



President's Notes, February 2012

First this month, a note of good news, especially for those who enjoy our current Field Day site. Word from the LARC in Livonia is that the Fire Tower and site behind the Fire Station is not going to be torn down until at least September of this year. This means that the site is still likely to be able to be used by us for Field Day this year. We have at least one more year of being easily able to get our antennas high up in the sky for our annual event. Mark your calendars for the June 23rd and 24th for our Annual Field Day exercise.

Several club members attended the first meeting to discuss the Amateur Radio presence to the 2012 Detroit Maker Faire. It appears that the Maker Faire will once again grace The Henry Ford during the last weekend of July. This is such an amazing event, and we are fortunate that it comes to our part of the world. While they come in various sizes, the NY, LA, NV, and MI fairs appear to be the largest of them. Last year, we had a lot of success in demonstrating radio and also in conducting licensing sessions. For this year, the plan for continual improvement includes finding a room that is quieter in order to conduct the presentations and licensing exams. The Pewter and Silver room was not very quiet, that is for sure. I hope that you can join us for the event!

This is the prime season for the local hamfests. The club often sponsors a table at the hamfest so that members can put out their equipment for sale. The Milford club has graciously donated a table for our use, and we often get a table for the February Livonia swap. If you are interested in attending a swap and have some gear to sell, make sure you start a motion at the club meeting to secure a table for all to use. Personally, I am likely to be seen at the Livonia swap in February, as well as my annual pilgrimage to Dayton for the Hamvention. I have a running list of items that I need to purchase. Coax jumpers, for one, seem to evaporate for

me. I just kind of use them up. I like the premade ones, although I do occasionally solder a PL259, just to keep in the practice.

The club website has our calendar for the year, including all the club meeting dates, hamfests, and special events. If you have something to add, please drop me a line at N8HKU@ARRL.net. We also have a For Sale page, currently with a few items on it. It may be worth a look.

My Icom 745 has returned from Washington, but nothing wrong could be found. I know that it was not transmitting right, but now I get to see how much operator error was involved in diagnosing it. I wonder if I ran into a microphone cable problem with my Heil headset. I do know that my wattmeter for HF happened to be going south at the same time I had my transmitting trouble. That made me think I was only putting out 23 watts on CW and FM. I was putting out full power in those modes. The wattmeter started acting up again with the club Yaesu radio, so I knew it was the meter this time. I will get the Icom back into my shack and find out what is REALLY going on with it. Time to fix the wattmeter or retire it as well.

73,
Dave
N8HKU



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2012**

Minutes, FARL Club Meeting - January 12, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 18:40 (6:40p.m.)
7 members were present.

Minutes from prior meeting: November 2011 (no meeting was held in December due to club Christmas Dinner) meeting minutes were approved without changes.

Treasurers Report: Pat, WD8JDZ was not present to read the report but did send a copy to Dave, N8HKU who went through the basics of the report. It was approved as read.

Board of Directors Meeting: B.O.D. held a conference call on December 22nd to discuss the club insurance. Also discussed the club calendar, amplified speaker for field day, and Maker Faire.

Committee Reports:

Repeaters: The 2mtr and 440 repeaters are operating about the same. The 220 seems to be operating again. If you notice any problems, please inform a Board member at the e-mail address listed on the website.

Dave, N8HKU still has phone patch operating instructions if needed.

Don't forget the Sunday Night Net @ 8p.m.

Education and Training: Bill Boyke, N8OZV discussed the upcoming training sessions. For more info, contact Bill at wboyke@ford.com

Communication - Newsletter/Website: No new information on the newsletter or website. If you notice any problems, please contact Dave, N8HKU.

Historian: nothing new

Equipment Inventory: up to date

FERA: No new business

Unfinished/Current Business:

Unfinished Business: none

Current Business:

Club decided to get a table at the LARC Swap since there is no cost. If you have anything to sell, stop by and use the table.

Discussed the purchase of an amplified speaker for use with field day operations. Will look into further down the road.

Field day final report: For those interested, the final results were as follows:

In the State of Michigan, 4A operation - #1

Overall 4A operation in the USA - #19

Congratulations to all that supported.

Break: 19:10 (7:10p.m.)

Presentation: Dave, N8HKU talked about The Sun and Solar Cycle #24 and the up coming predictions.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:05(8:05p.m.)



The 2012 North American QSO Party, January SSB version - Dave, N8HKU

I managed to get down into the shack this past month and participate in the North American QSO Party for the sideband. I enjoy the fact that it is limited to 100W max, which puts more a premium on good antennas versus large amplifiers. With the sunspots smiling upon us, I was able to work all of the available bands for this contest, 10, 15, 20, 40, 80, and 160 meters. For whatever reason, I was not very successful calling CQ, but had a lot of success hunting and pouncing among the open bands. Over 4 ½ hours of activity during the 12 hour contest, I managed to work 226 contacts. Since I am always curious about band openings and propagation paths, I took a look at the stations contacted: where, what bands, and how many I worked on multiple bands. Of those 226 contacts, I had 173 unique call signs. That meant that I had 43 stations I worked at least twice, and I ended up with 2 stations I worked 4 times and 6 stations I worked 3 times each. The two stations that I worked 4 times were in Texas and California, and I worked both of them on 10, 15, 20, and 40m. Being able to work them on 10 and 15 gives credit to the sunspot cycle. But, what

gives them such preference in my log, given that I have a single G5RV antenna up at about 10m in height? My initial assumption is that I would have different strong nodes and different take off angles of radiation from the antenna given different bands. Also, the antenna has different azimuth nodes on different bands in different directions. However, there is something about all of the variables that causes propagation to preferentially head in certain directions at certain times. Now, it is also that I worked a lot of stations where were calling CQ that I kept hitting the same stations. Had I been able to stay on a frequency and get them to come to me, I would have gotten more unique calls. Alas, they were not coming to me during this contest. Even when they do come, it is amazing that a number from the same area or two will suddenly appear. I do know if someone has just worked a Michigan station that I am likely to be heard as well when I call. If anyone has any theories about how this seems to work, please present it to me. Better yet, please present it to all of us at a club meeting.



Maker Faire 2012

- Roger Reini, KD8CSE

Once again, the FARL will partner with other radio clubs in the area to have an exhibit

at Maker Faire Detroit, scheduled for July 28 and 29 at The Henry Ford. Bill Boyke, N8OZV, and I attended the first planning session for the event on January 28 out in Ann Arbor. Initial plans call for a similar setup to last year, with 2 or 3 HF stations in one of the courtyards of the museum and three antennas on top of the room, as well as a satellite station and perhaps a separate VHF/UHF station with its antenna on the roof. There will be testing sessions and presentations throughout the weekend, hopefully in a better location than last year. We may be asked to give a half-hour presentation on the main stage during the event; more details on that will be forthcoming. In addition, with the increased focus on DIY this year, we may arrange to put booth visitors on the air, even if it's only to talk to a local operator in the area or even wandering around pedestrian mobile in the parking lot. We plan to use the N8M special event call sign again this year, as well as providing special QSL cards for contacts.

An effort of this magnitude requires a lot of support. Volunteers to work at the event will be needed, as will VE's for the exam sessions. Additional volunteers will be

needed to explain what's happening on the stations; the operators will be too involved with the contacts to do that themselves. If that's not feasible, then perhaps you could be one of the local operators listening for contacts from the museum. There will be two more planning sessions for the event, one in March or April in Livonia and the last one at the EMDO building on July 12, our normal meeting session. If you wish to volunteer, please contact either Bill Boyke or me.



Upcoming Events

- **Milford Swap on April 14, 2012.**
- **Maker Faire Detroit** at The Henry Ford, Dearborn on **July 28 & 29, 2012.**
- **Bus Trip to 2012 Hamvention** at Dayton Ohio on **May 19, 2012**

<http://www.w8pgw.org/activities/dayton-bus-trip/>

The **ARROW Communication Association** is once again proud to sponsor a motor coach trip to the **2012 Hamvention** in Dayton, Ohio. Started in 2002, this annual club activity has grown in size and reputation with hams across Michigan. We have been host to over 400 hams for this event.

Join us **Saturday, May 19, 2012**, when we depart from Ann Arbor at 4:30 a.m., arriving in Dayton around 8:00 a.m. On board, you can stretch out, relax, take a nap, chat with other hams and enjoy a continental breakfast with coffee as the coach takes you directly to the country's largest amateur radio event!

We arrive at Dayton early enough so that you can enjoy a full day!

- Visit exhibits
- See what's new from major manufacturers
- Attend seminars
- Take license tests
- Shop the largest outdoor swap meet in the United States

When Hamvention closes at 5:00 p.m., return to the bus with your purchases for the ride back home. No standing in lines waiting for a shuttle bus or fighting traffic!



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@arrrl.net
Hazel Park ARC	Dee Flint	248-981-8145	N8UZE@arrrl.net
USECA ARC	Joseph Kennedy	586-977-7222	N8OZ@arrrl.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.

The Garden City ARC will hold a 14 week class for the Amateur Extra License.

When: From 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Thursday evenings for 14 weeks, Beginning February 16th and ending May 17th

Where: The Garden City Presbyterian Church, on Middlebelt Road, just south of Ford Road.

Syllabus: 12 weeks of instruction and one week of review. The last class session will be an ARRL license exam.

Materials: No book or manual(s) are required, All instructional material will be handed out in class.

Cost: \$10.00, which is the instructor's cost of the software and handouts that will be used in class. (There will also be a \$15.00 exam fee payable on exam night.)

Instructors: Mat Breton, AB8JV; and Fred Comps, K8KUZ

Space is limited: Reserve your space by contacting Fred at 734-261-6441 or by emailing k8kuz@aol.com



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: February 09, 2012 at 6:30PM
Topic: International Licensing, Bill Boyke, N80ZV

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