



President's Note / October 2009

On the day I'm typing this portion of my notes, it's the day after the PEAC Celebration of Cycling ride (BTW, PEAC is pronounced like "peak", not like "TEAC"). Once again, Tin Lizzy club members provided radio support at home base in Warrendale, at multiple rest areas, and on two SAG vehicles, helping out the other SAG vehicles that communicated with the base via cell phone. I've been helping out since 2006, and it's been great. The folks at PEAC perform a wonderful service, helping people ride bikes who might otherwise be unable to do so (the blind, the physically and mentally handicapped). And we perform an important public service in providing communications support for their ride; it's part of our charter as amateur radio licensees. I've provided radio and SAG support for three other rides this year in addition to the PEAC ride.

No ride ever goes perfectly, and the PEAC ride was no exception. There were minor issues in supporting rest stops with the proper amount of supplies, and sometimes it was difficult for certain stations to be heard, but there was nothing that couldn't be overcome. We operators conducted ourselves professionally and properly at all times on the air and off, as we should. Apparently, there was a recent ride where the radio operators supporting it were complaining about it on the air, and the ride organizers were not happy about it at all. I don't know the nature of their complaints, but even if justified, bringing them up on the air like that at that time was not the right thing to do. It reflected badly on those hams in particular and on all amateurs in general, and we should not follow their example.

Last month, we had our Field Day wrap-up. Well, we have some news from work that will affect next year's Field Day: the shutdown week for the Fourth of July will be July 5 through July 9. The Monday after Field Day (always the fourth weekend in June) will be a regular work day, meaning we who are still working will be more likely to be available for the whole Field Day event. That's something that's been difficult for me over the years, as I tend to travel during that break week. But we have a long time to think about our plans.

It's now October, and the summertime static that plagues the lower HF bands (meaning 75/80m and 160m, although 160 is actually MF) is beginning to subside, making them more suitable for use. The days are getting shorter as well, which also helps with the lower bands. It doesn't help when the static and interference are inside the house and you live in an area where outside antennas are forbidden, though. But enough of that; October means that our annual Christmas dinner is two months away. We need to start thinking about where to go. Last year, we went to Richter's Chalet in Dearborn. The two years before that, we went to Amantea in Garden City and Mexican Fiesta in Dearborn Heights. We'll discuss this during our meeting. Also on tap will be a presentation by *Bill, WA8HEA*, on Kenwood's Sky Command system for digital communications. Hope you can all attend.

73,
Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League Club Meeting Minutes, September 10, 2009

David, N8HKU, Vice President, recording minutes for Secretary, who was absent.

Meeting Called to Order: 7:02pm, by Roger, KD8CSE, President.

17 members, 3 guests were present

June, 2009 Meeting Minutes: approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report, September, 2009: Read by Roger, KD8CSE, for Treasurer, Bill, WA8HEA. Report approved by voice vote.

New Member: The club formally welcomed John, N8NWA, to membership.

Field Day: Summary of score, what went right and wrong, provided by Dave, N8HKU. See the club website for more information.

Repeater: Some have heard a station breaking the squelch. The 100Hz PL tone is on.

Education and Training: Bill, N8OZV reported on the September licensing exam he led at Building #2: 10 participants took tests, resulting in all achieving at least a Technician, 2 gaining General, and 1 earning Extra class. Bill reports there are several interested in licensing down at the Ford Yacht club. Bill will be conducting training in October, with a Saturday licensing exam planned for a Saturday. Bill also plans on a General license focus this winter. Since this spring, almost 20 new amateurs have been licensed. Bill is still willing to do lunchtime training on Thursdays.

October Newsletter: Rajiv, KD8LHF, volunteered to edit the October newsletter. Send any articles to Rajiv_Paul@yahoo.com.

Christmas Dinner Ideas: Bring your favorite restaurant idea next month to the meeting: Past restaurants: Richter's Chalet, Amatea, Mexican Fiesta, Golden Corral

PEAC Bike Ride: Saturday, September 19th, 7:30am start. Contact Pat, WD8JDZ, to volunteer. Routes: 12 miles to 100 miles. Needed: Stationary positions at rest stops. Pat has 3, needs a few more. Also needs volunteers for SAG wagons. Repeater: Looking for which repeater to use: 146.92 is the intended one, 145.17 as backup. Call PAT at 734-729-1993 or patquinn52@wowway.com.

Welcome envelopes with name badges provided for Bernie, Rajiv, John, Bill, and Bob.

As always, check out www.K8UTT.org for club information.

Presentation: N8OZV, Microcontrollers. See www.parallax.com, Bill's favorite site for hobby microcontrollers. Look at the Basic Stamp as an initial micro to investigate.

Meeting time: Discussion as to whether to change the meeting time to 6pm or leave it at 7pm. Possible thought of 6:30pm for future. No changes made at present. October meeting will be at 7pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm.

Dave, N8HKU.



ARRL: A Proud History of Defending Amateurs' Rights

The fall operating season is just around the corner. Whether it's because radio conditions improve or just because attention returns to indoor pursuits as the days get shorter, on-the-air activity always picks up at this time of the year.

Do you operate on 40 meters? "If you haven't been on the band lately, you're in for a real treat!" said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Years of patient effort by the ARRL and by our sister members of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) have paid off. The band is more useful now than it's been in more than 70 years. When you think of 40 meters, you probably think of interference from foreign broadcasters. Here in the Americas, amateurs always have had access to 7,000-7,300 kHz - but we had to tolerate broadcasters in the rest of the world in the upper two-thirds of the band." Sumner said he can recall the "futility" he felt as a 13-year-old Novice, "trying to make myself heard through the racket with just two crystal-controlled transmitting frequencies to choose from. I remember taking the crystal holders apart and putting pencil lead on the crystals in a vain attempt to slip in between the broadcasting behemoths." At the 2003 World Radio Communication Conference (WRC-03) -- 40 years later -- he had the privilege of being present in Geneva when it was agreed that amateurs had made the case for a wider worldwide amateur band, free of broadcasting interference." For the first time in the history of radio communication, an HF broadcasting allocation would be shifted in order to accommodate the needs of another radio service -- the Amateur Radio Service!

Sumner called the WRC-03 decision "very gratifying," but said an important question remained: Would the broadcasters really move? "The International Telecommunication Union has no enforcement authority," he explained, "and operation in contravention of the international Radio Regulations is not exactly unknown. In fact, the transition turned out to be quite dramatic. On the last weekend of March, on Friday evening 7,100-7,200 kHz was full of broadcasters as usual -- but as the new seasonal broadcasting schedule took effect on Saturday night the band cleared of all but a few. For the very first time our overseas friends could hear us on 40 meter phone without having to breach the wall of broadcasters! Over the past six months the situation has continued to improve as more broadcasters have complied with the WRC-03 decision. Nighttime operation above 7,200 kHz remains a challenge, but it's not an exaggeration to say that 40 meters is like a whole new band."

Sumner explained that moving hundreds of broadcast transmitters in dozens of countries out of a band didn't just happen: "It took years of patient effort by a global team of volunteers and ARRL professionals, working through the IARU, to overcome objections and marshal the necessary support. It was an expensive undertaking, and it never could have been accomplished without the voluntary contributions - above and beyond their basic dues - of thousands of ARRL members." Even as we celebrate our reborn 40 meter band, Sumner said that we, as amateurs, must remember that it takes hard work just to hang onto what we have. "As much as we like to pursue new and improved ham bands, most of our effort must go toward frequency defense," he said. "Every day, new uses of the radio spectrum are being

conceived. Each one competes for spectrum access with incumbent radio services, including ours. Not only must we defend our allocations against well-heeled backers of licensed services, we must also try to prevent the pollution of the radio spectrum by unlicensed devices. The fight goes on in Washington, Geneva and around the globe -- and there's no end in sight."

Decisions for WRC-12 are being made now that will determine how many administrations -- including the United States - will support a new secondary allocation to the Amateur Service at 500 kHz, and whether proposals for allocations to oceanographic radars will threaten some of our existing HF bands. "We are hard at work meeting these challenges, but we need your help," Sumner said, in asking for support for the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. "Members' past response helped us to keep commercial satellites out of the 144 and 420 MHz bands, to gain access to frequencies around 5 MHz, and to win our court challenge of the FCC's flawed Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) rules. New challenges keep cropping up. Currently we are working to ensure that new short-range medical devices do not impact our ability to use our UHF and microwave bands."

To help in the ARRL's ongoing mission to protect our valuable spectrum, please visit the Spectrum Defense area on the ARRL Web site <<https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/>>. You can also reach ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, at 860-594-0397 or via e-mail <k1mmh@arrl.org>. Special gifts are being offered for contributions, including a mug and pin. More details on thank you gifts can be found on the donation form for the Spectrum Defense Fund.



Preparations Underway for WRC-12

Approximately 200 participants came together in an ITU preliminary meeting that ended September 16 in Geneva, Switzerland to help African countries prepare for the 2012 World Radio Communication Conference (WRC-12) <<http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/index.asp?category=conferences&rlink=wrc-12%C3%83%C2%A2%C3%82%C5%92%C3%82%C2%A9=en>>. The six regional telecommunications organizations -- APT (Asia-Pacific), ASMG (Arab States), ATU (Africa), CEPT (Europe), CITELE (the Americas) and RCC (independent states of the former Soviet Union) -- were represented at the meeting. This meeting was part of a series of ongoing international and regional preparatory meetings to allow government and industry to address the far-reaching and complex agenda of the WRC-12. ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jonathan Siverling, WB3ERA, and IARU Region 1 Vice President Tafa Diop, 6W1KI, were among the participants.

WRC-12, which will be held in Geneva from January 23-February 17, 2012, will review the international treaty that governs radiocommunications -- the ITU Radio Regulations <<http://www.itu.int/publ/R-REG-RR-2008/en>>. The conference will be preceded by the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-12), also to be held in Geneva, January 16-20, 2012.

The agenda for WRC-12, developed by the delegates at the last WRC in Geneva in 2007 (WRC-07), was formally adopted by the ITU Council in 2008. There are 25 agenda items

addressing potential new or revised spectrum allocations to existing services. A key objective is the review of the international regulatory framework applicable to radiocommunications. This review should reflect the convergence of some radio services arising from the development of next-generation networks (NGN) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Next_Generation_Networking>, as well as new radio applications and technologies. Of most interest to amateurs is agenda item 1.23, "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services." "This agenda item is the highest item on my long term priority list," said ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX. "We are fortunate that this upcoming WRC presents an opportunity for a new secondary allocation in the medium waves. While the outcome is far from certain, our experience in other bands -- most notably 30 meters -- indicates Amateur Radio's compatibility with certain other services as a secondary user."

According to the ITU, WRC-12 will focus on appropriate spectrum sharing mechanisms to make the best use of the digital dividend in the UHF and other frequency bands, providing new opportunities for radiocommunication services. It will also identify the spectrum requirements to increase security for both maritime and aeronautical transport services. Additional spectrum resources will also be identified for scientific and other radiocommunication services, specifically related to the environment, meteorology and climatology, as well as disaster prediction, mitigation and relief. Along with the introduction of more efficient digital services requiring less power consumption, WRC-12 will be a milestone to meet ITU's commitment to achieve climate neutrality with the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_and_communication_technologies> as effective tools to combat climate change and its effects.

Along with IARU volunteers worldwide, Price and Siverling are monitoring developments on a number of other agenda items that could affect Amateur Radio if they take unanticipated turns, including:

- Agenda item 1.14, considering requirements for and implementation of the radiolocation service (radar) between 30-300 MHz.
- Agenda item 1.15, considering possible allocations between 3-50 MHz for oceanographic radar applications.
- Agenda item 1.19, considering regulatory measures to enable software-defined and cognitive radio systems.
- Agenda item 1.22, examining the effect of emissions from short-range devices.

"Oceanographic radar is perhaps our biggest defensive issue," Price said. "Fortunately, its proponents have acknowledged that sharing with Amateur Radio would be problematic." The ITU preparatory meetings ahead of WRC-12 provide an opportunity to exchange information and views on the ongoing studies regarding WRC-12 agenda items, as well as on the common proposals and positions of the regional groups and other organizations. The discussions in this meeting addressed all WRC-12 agenda items and identified those deserving special consideration for African countries, including the sensitive issue related to the operation of security systems for ships and ports and the shared use of the planned digital TV spectrum by other services.

The Director of ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau Valery Timofeev noted that the agenda for WRC-12 was likely to be as complex as the previous World Radiocommunication Conference held in 2007. "We need to continue the trend toward increasing the number of common and coordinated proposals," he explained. "This process, which highlights the great spirit of international cooperation and consensus building at ITU, has proved to be increasingly successful in the WRC process." Timofeev added that the level of participation at the meeting indicated the importance of the WRC process "to improve regulatory procedures, to provide frequency and orbit resources for new technologies and to strengthen the technical framework for the operation of services." Recognizing that WRC-12 is an important event for the future of information and communication technologies, ITU Secretary-General Hamadoun Toure, HB9EHT, said the forthcoming conference will be a landmark in achieving ITU's connectivity targets: "WRC-12 will be held only three years ahead of 2015 -- the target date to connect all villages, towns and cities, universities and schools in the world and to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) <<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>>. If there is any chance to meet these goals, we must rely on ICTs -- omnipresent tools with profound implications for all economic sectors -- to accelerate the process and bridge the digital divide." -- Thanks to the ITU for some information.



Solar Update

Tad "Him whose strenuous tongue can burst Joy's grape against his palate fine" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Two large sunspots, 1026 and 1027, both emerged in the past few days. We could see them in advance of their appearance while they formed on the side of the sun previously unseen from earth, via the NASA STEREO mission, mentioned in last week's bulletin. These spots, emerging on the autumnal equinox, should enhance HF propagation, and expect them to increase in size as they move into the most geoeffective position over the next couple of days. We will discuss this more in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, September 25. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' "Ode on Melancholy" <<http://www.bartleby.com/101/628.html>>.



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 Garden City ARC is conducting 'Extra' license classes through the Garden City Public Schools. Classes run from Sep 22, 2009 through Jan 12, 2010 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Cost is \$25. Contact 734-762-8430 to register. 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. Contact them for additional information.



2009-2010 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	Bill Brezina	WA8HEA	313-563-2905
Secretary	Debbe Yeager	KD8IWV	734-981-3188
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 (Oct)	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 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.



Next Club Meeting: Oct 8th, 2009 at 7:00PM

Topic: Kenwood's Sky Command System for Digital Communications by Bill, WA8HEA

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