

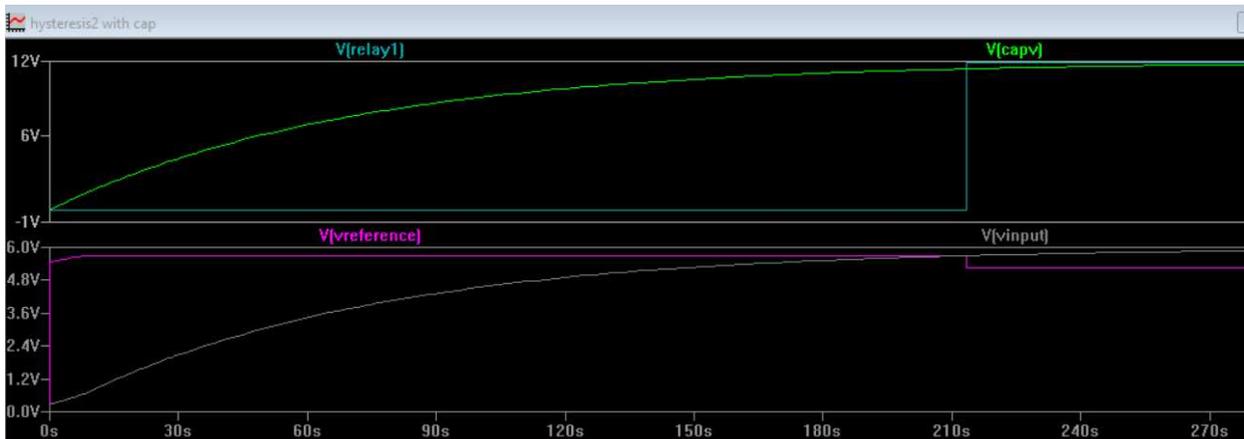
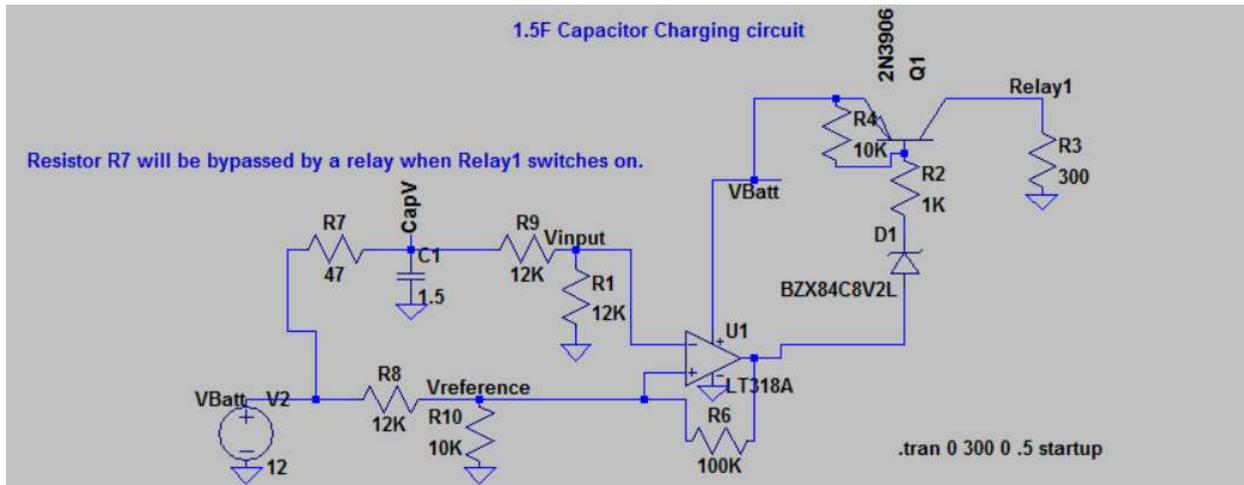


President's Notes for May 2016

Spring time means warmer weather and the annual Michigan QSO party. I was able to put some RF on the air during the event on Saturday, starting on 40m in the evening and getting to 80m a bit later. In just over 2 hours of operating, I worked 30 of the 83 Michigan counties, having fun talking to both fellow Michiganders and a number of operators in adjacent states. There were many from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio on the air, looking to sweep up the Michigan counties. My total number of contacts was 112, a mixture of hunting and calling CQ on frequency. This is such a fun contest, being the "wanted" one, even though Washtenaw County is not generally the rarest on the bands, given the MIQP group hails from Ypsilanti. But, I do get a number of hams who tell me I am their first Washtenaw. During the contest, I did here our friends from the LARC operating K8UNS. The University of Michigan club station was also on the air for the event, even though it was getting close to Finals week for them.

Over the past month, I have gotten LTspice to function on my computer at home. LTspice is Linear Technology's version of SPICE, the electrical circuit simulation program. I first used SPICE on a mainframe VAX computer during my electrical engineering undergraduate degree in the 1980s. The PC computer version has a better graphical interface, and a large library of parts with predefined models. With it, I was able to do a lot of simulation trials to get the circuit operating as I wanted it to before trying it out on the breadboard. How did it all work against my actual circuit? Well, I did my simulation with a different op-amp than my actual circuit. My op-amp has better function at lower voltages, so the simulation was inaccurate below 7V. But, above that voltage, everything was good. The circuit I created is to pre-charge a 1.5 Farad capacitor I have. The inrush on this capacitor is obviously huge, so it needs to be charged up before being used in the circuit. The circuit I created will charge up the capacitor through a resistor, then, when the voltage hits a specified percentage of the power supply voltage, a relay will close to connect the capacitor directly in the circuit. The relay will stay closed down to about 3V on the supply, well below the radio operating voltage. With this capacitor, the radio will have the voltage it needs without stressing the power supply or 12V battery connected, and will also allow my battery backup circuit time to detect the switching power supply has lost power and switch to the backup battery without the radio losing power. I plan to bring this as part of the Field Day set-up, which always loses power during generator refuel events.

The graphical interface also makes a nice schematic capture tool, so I will be able to document my final circuit. Here is the circuit below, and the charge up time when the relay starts at 213 seconds into the simulation.



Field Day: We will talk about shelters for Field Day this year. Bill, N8OZV, mentioned that he could get a full size Transit van for us to work from. I want to discuss a new tent shelter as well. See some tent options to discuss at the next club meeting in this newsletter.

Finally: Roger, KD8CSE, has his System Fusion radio comparison presentation ready for us this month! Come to get his impressions on the capability of the various mobile radios!

73,
David, N8HKU, FARL Club President

Tents: Possible club tents for Field Day and other outings. The link and the cost and dimensions are below each tent.



<http://www.sears.com/coleman-weathermaster-174-6-screened-tent/p-0060268000P?prdNo=13&blockNo=13&blockType=G13>

6' 8" of headroom inside. \$245



<http://www.sears.com/quicent-8-x-8'-pyramid-roof-ez-pop/p-SPM3486262921?prdNo=18&blockNo=18&blockType=G18>

\$180



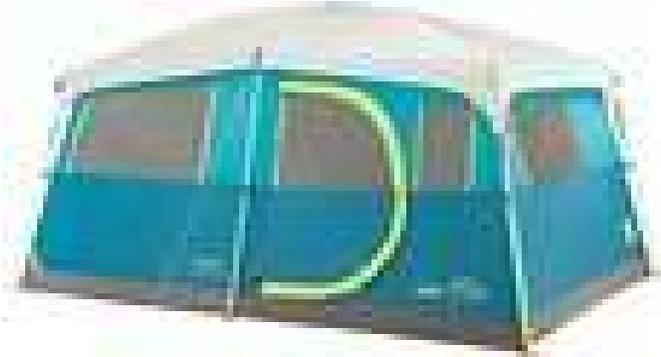
<http://www.sears.com/coleman-echo-lake-6-person-fast-pitch-cabin/p-00637842000P?prdNo=11&blockNo=11&blockType=G11>

6' 4" in center. \$165



<http://www.sears.com/coleman-octagon-98-13x13-8-person-tent/p-00637809000P?prdNo=8&blockNo=8&blockType=G8>

6' 10" inside height. \$190



http://www.amazon.com/Coleman-Person-Tenaya-Pitch-Closet/dp/B00TFY8Z54/ref=sr_1_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1460667164&sr=8-5&keywords=coleman+8-person+tent

6' 4" center height. \$174

Note: When looking for tents, you may see Northwest Territory brand. Northwest Territory brand seems to be on sale, as the company is reported to be bankrupt. No Northwest Territory tents were included here.

Dear NorthPole Consumer,

Your request is very important to us and we appreciate you for calling. However, I do regret to inform you that our NorthPole Consumer Service's and Parts Departments are indefinitely closed. If you feel you have a warranty claim or defective product, please place your product back in its original packaging and return to your retailer according to their return exchange policy. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause you and/or your family, but we are unable to assist you with your request.



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2016**

Meeting Minutes for FARL - April 14, 2016

In attendance: 11 members, 2 guests:

Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ (member)
Rodney Deyo, K8SGL (member)
Bill Allen, KD8KTF (member)
Sam Wells, KD8YTR (member)
Mac Lunn, KD8TPO (member)
John Oynoian, KE8CTQ (guest)
Tye Winkel, KC8YEJ (member)
Chuck Honick, KG7ORS (guest)
Gerry Trimble, KG8HZ (member)
Bob Stead, K8ETE (member)
Roger Reini, KD8CSE (member)
Dave Treharne, N8HKU (member)
Rich Maske, K8RMM (member)

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by president Dave Treharne, N8HKU

Minutes from March were reviewed and approved

Treasurer's Report was given by Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ. He reported income of \$15 for dues and expenditures of \$23. The report was approved. Dave, N8HKU, reminded the attendees that dues are now due (they were due April 1).

Board of Directors did not formally meet during March; Dave, N8HKU, updated the attendees on the status of the repairs to the FT-990. After receiving approval via e-mail votes, the club purchased a replacement display board and a replacement front panel for the radio. Tye Winkel, KC8YEJ, installed the new panel and board, and the transceiver seems to be working well now. Thanks to Tye for the repairs! (more on the FT-990 later in the minutes)

Repeater: 2m and 220 repeaters are working well. On the 2m repeater, digital ID appears to be working in Voice Wide (VW) mode as well as mixed voice-data mode (DN). We are still developing an effective shutdown method to ensure that both analog and digital transmissions are shut down; Murray, KE8UM, is investigating disabling power to the transmitter inside the repeater. This is necessary because our repeater controller does not recognize the presence of digital transmissions. This is definitely a case of the kinks still being worked out. Rod, K8SGL, noted that he could hit the repeater easily while in Novi.

Sunday Night Net: still going strong Sundays at 8 PM. There is a digital net that follows the regular analog net.

Training: next session at Ford set to begin in May

Newsletter: the April newsletter is out. Content for future newsletters should be sent to Rajiv, KD8LHF, or to any club officer.

Website is up to date

Historian: still trying to transfer the club archives from former historian John, N8NWA, to Tye, KC8YEJ

FT-990: Now that the transceiver has been restored to full functionality, we need to determine what to do with it: keep it as a backup, or sell it. Dave, N8HKU, noted that the transceiver would make an excellent home system but isn't suited for regular portable use. Roger, KD8CSE, moved that the club sell the FT-990; Pat, WD8JDZ, seconded; the motion was approved.

Election of Officers: the club conducted its annual election of officers. The quorum necessary to conduct elections was 4; with 11 members in attendance, the requirement for a quorum was easily met.

- **President:** Dave, N8HKU, was the only nominee and was unanimously elected.
- **Vice-President:** Roger, KD8CSE, was the only nominee and was unanimously elected.
- **Secretary:** Mac, KD8TPO, was the only nominee and was unanimously elected.

- **Treasurer:** Pat, WD8JDZ, was the only nominee and was unanimously elected.
- **Activity Manager:** Bill Boyke, N8OZV, was the only nominee and was unanimously elected pending his formal acceptance of the nomination (he was not in attendance)

Club Activity and Inventory Reports: Dave, N8HKU, reviewed the annual club activity report and the inventory report with the attendees. The inventory report was correct but needed to be updated with the latest name for the hotel formerly known as the Hyatt/Adoba/Royal Dearborn. Rich, K8RMM, asked whether some of the equipment that's not being used should be sold; Dave replied that one of the reasons for keeping equipment on hand is for loan to new hams or other club members who are in need. He also suggested that this should be brought up to the hams or prospective hams in the classes given at Ford.

Hamvention Ticket: Mac, KD8TPO, donated a Hamvention ticket to the club for auction; Rich, K8RMM, was the sole bidder. Thanks to Mac!

Icom IC-2200 Donation: Bob, K8ETE, donated an Icom IC-2200 transceiver to the club for sale or for general inventory. Thanks, Bob!

Michigan QSO Party: Tye, KC8YEJ, passed out fliers for the annual Michigan QSO Party, which takes place on Saturday, April 16.

Carrying cases for FT-991: the attendees reviewed two rack-mount cases brought in by Mac, KD8TPO, for potential use in mounting the FT-991 and associated equipment. The cases were a 6U and a 10U. Dave, N8HKU, reviewed a proposed layout for the radio and antenna tuner using a 6U configuration. There was some talk of building a rack system out of plywood, but the greater weight of that compared to the plastic of commercial systems offset the cost savings. Bill, KD8KTK, moved that the club obtain a 6U rack system and associated hardware; Roger, KD8CSE, seconded. The motion was approved.

Adjournment: 7:55 PM

Minutes recorded by Roger Reini, KD8CSE



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	KD8TPO	
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: May 12, 2016 at 6:30PM
Topic: Shelter of Field Day.

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