



President's Notes, March 2011

As I start to type these notes, the Livonia swap meet has just concluded. I was at the club table for much of the day, as were Al, W8AMH and Bill, N8OZV. Rich, K8RMM, had his own table right next to ours. There were a few large items sold, such as an amplifier from the estate of W8WJR (SK) and my recently retired MacBook. Crowds appeared to be good, but there were some tables that were never occupied. I still think it was a successful event. And by virtue of being there today, we obtained a free table for the Milford swap in April, although I think all local clubs got a free table for Milford.

With this being March, May is only two months away. Time to start thinking about your plans for Dayton, if you haven't and you're planning to go. And those plans could include activities on the day before, such as Contest University, Four Days in May (the QRP event – I will be attending this again), the VHF weak signal and ATV banquets, etc. The ARROW club will be sponsoring its bus trip again, so there's an option for a one-day trip. And with gas prices on their way back up, it may be a more appealing option.

Recent news that a significant chunk of the 70 cm band is being proposed to be auctioned off for commercial use is disturbing, to say the least. I agree with the ARRL on this one, and I'm sure most of you do as well: while we support the creation and maintenance of a broadband public safety network, we don't support taking spectrum from amateur radio to do so or as part of a spectrum swap to compensate for its being created in another part of the spectrum. The bill is in committee in the House of Representatives as I type this. Lobbying efforts to get this bill amended are well under way.

What is on tap for this month? Well, we plan to kickoff discussions on our efforts for Maker Faire this summer. And Rich, K8RMM, plans to talk about APRS with the Kenwood D710. Next month will be club elections, so there will be some time for nominations for April. By the way, I want to thank Bill, N8OZV, for planning to represent our club at the FERA General Council meeting for March, which is scheduled at the same time as our club meeting.

And lastly, word has just come that Bob Richards, N8JUH, is now a Silent Key, having passed away on February 25. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family.

73,
Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2011**

Minutes, FARL Club Meeting - February 10th 2011

Meeting was called to order at 18:37 (6:37p.m.)

7 members and 1 visitor were present.

Minutes from prior meeting: January 2011 meeting minutes were approved without changes.

Treasurers Report: Pat, WD8JDZ was not present to read the report but did send a copy to Roger, KD8CSE who went through the basics of the report. It was approved as read.

Board of Directors Meeting: No B.O.D. meeting was held.

Committee Reports:

Repeaters: The 2mtr and 440 repeaters are operating about the same. The 220 repeater has been taken off-line for repairs and should be back up “soon” according to Murray, KE8UM. 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 will be holding Tech/Lunch classes on Thursdays between 11 & 12 at Bldg. #1 conference room. He will also be starting his training sessions the middle of March at the Ford Yacht Club. Training sessions will be held on Saturdays. Tech/lunch classes and training sessions are both open to the public. For more information 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.

FERA: FERA held a council meeting.

The main items of interest were travel discount programs from Orlando Vacations: <http://www.orlandovacation.com/discounts> , login FERA, 1-866-392-6936 and Vacation Rewards www.vacationrewards.com/FERA .

Unfinished/Current Business:

Unfinished Business: none

Current Business:

Club decided not to purchase a table for the Toledo Swap.

Bill, KD8KTF upgraded to General in December. Congrats to Bill.

Rodney, K8SGL is out of the hospital and living with his daughter while he recoups. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Break: 19:20 (7:20p.m.)

Presentation: Bill, N8OZV talked about Linux operating system and various websites for Ham operation. Contact Bill for more info on different websites.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:12 (8:12p.m.)




Support

- **March 13, 2011:** Corktown Race 2011 – The Foui's 5k Run/Walk – Saint Patrick's Parade
https://pofd.com/projects/kurtis/corktown_website/
- **March 20, 2011:** Rock CF Half Marathon for Cystic Fibrosis
<http://www.letsrockcf.org/blog/2010/07/30/rock-cf-half-marathon-announced-grosse-ile-mi/>

Contact Kevin – K8GVM at kd8gvm@arrl.net to volunteer for the two marathons.

Richard Maske, K8RMM

ARRL Members Respond to HR 607 - ARRL



Last month, a bill was introduced in the US House of Representatives (<http://www.arrl.org/news/spectrum-management-bill-threatens-amateur-frequencies>) that addresses certain spectrum management issues, including the creation and maintenance of a nationwide Public Safety broadband network. This bill -- HR 607 (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr607ih/pdf/BILLS-112hr607ih.pdf>), known as The Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011 -- if passed, also calls to auction off parts of the 70 cm band, namely 420-440 and 450-470 MHz. As such, the ARRL asked its members to write their Representative (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-asks-members-to-write-in-opposition-to-hr-607>), asking them to not support HR 607 in its current form.

According to ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, Chwat & Co -- the ARRL's legislative relations firm in Washington, DC -- received almost 1000 letters in just the first week from League members in opposition to HR 607. "This is a great start and many thanks to the diligent members who have risen to the challenge; however, it cannot stop there. As long as HR 607 is in its current form, we must continue this campaign." He clarified that the ARRL opposes HR 607 in its present form: "We do not oppose the concept of dedicated spectrum for the development of a Public Safety infrastructure and wireless network. We object to the bill because of the inclusion of 420-440 MHz as part of the spectrum to be swapped and auctioned to commercial users."

Henderson shared a few pointers for writing letters in opposition to HR 607. He said that two of the most frequently asked questions that he receives are, Why does the ARRL ask us to funnel our letters to Congress through Chwat & Co? Why can't I send my letter directly to my Representative?

"Trust me when I say I understand your concern and I firmly believe that the more input members of Congress receive -- either for or against an issue -- from their constituents, the better the public interest is served," Henderson said. "But using the services of Chwat & Co has many advantages that help the ARRL further its legislative agenda. The most important part of our system is that hand-delivery of constituent letters to a Congressional office provides the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with key staff or your Member of Congress -- an opportunity to make our point directly."

Unfortunately, several dozen letters sent to Chwat & Co. are not usable for a variety of reasons, Henderson explained. Some letters are in support of bills that the ARRL supported in previous sessions, but have no bearing on HR 607. Henderson cautioned that bill numbers change in subsequent Congresses, as do the issues being addressed: "Please make sure your letter is addressing the correct issue. Don't 'dust off' that letter you sent previously -- it will not help with the current problem."

While we all look for "easy" ways to express ourselves to our Representatives, a letter sent without a signature carries little weight when Congressional staffs begin assessing support or opposition to a bill. Though many members of Congress have websites where constituents can simply fill out a web page form to share their thoughts with their Representative, such web forms have only limited usefulness in lobbying on a specific issue. "The fact that a constituent makes the effort to sign a letter personally -- then sends it in via fax, regular US Mail or by scanning the signed letter into a PDF then e-mailing it -- has a far greater impact than an unsigned e-mail or web-based form," Henderson said. "Please make sure your letter carries your signature. It does make a difference!"

Henderson said that several letters received at Chwat & Co were addressed to the wrong person. For example, there were several letters addressed to Senator Boxer, but began with "Dear Representative Boxer" -- an incorrect title. "We are not asking letters be sent to members of the Senate -- only to your Representative in the US House. If you are unsure of who your Representative is, you can find out here."

Sometimes, in our eagerness to help, we can overlook some of the basics, like grammar, spelling and the proper form of address. "Please proofread your letter several times to ensure it is accurate," Henderson advised. "This should include all names, addresses and salutations, as well as any comments or edits you may add to our form letter." He said that by reading the final letter out loud to yourself several times before sending to Chwat & Co, you can find most, if not all, mistakes.

"Defeating HR 607 in its present form is a fight Amateur Radio can win -- but only with thoughtful participation by us all," Henderson explained. "Thanks to all of you for your efforts and let's keep this moving forward. Protecting our spectrum is important to all of us!"

FCC Adopts Spread Spectrum Rules Changes - ARRL



In a Report and Order adopted February 22 and released March 4, 2011, the Federal Communications Commission has eliminated the requirement that amateur stations transmitting Spread Spectrum use Automatic Power Control (APC) to reduce transmitter power. At the same time, the Commission has reduced the maximum power of a Spread Spectrum emission from 100 to 10 W PEP.

The R&O explains the Commission's actions this way: "We believe that these rules changes will (1) encourage individuals who can contribute to the advancement of the radio art to more fully utilize SS technologies in experimentation, and (2) balance the interests of all users in mixed-mode and mixed-service frequency bands until sharing protocols are sufficiently developed to avoid interference."

The ARRL filed a Petition for Rulemaking back in March 2006 asking that the APC requirement be eliminated. Since it was first imposed in 1999, the ARRL's Petition observed, the APC requirement has "been impractical of compliance; unnecessary in order to protect other Amateur Radio operations or the operation of any licensed radio service sharing certain Amateur Radio allocations; and it has served as an unintended, but effective deterrent to Spread Spectrum experimentation in the Amateur Service." While it did not propose the power reduction in its petition, in later comments the ARRL conceded that it has not been demonstrated that the proposed power limit would pose a substantial obstacle to SS experimentation, and stated that "it is willing to accept the restriction presently, subject to revisiting the matter after some reasonable experience is gained."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, commented: "We are pleased that this relatively minor matter finally has been resolved. We hope that as soon as the amended rules become effective, amateur experimenters will take advantage of the greater flexibility that has been afforded to them."

The changes to Sections 97.311 and 97.313 of the Commission's Rules will be effective 30 days after the R&O is published in the Federal Register.



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	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
Vice President	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
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	John Stucka	N3JM	313-576-9880
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: March 10, 2011 at 6:30PM
Topic: APRS by Richard, K8RMM

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