



President's Notes, November 2011

As of Halloween, my wife Deborah and I have been in our house in Ypsilanti Township for 6 years. At times this seems short and other times long. This also is the 5th anniversary of my G5RV antenna raising on the property. After having a couple of goes at the poles to hold up the ends, I have had a stable set up the last couple of years. When I first put up the antennas, we were falling rapidly to the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Consequently, I have not operated the antenna much on 10m, and only limited operation on 15 meters. I have been pushing the RF at the lower frequencies into the antenna, and have been enjoying the communication. Now, with the sunspots active enough for 10m to be hopping, I do look forward to operating on the high, quieter bands. Looking at my log book, I have not worked the Orient at all from my current location. I look forward to making additions to my log and get some good skip across the Pacific Ocean. I hope you get the chance to put some RF in the air this fall and winter and see where it will go to. Happy DXing!

Thank you to John, N3JM, for his Part 1 of presentation on Amateur Radio Antennas. He took us on a brisk walk through a multitude of antenna designs that has been successfully used over the years. It is very amazing on how many ways we can coax RF through pieces of metal and out into the air. Some are particularly good at sending RF, and others are very good at receiving it. I have never had the opportunity to work separate receive and transmit antennas, but John showed us a lot of different designs. He states that he has a Part II in the works, so I hope he will give us a follow up presentation in the future.

If you are not up to anything in particular at 8pm on Sunday night, please remember to join us on the Tin Lizzy 2m and 220 MHz machines for our weekly Sunday night Net. We have been getting some local Dearborn participation recently, and it has been fun to talk around the circle for a bit. Much of my 2m communication comes with the morning ride, depending on how early my meeting schedule puts me on the road. I nearly bite my tongue when talking on the 2m in my home shack, as the urge to end my call with "mobile" is extremely tempting. It is nice to have a chat while not moving about town.

Lastly, a Happy Thanksgiving to all. Thanksgiving is a very high travel period, and Deborah and I are headed to Kettering, Ohio to celebrate with her friends. If you travel, may you have a safe, healthy journey!

73,
David, N8HKU.



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2011**

Minutes, FARL Club Meeting - October 13th, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 18:34 (6:34p.m.)
8 members were present
1 guest was present

Minutes from prior meeting: Minutes from the July special meeting were read and approved as written.

Treasurer Report: Report was read by Pat, WD8JDZ. It included expenses from field day. An additional expenditure of \$38.31 over the approved amount of \$250.00 for our cost of field day was voted on and approved.

No Board of Directors Meeting

Committee Reports:

Repeaters:

Repeater phone patch instructions: ask Dave, N8HKU if needed.
The 2 mtr is still working the same.
The 220 is operating.

The 440 was down for a while, but was heard again. It is in need of restoration.

Education and Training: New training efforts will be on Fridays, between 11a.m. & 12 noon in the Ford Bldg 2 café conference room.

Historian: Nothing new. For historical info, contact John, N8NWA at N8NWA@Yahoo.com

Communication - Newsletter/Website: For articles to be put in the newsletter. Contact Rajiv, KD8LHF. For website info, contact Dave, N8HKU.

FERA News: No new news.

Unfinished/Current Business:

November 5th (Saturday) There is a Parade Company Tour available Downtown Detroit. Prices are: \$10 for 62 and older; or \$12 for rest. Contact: Bill, KD8KTF for info.

Time to think of Radio Santa again. It will be in the **new hospital** location. Radio operation, locations are still up in the air. More info will follow.

Time to think of a location for the club Christmas dinner. Any suggestions will be heard at the next club meeting. Please send them in now, or be at the next meeting to vote for your location.

Dave, N8HKU will not be present at the November meeting.

Break:

Program: - John Stucka, N3JM Amateur antennas, part 1



Solar Cycle Update - ARRL

Tad Cook, K7RA, reports: We have more good solar cycle news in this week's bulletin, with NASA revising the estimated smoothed sunspot number for the peak of Solar Cycle 24 for the third consecutive month. The estimated value has risen nearly 30 percent since September. In addition, the monthly average of daily sunspot numbers has risen 87 percent in the past two months. The latest prediction for the near term has solar flux at 160 on November 3, 165 on November 4-9, 155 on November 10, 150 on November 11-15, and peaking again at 165 on November 17-18. For November 3-7, the predicted planetary A index is 8, 10, 12, 10 and 8, then 5 on November 8-10, 8 on November 11-13, and 5 again on November 14-23. Look for more information on the ARRL website on Friday, November 4. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page \(http://www.arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals\)](http://www.arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals).



Radio Santa Location Update – Dave, N8HKU

The C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, location for Radio Santa, has moved to a new building. It is a glass structure with lots of open spaces & may give us some challenges.

The new hospital, located at East Medical Center Drive where an old surface parking lot used to be, spans the length of two football fields. It increases capacity from the current level of 200 beds to 348. The 75 percent increase makes Mott the largest of Michigan's three children's hospitals. In the new \$754 million, 1.1 million-square-foot facility every hospitalized child will have his or her own room. Sick infants will also have individual rooms. Single occupancy inpatient rooms drastically decrease the risk of infection and are believed to lead to better outcomes for sick children because they provide comfortable atmosphere.



ARRL November 2011 Sweepstakes Overview and Introduction

(<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>)

When is the contest?

Sweepstakes consists of two separate contests – CW and Phone – each held on a separate weekend. CW Sweepstakes is the first full weekend in November (November 5-7, 2011). Phone Sweepstakes is the third full weekend in November (November 19-21, 2011). Each contest begins at 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday (Sunday evening local time in the US and Canada). You may operate for a maximum of 24 hours during each weekend and your off time periods must be at least 30 minutes long.

What's New for 2011?

Beginning in 2011, the Single Operator Unlimited and the Multioperator categories have been split into High Power and Low Power. Each category will still send U or M as their precedence, regardless of transmit power. Therefore, make sure your submitted log correctly indicates your power.

How can I participate and what information do I exchange?

The object of the contest is to work stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions). You can make contest contacts on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Work as many [ARRL and RAC sections](http://www.arrl.org/section-abbreviations) (www.arrl.org/section-abbreviations) as possible – there are 80 sections.

Start by choosing one of the eight categories: A – Low power, B – High power, Q – QRP, M – Multioperator (High or Low power), S – School Club, U – Unlimited (High or Low power). The M and U category High and Low power categories are new in 2011 – both power categories still send “M” or “U” in their exchange. Each category is described in the rules. For example, if you are

operating by yourself without an amplifier, then you are probably an A category station – the most popular – and B if you use an amplifier. If you use information from a spotting network to locate stations to work, you are a U category station and can submit your log as High or Low Power.

Your exchange is based on an [ARRL radiogram header \(www.ncarrl.org/nets/mes_form.html\)](http://www.ncarrl.org/nets/mes_form.html) and has five parts: Serial – the number of this contact in the contest (1st, 10th, 121st, etc) Precedence – your category abbreviation as described above (A, B, M, Q, S, or U) Your call sign Check – the last two digits of the year in which you were licensed (i.e. – 02 for 2002) ARRL Section – the abbreviation for your [ARRL or RAC section \(www.arrl.org/section-abbreviations\)](http://www.arrl.org/section-abbreviations).

What is my score and how do submit it to the ARRL?

Your score is two points for each contact times the number of [ARRL and RAC sections \(www.arrl.org/section-abbreviations\)](http://www.arrl.org/section-abbreviations) you contact. If you logged the contacts using a contact logging program, export your contacts to a Cabrillo-format file and email it to either sscw@arrl.org or ssphone@arrl.org. Your logging software user's manual will show you how to do that. A set of Cabrillo-format headers for your electronic log are provided at the end of this document

If you logged the contacts on a [paper log sheet \(www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Logs/novsslog.pdf\)](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Logs/novsslog.pdf), go to the [WA7BNM log submission web service \(http://b4h.net/cabforms/\)](http://b4h.net/cabforms/), select the '2011 November Sweepstakes' contest for CW or Phone, and enter your contact data using the online forms. The service will format your log information and email it to the proper address. The ARRL will accept paper logs, but please try submitting via the web service. If you do submit your paper logs, fill out a [paper entry form \(http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes\)](http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes), too.



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: November 10, 2011 at 6:30PM
Topic: A Major Field Day, Roger, KD8CSE

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