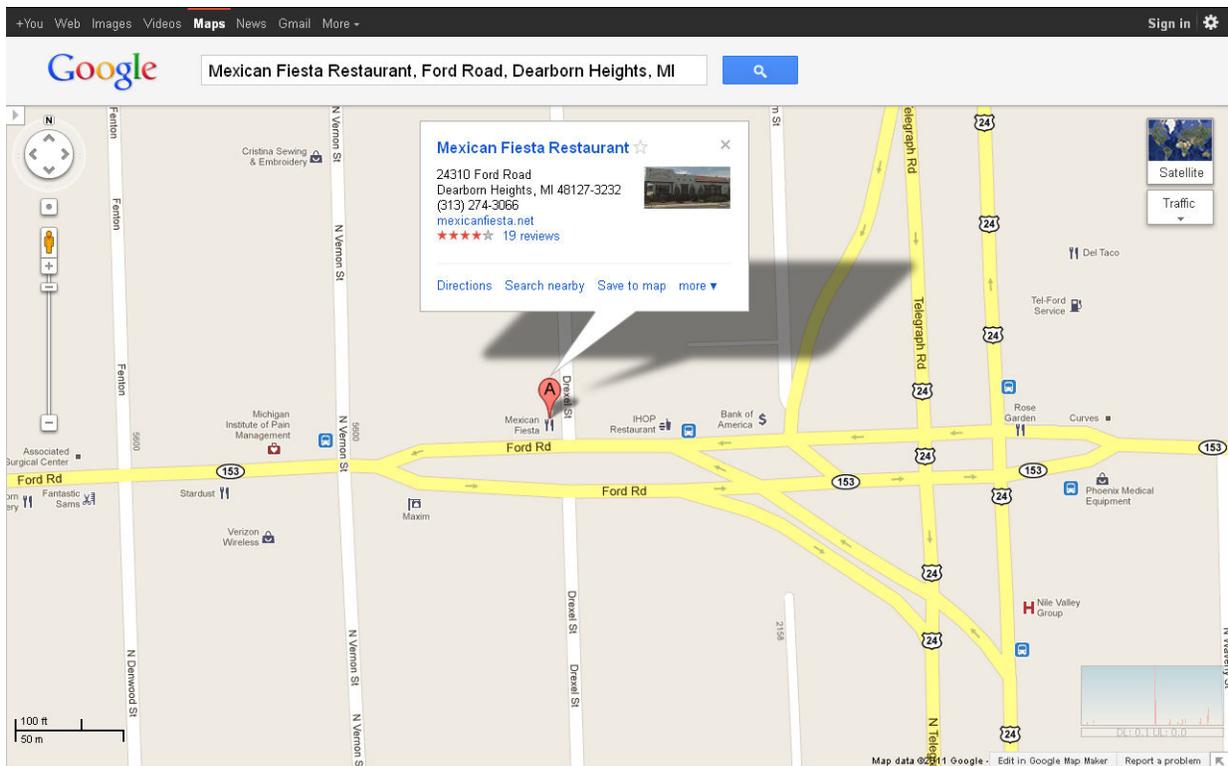
Present: Dave Treharne (N8HKU), Pat Quinn (WD8JDZ), John Turowski (N8NWA), and Roger Reini (KD8CSE).

Discussion on Liability Insurance, which is due on December 1, 2011. Both the new ARRL vendor, Hayes, and our current carrier, Marsh, offered identical

coverage. Hayes Group is \$200 for the year, and Marsh is \$320. All those present voted for Hayes Group for \$200. Pat Quinn to complete the contract.

Board discussed the Christmas dinner. Antonio's, Mexican Fiesta, and Richter's were discussed. Dave Treharne to put out an email to the membership to vote on a choice by the end of November.

[Map to Mexican Fiesta](#) (Christmas Dinner Location)



FCC Releases New Rules for 60 Meters - ARRL



On November 18, the FCC released a Report and Order ([R&O](#)) (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db1118/FCC-11-171A1.pdf), defining new rules for the 60 meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a Petition for Rulemaking ([PRM](#)) (<http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=6518527442>) filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ([NPRM](#)) (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-76A1.pdf). In the R&O, the FCC replaced one of the channels in the band, increased the maximum authorized power amateur stations may transmit in this band and authorized amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators in the five channels in the 5330.6-5406.4 kHz band (60 meters).

The Amateur Radio Service in the United States has a secondary allocation on 60 meters. Only those amateurs who hold General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses may operate on this band. Amateur stations must not cause harmful interference to -- and must accept interference from -- stations authorized by any administration in the fixed service, as well as mobile (except aeronautical mobile) stations authorized by the administrations of other countries.



AO-51 Control Team News

It is with a heavy heart I report that AO-51 has ceased transmission and is not responding to commands. The last telemetry data indicated that the third of six batteries was approaching failure to short, and observations indicate the voltage from three cells is insufficient to power the UHF transmitters. The IHU may continue to be operative. Initial tests with the S band transmitter were also not positive, although more attempts are in order. We have tried leaving the satellite in an expected state where if voltages climb high enough, the 435.150 transmitter may possibly be heard.

The command team will regularly attempt communications with the satellite over the coming months (and years). There is always the possibility that a cell will open and we could once again talk to our friend while illuminated. Thanks to all who helped fund, design, build, launch, command, and operate AO-51. It's 7 year mission has been extraordinary. Please support AMSAT's Fox-1 project, and other AMSAT projects worldwide with your time and money.

For the AO-51 Command Team,
73, Drew KO4MA, AMSAT-NA VP Operations



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	Dee Flint	248-981-8145	N8UZE@arrl.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.



2010-2011 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	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Vice President	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
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	313-244-2515



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: December 08, 2011 at 6:30PM

Topic: Christmas Dinner at Mexican Fiesta, Dearborn Heights

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