

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

President's Note: May, 2008

It was almost too nice to work the radio: We have been enjoying a nice April this year, with above average temperatures and generally lots of sunshine. It was looking to therefore be kind of a tough Michigan QSO Party if the weather was so nice that no one wanted to be inside. (After the frigid, snowy March, who could blame anyone for a bit of "cabin fever"? However, the Party Saturday turned out to be a bit cloudy and slightly rainy. I did not mind going down into the shack under these conditions for some operating. Shunsuke, KD8BWT, and I were doing some operating in the afternoon. We made some contacts, but the bands were not exactly singing for us. With my wife canceling our Saturday evening plans due to a cold she caught, I was given the opportunity to operate a few more hours after dinner. It was then that the bands opened and other operators showed up to participate. Over the next few hours, I worked a good number of stations on both 40m and 80m. After 10pm, I managed to hold a frequency on 80m that another operator apparently gave up on to go to bed. I attempted to call him for a contact, and got no answer twice. I then send out a QRZ?, and on came a bit of a pileup. Operators were coming in 2 and 3 at a time. As I was not expecting to make this contest a major effort, I had decided to use paper logs to record the contacts. I was writing them down as fast as I was able to, trying to keep the information and the callsigns accurate. I kind of slowed the flow down a touch so I could finish one line before going onto the next. It was very fun, but I would have appreciated either my computer or some help at that time. I was pretty worn out by 11:20pm and left the Party before the official 12am shutdown time. There was a very good spirit on the bands that evening. It was fun relaying greetings from Michigan. One operator caught me correcting myself as I started to give out the club call instead of my own. (I must be preparing for Field Day this year!) He had to come back and chide me a bit about not remembering my own call. I thought it was funny as well, then picked up the contest a moment later. A few people just wanted to say Hi, or wanted a test of their antenna and radio into Michigan. It was all OK with me, since this was a Party, not so much of a contest. One gentleman ham from Wisconsin drove across the border into Gogebic County and made mobile contacts from there on 80m. He sounded very good for a very small antenna out there. I never realized Michigan had a Gogebic County. My own County, Washtenaw, was not rare on the bands. K8MQP, which I believe is the Michigan QSO Party sponsor, is also in Ypsilanti with me. We worked each other on several bands over the contest, and they had a large club presence. From what I heard Saturday night, those not wishing to work the Michigan QSO party could be working the Ontario QSO party, who had several members 100kHz lower in the 80/75m phone band. Things were alive on the bands.

This month marks my 22nd Dayton Hamvention experience if all goes well. I first started attending while in college in 1987. A couple of roommates were from Ohio, and we went down to stay at a farm and head to Dayton. I have been there every year since. This year, I have confirmed my reservation on the ARROW club bus, leaving Ann Arbor at 4:30am on Saturday. The pick up point is about 15 minutes from my house, so it will not be much trouble getting there. I am looking forward to going again this year, meeting some new people from the Ann Arbor area, and possibly selling some spare gear at the Arrow club table. I hope to see you there!

Finally, there is an article that I received from the ARRL regarding Legislative Action Program. I was requested to add this to our newsletter.

73,
Dave

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N8HKU
FARL Club President

Results from the Club Elections:

We held the Ford Amateur Radio League Elections during the April club meeting and here are the results:

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

There is no change in leadership for the 2008 calendar year. Dave, N8HKU, was permitted to remain in the position of President as no other nominations were received. Club officers generally can only remain in their current positions for 2 consecutive years.

2008 Calendar of Events

May

- 3 Wexauke ARC, Cadillac, MI <http://www.wexaukeearc.org>
- 8 **FARL Club Meeting, EMDO, 7 PM** (Linux for Ham Radio)
- 16-18 Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH www.hamvention.org

June

- 1 Chelsea Swap, Chelsea, MI - for info contact www.wd8iel.net
- 7 IRA Good Old Days Hamfest, Grand Rapids, MI <http://www.w8hvg.org>
- 8 GCARC Swap-in-the-Park, Garden City, MI www.gcarc.net
- 12 **FARL Club Meeting, EMDO, 7 PM** (Field Day Preparations)
- 14 Midland Hamfest, Midland, MI <http://www.qsl.net/w8kea>
- 15 Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI <http://www.mcrca.org>
- 28-29 Field Day Operations, Livonia Fire Dept.
- 28 NMARES Tailgate Swap, Elmira, MI <http://www.nmares.net>

July **No Club Meeting**

August **No Club Meeting**

September

- 11 **FARL Club Meeting, EMDO, 7 PM**
- 14 Adrian ARC Swap, Adrian, MI <http://www.W8TQE.com>
- 20 PEAC Bike Ride, Hines Park

October

- 9 **FARL Club Meeting, EMDO, 7 PM**
- 12 Michigan State Convention, Kalamazoo, MI
<http://www.kalamazoohamfest.com>

November 13 **FARL Club Meeting, EMDO, 7 PM**

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December 7 L'Anse Creuse Swap, Mt. Clemens, MI www.n8lc.org
11 **FARL Club Meeting, EMDO, 7 PM** (FARL Christmas Party)
TBD Speaking With Santa, Mott Children Hospital

FARL MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 10, 2008

Minutes recorded by Roger Reini, KD8CSE, recording secretary

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:14 PM by president Dave, N8HKU. There were 6 attendees present at the start of the meeting, with 2 more arriving later, giving 8 attendees in total.

MINUTES: The minutes from March were pulled up from the Web; Dave paraphrased them as he read them to the attendees. Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and approved.

TREASURER: Deferred to later in the meeting as the treasurer, Bill, WA8HEA, was at the repeater site with Murray, KE8UM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Nothing specific

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF EVENTS: Michigan QSO Party on April 19th from noon to midnight local time; the Milford swap is the morning of the 19th; Operation Pine Tree, a communications exercise, will take place on May 24 from 9 AM to 3 PM local time on the 80 meter band

REPEATER: Deferred to later in the meeting as Murray, KE8UM, was engaged in repairs at the repeater site.

CLASSES AND TRAINING: No update

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEWSLETTER: no one stepped forward

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS AND CLUB EVENTS: May will feature a talk on Linux and amateur radio; June's meeting will feature Field Day preparations, while Field Day itself will take place June 28-29. That happens to be the start of the week off for Ford salaried workers.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PRESENTATION: Roger, KD8CSE, spoke about DTV (digital television) and HDTV (high-definition television). This had little direct bearing on amateur radio but had a great deal of interest, thanks to the government-mandated shutdown of analog TV broadcasting in February 2009. He spoke about the formats of DTV/HDTV, the types of monitors on the market, the inputs used by those monitors, DTV/HDTV options in Detroit, and his personal experiences with HDTV dating back to 1999. He demonstrated HDTV reception using a tuner connected to a MacBook, with a rabbit-ears antenna several feet away in the lobby. Given these adverse reception conditions, only one station was received perfectly, another was received poorly, and the others were not received at all.

ELECTIONS: After a short break, the election of club officers began. Of the current officers, only Dave, N8HKU, was ineligible to be elected as president, having held the post for two consecutive years. However, when nominations for the presidency were opened, no nominations were forthcoming. Per FERA rules, the current president, if willing, could be asked to continue to serve until such time as a president is chosen. Dave was asked and accepted. The other offices were filled by acclamation; the current officeholders were the only ones nominated for their respective positions. So for 2008-09, the officers remain unchanged from the year before: President Dave Treharne, N8HKU; Vice-President Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ; Treasurer Bill Brezina, WA8HEA; Recording Secretary Roger Reini, KD8CSE; Activity manager Bill Boyke, N8OZV; Repeater Chair Murray Scott, KE8UM; and Repeater Trustee, Dave Treharne, N8HKU.

TREASURER: Bill, WA8HEA, reported that the treasury is in solid shape but that there was an unexpected deposit of [amount withheld] whose source could not be determined. Given that it came from a credit union branch he did not frequent, he suspected that it was credited in error and would eventually be reversed.

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REPEATER STATUS: Murray, KE8UM, took the 220 MHz repeater out of service due to possible problems with the finals; he was taking it home for repairs. The link from 2 meter to 220 was working; the link from 220 to 2 meter was working up to the controller, but the controller was not keying the transmitter, so he suspects a programming issue.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:44 PM.

Field Day June 28-29, 2008

The time is quickly approaching for Field Day and we are busy making plans for this year's event. We are coordinating with the Livonia Amateur Radio Club (LARC) again this year to use the fire tower and field behind the fire station on Plymouth Rd just west of Newburgh Rd. It is the same place we have used for the past couple of years so why mess with success (see the FARL website for past Field Day event pictures and scores). The 4-story, 50 ft tall fire tower is a DEFINITE plus when it comes to installing antennas.

We will be bringing some of our club equipment (FT-990 transceiver, band pass filters, and vertical antenna) and the LARC has a brand new FT-450 transceiver they will be using. The plan is to operate 2A (2 stations running off generator power) with one phone and one CW station. We haven't decided about a GOTA (Get On The Air) station yet but that is a possibility if we have people who want to operate.

There are many opportunities for acquiring bonus points again this year. The GOTA station can add bonus points as well as a VHF/UHF station that can make satellite contacts. There are also 100 point bonuses for each of the following: media publicity, public location, public information table, message origination to the ARRL Section Manager, message handling, satellite QSO, alternate power sources, educational activity, site visit by an elected government official, site visit by a representative of an agency and youth participation. You would have to make a lot of phone or CW contacts to make up for missed bonus activities but it takes a lot of help and coordination for these activities as well. We are looking for volunteers to help with each one. If there is one of these activities that interest you, or that you can help with, please let us know.

The rules are pretty much the same this year with a couple of notable exceptions. The "demonstration" bonus category has been replaced with the "educational activity" bonus category. This activity is designed to teach a group of people some aspect of ham radio and get them involved as well. Suggestions include how to properly prepare and solder coax connections, proper grounding techniques, measuring and building a long wire antenna. It must be more than a simple demonstration of an activity. There are good and bad examples of educational activities in the Field Day Overview and FAQs. The other change to the rules this year is that stations are limited to 1 FM satellite contact for the 100 point bonus. This should allow more stations to access the working satellites during Field Day.

We will spend some time at the next FARL club meeting to discuss our Field Day operations and ask for volunteers to help with each activity. I will have the ARRL Field Day packets to distribute and a draft of our plan for operations. We always have a great time at Field Day working with the folks from LARC. It is not only a good time to practice and show our emergency operating capability but it is also a great time to socialize with other hams. Which ever reason you choose, please plan on joining us for Field Day 2008 this year.

Bill Brezina
WA8HEA

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ARRL Legislative Action Program

(Information used taken from the ARRL website)

John D. Meyers, NB4K

As the newly appointed DLAC (District Legislative Action Chairman) I would like to familiarize you with what we are doing, where we're going and how you may help. This process has been proven in the field and at the present time seems to work the best as it is laid out.

What is the ARRL Legislative Action Program? The ARRL Legislative Action Program is designed to make it possible for ARRL members to promote and protect Amateur Radio through coordinated, legitimate political action at the Federal government level.

Why should I become involved in this program? Isn't talking with our Congressmen a waste of time? Federal Legislators frequently vote based upon their understanding of the wishes of their constituents. As a constituent, your opinion is important to them. *Elected officials view their constituents as "resources" and want to hear from them. They need input from their constituents to gauge positions on a piece of legislation and determine how it will impact the voters in their districts. As a licensed Amateur Radio operator, you can provide a valuable resource to your member of Congress. More often than not, the knowledge Legislators have of Amateur Radio is fairly limited. Therefore, your combination of being a constituent and a federally licensed operator can help make a difference by ensuring that your Congressman and staff receive the balanced information they need to make good decisions on Amateur Radio related legislation.*

How is this Program organized? *The ARRL Board of Directors (Board) selects legislation that is to be supported or opposed through the Program. The ARRL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) manages the day-to-day operations of the Program. The ARRL President monitors operation of the Program and reports on this to the Board and, between Board meetings, to the ARRL Executive Committee (EC). The EC ensures compliance with the policies of the Board during periods between Board meetings. Each ARRL Division Director is responsible for the operations of the Program in his/her Division. The Director may appoint a Division Legislative Action Chair (DLAC) to manage on his behalf. The Director or DLAC appoints, trains and manages one or more Legislative Action Coordinators (LAC) for each state in the Division. The LAC appoints, trains and manages Legislative Action Assistants (LAAs) to meet with Federal Legislators/Congressmen or with their legislative aides in their offices "back home." The discussions and the materials left after the meetings encourage Legislators to support laws friendly to Amateur Radio. Visits to Legislators' "home" offices are made only when requested by ARRL Legislative Action Program managers through Division officials. These visits may involve key Legislators or all Legislators. Depending on the specific situation, managers in the Program will be requested to have all members in relevant Divisions, states or Congressional Districts to write in support of the ARRL legislative position to their Federal legislators.*

Who chooses which legislation we will support or oppose? The ARRL Board of Directors chooses the legislation to support or to oppose.

Who develops strategies and tactics for the Program? The ARRL President, ARRL CEO, ARRL General Counsel, ARRL Executive Committee and the Congressional Relations firm the League retains work together to develop strategies and tactics to be used in the Program.

Why doesn't the Program operate at the state and local levels of government as well as Federal? Each Section Manager (SM) is encouraged to maintain a program in the Section to support or oppose legislation at the state and local levels. A person known as the State Government Liaison (SGL) typically heads this program. The SGL position was established in Minute 20 of the July 1982 Board Meeting. Persons who participate in the state and local program may also choose to participate in the Federal program and vice versa. To learn more about this state and local program, contact your Section Manager at <http://www.arrl.org/sections/>.

I thought ARRL is a tax-exempt non-profit organization and that US IRS rules do not allow it to become involved in lobbying and the law-making process. *ARRL is a tax-exempt non-profit organization as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As discussed in the "It Seems to Us" editorial in the August 2006 issue of QST, "What is prohibited [to us and other tax-exempt non-profit groups] is any involvement in a political campaign. Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or*

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intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. The prohibition applies to all campaigns at the Federal, state and local level, and violating it could result in revocation of tax-exempt status." Also explained in the August 2006 QST editorial, ARRL is allowed to promote or work against specific public policy issues. Issues we have found of significant interest to Amateur Radio include Federal legislation to control excessive interference from Broadband Over Power Lines, Federal legislation to protect Amateur Radio frequencies and Federal legislation essentially to ensure all amateurs are allowed to install an antenna.

I have often contributed to and worked for one or more political candidates in my area. Do I need to stop being active in political campaigns if I work in the ARRL Legislative Action Program? *No, as a citizen of this country you are encouraged to speak and act for yourself in political campaigns if you wish. If you do this, what you need to do is to ensure that your participation in the political process is clearly understood to represent your own, personal position and actions, and not the position and actions of ARRL. When you act as a private citizen, be certain to wear your "private citizen" hat and not your ARRL hat.*

Who is eligible to participate in the Program? ARRL members who are willing to follow the guidelines of the Program are eligible to participate in it. Members who wish to become Division Legislative Action Chairs (DLACs), Legislative Action Coordinators (LACs) and Legislative Action Assistants (LAAs) need to participate in a brief training program before making calls on legislators.

I am not a member of ARRL, why can't I participate in the Program? We would like to be able to work with all amateurs to make this program as successful as possible; however, Federal IRS regulations place limits on the amount of effort ARRL as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, can devote to nonmembers regarding legislative affairs. We invite you to join ARRL and become a key part in this program. For information on ARRL, go to <http://www.arrl.org/aarrl.html>.

How do participants in the ARRL Legislative Action Program get information and materials needed to call on or write to US Representatives and Senators? *Background information on legislation, the names and addresses of "your" Congressmen, educational leave-behind leaflets and more that are needed to make visits to Congressional offices can be found at the Grassroots link on the Members Only area of www.arrl.org. This information is available to be printed out. Draft letters to Congressmen are similarly available at this same location.*

So, as you can see there is nothing too hard to do and it doesn't take a lot of time when we work together on legislation.

If you are interested in helping in this area here is whom you may contact. In Kentucky the Legislative Action Coordinator e-mail for your information is Patrick R Thrush, N4PRT at n4prt@hamtechtalk.com, in Ohio send it to Brent C Stover, WD8PNZ at wd8pnz@yahoo.com, and at this time we are in need of a Legislative Action Coordinator in Michigan. Until one is seated e-mail me NB4K with your information at nb4k@arrl.org.

If you have any questions on this feel free to call or e-mail me. We need our frequencies and this is just one avenue that we have to protect them.

73

John D. Meyers, NB4K DLAC
nb4k@arrl.org 859.472.6690

Dayton Hamvention Traffic Alert!

Word is that Needmore Road, the major road from I-75 to the vicinity of Hara Arena, will be undergoing significant road construction during Hamvention. Those coming from the north are advised to exit at I-70 and head west.

More details are available here:

<http://www.hamvention.org/hv2008/media/trafficnews.html>

Roger, KD8CSE

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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.

Conference call capability: All FARL club meetings are available via a conference call. Dial in at 7pm to 313-633-2320. When prompted, enter passcode 19153130#.

Meeting agendas start with club business items followed by a short break. Presentations on selected ham radio topics of interest are given after the break. Anyone wishing to present a topic please contact any FARL Board member.

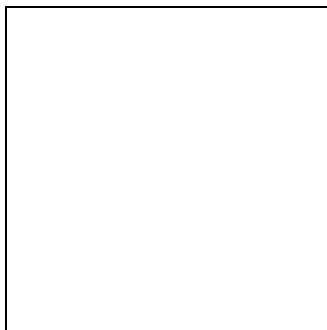
Sunspot Update: No indication of Cycle 24 yet!

This week we had a couple of brief sunspot appearances, 991 and 992, but they were both from old Cycle 23, and their emergence was fleeting. On Wednesday, April 23 the planetary A index rose to 32 due to a solar wind and south-pointing Interplanetary Magnetic Field (IMF). An explanation of IMF and the significance of it pointing south are at, <http://pluto.space.swri.edu/image/glossary/IMF.html>.

Expect geomagnetic conditions to stabilize this weekend, but again become active on May 2.

Walt Knodle, W7VS of Bend, Oregon pointed out politely that the line "The only previous Cycle 24 activity was close to the solar equator" from last week's Propagation Forecast Bulletin ARLP017 was incorrect. He sent a magnetogram link, <http://tinyurl.com/697hho>, showing that in early January spot 981 was in fact high-latitude.

Daily Sun: 28 Apr 08



The sun is blank--no sunspots. www.spaceweather.com

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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.geocities.com/capecanaveral/hall/2183/ 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

Reminder: Club Membership Dues: \$15 to FARL if not already paid. See your address tag to confirm status
Next Club Meeting: Thursday, May 8th @ 7pm
Presentation: Linux

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