



President's Notes, June 2011

Spring is always a busy time. The grass begins to grow, (and grow and grow...), Dayton holds its annual Hamvention, and the Field Day exercises are right around the corner.

The Dayton Hamvention: This year was my 25th year in a row to attend the Dayton Hamvention. I always find it fun and fascinating. This year, I left the driving to the Arrow Club and joined 35 fellow hams down to Dayton on Saturday via the bus. If you can handle the Oh My God Its Early departure time from Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor at 4:30 am, the bus whisks you down to the front door of Hara Arena with plenty of time before the swap opens. The weather this year was very nice, kind of warm, and we did not see any rain during the day. It was nice to see plenty of vendors on the inside this year, and there was a lot of flea market items for sale, although the lot was not completely filled. I enjoyed walking around with Bill, KD8KTF, who was visiting Hamvention for his first time.

Given the fact that I was there for the entire day, I took advantage of a couple of the sessions. The first was a history of Radio Teletype, or RTTY. It was fun to hear about the granddaddy of digital communications modes, and how it has progressed from the old mechanical machines to the computer based systems of today. Personally, I was surprised to hear that the presenter, who is always among the top scorers, uses an ICOM 746, an amplifier, and a soundcard based program to rack up his scores. He was not using a hardware based modem for the RTTY decoding, which I would figure would help against the interference I sometimes experience in contests with stations very close together. I am further encouraged to get on the air during the next contest.

My second session I attended was from NASA Astronaut Col. Doug Wheelock. Doug got his ticket just before heading up to command the International Space Station last year, and came back a real convert to the power of Ham radio. He used to stay up at nights while at the ISS and make contacts with amateurs around the world just to connect with the world floating beneath him. He also told the story of the start of the major problems up at the ISS when the ammonia coolant flow pump failed on board at 11:30pm one night right after he completed exercising. As the alarms were going off, error messages were scrolling from the main computer, and the station started shutting down, he was worried that he was going to lose communication with the satellites as the station began to drift. He immediately asked that the amateur radio be turned on and made sure it was working. He felt secure that he could make communication home in the event regular communication was lost. Houston did stay connected, and the engineers and the ISS staff worked for the next 3 weeks to get the station back to running properly again. Doug has been back on Earth for 6 months now, but has officially recommended that all ISS commanders be licensed amateurs prior to taking their place aboard the station. He had a lot of stories to share, and a touching video presentation of his fellow astronauts, support people, and shots of different areas of that blue ball below.

The US has had more than its fair share of rough weather this year. This has been an extremely active and deadly tornado season so far. Even with warning, some of these tornados and extreme straight line winds have been causing major deaths and injuries. Amateurs, as usual, have been providing the advanced warning, and have been needed to permit communications after the storms. The telephone and cellular networks have been getting wiped out by all of the storms, leaving communities isolated from communications. We hope that this never happens here, but be prepared to help with communications if we ever have our normal communications wiped out. Our 2m repeater does have some emergency power backup, so it can be used to help get communications out of the affected area back to those of us who have some normal communication capability. Keep an ear out for trouble during this stormy season!

73,
David
N8HKU
Club President



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2011**

Minutes, FARL Club Meeting – May 12th, 2011

Meeting called to order at 18:36 (6:36p.m.)
9 members present

Minutes from prior meeting: The April 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without changes.

Treasurers Report: Pat, WD8JDZ read the treasurers report and reported that the annual financial report to FERA was sent.

Board of Directors Meeting: A phone in (conference call) meeting was held on Wednesday, May 18th. The discusses were about:

- (1) What antennas to purchase at Dayton for the up coming Field Day event.
- (2) Club insurance – where we stand and what needs to be done.
- (3) Field Day planning events.

Committee Reports:

Repeaters: discusses were made to see about finding a less expensive alternative to the current phone line system we carry. Some sort of phone line must be maintained in order for the control operator to control the repeaters.

All repeaters are basically operating the same as they have been.

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

Education & Training: During the last test session, there were 4 applicants. 3 passed their Tech; 2 upgraded to General; 1 was already licensed but did not pass his General test.

Communication – Newsletter/Website: The newsletter is going out on time. The website is being updated by Dave, N8HKU.

Don't forget your club dues!

Historian: If there is any historical information anyone is interested in trying to find (excluding financial), please contact the club historian John, N8NWA at N8NWA@yahoo.com.

FERA News: Our annual financial report was sent to FERA by Pat, WD8JDZ.

Unfinished/Current Business:

Club inventory is available on the club website.

Should we hold a special club meeting in July for the upcoming Maker Faire? Will discuss more at the June meeting.

Ford Yacht Club event; special event station in August at the Ford Yacht Club. Anyone interested in supporting? Volunteers? More information will be available at the June meeting.

Field Day: Joining LARC again. T-shirt orders are going on now. Contact Dave, N8HKU for an order soon. Orders must be in by the end of June!

Need a Co-Chair to work with LARC on Field Day planning. Looking for volunteers.

A motion to purchase a G5RV & extras as needed, not to exceed \$150 at Dayton for Field Day use. Since we no longer have access to the other wire antenna we used for Field Day, we need a new one. Motion was passed.

Looking for WI-FI laptops to use during Field Day. If you are willing to loan one out, please let the Board members know at the next meeting.

We will be the lead for SSB#1 station again this year.

For more info on Field Day 2011, please consult the K8UTT website: http://www.k8utt.org/meeting_info.htm

The ARRL is changing their insurance company. We are looking into whether we need to change, or continue with the current company. There will be a special Board meeting to discuss.

Break: 19:30 (7:30p.m.)

Special Note: For all those going down to Dayton. Talk freq. will be 147.160 simplex with 100Hz PL; Alternate – 147.570 simplex with 100Hz PL.

Adjourned: 20:00 (8:00p.m.)



Maker Faire Coming Up!!

Please reserve your calendars for the Detroit Maker Faire at the Henry Ford on July 30th and 31st. Bill, N8OZV, is helping to lead the charge. We want to have ham radio demos for all to see. We are likely to have a club meeting in July in order to set this up. Please volunteer to help! We will have admission covered for those who volunteer. Last year, it was a great event, and we are looking forward to this year as well.

<http://makerfaire.com/>, <http://www.thehenryford.org/events/makerFaire.aspx>



2011 Field Day - David Treharne, N8HKU

Our annual Field Day exercises are once again upon us. We have been invited to join the Livonia Amateur Radio Club at the Livonia Fire house on Plymouth Rd to conduct Field Day. We are in need of as many participants as possible to set up, operate, supply equipment, take down, and just plain participate.

Field Day is a fun event along with the training and operating. Field Day was where I learned how to set up my own station, hang an antenna, and where I learned how to operate contest style. Amateur radio is often a solo practice during contests, but Field Day turns it into a major group event. The LARC-FARL group placed 3rd in Michigan among 3A stations last year, so our skills as a community are improving. As we have stressed, though, training is as important as points, so we encourage giving people the microphone in order for them to build a new skill, while keeping a buddy on the computer next to you to help pull out the calls and get the information exchange correct.

At this time, we are still finalizing our plans with the LARC group. The LARC is working to set up an additional station this year, a station dedicated to digital communications. That means we will run 4A if the plans hold together. We have run digital out of the FARL SSB station in the past years, and I have not found that it has a lot of signals on during Field Day. Anyway, with a good interest in running digital, we will have the opportunity to share these modes with those who have not set up their own station, yet. Digital has its own operating style not at all like either CW or SSB.

Please try to attend the FARL meeting on June 9th, where we will talk about Field Day. Give me an email at n8hku@arrl.net if you have a tent, generator, laptop, or other equipment to loan, or if you want to attend but will not be at the club meeting. We do need to plan for how much food to procure, so we do want some idea of who is coming and when. You do not have to attend the whole time. We do understand that it is graduation season and vacation season, but please stop by for as long as you can! If you are a night owl, there is plenty of operating time available in the wee hours of the night and morning. Bring some bug repellent and perhaps some warmer clothes (yes, it can get cool at night during late June in Michigan) and settle in for some great operating time. With the sunspot cycle moving up, we may have 20m working through the night, as it has been staying functional quite late into the evening. 40m and especially 80m are really hopping at night. With the 5 story fire training tower anchoring most of our HF antennas, we have excellent height with which to hang our antennas. Given that most everyone has portable antennas, our antennas are superior to many of the other sites, giving us a Big Signal to work with. We do get very good signal reports from other

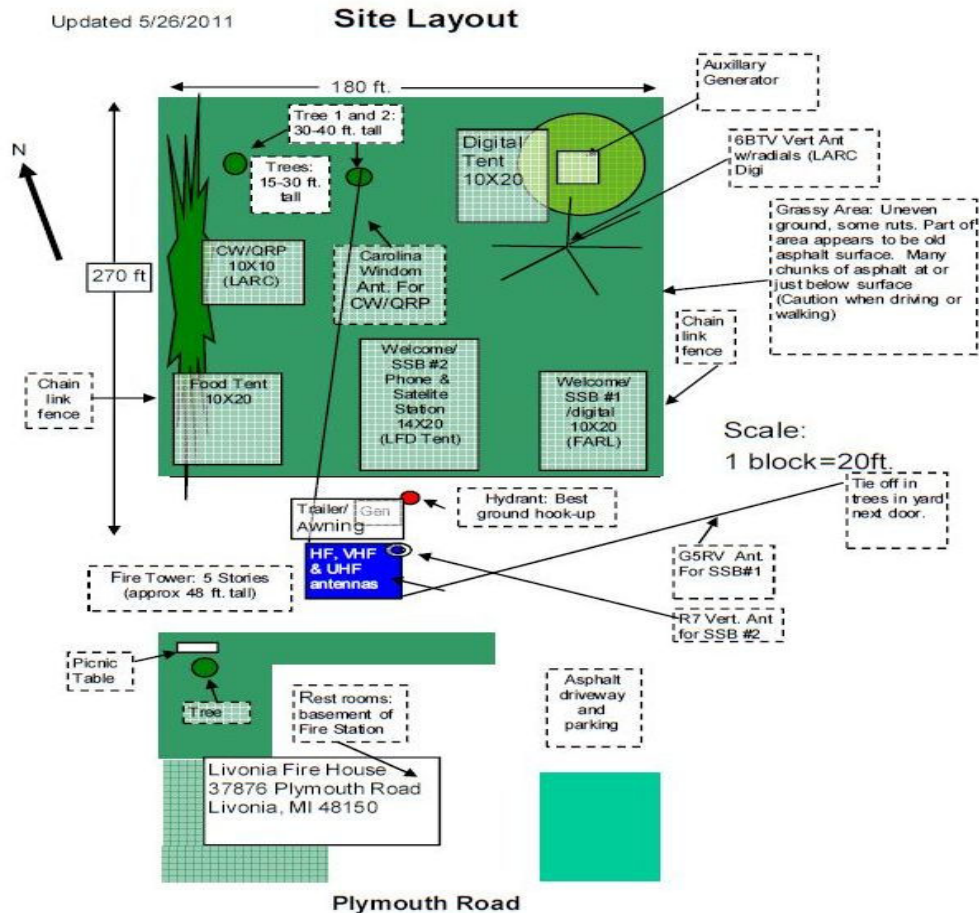
operators. Come enjoy them with us. (Someone also please do the “Sun Dance” to keep away the rain and storms!)

Finally, since we operated as K8UTT in 2010, we will plan on using the LARC call this year, K8UNS. We also will not be running a GOTA station. With 2 SSB stations, a digital station, and a CW station, we will be happy to work to accommodate guests and new operators at our station set ups.

Dave, N8HKU

Field Day Plan: http://k8utt.org/May_2011_Club_meeting/2011_Field_Day_Plan_v1a.xls

FARL LARC Field Day Operations - 2010





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: June 09, 2011 at 6:30PM
Topic: 2011 Field Day

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