

# THE BOLT

December 2008

SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST:

- > **Christmas dinner is Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm, at Richter's Chalet.**
- > **QSO Radio Show this weekend. <http://www.tedrandall.com>**

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Happy Holidays!

We do not have our normal club meeting in December, but have our annual club Christmas Dinner instead. Our Christmas dinner is Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm, at Richter's Chalet. Their Germanic food has been a club favorite over the years, and this place was voted in for the dinner this year. Richter's is on the North Side of Michigan Ave just east of Telegraph Road. The entrance to the restaurant is behind the buildings in the back. Take your time working your way into the back parking lot. It is a bit cramped back there, but reachable. Please make sure you contact Bill, WA8HEA, on or before December 8<sup>th</sup> so we make sure we have enough room for everyone.

Bill may be contacted at [wbrezina@att.net](mailto:wbrezina@att.net) or 313-563-2905.

Sweepstakes: As I mentioned last month, I did manage to get on both the CW and the SSB ARRL Sweepstakes contests. They are favorites of mine, with a lot of stations on the air any given time. For the CW contest, I needed a bunch of help in decoding the CW, which was being sent at an average of 30 words per minute. MixW has a decent decoding algorithm, and it helped make the contacts. I will continue to work on my speed, accuracy, and sending "fist" to improve my performance. For the SSB contest, I had a good time hunting and pouncing. I am still having problems with the logging function, which prevented me from getting on a frequency and calling CQ. I needed to manually screen each potential contact against a log search. The past two months' presentations have dealt with rig control and logging software, and I am very interested in looking at some more options. The Field Day software the club has used the past two years, from N3FJP, also has a general logging program along with specific event contest programs. That may be worth a try. There is another program, called LOGic, that interfaces well with the MixW software. I have also tried the software from Ham Radio Deluxe, but it appears to want to operate the radio as much as run a logging program. Without a good logging program, I managed 88 contacts over a few hours of operating. I was operating mostly in the evening, so I gave 80m a workout for much of the contest.

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

Meeting Minutes	2
IARU Region 1	4
Solar Update	5
Calendar	6
ARRL News Brief	7
Suggested Topics	7

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE-CONT.

Speaking with Santa: The Elves and Santa will be paying a visit to Mott Children's Hospital on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. This is a very important event the club holds every year, organized by Bill, N8OZV. We call Santa on our 220 MHz and 440 MHz hand held radios, and we look forward to communicating with Santa up to the local North Pole. Bill is making a roster of elves for the event, so please contact him if you wish to find out if there are any slots left. We do need to give the names of the attendees to the hospital ahead of time. Bill does need some alternate elves in case some of them catch a cold. With the kids, it is important that everyone be healthy for this event.

TV Technology: After keeping the same TV for a remarkable 17 years, my wife and I are about to embark on a TV modernization program up to a flat screen TV. We hope that all goes well, and that Sony has really made things easier with their Theatre Sync system. Technology has often made things more complicated in exchange for more capability. We amateurs have noticed the same thing with radios, computerized connections, new operating modes such as PSK31. Sometimes we cannot operate a radio without the instruction manual being on our side. Other things, such as solid state final amplifiers, and automatic antenna tuners that are being built into the rigs, simplify the operation of a station dramatically. In addition to the advanced technology, I hope that the electromagnetic compatibility has improved in the new systems. My aforementioned 17 year old TV has a bad case of RF pickup in the audio amplifiers. It picks up and decodes SSB for 14 MHz and up. The output amplifier on the TV does not get turned off if the internal speakers are disabled, and it lets my wife know everything I am doing downstairs. Ferrite cores on everything failed to help the situation, and I was not allowed to open the back of the TV while we were still using it. I will have a good test case to see if the newer technology is any more RFI resistant. (I am hoping that it is!)

73,  
Dave  
N8HKU  
President: FARL

## FARL MEETING MINUTES , NOVEMBER 13 , 2008

Minutes recorded by Roger Reini, KD8CSE, recording secretary

**CALL TO ORDER:** At 7:03 PM by president Dave, N8HKU. There were 16 attendees, including one guest and a second guest who became a member.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

**TREASURER:** The major expenditure this month was for the club insurance policy. A motion to accept the report was approved.

**BOARD:** No reports from the Board of Directors this month.

**REPEATER:** The repeater is running well, including the link between the 2 meter and 220 MHz repeaters. Phone patch instructions remain available from Dave, N8HKU.

**TRAINING:** Bill, N8OZV, is targeting after New Year's for the start of General classes. These will probably be on Saturday morning or Sunday afternoons

**NEWSLETTER:** Al, W8AMH, handled the editing for November and was thanked for his efforts.

**MEETING MINUTES-CONT.**

**WEBSITE:** Dave, N8HKU, had copied the club website over to space donated by Roger, KD8CSE, from his personal website. For a domain name, the preferred choice was K8UTT.org, as names with "FARL" were not available. There was a motion to authorize Roger to obtain the domain name K8UTT.org and authorized a payment not to exceed \$15 for the registration fee; this was approved, and Roger said he would obtain the domain as soon as possible. Subsequent to the meeting, Roger did obtain the domain name and linked it to the new home for the site. The new URL for the club website is <http://www.k8utt.org/>.

**SPECIAL EVENT REPORTS:** A number of members reported contacts with the special event stations commemorating the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. The Paradise and Whitefish Point stations were noted most frequently. Dick, KW8B, noted that the LARC station on Belle Isle had problems with its SSB station and didn't get it working until late in the event; the CW station was working fine throughout.

**RADIO SANTA:** Bill, N8OZV, said that the date for this year's Radio Santa event was Saturday, December 6. Arrive at 1 PM for setting up. 220 and 440 MHz bands will be used. Let Bill know one week ahead of time if you plan to participate in the effort; security restrictions preclude walk-ins. The location is Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. Several members volunteered this evening.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER:** The annual club Christmas dinner will be held on December 11 at 6 PM in lieu of the regular club meeting. The choices for the dinner location were Richter's in Dearborn, Mexican Fiesta in Dearborn Heights, and Amantea in Garden City, eventually narrowed to Richter's and Amantea. Voting was 8-3 in favor of Richter's. Please inform either Dave, N8HKU or Bill, WA8HEA, if you plan to attend by **December 9.**

**CALENDAR:** Among the suggestions for presentations in future months were D-STAR (this presentation had been given to LARC) and a CPR re-certification class. Bill, N8OZV, plans to present in January on large loop receiving antennas, specifically the Four Foot Loop Antenna. This may depend on his obtaining a suitable tuning capacitor at the L'Anse Creuse swap.

**UPCOMING SWAPS:** L'Anse Creuse on December 7, Hazel Park on January 18. Bill, WA8HEA, recommended we get a table at Hazel Park (this can be done at the January meeting).

**NEW MEMBER:** John Stucka, N3JM, presented his application for membership, which was approved. Welcome, John!

**ISS CONTACT:** Dick, KW8B, said that N0EFT was planning to conduct a contact with the International Space Station for the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum on December 27. Visitors are welcome.

**PRESENTATION:** Bill, WA8HEA, gave this evening's presentation on RadioCom software. He was looking for software that would control two radios simultaneously – full duplex capability for working satellites. He demonstrated earlier versions of RadioCom to show how the capabilities of the program had evolved, leading to version 6, the first one capable of dual radio control. The software has excellent signal analysis capabilities, he said. Unfortunately, it is not fully compatible with Vista yet; he's been working with the programmers on this, but the problems have yet to be licked. In comparing RadioCom with Ham Radio Deluxe, he felt that HRD had better documentation and a larger user support group but that RadioCom was the more capable program. He will keep us informed of his experiences with it.

**ADJOURN:** at 8:47 PM.



#### IARU REGION 1 MEETS IN CROATIA (ARRL News Letter)

Earlier this month, IARY Region 1 held its triennial conference in Cavtat, Croatia. Forty IARU Member Societies were present, with another 12 Member Societies represented via proxy. IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, also attended the conference  
<[http://www.arrl.org/news/files/CT08\\_Cavtat\\_Final\\_plenary\\_minutes.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/CT08_Cavtat_Final_plenary_minutes.pdf).

Sunday, November 16, marked the opening of the five day conference that was hosted by. Hrvatski Radioamaterski Savez (HRS), Croatia's IARU Member Society <<http://www.hamradio.hr/>. HRS President Kreso Kovarik, 9A5K, welcomed local and national officials and conferees. Kovarik said he was pleased that that the IARU chose to have the 2008 conference in Croatia, and expressed his view that this would be of great value to Croatia and to the HRS.

Ellam spoke next, relaying greetings from IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, who was unable to attend. Ellam took this opportunity to briefly review the work done by IARU over recent years and said he "looked forward to WRC 11." He thanked Region 1 and the HRS for their excellent organizational arrangements for the conference. Region 1 President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, echoed Ellam's good wishes and noted that there were 50 delegations present for this conference, either in person or by proxy.

The conference was formally opened by Kreso Antonovic, Director of Electronic Communications and Postal Service Directorate, Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, Croatia. A postage stamp commemorating the conference was unveiled at a reception for heads of delegations and invited guests that followed.

One of the highlights of the conference was the election of new officers. With 41 out of 49 votes cast, Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, of the Netherlands, was elected President. Mustapha Diop, 6W1KI, of Senegal, was unanimously elected Vice President. Dennis Green, ZS4BS, of South Africa, was elected Secretary and Andreas Thiemann, HB9JOE, of Switzerland, was elected Treasurer. Rounding out the Region 1 Executive Committee are Hani Raad, OD5TE, of Lebanon; Betty Magnon, F6IOC, of France; Nikola Percin, 9A5W, of Croatia; Panayot Danev, LZ1US, of Bulgaria, and Colin Thomas, G3PSM, of Great Britain.

In preparation for the expansion of 40 meters in Region 1 on March 29, 2009, the HF Committee debated a band plan to incorporate the change from 7.000-7.100 to 7.000-7.200 MHz. The conference adopted the following plan:

- 7.000-7.025 MHz, CW, contest preferred (200 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- 7.025-7.040 MHz, CQ, QRP Center of Activity to be 7.030 MHz (200 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- 7.040-7.047 MHz, Narrow band modes (digimodes) (500 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- 7.047-7.050 MHz, Narrow band modes (digimodes, unattended automatically controlled data stations) (500 Hz maximum bandwidth)

**I A R U R E G I O N 1—C O N T . ( A R R L N E W S L E T T E R )**

- 7.050-7.053 MHz, All modes (digimodes, unattended automatically controlled data stations) (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- 7.053-7.060 MHz, All modes (digimodes) (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- 7.060-7.100 MHz, All modes, digital voice 7070, SSB QRP Center of Activity to be 7.090 MHz, SSB contest preferred (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- 7.100-7.130 MHz, All modes, Region 1 Center of Activity to be 7.110 MHz (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- 7.130-7.200 MHz, All modes, SSB contest preferred, Image Center of Activity to be 7.165 MHz (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
- 7.175-7.200 MHz, All modes, priority for intercontinental operation (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)

The conference had an eye to both new and young radio amateurs. Delegates agreed unanimously to recommend to Member Societies the importance of the annual Jamboree on the Air and encouraged the organizations to assist Scouts with the event. By doing so, the delegates said, this will promote Amateur Radio to Scouts to where they will get their Amateur Radio license and become active on the air.

The delegates also recommended that an additional category be introduced to Amateur Radio contests "wherever possible." Details for the "Youngsters and Newcomers" category will be left to individual contest organizers to develop. Delegates also encouraged contest organizers to replace signal strength reports required in contests with "some other less predictable exchange, so as to enhance the skill requirements of contest operators."

Delegates had three choices for the next conference: South Africa, Spain or England. Sun City, South Africa was chosen as the venue for the 2011 meeting.

**S O L A R U P D A T E ( A R R L N E W S L E T T E R )**

Tad "The Sun hath shed its kindly light, our harvesting is gladly o'er" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: This is an early bulletin for the Thanksgiving holiday, as ARRL is closed on Friday, the regular day for release of this bulletin. We plan another brief regular propagation bulletin on Monday, December 1 that will contain the propagation numbers for November 20-26 in the regular format that normally appears at the end of the bulletin. On Friday, December 5, the propagation bulletin will be back on regular schedule, at least into spring 2009. We had our last glimpse of sunspot group 1008 as it was about to slip over our Sun's western horizon on November 18. No sunspots have emerged since then, but it seems a reasonable assumption that we will see more Solar Cycle 24 spots, but we do not know when. There is a prediction from USAF/NOAA that shows solar flux rising to 70 on December 8-9. This is just tracking a possible reappearance of the region that birthed sunspot group 1007 that we saw in the Sun's southern hemisphere from October 30 through November 6. Tonight, high latitude regions may see some aurora caused by another solar wind stream from a coronal hole. But that same USAF/NOAA forecast mentioned earlier shows a planetary A index of just 12 for today, dropping to 8 on Thursday, then 5 (a very quiet level) until December 4-6 when they expect a planetary A index of 8, 15 and 10.

The planetary A index is calculated with data from a collection of mid-latitude and higher magne-

**SOLAR UPDATE—CONT. (ARRL NEWS LETTER)**

tometers around the world, and 12 is a drop from Tuesday's (November 25) planetary A index of 17, when aurora was observed in Polar Regions. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <[http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pr\\_opagation.html](http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pr_opagation.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 Paul Laurence Dunbar's "A Thanksgiving Poem" <<http://www.paullaurencedunbar.net/athanksgivingpoem.html>>.

**DECEMBER 2008**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Speaking with Santa</b>
7 <b>L'Anse Creuse Swap</b>	8	9	10	11 <b>FARL Christmas Dinner</b>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## ARRL NEWS IN BRIEF (ARRL NEWS LETTER)

- This Week on the Radio: This week, the SKCC Sprint and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint (CW) are both on November 26. The CQ Worldwide DX Contest (CW) is November 29-30 and the ARCI Top-band Sprint is December 4. Next weekend is the ARRL 160-Meter Contest on December 5-7. The TARA RTTY Melee and the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint are December 6. The TOPS Activity Contest is December 6-7 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is December 10. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>>, the ARRL Contest Update <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/>> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>>.
- ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, December 7, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, December 19, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2; Antenna Modeling; HF Digital Communications; and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <<http://www.arrl.org/cep/student>> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <[cep@arrl.org](mailto:cep@arrl.org)>.

### Suggested presentation topics:

- Bicycle Mobile (KD8CSE): Spring, 2009
- Micro controllers, N8OZV
- Marine Amateur Radio N8OZV
- 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!

## 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/](http://www.geocities.com/capecanaveral/hall/2183/) for current events and activities.

<b>President</b>	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
<b>Vice President</b>	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Brezina	WA8HEA	313-563-2905
<b>Secretary</b>	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
<b>Repeater Chair</b>	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
<b>K8UTT Trustee</b>	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
<b>Activity Chair</b>	Bill Boyke	N8OZV	313-805-8877

---

# www.k8utt.org

---

**FARL CHRISTMAS DINNER IS THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2008 AT 6PM,  
AT RICHTER'S CHALET.**

FORD AMATEUR  
RADIO LEAGUE

PO Box 2711  
Dearborn, MI 48123