

# The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

## President's Note:

### Welcome to the Christmas Season

On behalf of the officers of the Ford Amateur Radio League, I wish you a wonderful holiday season, a Happy Chanukah, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

This month, in keeping with club tradition, there will be no regular December club meeting. Instead, we will be meeting at Amantea's Italian Restaurant on December 13<sup>th</sup> for our annual club dinner. Please invite your family to join us! See the Bolt article for further information.

We are also performing another FARL holiday tradition this year. Speaking with Santa, our annual holiday event at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, will be on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please see the note in this newsletter about the activity, and we hope you can join us elves in promoting some holiday cheer!

November Sweepstakes: With November comes one of my favorite domestic operating contests, the ARRL Sweepstakes. I managed to carve out a few hours to operate the SSB version of the contest this weekend. Once again, ol' Sol is being quite stingy with the sunspots, pretty much averaging 0 for the past 25 days or so leading up to the contest. Band conditions, therefore, strictly followed the passage of the sun. 15 meters was open during the afternoon at the start of the contest, started fading toward the Virgin Islands, moved propagation west, then faded out. 20 meters followed a few hours later, as it sounded like the signals were getting swallowed up in a big fluffy blanket. My favorite operating time of this 30 hour event is actually later on Sunday. All of the QRO stations have been hammering it out with each other over the preceding day, and now the bigger stations are a bit less busy. Sunday is therefore a much better time for the "barefoot" operators like myself to throw a call out and actually get heard. I had the ability to sweep across the band making contacts of up to 2 per minute on Sunday afternoon, which is kind of nice after getting piled upon during Saturday. I do not blame the other stations for this. When on the end of a pileup, you need to work those stations that you can hear best first. On Sunday, many stations will even work to dig your signal out of the mud to get the QSO. I also found most everyone on the bands being quite friendly this year. Some stations with over 1,000 contacts were still taking the time to introduce the information to be transferred to new operators. People were thanking each other for the contacts, and inquiring about the frequency use before calling CQ. I managed to top the century mark in number of contacts made over the weekend, and felt good about throwing some RF into the air.

Note: Probably my favorite contesting event is Field Day. Not only does the club put up a very nice antenna array on the fire tower, but most everyone is running 100 watts or less on emergency power. The effect of this is that our station has as much of an ability

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to hold a frequency and call CQ as anyone else does. The food is quite good as well. Now, if we could just dispense with the heat, bugs, and storms....

73,  
Dave,  
N8HKU

## November Presentation of the Ford-Microsoft Sync System

The announced November presentation on Amsat amateur radio satellites has been postponed to next year. Bill was needed for a last rehearsal before his opening night play on our club meeting night. Instead, Dave, N8HKU, provided a review of the Ford-Microsoft Sync system, which is now appearing on many Ford vehicles. If you wish to see the presentation, please look for it on the club website. Most presentations are loaded up in the website. Look in Meeting Info, Activity Reports, for a link to Presentations. More information on Sync is at [www.syncmyride.com](http://www.syncmyride.com)

### Recovering Hams

Rod Deyo, K8SGL, joined us at the November club meeting, and it was very nice to see him again. Rusty Einzen, N8RGI, joined us for the October club meeting, but missed the November club meeting, as it was right after returning home from rehab. We wish both good health!

## Upcoming Swaps:

Here is a list of upcoming swaps. We can discuss whether to get a table at the January 20<sup>th</sup> swap. The club decided against a table at the L'Anse Creuse swap coming up early this month.

Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007: L'Anse Creuse Radio Club, Mt. Clemens:  
<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/lcarc/swap.htm>

Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008: Hazel Park Swap: <http://www.hparc.org/>

Sunday, February 17, 2008: Livonia Amateur Radio Club Swap: <http://www.livoniaarc.com/Swap.htm>

*Next Club meeting: Our Annual Christmas Dinner! December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6pm.*

The Ford Amateur Radio Club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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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.

**New Conference call: All FARL club meetings are available via a conference call. Dial in at 7pm to: 313-633-2320. When prompted, enter passcode 19153130#.**

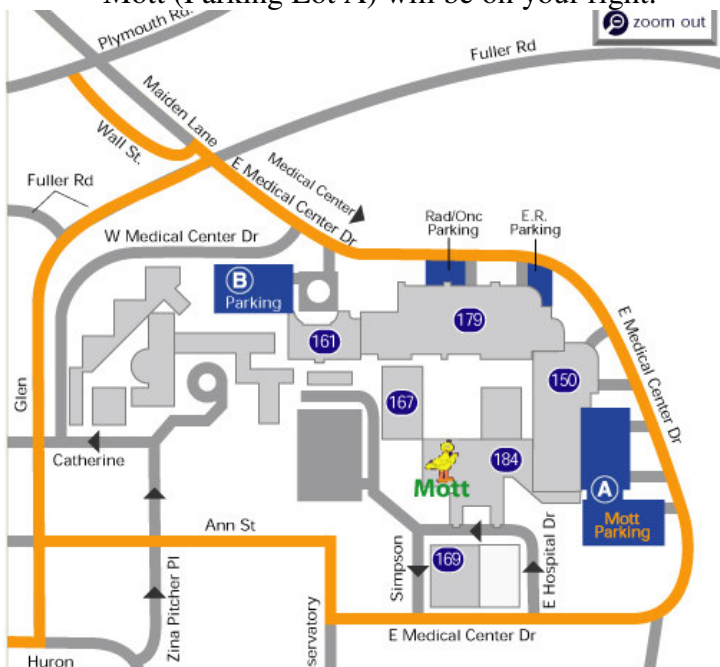
Meeting agendas start with club business items followed by a short break. Presentations on selected ham radio topics of interest are given after the break. Anyone wishing to present a topic can contact any Board member.

## *Speaking with Santa:*

The Tin Lizzy Club' annual Talking with Santa at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor has been set for Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. We radio amateurs dress up as Elves and help the children communicate with our Santas via UHF amateur radio! Please join us elves as we spread Christmas cheer to the children who are working so hard on healing in time for Christmas! Contact Bill Boyke, N8OZV, to let him know you are coming. Please arrive by 5:45pm so we can be operating by 6:30pm. This event is loved by the children, and also their parents and the Mott Staff! We love to share some Christmas Joy to our community! Below are the directions to the hospital. We always seem to lose an elf or two on the way, so here is an attempt to get everyone with us on time!

### **Directions From the East to Mott's:**

Take I-94 West to US 23 North exit 180B to Geddes Rd. exit 39. Turn left onto Geddes. Continue on Geddes for approximately 2 miles. Geddes becomes Fuller. Continue on Fuller for another 2 miles. To go to the Medical Center turn left at the traffic light at E. Medical Center Dr. Follow the signage on your right and overhead past the Cancer Center (Parking Lot B), and ER. Taubman, University Hospital, and Mott (Parking Lot A) will be on your right.



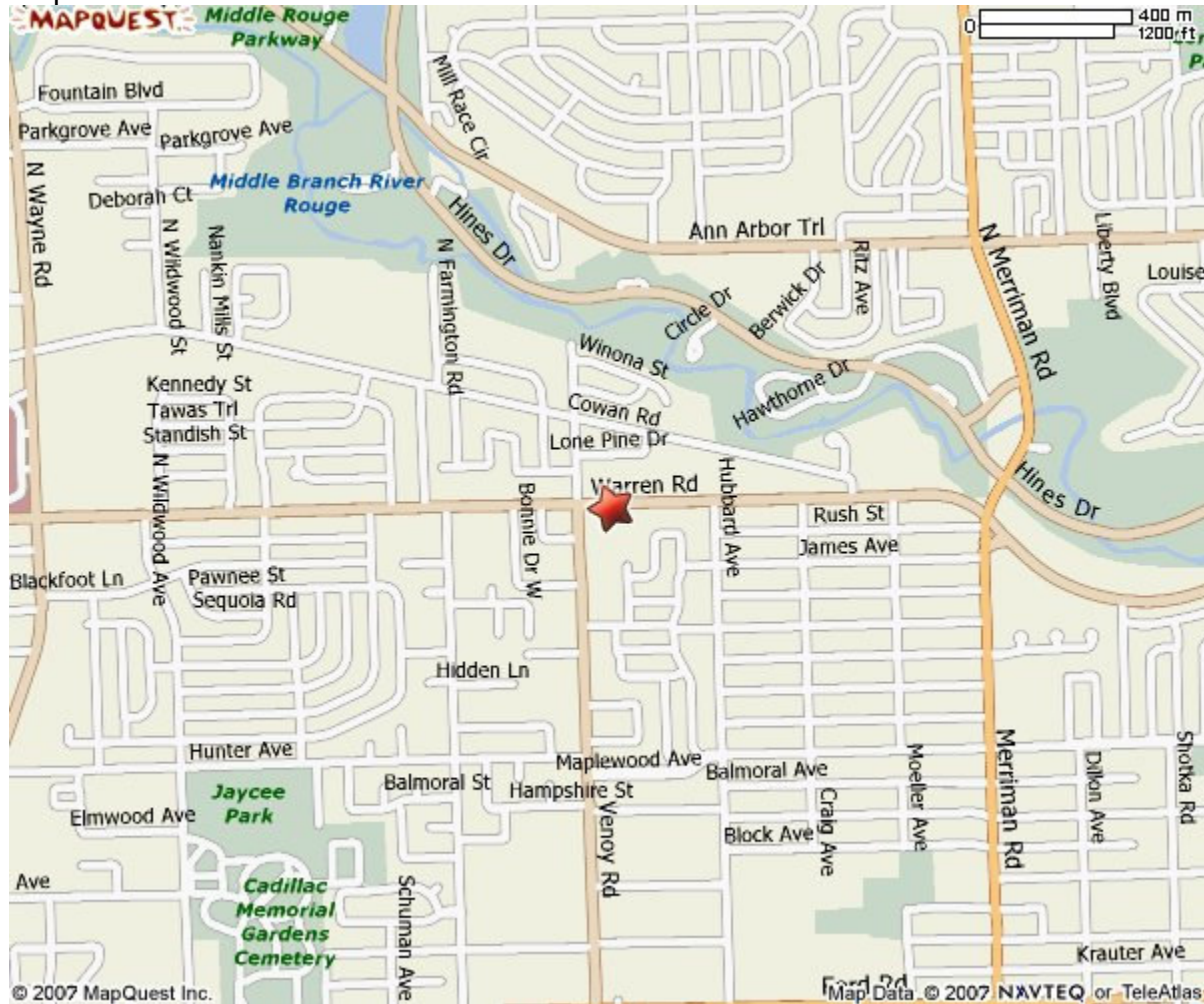
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## Club Christmas Dinner

Our FARL club Christmas dinner is at Amantea's Restaurant at 6pm on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. The restaurant is located at: 32777 West Warren Road, Garden City, MI, 48135. Please contact a club officer via phone or email to let us know how many are coming!

Map below



FARL CLUB MEETING MINUTES - November 9, 2007

Prepared by Roger Reini, KD8CSE, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Dave, N8HKU, President  
10 attendees present.

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MINUTES: Minutes from the October meeting were approved (N8OZV moved, KD8CSE seconded)

TREASURER: Treasurer Bill, WA8HEA, was unable to attend tonight, but he had provided the treasurer's report to Dave. The club's balance is still solid. Reports was approved (N8OZV moved, W8AMT seconded)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: No news to report this month.

REPEATER: The 220 MHz repeater is not keying up the 2m repeater. According to Murray, KE8UM, the hardware appears to be functioning correctly, so he suspects a software problem. He will work on fixing that.

PHONE PATCH: Dave provided cards with the phone patch information for the repeater. The instructions have been confirmed to work. It functions with all local area codes but will not work with long distance numbers. **This information is not to be given to non-club-members.**

TRAINING: Bill, N8OZV, mentioned upcoming seminars and classes he has planned, including a presentation on amateur and marine radio at the Ford Yacht Club in the spring, an introductory seminar at Building 1 (date TBD), and a Linux and Ham Radio presentation at Penguincon in April.

VE's: The club roster does not note whether a member is a Volunteer Examiner (VE). At least 4 were in attendance this evening.

NEWSLETTER: Volunteer needed for the December newsletter.

WEBSITE: The equipment listing has been updated to remove information about the location and value of the equipment.

50+ CELEBRATION: N8HKU has sent his QSL's out. N8OZV asked for ideas for something special to send to the one individual to qualify for the special certificate.

RADIO SANTA: The event is on, scheduled for December 5 at Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. Try to be there for 5:30 to 6. The plan is to be complete by 8:30 PM.

CLUB DINNER: The choice for the dinner has been narrowed down to Richter's Chalet and Amantea. By a vote of 6 to 4, Amantea was chosen as the location. The dinner is December 13 at 6 PM, replacing the normal club meeting.

2 METER NET: Still active every Sunday at 8 PM.

THANK YOUS: Rodney, K8SGL, thanked the membership for the flowers sent to his wife's funeral last month. Bill, N8OZV, thanked everyone who helped with Rusty (N8RGI).

ROSTER AND PAID-UP STATUS: Roger, KD8CSE, and Mike Sansalone, K8ZLG, complained that the club roster, as well as labels on the Bolt, have inaccurate paid-through status for a number of club members.

PRESENTATION: Dave, N8HKU, gave a presentation on the new Sync system developed jointly by Ford and Microsoft. He pointed out the possibilities of connecting a transceiver to the vehicle sound system through it. NOTE: the presentation on AMSAT originally scheduled for this meeting will take place at a future meeting.

ADJOURN: meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

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## 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. The 2 Meter and 1.25 Meter repeaters are linked together. New from Murray, KE8UM: The PL is now transmitted on the output, so we may program in coded squelch, which is handy with the Lowell repeater coming in from Grand Rapids some times.

**Club Repeater Net: Sunday evening at 8 PM local time.**

**Autopatch: Codes are available from N8HKU to club members. The repeater autopatch can reach all of the Detroit Metro area. Please see Dave, N8HKU, for a copy.**

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

Club Website:

<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hall/2183/>

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## Tin Lizzy Club Calendar

December 5<sup>th</sup>: Speaking with Santa, Ann Arbor Mott Children's Hospital

December 13<sup>th</sup>: Club Christmas Dinner. Location TBD.

## 2008 Calendar items

AMSAT Update

FIRST Robotics (WA8HEA)

Digital Voice on HF: Need volunteer presenter.

Sky Command and/or D-Link: Need volunteer presenter.

Fox Hunting techniques: Need volunteer presenter.

50<sup>th</sup>+ Anniversary FARL Special Event Station

Mobile Installation

Software defined radio

Linux for Ham Radio (April or May, 2008)

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## 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/capecanaveral/hall/2183/](http://www.geocities.com/capecanaveral/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

**Annual Club Dinner: Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6pm!**

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