



President's Notes, January 2012

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a safe and healthy holiday season, and are looking forward to what 2012 will bring us. One thing the past few years have brought to us are an abundance of amateur radio operators! According to the stats, we now have over 700,000 licensed amateurs in the United States, a record for the hobby. Since the licenses are 10 years long, it does not mean that all of these licenses are active, but it represents a strong interest going forward. The magic of radio is again of interest to people. Almost everyone now uses radio frequencies in their everyday lives. Our cell phones are a primary phone for many people, and they have internet service through their phones, be it 3G or the upcoming versions of 4G. Wireless WiFi is in our homes, coffee shops, offices, and even our tire stores. Our cars have satellite radio built in, and HD radio is also starting to ship in vehicles as well. High definition digital TV is now the standard, and it is very good indeed. Our world is changing and will continue to change and develop. We are bringing in a new crowd of amateurs who are interested in both the old and the new forms of radio. May we all learn and grow together in our ham radio hobby!

During December, we are working on the launch of the new Focus Electric vehicle. As part of the development team, I have been bringing home a vehicle to test, and have one home over the Christmas holiday as well. The vehicle brings new meaning to the word "quiet powertrain." The electric motor whirls away with nearly no sound, sending power to the wheels while accelerating, and capturing much of that back again during braking. The car is very good for the urban environment, as it does better moving slower through the city, although it drives well on the highway. The only use this vehicle has for a gas station are those who have a car wash attached. For a recharge, bring it home, and plug it in for power. Since I only have a 110V line in the garage, it only charges at the rate of

about 1kW per hour. A 220V line could charge the car at 6kW, giving a full charge in 3-4 hrs. Charging stations will begin to appear in parking garages, office complexes, restaurants, and shopping malls as well. It is pretty easy to add in a charging station, and they are handy. These cars have a 50-100 mile range, and getting a top off charge while out and about makes sure there is enough energy to get back and forth comfortably. An all electric car does have a lot of microprocessors and other RF noises present. I can hear a bit of noise off station on the AM band, but it is not bad at all, and all of the stations come in without interference. While an 18kwh battery can run Field Day all by itself, it looks to be a useful platform for some radio activity. I will let you know if I get the chance to do a bit of operating out of it.

I hope to see you in January for the club meeting!

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 ½ 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.



Upcoming General and Extra Class Courses from Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

- Jerry Begel, W9NPI, Public Information Officer, Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will host a **General Class License Course**

When: First Session on **Monday, January 9, 2011**

Time: **Each Week @ 7 pm to 9pm for 12 weeks**

Where: City of Southfield Emergency Operations Center
26000 Evergreen Rd.,
Southfield, MI

(Basement of the Parks & Recreation Center,
North end of the Municipal Complex)

Cost: **FREE** except for **License Manual (\$23)**

Bonus: **FCC License Exam** at Last Session

Contact: **Wallace Murray KE8HR @ 248-685-8485**
or email ke8hr@arrl.net

The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club will host an **Extra Class License Course**

When: First Session on **January 27, 2011**

Time: **Each Week @ 7 pm to 9pm for 16 weeks**

Where: City of Southfield Emergency Operations Center
26000 Evergreen Rd.,
Southfield, MI

(Basement of the Parks & Recreation Center,
North end of the Municipal Complex)

Cost: **FREE** except for **License Manual (\$23)**

Bonus: **FCC License Exam** at Last Session

Contact: **Ron Miotke WD8MNX @ 248-246-7959**
or email wd8mnx@arrl.net



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: January 12, 2012 at 6:30PM
Topic: Sunspot Cycle 24 by Dave - N8HKU

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