

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

President's Note: September, 2008

I was very happy to see the amount of participation we had at Field Day this year. Both the Livonia club and the Ford club had a lot of attendance, and especially attendance by new club members. A big Thank You to all of the club members who attended, operated, or just helped in the set up and tear down. See the club website for all of the results and photos from the event. As I often do, here is a summary of what went right and wrong from my viewpoint:

What Went Right:

Number of contacts made. We operated 2A plus a GOTA station this year. The result was 146 more contacts than just the 2A alone. Congratulations to all of the new or infrequent operators who made the calls on the GOTA station. We made a total of 1423 contacts this year, up over 600 from last year, and almost 400 more than our best number of contacts 2004 to present.

CW station operation: The CW operators made over 325 more contacts this year than last year. They did a tremendous job in getting the K8UNS club call out on the bands. The station featured a Carolina Windom antenna this year, longer and higher than the antenna they have used in previous years. It seems to have helped!

Interconnected logs: We managed to get the interconnected logs with the help of Bill WA8HEA's spare router. This allowed the stations to see what band the other station was on, and also allowed the CW station to run 10m phone for a while with no worries about issues if the SSB station started using that band later.

The miracle of the high bands: Last year, only 40m and 80m were bands that made significant contacts. This year, in spite of having absolutely no sunspot activity, we actually had the bands open up all the way down to 10m. This dramatically increased the number of contacts we had available. The high bands were running short skip, but they were working.

The food: A perennial favorite, and we had plenty to eat again this year. Many thanks to the LARC for organizing the vast majority of the food.

Set up and tear down: Both went mostly smooth. We had a new tent configuration we had to sort out before the rain. We also had a new configuration of the G5RV antenna with an end mast that we had to take a few trials at before getting it at the right angle and distance. We had plenty of hands for it, though, which made the endeavor safe and relatively quick. Tear down was another record performance, as we were leaving the site within an hour of the contest end.

What went Wrong:

Weather: While we did not get any thunderstorms, we had a number of downpours during set up and the next day that caused us issues. Our screen tents could not block the downpours, we needed some rain proof tarps overhead and on the side to keep the "liquid sunshine" out. It also got cool at night this year. We need to remind the intrepid night crew to bring some warm clothing just in case Michigan is not hot and steamy in late June.

GOTA Station antenna and radio: The original antenna did not play for the group. It took a lot of work by the more experienced hams to get a replacement antenna set up and the station functioning again. The radio, an Icom 746, was not well known by the GOTA operators nor the Elmers. They accidentally got it into duplex mode and they transmitted several kHz away from their receive. We were able to fix the situation, but it sure was frustrating for the operators.

Two sets of band pass filters for three stations: The SSB and GOTA station shared band pass filters, so we had to make a visit when we changed bands.

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Other events: I hope to see you at the September club meeting. We will do a full review of Field Day, plus plan our participation in the upcoming PEAC bike event on Saturday, September 20th. See the related article.

73,
 Dave
 N8HKU
 FARL Club President

Field Day Receipts: If you need a reimbursement for any Field Day supplies, bring it to the September meeting or contact Bill Brezina, WA8HEA.

2008 Field Day Entry Form

100% Emergency power 200
 Media Publicity 100
 Set-up in Public Place 100
 Information Booth 100
 NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC 100
 W1AW Field Day Message 100
 Natural power QSOs completed 100
 Site Visit by invited served agency official 100
 GOTA Bonus 120
 Submitted via the Web 50
 Total Bonus Points 1,070
 Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:
 GOTA Bonus: No GOTA Coach

Band	Station Contacts		Digital		Phone	
	CW QSO	Power	QSO	Power	QSO	Power
160	0	150	0	150	0	150
80	274	150	0	150	83	150
40	185	150	0	150	112	150
20	179	150	0	150	250	150
15	34	150	0	150	103	150
10	34	150	0	150	21	150
6	0	150	0	150	2	150
2	0	150	0	150	0	150
1.25	0	150	0	150	0	150
70	0	150	0	150	0	150
33	0	150	0	150	0	150
23	0	150	0	150	0	150
GOTA	0	150	0	150	146	150
Totals	706	CW	0	Dig	717	Phone
Total Contacts					1423	
Total Points					4258	

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FARL MEETING MINUTES, June 12, 2008

Minutes recorded by Roger Reini, KD8CSE, recording secretary

CALL TO ORDER: meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by president Dave, N8HKU. There were 12 attendees, including one prospective member.

MINUTES: The minutes from the May meeting were approved as published.

TREASURER: Major income this month was from rebates from FERA ticket sales. Expenditures this month were for the phone bill and for a name badge. Report was approved as read.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT: No formal report

MONROE SWAP: The Monroe swap will be Sunday, June 15. Bill, WA8HEA, moved that the club approve \$15 to be spent for a club table at the swap; Rodney, K8SGL, seconded; the motion passed. With the table comes an opportunity to sell discounted Cedar Point and King's Island tickets on behalf of the club.

INTRODUCTIONS: Dave, N8HKU, asked the attendees to introduce themselves for the benefit of this evening's guest and prospective member

APPLICATIONS: Dave, N8HKU, brought two applications for membership before the membership. One was from Debbe Yeager, a Ford retiree who is studying for her Technician license. Her application was accepted. The other was from Shunsuke Okubo, KD8BWD, who was not in attendance tonight. His application was also accepted.

REPEATER: The 2 meter and 220 MHz repeater link is working fine. According to Murray, KE8UM, The problems with the 220 repeater timing out under linked operation was traced to software settings in the link; the offending value was changed from 5 seconds to 100 ms, and that eliminated most of the timeouts.

PHONE PATCH INSTRUCTIONS: Still available from Dave by mail.

TRAINING: Bill, N8OZV, reported that the Technician class he had been holding at Fairlane fell apart due to lack of attendance at that time (it also interfered with church for some attendees). He plans to hold a lunch class once a week at Building 2; details will be announced through FERA mailings. He is planning to do some intensive training with a group of high schoolers, training them for a week and then having them take the test that Saturday. Al, W8AMH, mentioned his presentation to the Ford Yacht Club and his articles for the Power Squadron newsletter on radio. There may be some interest from Power Squadron members for classes. Roger, KD8CSE, said that he's just qualified as a Volunteer Examiner (VE) through the ARRL VEC. He can now administer the Element 2 examination for Technician licenses. There are at least 4 or 5 club members who are VE's, and there was a suggestion to add VE status to the club roster.

NEWSLETTER: Bill, N8OZV, volunteered to handle the summer newsletter. Al, W8AMH, volunteered to handle the September newsletter.

WEBSITE: Chuck, WV8A, asked why we don't have our own domain name, which would help in web searches. Doing searches during the meeting, it transpired that several possibilities for FARL were already in use. K8UTT combinations are available. Dave, N8HKU, planned to investigate options for attaching a domain name to the Geocities account now in use.

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ARRL SPECTRUM DEFENSE FUND: Bill, WA8HEA, said that the club had received a request for donations to ARRL's Spectrum Defense Fund. After a brief discussion, he moved that the club make a donation to the fund; Rusty, N8RGI, seconded. After more discussion about the amount, Roger, KD8CSE, moved that the amount be \$50; Rusty, N8RGI, seconded. The motions passed. Bill planned to inform ARRL Great Lakes Division director Jim Weaver, K8JE, about the donation.

FIELD DAY: After a short break, Dave, N8HKU, spoke about this year's plans for Field Day. They are very similar to previous years' plans, he said; we're working with the Livonia ARC (LARC) again. We'll operate from the Livonia fire station on Plymouth Road west of Newburgh again, operating as a 2A station under LARC's callsign K8UNS. The GOTA (Get On The Air) station will operate under our club's callsign K8UTT. We plan to set up the SSB station. Full details about our plans are available at the club website (http://www.geocities.com/capecanaveral/hall/2183/2008_field_day.htm). We plan to begin to set up around 9 AM that Saturday, targeting the start of operations at 2 PM. Dave passed around a signup sheet for volunteers to report their availability. Rodney, K8SGL, moved that the club authorize payment to LARC of an amount not to exceed \$200 for Field Day expenses; Rusty, N8RGI, seconded.

FUTURE TOPICS: Bill, N8OZV, offered to speak about Marine Amateur Radio at a future meeting. Al, W8AMH, offered to speak about Ham Radio Deluxe software, while Bill, WA8HEA, offered to speak about RadioCom 6. Roger, KD8CSE, offered to speak about bicycle mobile operation.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:30 PM

PEAC Bike Ride 2008: September 20, 2008 **Amateurs needed to support the event**

The ride takes place from Hines Park (Warrendale Picnic Area) and has several degrees of difficulty and length. The easy ride takes place entirely within Hines Park. There are various lengths of rides up to a challenging 100 mile ride.

There are six food stops along the routes and then there are sag wagons that travel the routes to pick up or help any riders with problems during the ride (my problem would be if I started the 100 mile course I would never finish it on a bike unless someone picked me up along the route and dropped me about a mile from the finish.). What is needed from the amateur community is a number of operators on 2 meters so that we have an operator at each food stop and someone with each sag wagon. The purpose of the operators is to help people along the route and any problems at the food stops such as being low on food so we might be able to transfer things among them. We will be using the 92 repeater which has good coverage over the entire route.

We have done this ride for many years and need all the help we can get to keep this event safe and fun. If you have any time available please contact me, WD8JDZ, Pat Quinn (patquinn52@wowway.com) or by phone (734)729-1993.

For further information on the Bike Ride please go to www.bikeprogram.org.

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Help Promote These Bills!

US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, finds FCC Violated Administrative Procedure Act in its BPL Decision. The Court agreed with the ARRL that the FCC had failed to comply with the APA by not fully disclosing for public comment the staff studies on which it relied. The Court also agreed with the ARRL that the Commission erred in not providing a reasoned justification for its choice of an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade for Access BPL systems and in offering "no reasoned explanation for its dismissal of empirical data that was submitted at its invitation. This means the FCC doesn't have to retract BPL just that they need to redefine it. So, where does that leave us, the Amateur population? Needing some type of legislation before the FCC can change or make any new rules.

Senate Bill (S-1629): Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007. A bill to request a study by the Federal Communications Commission on the interference caused by broadband Internet transmission over power lines. Sponsor [Sen. Mark Pryor \(D-AR\)](#) cosponsor [Sen. Michael Crapo \[R-ID\]](#). Also, House of Representatives (H.R. 462): Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007 To request a study by the Federal Communications Commission on the interference caused by broadband internet transmission over power lines. Sponsor [Rep. Mike Ross \[D-AR\]](#) and cosponsors [Rep. John Barrow \[D-GA\]](#), [Rep. Roscoe Bartlett \[R-MD\]](#), [Rep. Baron Hill \[D-IN\]](#), [Rep. Steve Israel \[D-NY\]](#), [Rep. Ron Lewis \[R-KY\]](#), [Rep. Michael McNulty \[D-NY\]](#), [Rep. Tim Murphy \[R-PA\]](#), [Rep. Sue Myrick \[R-NC\]](#), [Rep. Ronald Paul \[R-TX\]](#), [Rep. Collin Peterson \[D-MN\]](#), [Rep. David Price \[D-NC\]](#), [Rep. Bart Stupak \[D-MI\]](#), [Rep. Timothy Walberg \[R-MI\]](#).

People, who think members of Congress or the House of Representatives pay little or no attention to constituent mail, are plain wrong. Concise, well thought out personal letters are one of the most effective ways Americans have of influencing lawmakers. But, members of Congress and the House of Representatives get hundreds of letters and emails every day. Whether you choose to use the Postal Service or email, here are some tips that will help your letter have impact. Most of the time, we as Amateurs, write our Senators or House of Representatives complaining that a certain Act or Bill will not be good for Amateur Radio. But, this time we all need to write and let our Representatives know that we would like them to support these Bills and that we appreciate the fact that they are looking into the future of the service of Amateur Radio. If you're not sure who to write then go to the leagues web site (<http://www.arrl.org>) click on Members Only and a new page will pop up with the listings of the Congressman/Congresswomen, Senators and House of Representatives in your District.

There is also a sample letter there that is already written for you. Copy and paste it into an email and fill in the appropriate places with the Representatives name, then the place with your name and information in the proper places. We must make sure we can congratulate as well as complain. Remembering that no matter what way we do it we must do it with respect to them and in confidence. Here are some examples for writing a Senator, Congressman/Congresswomen or House of Representative.

It's usually best to send letters to the Representative from your local Congressional District or the Senators from your state. Your vote helps elect them -- or not -- and that fact alone carries a lot of weight.

73

John D. Meyers, NB4K
Great Lakes Legislative Action Coordinator
Great Lakes Division

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2008 Calendar of Events

- September** 07 Findlay, OH, Hamfest, Hancock County Fairground.
<http://www.findlayradioclub.org>
11 **FARL Club Meeting, EMDO, 7 PM**
14 Adrian ARC Swap, Adrian, MI <http://www.W8TQE.com>
20 PEAC Bike Ride, Hines Park and Beyond <http://www.bikeprogram.org>
- 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**
- 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

Future Presentations:

FIRST Robotics (WA8HEA)

Radio Comm6 Software for radio

Ham Radio Delux (W8AMH)

Bicycle Mobile (KD8CSE)

Marine Amateur Radio

Digital Voice on HF: Need volunteer presenter.

Sky Command and/or D-Link: Need volunteer presenter.

Fox Hunting techniques: Need volunteer presenter.

Mobile Installation

Software defined radio

Please suggest more topics for our club meetings!

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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#. Contact Dave at 734-476-1666 if you are trying to get on the call and there is no one opening the line.

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.

For Sale:

From Ken Waldrep, Ford Employee

Hallicrafters S40B

An eight tube, general coverage four band receiver, with continuous frequency coverage from .54 to 44 MHz. Features include band spread tuning, switchable automatic volume control, beat frequency oscillator, noise limiter and variable RF gain. Has RF amplifier for enhanced selectivity and two stages of IF amplification for enhanced sensitivity. Excellent audio quality.

Ken claims that it appears to be in good working order.

\$250-\$350 range for a radio on EBay of good working condition.

Contact Ken Waldrep, kwaldrep@ford.com phone: 313- 805-5354.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Under the light of five hundred Suns" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Our Sun is still not producing any sunspots. As mentioned in previous bulletins, the peak of the last Solar Cycle was a double peak, so perhaps we are in the midst of an extended bottom. Sunspot numbers for August 7-13 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 66.1, 65.5, 65.5, 65.6, 65.7, 65.2 and 65.3 with a mean of 65.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 18, 13, 7, 6 and 5 with a mean of 8.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 3, 16, 9, 6, 6 and 3 with a mean of 6.6. 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 Allen Ginsberg's "America."

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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

Next Club Meeting: Thursday, September 11th @ 7pm
Presentation: Post Field Day Review and PEAC Bike Ride Preparation

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