

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

President's Note: January, 2009

Note the new website: The Ford Amateur Radio League has officially changed website addresses, and now we are at www.k8utt.org. I have put all the files up to this new address, and have eliminated our contract with Yahoo for the Geocities website. The Geocities site still has a free cover page that directs us to the new site. Right now, the new site is an exact mirror of the old site. Roger, KD8CSE, our web host, has put FrontPage extensions on for the new site. This should give me some power to create a table of contents and a search engine. Something for me to do in my free time.

Emails from the club: I continue to use Tom Musolf's Geocities Yahoo email address for club business. This address is tmusolf01@yahoo.com. From this address, I can send email to the entire club. My personal Comcast email account was not letting me send out to more than about 5 people at a time, due to spam filters on the outbound mail. I can send email to the whole club from the Yahoo account. Occasionally, email gets blocked from Yahoo accounts, but I have seen email blocked from almost anyone's account from time to time. Yahoo has some anti-spam features that should keep other servers from blocking club email.

December newsletter: The December newsletter never got sent via the US mail. So, this edition has items from the December newsletter and the January newsletter. Perhaps you can read the December information first! The Online edition is available on the club website. Thank you to Al W8AMH for creating the December newsletter, and to Bill WA8HEA for the January newsletter.

Update on the TV technology upgrade: Last month, I wrote that our household was undergoing a dramatic upgrade from a 1991 TV set to a 2008 flat screen TV. I wrote how I had a lot of RFI problems with the old set, being unable to transmit SSB on 14 MHz and up due to a very nice decoder in the TV audio amplifier that would not shut off. The transition is now complete, and the results are very impressive. The entire Sony set up is working together, and the picture is outstanding. My wife did not realize how much detail she was missing by looking at the old TV technology. I am very amazed as well as to the picture quality, and how well the components work well together. The whole set up is using HDMI cables, and is using the Sony Bravia Sync system. Bravia Sync communicates through the HDMI cables so that the stereo system automatically turns on when the TV turns on, and the TV sound control is ported to the stereo sound control. When the DVD player is turned on, the TV automatically switches to the DVD input. The satellite receiver is not quite as sophisticated, but the controls on it do work the TV pretty well. HDMI, or High Definition Multimedia Interface, takes the audio, video, and control signals, and puts them into a single cable. Gone are the multiple patch cables to go from component to component. The HDMI design actually has made the system easier to set up than the old system. All of the components send the sound through HDMI to the TV, and then the TV sends the audio out via an optical cable to the stereo. That is all that it takes. Now, for the really good news: all of this technology also includes RFI protection. At least at 100W, there is no interaction between amateur radio and the TV system on any band that I have found. I conducted a test one evening with my wife watching TV. When I came up to check on the results, she asked if I had started the test yet. I liked that answer! Now, if we only had some sunspots to get the bands open!

73,
Dave
N8HKU

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HFPACK – Some Basic Information

by Roger Reini (KD8CSE)

Ever wanted to combine exercising your transceivers with exercising your body? That's not terribly difficult to do. It can be done by operating bicycle mobile, but as that will be the subject of a future club presentation, I won't write about that now. Instead, I'll write about operating pedestrian mobile. Now operating your 2m or 70cm HT can be, and is, considered operating pedestrian mobile, but there are those hams who specialize in operating /PM on the HF bands. That's what this article is about.

The HFPack group is a group of hams interested in lightweight HF portable operation, frequently while hiking (thus the /PM). The focus is naturally on the HF bands and to a lesser extent on 6m. The main HFPack website (<http://www.hfpack.com/>) is a centralized reference describing what HFPack is, where its members meet on the airwaves, and pointing to all of the HFPack-affiliated sites, mainly Yahoo Groups for discussion of HFPack activities.

The main "meeting place" (besides the airwaves, of course) is the HFPack mailing list and discussion group on Yahoo Groups. There is a separate mailing list, HFNow, for discussing /PM contacts and announcing plans for /PM operations. There are also several other associated Yahoo Groups, some of which serve as overflow from the main HFPack group for posting files and photos that won't fit in the original group. Other lists specialize in particular modes of operating, such as APRS and CW.

Another meeting place for HFPackers is the annual Eyeball QSO Rally held on the Saturday of Hamvention in Dayton. It's common to see the 'packers with their backpacks and vertical antennas roving the floor and the grounds. I've tried to do some HF /PM operations using my FT-817, but I haven't had much success so far.

For a list of HFPack frequencies, go to <http://www.hfpack.com/air/>.

HFPack – <http://www.hfpack.com/>

HFPack Yahoo Group -- <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/hfpack/>

HFNow Yahoo Group -- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hfnow/>

ARISS FINALIZES PLANS FOR SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF AMATEUR RADIO FROM SPACE

(Information used taken from the ARRL weekly on-line newsletter)

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>> team is currently celebrating the silver anniversary -- 25 years -- of Amateur Radio operations from space. According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the crew on the International Space Station (ISS) has configured the radio to support cross-band repeater operations. They have also supported some SSTV downlinks and participated in a special test of 9600 baud packet radio operations on the simplex frequency of 145.825 MHz. After December 19, Bauer said he expects the ISS ham radio system to be on the 145.825 MHz frequency supporting 1200 baud packet. If PCSAT is configured during the week, he said double hop APRS is possible.

"During the week of December 21-26, we plan to support the cross-band repeater mode with a twist," Bauer said. "Our intent is to configure the radio for 145.99 MHz uplink -- including CTCSS tone of 67.0 and 437.80 MHz down. This will be performed in low power mode. We should also note that an extra-vehicular activity (EVA) is planned for that week. Expedition 18 Commander Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, and Flight Engineer Yury Lonchakov, RA3DT, plan to perform a spacewalk on December 22. As per standard procedure, the ISS ham radio system will be turned off for the EVA."

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Bauer said that from December 28-January 3, the cross-band repeater will be reconfigured for what he called "a special experiment. This will be a test of our L-Band uplink capability, which, to date, has not been proven out. Plan for an uplink of 1269.65 MHz and a downlink on the standard frequency of 145.80 MHz, using low power," he said. "Given the substantial cable losses of the L-band system, we hope some 'big guns' are able to penetrate through, keep up with Doppler and make the connection."

A special certificate is being developed for those who communicate with the ISS from November 30, 2008 to January 15, 2009. This certificate will be awarded to those who have had two-way communications with the ISS on voice, packet (APRS) or through the voice repeater. Those who hear the ISS from space in any of the ARISS operations modes -- voice, SSTV, school contact, voice repeater or digital - will also be eligible to receive a certificate.

To receive the certificate, Bauer said to note the ARISS mode of operation (such as SSTV, voice or school) on your QSL and whether the contact was one-way (receive only) or two-way. "You should send your self-addressed, stamped envelope to the normal ARISS QSL volunteer distributor in your area of the world," he explained. "On the outside of the QSL envelope, please include the words '25th Anniversary Certificate.' Make sure your envelope is big enough to accept an 8.5 x 11 inch certificate and includes the proper postage." If you do not know where to send your QSL, check the ARISS Web site <[http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm#ARISS Update--25th Anniversary of Ham_Radio_in_Space](http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm#ARISS_Update--25th_Anniversary_of_Ham_Radio_in_Space)> to find the one that serves your part of the world.

"We will be sending your certificate to the volunteer distributors in bulk after the event is over," Bauer said. "This saves workload and money. So do not expect to see it until 1-2 months after the event closes on January 15."

Bauer reminded hams that due to ISS flight requirements related to spacewalks and vehicle activity, the radio onboard the ISS may be off for some portion of this schedule. School contacts and general QSO opportunities by the crew will also preempt this schedule for short periods of time. "But remember that if you hear these," he said, "you still qualify for a commemorative certificate. Enjoy the ARISS ops on ISS!"

ARRL News Brief

(Information used taken from the ARRL weekly on-line newsletter)

This Week on the Radio: The SARTG New Year RTTY Contest and the AGCW Happy New Year Contest are both on January 1. Looking ahead, the ARRL RTTY Roundup and the EUCW 160 Meter Contest are on January 3-4. The Midwinter Contest (CW) is January 10 and the Hunting Lions in the Air Contest, the MI QRP January CW Contest and the North American QSO Party (CW) are all on January 10-11. The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, the NRAU-Baltic Contest (CW), Midwinter Contest (Phone), the NRAU-Baltic Contest (SSB) and the DARC 10 Meter Contest are scheduled for January 11. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>>, the ARRL Contest Update <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/>> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>>.

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, December 21, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, January 2, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1, Radio Frequency Interference, Antenna Design and Construction, Technician License Course, Analog Electronics and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8,

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12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <<http://www.arrl.org/cep/student>> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

Cork Board – Announcements & Classified

- Kenwood TS-570 - HF
- Kenwood TM-231A – 2M
- Kenwood SP-820 – Speaker
- Ameritron AL811 H – Amp

Contact Bill WD8IWQ @ 561-4199

Detroit Children's Museum Amateur Radio Station Project

by Bill Brezina (WA8HEA)

I received an e-mail in November about the Detroit Children's Museum needing some help in putting together an amateur radio station. They wanted a hands-on exhibit that the children could use to talk to other radio operators and learn about ham radio. I contacted Laura Speegle at the museum and offered my assistance.

The museum had already purchased the equipment (a Kenwood TS-2000 and an Icom IC-7000, both excellent HF/VHF/UHF transceivers, an Icom IC-208 VHF/UHF mobile, an Icom AH-4 antenna tuner, a B&W folded dipole for 80-10 meters, a Diamond VHF/UHF vertical and an Astron 12VDC, 60 amp power supply) based on recommendations from the Hazel Park ARC.

So far we have installed the TS-2000, IC-7000 and power supply, and have put up the Diamond VHF/UHF vertical on the roof of the building. The IC-7000 is connected to the vertical and I was able to access several repeaters in the area. One station is up and operating; another to go.

Laura and Bill, another museum employee, want to get their Technician licenses, and are currently studying the Technician license manual. Bill Boyke (N8OZV) has offered to help them get their licenses so the museum may soon apply for a club station license.

Our next step is to put up a 40' long wire and the AH-4 antenna tuner for HF and then we will put up the B&W folded dipole. The antenna installation was difficult in the cold weather but we all know antennas work better when put up when conditions are less than "optimal". Please contact me at 313-550-0928 if you can help installing this next group of antennas and supports.

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Hams Helping Hams

by Bill Brezina (WA8HEA)

Hams help...it's sort of what we do. It's a part of the whole reason amateur radio was created; as a hobby, but a hobby with a purpose. To help. Sometimes we help in emergencies situations or perform some other public service. Sometimes we help other hams get licensed, upgrade or learn something new; what we often call "Elmering". I strongly believe in Hams Helping Hams.

I recently visited a couple of hamfests and sadly noted several tables where items from silent key estates were being sold. I got to thinking about the stuff I have in the basement and what would happen if I went to the great "hamfest in the sky". Will I ever really use this stuff I have been collecting if I haven't used it in the last 5 years? Maybe it's time to "downsize" and use what I have more. I also talked to other "vintage" club members who want to sell, or get rid of, things.

I will present a proposal to the Club at the next meeting about FARL helping hams sell or dispose of things they no longer need. This would initially involve local hams and other clubs but could expand to a larger area. It could involve picking up and checking equipment, going to swaps and/or using the Internet (Ebay, QRZ, QTH, Eham, Craigslist, etc) to sell it. There are a number of details that need to be addressed but I think it is a workable project. Let's talk about it.

SOS - A Call for Help

We received this e-mail request for assistance from the New York Hall of Science Children's Museum Radio Club. It is ironic that they are being asked to leave their location and we are being asked to assist in initiating a radio station at the Detroit Children's Museum. Please visit their website and sign their petition.

Dear Fellow Amateur,

The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club- WB2JSM is putting out an SOS (Save Our Station) call for your help. The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club has been demonstrating amateur radio to the visiting public for over 35 years as an independent exhibit at the New York Hall of Science Children's Museum located in Queens, New York. The museum is undergoing a major renovation project and wants us out for good. We have started a petition which we want you to sign and circulate for us in order to help preserve a great ham radio asset by showing officials at the museum that you value what we do. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/6ljost> to read more about our plight and sign our petition. We have logged over 10,000 contacts from the station and even if you're not in our log your help will let us continue to talk up amateur radio and create the next generation of ham radio operators.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Golero KC2CBA

Club Liaison Officer

www.hosarc.org (the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club)

www.nyhallsci.org (the Hall of Science museum)

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Tin Lizzy Club Calendar – 2009

- January** 8th - FARL Club Meeting: **Community Service**. Bill Brezina (WA8HEA) - Detroit Children's Museum Amateur Radio Project, Hams Helping Hams (H³).
18th - Hazel Park Swap: <http://hparc.org/swap/>
- February** 12th - FARL Club Meeting: **Antennas**. Bill Boyke (N8OZV) - Long Wave Antennas, Bill Brezina (WA8HEA) – J-Pole Antennas for Fun and Profit.
15th - LARC swap: <http://www.livoniaarc.com/Swap.htm>
- March** 12th - FARL Club Meeting: **HF Digital Communications**. Bill Boyke (N8OZV) - Digital Voice on HF.
14th - Marshall Swap: <http://www.w8df.com/>
15th - Toledo Amateur Radio Club swap: <http://www.tmrahamradio.org/hamfest.htm>
- April** 9th - FARL Club Meeting: **Mobile Operations**. Roger Reini (KD8CSE) – Bicycle Mobile, Bill Boyke (N8OZV) – Marine Mobile.
18th - Milford Amateur Radio Swap:
- May** 14th - FARL Club Meeting: **Emergency Operations**. Bill Boyke (N8OZV) – ARES, RACES, ARRL & FEMA Training, Bill Brezina (WA8HEA) – Git Kit for Emergency Operations.
15-17th - Dayton Hamvention
- June** 11th - FARL Club Meeting: **Contest Operations**. Dave Treharne (N8HKU) – 2009 Field Day Preparation and Operation.
27-28th - **ARRL Field Day**, Livonia Fire Station.
- July** **No Club Meetings**
- August** **No Club Meetings**
- September** 10th – FARL Club Meeting: **Digital Communications**. Bill Boyke (N8OZV) – Microcontrollers.
?: **PEAC Bike Ride Project**, Warrendale Park, Detroit
- October** 8th - FARL Club Meeting: **Remote Operations**. Bill Brezina (WA8HEA) – Kenwood Sky Command.
- November** 12th – FARL Club Meeting: **Presentation TBD**.
- December** 10th – FARL Club Meeting: **Christmas Dinner**, Location TBA.
? – **Radio Santa Project**, Motts Children Hospital, Ann Arbor

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Potential Topics for Presentations

Icom D-Link: Need volunteer presenter.

Fox Hunting techniques: Need volunteer presenter.

Mobile Installations: Need volunteer presenter.

Software defined radios: Bill Brezina (WA8HEA)

CPR Classes: Presenter TBD

Please suggest more topics at our club meetings or contact a board member!

FARL Club Meetings

The Ford Amateur Radio Club meets the 2nd 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 (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.

FARL Christmas Dinner

by Bill Brezina (WA8HEA)

The Club had our Annual Christmas Dinner on Thursday, December 11th, at Richter's Chalet this year and everyone had a merry old time. The food and drink was excellent and so was the company. Richter's Chalet is well know for its authentic German cuisine and the owner, Mr. Richter, is a Master Pastry Chef from Germany. You definitely need to save room for some dessert!

We had 13 club members and spouses attend and we wish more members could have joined us for the evening. We hope everyone had a Christmas full of wonder and joy.

Project Radio Santa at Mott's Children's Hospital

by Bill Boyke (N8OZV)

Speaking with Santa (AKA Project Radio Santa) completed its 15th visit in 15 years to Mott's Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor this December. Even with the low sunspot count, the 220 and 440 radio communications with our St. Nicks were excellent.

The visit was early in the afternoon on Saturday, December 6th, this year. The available patient count was light but those kids our elves visited were those who most needed it. The 8 elves, 2 Santas, hospital staff and children enjoyed themselves and the hospital is looking forward to next year (as are we).

We are talking to Mott's about potentially a "Christmas in July" visit but that is up in the air. Thanks again to all the elves, Santas and the hospital staff for another successful event.

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2008-2009 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	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
Treasurer	Bill Brezina	WA8HEA	313-563-2905
Secretary	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
Repeater Chair	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
K8UTT Trustee	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Activity Chair	Bill Boyke	N8OZV	313-805-8877

Next Club Meeting: Thursday, January 8th @ 7:00PM
Presentation: “Detroit Children’s Museum Amateur Radio Station Project” by Bill Brezina (WA8HEA)

The Ford Amateur Radio League
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