



President's Notes for March 2017

I attended the first session of the National Weather Service Skywarn training in February for 2017. A number of events made it the perfect time for me to attend. First, the session was held at my township municipal offices, only 4 miles from my house. Second, we had been having such unusually warm weather, with a lot of storms across the United States, so it reminded me of the potential for severe weather in our area. As it turned out, both the Washtenaw County Emergency Coordinator and the NWS Meteorologist made mention of the possibility for severe weather the very next day, Feb 24th. The training was certainly worthwhile, with the NWS sharing a lot of news from last year's severe weather activity in Michigan and the surrounding area. I had thought that last year had an abnormally small number of weather alerts and activations, and this was verified. It was a record last year for the minimum number of activations in S.E. Michigan. The storms just avoided us, though, as the Upper Peninsula had a record 6 tornados last year. For those who attend the training, you know they now have an electronic quiz to take at the end of the program. Two years ago, I messed up the quiz with several wrong. I paid better attention this year and scored second place in the quiz out of 59 participants, getting all 8 questions correct, and answering quickly, as it is a timed test. Nothing like a bit of competition to keep me awake on a Thursday evening! I do recommend the course for those who are interested in such public service. For Washtenaw County, attending every two years keeps our Spotter ID numbers current, which we use when checking into the Skywarn net. Other counties and nets do not have this, but we do where I live. As a final note, we did have some storms on February 24th, and my home weather station recorded a maximum rainfall rate of 11.2 inches per hour at 3:21pm. I was not home, but I asked my wife about it. She said she got home right before the storm, and it was a deafening rain.

See this newsletter for 2017 Skywarn Training dates.

I was watching the TV program on the Science Channel, "Explaining the Universe" while doing a workout the other night. It was talking about detecting planets beyond our solar system that could support life. Along with a rocky surface and the temperatures for liquid water, the other important element is an active magnetic field

around the planet. It turns out that this is critical to support an atmosphere that keeps gasses like water vapor and oxygen from being blown away by the cosmic wind. Mars, being smaller than the Earth, has cooled to the point where its molten iron core has frozen, eliminating its magnetic field, and therefore its atmosphere. The question for astronomers was how to detect a magnetic field from light-years away? A possible answer is with radio waves! A planet our size with its magnetic field produces a continuous radio signal of about 10 MHz from the poles. A larger planet that could still potentially support life at about 3x the size of Earth would send a signal of up to 100 MHz. So, maybe a big radio telescope in space will eventually help sort out how common life may be in the Universe! (The telescope has to be in space, of course, to block out our own 10 MHz signal, plus all of the other radio signals we have going on across the spectrum.)

Ford gave the chance this week to drive one of the company's ultimate "Field Day" machines: the 2017 F150 Raptor. This pick-up truck is designed for on-road use, plus dirt, mud, rocks, hills, and high up in the mountains. The engine is a twin turbo 3.5L V6 at 450 hp and 510 lb-ft of torque. It has a built-in 400 Watt AC inverter, plus aux relays to switch 12V loads on and off from the cab. It was a very comfortable ride on both good and bumpy roads, and quite fast, especially when in 4x4 mode, where there was no wheel slip. One can think of quite a number of mobile and remote radio operating conditions for this vehicle in places well less travelled. Alas, I had to return the truck after just one night. I have neither the need nor the funds for such a capable truck, but those who do are likely to be very satisfied with their acquisition.

David Treharne
N8HKU
President: FARL



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) Club Meeting Minutes – February 09, 2017

Ford Amateur Radio League Meeting Minutes February 09, 2017

Call to order at 6:03 PM by Roger was done.

(Dave was on vacation in Jamaica)

1. **Minutes from prior meeting** reviewed, motion made and approved.
2. **Treasurer's report** – Pat reported that the balance was (not shown) with interest (not shown).
 - Pat discussed with have \$ in account and interest. Not stated here. Bill for the Post Office of \$86 was paid.
 - Dues for \$20 received for Bill Boyke.
 - All have dues coming due unless paid recently.
 - Motion to approve treasurer's report approved.
 - M. Lunn offered to have the new students that pass exam get a discounted membership to the FARL; he has 6 years ahead paid and can offer this. Not decided at the meeting, some discussion of free or reduced but goal of engagement was noted.
3. **Board of Directors** discussion
 - RF Finder discussion was held and Roger briefed on the changes coming for ARRL listing, use of a location exact in the RF Finder for more than amateur listings. Discussion was held and Bill had the PC and projector, drafted a few sentences (not with me at this time and have to add later). Motion was made after discussion and update, passed for statement (not here and will Roger or Bill).
4. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Repeater** noise discussion that this is less prior to sunset, some good days, some bad days. No visits planned per discussion of some with Murray at the Hamfests. Discussion of please use the coded squelch and if you hear some noise please check it's not a conversation in Digital but your Analog hears some noise
 - B. **Net**, going on Sunday nights, Analog has worked so far and been OK per discussion.
 - C. **Education and Training**, none coming. Tye has 4-5 people in Ford for the next class and mix of technician and general class. Plan is for class on the 11-12 time at Ford, Building 2 or 3, 6-8 weeks time and end prior to Easter per Bill.
 - D. **Communications and newsletter** – send items to Rajiv
Bolt is sent out to a list with the note, should be to all but contact Roger if issues.
Website had no comments or issues.
 - E. **Historian** has transitioned to Tye Winkel, no discussion at meeting.

F. No **equipment** discussion.

G. FERA report from Bill, he attended the FERA meeting and had 400 tickets sold for Auto show, this was coming to us from meeting. A final amount is coming and may be a few dollar adjustments. Next event is Autorama February 24-26th, selling now.

a. An installation of officers coming up on 4/6 at the Fairlane Mansion, this is open to all FERA members, new change this year. Its an opportunity for a gathering and a meal.

b. 4/3 accreditation form due to FERA, may have funds for activity as a going group per Bill.

5. Unfinished and Current business

6. New business

- Yaesu Shirts from Dayton were at meeting; M. Lunn offered to the group and passed out.
- LARC Hamfest was discussed to support for a club table. Two were to be there and sell, a club table was supported for \$17 by motion to approve. Bill or Roger to get a table. Who has the FARL banner was asked but not known at the meeting.
- New program discussion, Mac mentioned the STEM classes for basic electrical, Arduino programming later in spring. Could have a guest speaker from IEEE and local Ham Radio come to present.

Program:

Roger discussed the Magnetic loop antennas; a small loop that is used and has the magnetic field in near to antenna, at distance is Electrical and Magnetic. These are small and at lower power but may work and some Alexloop and such portable, small size versions discussed. Can work for HOA constraints of small, hidden in a round table or shape, packed to small case.

Adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Attendance:

1. Malcolm Lunn, KD8TPO
2. Al Habbal, W8AMH
3. Robert Rusty Eizen, N8RGI
4. Bill Boyke, N8OZV
5. Roger Reini, KD8CSE
6. Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ
7. Rodney Deyo, K8SGL
8. Sam Wells, KD8YTR
9. Richard Maske, K8RMM



SKYWARN

Skywarn Training

Latest website: <http://www.weather.gov/dtx/spotter2>

Or <http://www.weather.gov/dtx/skywarncert>

Skywarn Spotter Training Classes for 2017

Date	Time	City, ST	Building Name	Street Address
February 23, 2017	7:00pm-8:30pm	Ypsilanti, MI	Ypsilanti Township Civic Center Auditorium	7200 South Huron River Dr
February 25, 2017	9:30am-11:30am	Taylor, MI	WCCCD	21000 Northline
March 1, 2017	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Waterford, MI	Oakland County Executive Office Building	2100 Pontiac Lake Road
March 2, 2017	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Midland, MI	Midland High School	1301 Eastlawn Drive
March 10, 2017	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Wyandotte, MI	Wyandotte Copeland Center	2306 4th St.
March 11, 2017	10:00am - 12:00pm	Garden City, MI	Garden City Presbyterian Church	1841 Middlebelt Rd
March 15, 2017	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Livonia, MI	Livonia Library	32777 Five Mile Rd
March 18, 2017	10:00am - 11:30am	Waterford, MI	Oakland County Executive Office Building	2100 Pontiac Lake Road
March 18, 2017	1:00pm - 2:30pm	Waterford, MI	Oakland County Executive Office Building	2101 Pontiac Lake Road
March 20, 2017	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Port Huron, MI	St. Clair County Building	200 Grand River Ave
March 21, 2017	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Commerce Township	The Charter Township of Commerce Township	2009 Township Dr
March 22, 2017	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Pinckney, MI	Hamburg Township Fire Department	3666 East M-36
March 25, 2017	10:00am-11:30am	Flint, MI	Genesee County Building	1101 Beach Street
March 30, 2017	7:30pm-9:00pm	Harrison Township, MI	MacRay Marina	30675 N River Road
April 1, 2017	10:00am-11:30am	Clinton Township, MI	Macomb ISD	44001 Garfield
April 4, 2017	7:00pm-8:30pm	Monroe County (TBD)	TBD	TBD
April 6, 2017	7:00pm-9:00pm	Holly, MI	Karl Richter Campus	300 East Street
April 8, 2017	10:00am-11:30am	Ann Arbor, MI	Ann Arbor Pioneer High School	601 West Stadium Blvd
April 10, 2017	7:00pm-8:30pm	Lake Orion, MI	Orion Center	1335 Joslyn Rd
April 11, 2017	7:00pm-9:00pm	Sandusky, MI	Firebird Theater	280 E Sanilac Rd
April 12, 2017	7:00pm-9:00pm	Southfield, MI	Southfield Library	26300 Evergreen Rd
April 17, 2017	TBD	Bay City, MI	TBD	TBD
April 20, 2017	7:00pm-9:00pm	Lapeer, MI	Pix Theater	172 W Nepessing St
April 25, 2017	7pm-8:30pm	Flint, MI	Genesee County Building	1101 Beach Street
May 4, 2017	7pm-8:30pm	Adrian, MI	Adrian College-Baer Hall Jones Rm 110	Williams St
May 11, 2017	7pm-8:30pm	Dearborn Heights, MI	TBD	TBD



Michigan QSO Party

Announcing the 2017 Michigan QSO Party
Just Have Some Fun!!!!

- Chance to get on the air
- Single Op, Multi Op, Mobile, EOC
- Be the station others want to work
- Maybe activate a rare county?
- Excellent Club Activity
- Reason to get together as group
- Join the fun in the "EOC" station category
- Excellent Training opportunity!
- Get new members on the air!
- Friendly Competition

Let's all help make Michigan "radio-active" on the 15th of April!!!!

Get your local EOC on the air and show the emergency management teams how amateur radio can benefit their efforts!!!

The 2017 Michigan QSO Party, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, is from 1600Z April 15 until 0400Z April 16.

Stations may operate the full 12 hours. Phone and CW on 80/40/20/15/10 meters. Single-op, multi-op, and mobile categories. Work stations once per band and mode. MI-to-MI QSOs allowed. Work portables and mobiles again as they change county, state or province. Exchange QSO number and location (county for MI stations, state/province or "DX" for others).

Suggested frequencies: CW-3545, 7045, 14045, 21045, 28045; Phone-3825, 7200, 14250, 21300, 28450. One point per phone QSO, two points per CW QSO. Count multipliers once per mode.

Multipliers are MI counties for all entries, plus states, provinces and "DX" for MI entries only. Final score is total QSO points times total multipliers.

Submit logs no later than 30 days after the contest. Electronic logs in Cabrillo format are submitted via the Log Submittal page on the MiQP web site <http://www.miqp.org/submitLogFileMiQP.html>. Mail paper logs with summary sheets to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

MiQP Log Submittal (<http://www.miqp.org/submitLogFileMiQP.html>)

Enter or Select info for all the fields below and then press the submit log button on the bottom of the page. Enter Callsign Used during Michigan QSO Party

For full rules, along with free logging software, log and summary sheets, see <http://www.miqp.org>.



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

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	Jerry Begel	248-543-2284	w9npi@comcast.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.



2016-2017 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	Mac Lunn	KD8TPO	313-805-0427
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 6:00 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 09, 2016 at 6:00PM
Topic: Magnetic Loop Antennas

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