



FARL President's Notes, Summer 2010

As I type these words during mid-July, it's been nearly two weeks since FARL and LARC participated in Field Day 2010. While Saturday was a nice and sunny day, Sunday had occasional thundershowers, and we had to stop operating 40 minutes early due to another thunderstorm and approaching severe weather. Even with the bad weather, we still had a successful Field Day, in my opinion, and I think we'll have done fairly well when the scores are published this fall. Our preliminary results (posted to www.k8utt.org) sure look good. Thanks to Bill, WA8HEA, for heading up this year's Field Day effort, and thanks to all who participated!

With the hot days of summer upon us, it's less than 6 months until Christmas. But Santa Claus may be paying a visit by radio to Mott Children's Hospital this month, if we can swing it! You'll recall that the Radio Santa event was cancelled last December due to the H1N1 flu scare. That has passed, fortunately. And while we're going to have our normal December event, we've been talking about having a Christmas in July event. Nothing has been scheduled yet as of the time I'm writing this, so watch for news on the member mailing list. If you're not on the member mailing list, you can join at http://k8utt.org/mailman/listinfo/members_k8utt.org. (NOTE: the Christmas-in-July event never happened)

Since we are the FORD Amateur Radio League, I must note with sadness the passing of Mercury as a brand. But out of this adversity comes opportunity, for dealers have lots of incentives to clear the showrooms, and good deals are out there. My lease was coming up at the end of August, and I had to decide what to do for my next vehicle, whether to lease or buy a new one or buy my current vehicle at the end of the lease. Thanks to the incentives, the decision became fairly easy: it made more sense for me to buy a new Mariner. So that's what I've done. And now that I'll be an owner rather than a lessor, I'll be able to improve how I mount my radio/radios and antennas in the vehicle. Fun awaits!

When we convene again in September, the current plans are to have a wrap-up presentation on Field Day and a presentation on Bluetooth headsets from AI, W8AMH. I'm sure Pat, WD8JDZ, will give us the scoop on supporting the PEAC ride, as well. Plans may change before the meeting, so watch for updates in your e-mail inbox closer to the date.

73,
Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) Club Meeting Minutes - June 10, 2010

Minutes, FARL Club Meeting - June 10th, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 18:53 (6:53p.m.) after a slight delay waiting for members to arrive due to construction and a graduation next door.

Roger, KD8CSE called the order with 13 members and 2 guests present.

Welcome to James W8ISS member of the ARROW club and AMSAT column editor. Also to Kelly Miller - awaiting call.

Minutes from prior meeting: May 2010 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without changes.

Treasurers Report: Bill, WA8HEA read the annual financial report and added that an annual financial summary for 2009 - 2010 was being sent to FERA per FARL and FERA by-laws.

No Board of Directors meeting was held.

Committee Reports:

Repeaters: The 2 mtr repeater is having a possible receiver problem. Transmitting seems to be o.k. Will keep track.

The 220 repeater is still off air awaiting repair. The 70 cm repeater is not operating very well and is need of a possible upgrade. Also discussed maybe adding Echo-Link as an added feature. Future discussions or comments are being accepted.

Education and Training: There will be a license training exercise during field day on Sunday at 9a.m. with VE testing taking place at 10a.m.

Communication - Newsletter/website: Word was brought to the board members that the FARL newsletter is much appreciated by out of town members. It was suggested that the newsletter should try to be sent out by the first of the month starting in Aug. so all members have a copy by time of the club meeting.

The website was updated with new and updated info for field day and by-laws. If anyone has anything they wish posted on-line or printed in the newsletter, contact Dave, N8HKU or Roger, KD8CSE.

The club equipment along with where it is supposed to be located was discussed. Anyone wishing to borrow any equipment can contact Dave, N8HKU or Bill, WA8HEA.

If anyone knows the where-abouts of the operating instructions for the club sign, please contact Bill, WA8HEA.

FERA News: An annual financial summary was sent to FERA per club by-laws by the treasurer Bill, WA8HEA.

Unfinished/Current Business: The club by-laws will be posted to the club web site for member final approval. Please contact Roger, KD8CSE or Dave, N8HKU with any suggested changes.

The current version of the constitution was approved without changes.

James French, W8ISS discussed the participation of the FARL club in the up coming **Makers Faire** being held at Greenfield Village/Henry Ford Museum on July 31st and Aug 1st. The application was approved for 2 tables with Wi-Fi and electric access. Other clubs from the area are planning on joining in. It was discussed that the FARL club could put on Satellite Comm. and Echo-Link demonstrations. If anyone is interested in helping please contact Roger, KD8CSE or John, N8NWA at the FARL club, or James, W8ISS direct at W8ISS@wideopenwest.com or 313-886-0251.

19:42 (7:42p.m.) break for refreshments

Field Day Info: Field day agenda along with final plans were discussed. All final operating and set-up instructions have been posted on the K8UTT website. Anyone interested in joining the LARC club for breakfast on Sat. morning, they will be meeting at the Senate Coney Island around 8 a.m. on Haggerty south of 6 Mile prior to field day set-up.

There will be a VE training session on Sunday at 9:00a.m. followed by a VE testing session at 10:00a.m. Please be sure to check in with Bill, N8OZV prior to training or testing.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:37 (8:37p.m.)***same time graduation traffic was letting out next door***



2010 Field Day in Review - Dave, N8HKU

Set up: Very good set up this year, partially due to some of the crew doing some work on Friday night. The Field Day rules specify that set up can occur any time after 2pm on the Friday before Field Day. Anyway, a combination of some experience by the whole crew, plus the early start, got us up and running well before the scheduled start time.

Food: We ate simpler fare this year, and everything was tasty. I am interested in feedback on what everyone thought of the food this year. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in the food preparation this year.

3A: I think running 3A is probably the best for our club. It allowed two voice stations to be on the air with the CW station. We also took one of the voice stations and turn it into a digital station, and we could keep the CW and the second voice station up and running. A special congratulations goes to the Satellite team, as they had very nice success in working a number of birds, including a very nice stretch at 12:35pm on Sunday, where 9 contacts were made during a single pass by N8MR.

Antennas: All three main HF antennas worked well this year, the Carolina Windom, the G5RV, and the R7. We had other antennas standing by, but were not needed. The satellite team made good use of their antenna, and we even managed a few contacts on 6m.

Band pass filters: They still do help, although we only had two complete sets in operation, as a 3rd set that were electrically switched ended up malfunctioning during Field Day and had to be taken out of service. Overall, the combination of the filters and our cross polarized HF antennas kept most of the objectionable RF out.

Generators: Thanks to all who brought the primary and back up generators. Other than forgetting to release a fuel tank vent on the back up generator, we had plenty of power when we needed it.

Weather: Very hot and sticky early, which made fans a very nice addition. The sun shade that was mounted over the CW tent also appeared to be a life saver. Sunday, we had a lot of severe weather affect our operations, leading to our shutdown ½ hour early and a just in time departure from the site. We may have played it a bit too close with the thunderstorms in the area before calling it a day, but a great big Thanks to all who helped us to tear down and pack the site in 45 minutes. We did a very good job in getting the stuff cleaned up, except for the fire department awning, which was left up and suffered damage during the storms upon our departure. There were major miscommunications about the responsibility for that awning, and the clubs will end up paying to repair or replace it. This is something else we will have to add to our checklist in the future.

Bonus points: We earned many of the same bonus points this year versus last year, but were unable to take credit for all of them. The CW station earned credit for operating from solar charged battery, we got credit for emergency power, a formal message, reception of the W1AW transmission, satellite contacts, an informational table, an educational exercise, media publicity, and submission via the web. We did lose out on the credit for a visit by a served agency, as we had lost the sign in sheet. We almost lost the educational bonus as well, as we did not have the training material evidence to hand. For next year, we will make a list of photographs and other evidence we need in order to make sure we can claim all of our bonus points. We also could use some youth participation in order to gain those points as well.

SSB Stations: On the first station, the G5RV antenna once again worked very well, anchored on one end to the fire tower, the other end reaching out to be tied off to the trees in the next door neighbor's yard. The ladder line

downlink had to be swung about 30 degrees from vertical in order to stay away from a fire department equipment trailer positioned right underneath, but everything seemed to hold together, with the antenna tuning on 80m just a bit touchy for the on-board antenna tuner. One improvement is to make sure the onboard antenna tuner is checked to make sure the SWR was good. We did run into some times where the tune was off, and the radio was severely cutting back on power. The antenna tuner needs to sweep the bands to load its memories, or the tune button needs to be pressed when on a band for the first time in order to make sure we have a good match. The other difficulty with the Yaesu radio is that its display is unreadable in the daylight, even under a tent. We were using all kinds of shielding methods in order to get it seen. I knew I had swept up out of band when the receiver got all quiet, not exactly a great method. Perhaps we need to consider building a CAT interface to the radio that would allow the radio frequency to appear on the computer when operating in bright sunlight. Other than that, the new Heil headset and push to talk switch worked very well, and we received very good audio reports from other stations.

On the second station, the Yaesu FT-450 was paired with the Cushcraft R7 vertical antenna. Initial contacts were extremely challenging with this radio, as the received audio did not sound right at all. After an extended consultation with the radio's operating manual, the IF shift, RF attenuator, and passband tuning controls were all turned off or reset, making the radio function much better. The R7 antenna appeared to work quite nicely with this radio, working 297 stations on 40m-10m. As expected for such a small antenna, this station preferred working the higher frequencies of 15m and 20m. Perhaps we can try for more time on 10m with this station next year, as the R7 picks up stations that the wire G5RV antenna cannot hear. Some suggestions for the second SSB station for future years would be to supply a headset to the operator, which can improve reception and reduce fatigue versus the speaker and hand microphone provided.

Bands: We got more use out of the higher frequency bands this year. Contacts on the 10m band went from 10 in 2009 to 72 in 2010, and 15 meter contacts went from 137 in 2009 to 228 in 2010. With the sun clearly now out of the solar minimum and into the next solar cycle, we can look forward to seeing these numbers climb during the next several years. Overall, contacts on the bands were up this year, but more SSB voice contacts and less CW contacts, leading to a slightly lower number of overall points for contacts, (3,966 versus 3,942) as a CW contact is worth twice that of a SSB contact (had we been able to operate the remaining ½ hour of the contest, we would have exceeded the 2009 points). Last year, 40m made most of the contacts, where this year we had a lot more balance between 80m, 40m, 20m, and 15m bands. Way to go to the overnight and early morning crews who worked on the 80m band this year, as I see that the CW station was working 80 phone for a short time overnight as well.

Summary: A well attended, productive Field Day for the combined crew from the Livonia Amateur Radio Club and the Ford Amateur Radio League. We had sun, heat, rain, thunder and wind all thrown into the mix, and we managed through it all. Please see the complete summary of the Field Day at http://www.k8utt.org/2010_field_day.htm



Events

Adrian Amateur Radio Club, 38th Annual Hamfest and Computer Show - Brian, KG8CO

Sunday September 19, 2010, Event Starts at 8:00 AM

Talk-In: 145.370 - 85.4 pl

Tickets are \$5.00

Will be having VE Testing

More Information can be found at <http://www.W8TQE.com>



Support

PEAC Bike Ride (September 18, 2010) - Patrick Quinn, WD8JDZ

The PEAC Bike ride is primarily to raise funds for the PEAC program. PEAC stands for Program to Educate All Cyclists and is primarily aimed at handicapped bike riders. This particular ride includes able bodied as well as handicapped riders.

There are club challenges, where clubs compete for the most miles ridden, most participants, etc. There are several routes to the bike ride, which include rides from about 10 miles, to a one hundred mile route through Ann Arbor. We, the amateur Radio Operators, provide communications along the various routes. We provide people at each of the rest stops so we can coordinate the supplies at the stops, rider problems, and also look for particular riders if communication is needed to them. We have also provided people with Radios in the SAG Wagons, those vehicles that go along the routes looking for problems with riders and bikes. For example, some people decide they are going to go on the 100 mile route and get half way through it and decide they have overextended themselves and want to stop and go back to the finish. The Sag Wagons can take them back. We also take care of problems like flats and minor bike problems.

It isn't all work however, there is food and water at all the rest stops and we can participate in "taking care" of the food and water. At the Start/Finish there is Ice Cream, Popcorn, and other goodies as well. All of us who have participated in the past have enjoyed themselves.

The Start/Finish is at Warrendale, in Hines Park. The date is Saturday, Sept 18. The shortest route is entirely inside Hines Park, and the park is closed to traffic during the ride. The rest of the routes go from Hines, outside the park to various points, and then return to the starting point.

I have not heard from the ride leader yet this year, but will get information from him shortly. I assume we are still needed, but if not I will surely let all the Hams know that usually participate in the ride.

If you have a desire to help out on this ride, please contact me at the email address patquinn52@wowway.com below or call me at (734)729-1993. We are always looking for new people to help out.

2010 Free Press Marathon (October 17, 2010) - Bill, KD8KTF

If you are interested in providing communications support for the 2010 Free Press Marathon on Sunday, October 17, you may now register on-line at <http://www.freepmarathon.com/volunteers.htm>. Click on volunteer registration which will take you to a page where you scroll down to Sunday, October 17, find the HAM Radio box, check it and fill in the requested information.

Kevin Degen - A Remembrance – Ralph, W8ROI

I wrote a "Kevin and me" article that was published in the (Ford) Van Dyke Quarterly, back in the fall of 1989. Kevin and I both participated in the Wolverine Sports Club's "Wolverine 200" for the first time, and that started a long friendship.

I was fortunate to have met Kevin back in 1987 or 88, when we participated in our First "Wolverine 200" marathon on Belle Isle. He cranked out 145 miles on a 'granny tricycle', that weighed much more than an old conventional 'balloon tired' bike from the 40s-50s. He bettered my mileage, almost 3 to one! We got to know each other in succeeding years, and although I stopped riding my bike in the early part of the century, I did keep up with Kevin's activities from the newspapers and TV news.

The last time I saw Kevin was in September of 2008. He had learned to drive, and had a van with all manual controls. We met at a Big Boy over in the Southfield area.

He was an inspiration to many, over the years. I know my attitudes changed a lot after seeing him 'cranking out the miles' for some fundraising causes. He 'Peddled Across Lower Michigan' a number of times, for the PALM event, and once went across the US with a group of other 'special needs' bikers. Greg LeMond, the famed US Cyclist could not believe what he heard about Kevin propelling his bike across the country, with just one arm and leg. He met up with the group and rode the last 60 miles, or so, with Kevin. He also gave Kevin one of his hard earned Tour de France Jerseys.

Kevin rode his bike from Birmingham to our house in the 21 Mile & Van Dyke area, once, and since it was so late, I put his 'trike' in our Aerostar and drove him home. He also found our house one time, when he was living even further away in Southfield. He was planning to pedal home, since it was still light enough. He was a bit 'casual' when pedaling on main roads, in his quest for independence. I suspect that a lot of drivers were a bit put out when they saw him up ahead, with outside lane traffic slowing down. He used his mirror(s), and was aware of the traffic around him, but powered vehicle drivers can't take the chance, so they slow down and, when possible, 'squeeze over' a bit. I gave him a ride home on that occasion as well. He had left Southfield early in the day to visit some friends in the Roseville area, then made his way up to Shelby Township, planning to ride back to Southfield after our visit.

Kevin went skydiving just a few months back, on his birthday, in June. He had an accident about a month back, that caused no 'life threatening' problems. The cause of his death is not yet known. I know that he took lots of pain-killing medications, and there is a possibility of the recent injuries and accumulated organic damage could be the reason.

He deserves some kind of mention in the Guinness Book of Records, I think! There can't be many, or any, others who've put as many miles on a three wheel bike in less than 52 years!

No matter, we will all miss Kevin, and anytime we see anyone riding a three-wheel bike, we will probably have a lashing memory of Kevin, 'cranking out the miles' for some fundraiser. At least I know that I will.

Help Kevin continue his passion for helping others



The Kevin Degen Memorial Foundation

Devoted to helping special needs children find freedom and independence through athletic endeavors.

We encourage your ideas and suggestions!

Foundation resources may be used for:

- Continued support for Kevin's favorite charities
- Scholarships for special needs PALM riders
- Adaptive bikes and training
- Bike design & development for special needs children
- Kevin Degen memorial bike path or route
- Sponsoring Special Olympics athletes
- Education, support & encouragement for parents of special needs children
- The BUM Ride (Bike Up Michigan) Kevin was always saying "You Bum."
- Your suggestions...

What do you think? How can you help?

Please share your views with us. Thank you!

Brian Degen ♦ Sean Degen ♦ Colleen (Degen) Goodson ♦ Maureen Degen

Kevin Degen Memorial Foundation
P.O. Box 1353
Birmingham, MI 48012



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.



Hazel Park ARC will be holding a comprehensive class on what knowledge is required for the General Class license. Classes are on Tuesdays, September 14 through December 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Southfield EOC (basement of Southfield Parks and Rec Bldg).

Cost: Free (although ARRL General Class Manual is required and can be purchased).

Contact **Marsha Fleming, N8FE** at n8fe@arrl.net if interested.



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	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
Vice President	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Treasurer	Bill Brezina	WA8HEA	313-563-2905
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	John Stucka	N3JM	313-576-9880
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: September 09, 2010 at 6:30PM
Topic: TBD

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