

The October, 2015 Bolt never got published. Here is the President's Notes that were sent out via email to the membership instead of the Bolt!

October, 2015 President's Note

Happy Autumn to you!

My wife Deborah and I wanted to see the "Super Moon" eclipse on Sunday evening, but those darn clouds just really blocked our big satellite in the sky that night. We went to the UofM Planetarium on Sunday afternoon, and got a good explanation of what was going to happen with the moon and the sun, and all of the other celestial events that were going on. But, that was as close as we were to get that evening. I see that the clouds parted in other areas of the world and there were lots of pictures on the websites the next morning.

As you could see from the emails, we are in our final voting for a new club radio set-up. This process all started when our best club radio, the Yaesu FT-990, refused to power up and operate before Field Day. When we decided that this radio was probably not worth repairing at its age, we began the study for a new radio. We have found a lot to choose from, and had to create a list of attributes we wanted in the radio. Since this radio does primarily operate portable during Field Day, Maker Faire, and the like, a radio that was good for such field use was primary. Also, these types of operating events utilize several radios operating in relative close proximity. With listening to our companion radios in our receivers over the years, the importance of excellent front end selectivity and blocking filters has become very apparent to us. Finally, we wanted a radio that was relatively new to market, but had good impressions from other hams. After eliminating the entry class radios for being not quite good enough for our multi-station work, we settled in on looking at radios in the \$1,500 class. Taking out radios that had technology over 15 years old, such as the Kenwood TS-2000, and other radios that had mediocre reviews, we finalized a couple of Icom radios and the Yaesu FT-991. The FT-991 became the radio of choice in the club's final analysis at the September club meeting. Not only did it have standard 3kHz roofing filters and full DSP, it had a nice color screen with a spectrum scope, and also covers the VHF/UHF bands. This will allow it to work for bike rides as well. It also was light weight and a moderately small size, without being too small so that every control is in some menu. To go with it, we selected a wide range antenna tuner from LDG, which is needed for our G5RV antennas. The tuner is matched to the radio so that it will tune quickly and automatically when needed. A power supply rounds out the purchase, along with an adapter for our existing headset to work with the new radio. If you have not voted yet, please do so immediately, as the final tally will be announced at the October club meeting.

220 MHz repeater: We have noticed that the 220 MHz repeater final power amplifier has developed a problem. Best we can tell, the repeater is only putting out less than 1 watt at the moment. When we transmit to it, the range seems OK, so the problem is likely in the amplifier. We have asked Murray, KE8UM, to please have a look when he is able to. We have not been up to the repeater site since June, 2014. I had gone up there to install the cellular phone system to serve as the repeater enable/disable system. That has been working well, and saving us a lot of money. The average cell phone bill has been

\$5.00 per month, versus the AT&T bill that ran over \$50 per month. For those who have been in Dearborn lately, the owners of the hotel sold it off again, so the Adoba hotel is now the Dearborn International Hotel and Conference Center. Our contact at the hotel, Director of Engineering Bernard Issa, is still there in the same capacity. He has allowed us access to the repeater when we have been at the hotel, and I have sent him a letter requesting permission.

73,

David Treharne

N8HKU

FARL President.

ARISS Contact with Dearborn Schools:



NASA picture

Gordon Scannell, KD8COJ, is the lead for the upcoming Dearborn Schools Amateur Radio aboard the International Space Station contact. He and his team have been busy installing the main 19ft long yagi antenna and the vertical antenna backup onto the roof of the Berry Center school. Getting the Yagi up high enough to avoid it scraping on the roof during the top of the pass has been a challenge. He is working to keep everything stable up on the roof with cinderblocks and guy wires. The goal is an absolutely solid contact with the space station from horizon to horizon. The contact is scheduled for the week of October 26th. Dearborn Schools wants the contact to be during the Monday through Friday

time, although NASA also recommended Saturday. Prime will not be Wednesday, Oct 28th, though. The Space Station is scheduled to conduct a Space Walk that day. We will send out further information on the contact as it is finalized!

For those interested in spotting the Space Station, here is the NASA link: <http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/>

Dearborn Schools have been putting up Posters to encourage the kids to submit questions to ask the Astronaut. Note the nod to the Texting generation!

