



President's Notes for December 2015

Happy Holidays to all! Our annual December meeting will again be a holiday dinner. We will be at the Mexican Fiesta restaurant on Ford Road in Dearborn Heights on Thursday, December 10th at 6:30pm in place of our normal club meeting. Please let any Board member know if you plan to attend, so we can tell the restaurant how many to set the table up for. Our regular club meetings will start up again in January.



Christmas Event

When: December 10th 2015 at 6:30 pm

Where: Mexican Fiesta on Ford Road

Please RSVP: David Treharne/Roger Reini/Bill Boyke

At the November club meeting, we started the process to sell the extra club radio equipment that we no longer need. The Tempo transceiver was sold to Tye Winkel, KC8YEJ, for \$50. It needs work, and Tye has a pair of these transceivers and associated power supplies already. We have put up the Kenwood TS-830S transceiver and the AT-230 Antenna Tuner up for sale to club members on the club website. If we do not get any bites on it, we will put it up for sale outside of our club. Check out the radio if you are interested in it! We also are selling our MFJ Voice keyer, as the new radio has one built-in. With those sales, we will have given some of our equipment a new life, and add some funds back into our account for future purchases, like a carrying case set-up.

I gave the new club radio equipment a good workout during the November Phone Sweepstakes last month. This was a good opportunity to check out and set up the radio features, the power supply, and the antenna tuner, along with the existing club Heil headset. After 7 ½ hours of operating, I ended up making 220 contacts, missing only 7 sections for a clean sweep. I made fewer contacts than I could have, spending time hunting for sections that I did not have. My observations:

The radio has a solid receiver. I reduced the bandwidth down a bit with the DSP, down to about 2,100Hz. This was a good compromise in very tight band conditions between reception and fidelity. The noise level of the radio was nice and low during the contest, allowing me to use a lot of RF gain without having noise and static make the sound unbearable.

The transmitter with the compressor allowed me to break into some pretty busy pile-ups on a couple of rare sections. The radio and the Heil headset worked very well together. I had no problems with the setup during the entire weekend of operation.

I got the voice recorder working. Programming the voice recorder was pretty straightforward, but not intuitive. It took a while to get the audio level of the voice recorder equivalent to the live microphone, as it has a separate volume control. The audio feedback to the headset during the playback is another separate control. This one baffled me for a while, as the voice recorder page in the manual forgot to mention it on the same page as the other discussion on the voice recorder. It had a default volume of 50, a painful level. After I figured out the control, a value of 17 proved useful. I ended up configuring a variable resistor and a switch from my electronics collection so I could activate memory location 1 without pressing the touch screen. There is a lot of need to use the touch screen, so having the memory buttons on the screen meant other needed things were not there. Plus, it was easier to press the horizontal button on the desk versus the vertical button on the display. Yaesu sells the remote, called the FH-2, for about \$100 new. I am planning to construct a device for the club radio that has the needed buttons minus some of the other stuff. Anyway, my little 1 button prototype worked very well, allowing me to call CQ during the contest.

The antenna tuner tuned up my G5RV antenna very well for all the bands 80m-10m. I did not try to load it yet on 6m, as this was not part of the contest. The LDG tuner for this radio is unusual: It does not look at the SWR and tune for us. When triggered by pressing the single button on the front face, it uses a CAT interface to set the radio to low power AM, then tunes, then restores the radio to the prior settings. It gets a good tune, and it memorizes it. When the button is pressed with a already programmed part of the band, it tunes there, checks the SWR, and returns the radio quickly to service. If the match is not good, it does a complete tune and stores the result. The good news is that the AM provides a very steady carrier for the tuner to work against, with no tuning

while trying to transmit on SSB, which can work poorly for the tuner. The bad news is that the operator must remember to check the SWR and activate the tuner when needed. The radio has a nice SWR meter, but it is a multifunction meter, and is also useful to set microphone level and compression level. So, if it is set on the wrong meter, one might not notice a high SWR is preventing good power transmission. We may want to add a small meter to the final configuration to help this out. I had no problem, but I am thinking of Field Day. The multifunction meter also has settings to show: forward power, power supply voltage, and rig current draw. Those 6 meter settings are a lot to cycle through when checking the mic level, compression level, and SWR.

I used the N3FJP software for the sweepstakes, which is the same software we use on Field Day. I connected the USB connection for this service (the radio has 2 channels of USB control, audio in and out, and a separate serial connection, which is used by the tuner, and can be shared by a computer serial connection at the same time.) Before the event, I was noticing that the N3FJP software was decoding the radio frequency incorrectly, showing 7.160 MHz as 0.7160 MHz. A quick email note to Scott, N3FJP, resulted in me reloading the software. Scott just added the proper rig interface configuration for the FT-991 between the first of November and mid-month, and a download and reinstallation of the software worked well.

I have a few more things to check out on the radio, including the ability to operate the speakers from the audio output while using the headphones. The FT-990 allowed that, but I have not tried it, yet. The radio has many more settings available on it, but the main settings are pretty easy to set up. A few pages of a cheat sheet on how to change bands, program the voice recorder, and operate the tuner are pretty much all that are needed to get the radio on the air for our use in the club. It appears ready to handle Field Day, Maker Faire, PEAC event, and other events we want to activate this radio for. I do still recommend putting the whole configuration into a portable “gator” case for easy transport and set-up. The radio will last longer, the set-up will be less prone to error, and needed accessories can be ready with the radio at all times.

David Treharne
N8HKU
FARL Club President

**Ford Amateur Radio League** (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club)
Club Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2015**Meeting Minutes for FARL**
November 12, 2015

In Attendance: 7 members, 0 guests

Dave Treharne, N8HKU

Roger Reini, KD8CSE

Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ

Bill Boyke, N8OZV

Rusty Eizen, N8RGI

Rich Maske, K8RMM

Tye Winkel, KC8YEJ

Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM by Dave, N8HKU, President

Minutes from October were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Roger, KD8CSE, and seconded by Pat, WD8JDZ; the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report was given by Pat, WD8JDZ. Income was minor (a few cents) and no expenditures in the period were noted (but several would be in the next period, including the purchase of the FT-991 and associated equipment). Motion to approve made by Roger, KD8CSE, and seconded by Bill, N8OZV; the treasurer's report was approved.

Board of Directors: the board met a week prior to this meeting to consider several topics: the disposition of club equipment no longer deemed necessary (more in New Business); a carrying case for the FT-991 and support equipment; and how many auto show tickets to request for sale.

Repeater: The 2 meter repeater is operational, but the 220 MHz repeater is still out for repair, no ETA update from Murray, KE8UM

Sunday Night Net: still going strong on Sunday nights, 8 PM, on the repeater.

Education/Training: Latest round of classes at Ford is running on Tuesday, with testing scheduled for December 8.

Website and Newsletter: the website is still up and running, and the BOLT was published in time for the meeting – several days in advance, in fact.

FERA: Bill, N8OZV, reported that our club has qualified to attend the FERA Christmas dinner on December 12; Dave, N8HKU, and Roger, KD8CSE, need to determine who will attend the dinner.

Historian: post still vacant

Inventory: the list has been updated to reflect the newly obtained equipment (FT-991, antenna tuner, power supply, adapter for use with Heil headset). Roger, KD8CSE, commented that references to the Hyatt Regency should be updated to say Royal Dearborn.

OLD BUSINESS

Christmas Dinner: the annual club Christmas/Holiday dinner will be December 10 at 6:30 PM in lieu of a club meeting. The members discussed where to hold the dinner among these choices: Mexican Fiesta, Richter's, De Luca's, New Peking, and Amantea. The consensus choice was Mexican Fiesta, and this was approved by voice vote. Bill, N8OZV, made the reservation for the club.

NEW BUSINESS:

Disposition of Old Club Gear: Dave, N8HKU, presented a list of 4 items held by the club but no longer wanted, along with reports on their conditions, and suggested their potential disposition. The Kenwood TS-830 was recommended to be offered for sale, and its accompanying antenna tuner was recommended to be offered for sale separately; motion to adopt the recommendation was made by Pat, WD8JDZ and seconded by Rich, K8RMM; it was approved. The Tempo One was recommended to be offered to Tye, KC8YEJ; motion to adopt the recommendation was made by Bill, N8OZV and seconded by Roger, KD8CSE; it was approved. The Yaesu FT-990 will be reviewed and diagnosed by Tye, KC8YEJ, who had reviewed and diagnosed the other transceivers; final disposition will be determined after Tye's report. The MFJ-434 voice keyer will be offered for sale on the club website or at a future swap.

PRESENTATION: Dave, N8HKU, presented on the ARISS contact with Dearborn Schools that took place October 27

UPCOMING SWAPS: L'Anse Creuse, December 6 and Hazel Park, January 24.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Minutes recorded by Roger Reini, KD8CSE, Vice-President



Club Repeater Information

The Ford Amateur Radio League operates 2 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. **Note: The 1 ¼ M repeater is down for service.**

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

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.



2015-2016 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			
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 10, 2015 at 6:30PM

Topic: December 10th Club Holiday: Annual Holiday Dinner: Mexican Fiesta

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