



FARL President's Notes, April 2010

It's the end of March, and that means spring is here – at least according to the calendar. I recently spent some time on vacation on the west coast, and it was definitely spring out there. With all the things I was doing – visiting the San Diego Zoo and its companion Wild Animal Park, going on two whale-watching cruises, riding a rental bike along the San Diego waterfront – there wasn't much time for operating, even though I'd brought along my FT-817. But I did put in some study time for the Extra Class license when I was stuck in the Seattle train station for four hours on a layover.

With the start of spring comes the end of wintertime propagation conditions on the HF bands. The noise level on the lower bands starts to increase, but so does the open time on the higher bands. And with sunspot cycle 24 on the upswing, things are definitely looking up. Don't forget that Dayton Hamvention is only a little over a month away.

This month's meeting is an important one for the club. Well, they're all important, but this month's is more so because it's the annual election of club officers. Nominations can be taken at any time, right up to and including the night of the meeting and the election. Be thinking about whom you think would serve the club best for the next year. And please be sure to attend the meeting. We do need a quorum in order to conduct the voting. Once the election has concluded, our presentation this month will be on software-defined radio, given by Bill, WA8HEA.

Hope to see as many of you at the meeting as possible!

73,
Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) Club Meeting Minutes - March 11, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm, by Roger, KD8CSE, President.

17 members and one guest were present.

Minutes from prior meeting: February 2010 minutes were reviewed and approved with one spelling correction.

Treasurer's report: Report was read by Roger, KD8CSE, on behalf of Treasurer Bill WA8HEA, Future funds are expected in April from the auto show and entertainment book sales. The treasurer's report was approved as read.

Bill, WA8HEA is accepting dues (\$15.00) for 2010 FARL membership.

Board of Directors: The Board did not meet and there was no news.

Committee Reports:

Repeater: The repeaters are operational. Murray, KE8UM is working on the repeater trying to correct the issue with failure to ID within the allotted time for announcements. Phone patch instructions are available from Dave, N8HKU.

Education and training: Level 1 Technician training will start on this Sunday at the Board Room of the Ford Yacht club.

There will be an open examination on April 11, 2010 at 2 pm at the Ford Yacht Club.

There will be a Level 2 General training course starting on April 18th. Training will consist of test question practice and theory. A second exam is scheduled for May 9th at the Ford Yacht Club.

Communication - Newsletter/Website: The Bolt is always looking for articles. Please give any articles you feel would help the club to Roger, KD8CSE or Dave, N8HKU. Let an officer know if you would like to only receive the electronic copy of the newsletter.

FERA News: At the February meeting FERA introduced the PERKS card with "Thousands of Ways to Save" Roger had some cards to distribute at the meeting (<https://web.vee.ford.com/FERA/>). Contact Roger, KD8CSE, or Dave, N8HKU if you would like a card. You need to login to be able to register the card. Front and back numbers on the card are unique.

Last night there were FERA elections where Joe Pellegrino was elected president, Ken Gutowski was elected Vice President, and Mark Krugman was elected treasurer. The induction meeting will be held on April 17th. Our club is in good standing with FERA.

Unfinished/Current Business: We are all set for the Milford swap with a table on April 17th (<http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk/MARC-Brochure2010.pdf>) at Milford High School.

We have two tables at Marshall for the 20th see Richard, K8RMM if you are interested in the Marshall swap meet (<http://www.w8df.com/hamfest.html>).

Club Historian Position: Roger, KD8CSE read the Duties of Historian for Power Squadron Chapters that was submitted by Al, W8AMH and published in last months minutes. There was discussion to add the equipment inventory responsibility under the Club Historian. It was decided the Club Historian would report to an officer of the club so the records of the club would always have two people able to access them. We will also have to look at digitizing most of the paper materials. There are about five boxes of historic records at this time. We will continue discussions in future meetings to refine the roles and responsibilities of the Club Historian.

New Business/Announcements: Officer Elections are next month.

Scheduled Nets: Bill, WA8HEA asked the club if there was an interest in formally tracking our net check-ins for Emergency Communications credit. We would give people credit in the newsletter along with contact information. Bill made a motion for whoever has net control for the evening to track who checks in and submit the information for the Bolt. The motion was carried. President and VP usually take net control. If you are on the air and the President and VP are not there, then take net control. This involves 2 M equipment. During the formal tracking all communications would go through net control.

There are scripts on web sites you can reference. We will put a preamble and net script on the web site. We still need to decide if we want to join ARES or RACIS in the future. For right now we will start to track the check-ins.

Club Tables: The club voted to have a table at the Monroe Swap on Father's day, Sunday, June 20th. See Bill, WA8HEA for additional information.

See Bill, N80ZV if you know of someone who would like a mid 1950's Zenith trans-oceanic rig.

Magazines and Books: Bill, WA8HEA received a classic wire antenna book when he renewed his membership in ARRL. If someone would like to see it please contact Bill, WA8HEA before the next meeting. You can renew ARRL membership through the club. Bill will check into how to do this and he will get an e-mail out with the information.

Bernie, KD8KEO, will bring in his old CQ and QST magazines for the club.

Dayton Swap Meet: Al, W8AMH, asked if people were interested in buying advanced tickets to the Dayton Hamvention (<http://hamvention.org/>) May 14-16th. The tickets will be mailed in advance. Please contact Al, W8AMH if you are interested.

New Member: A Membership Application from Tye Winkel, KC8YEJ was received and approved. Tye works in the EESE-EMC lab at Ford Motor Company. Tye has an extra class license. Please welcome Tye to FARL!

Presentation: John, N3JM completed his presentation on lightning and its effects. He reviewed lightning protection systems and shared his own experience setting up ham shack lightning protection systems. John, N3JM also provided club members with a CD that contained his entire presentation for reference. Thank you John!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Debbe, KD8IWV donated an ARRL book on fox hunting techniques to the club.

Meeting minutes submitted by Debbe, KD8IWV, Secretary



ARRL Membership through the Ford Radio Club

As promised, I followed up on the ARRL membership and renewal process through clubs. Any member of an affiliated ARRL club (we are) can join or renew their membership by giving the club a check for the amount of the membership and filling out a membership/renewal application form. A regular membership costs \$39/year and the club gets to keep \$2. The club then sends the ARRL a check for \$37. It's just that easy. The application form also allows you to charge your renewal to your credit card if you wish. You then charge \$37 on your card for the renewal and pay the club \$2 directly. I will have ARRL membership forms at regular club meetings for anyone who would like to renew their ARRL membership through the club.

If you are an ARRL member, please consider renewing your membership through the Ford Radio Club. While \$2 doesn't seem like a lot, if every club member were to renew through the club, it all adds up. If you aren't an ARRL member, then consider joining. The QST magazine alone is worth the price, but the ARRL does SO MUCH MORE for supporting ham radio than just publish QST. The legislative action they initiate and support, the liaison with the FCC on communication issues involving ham radio and the defense they organize on commercial issues that challenge the use of our frequencies and operations is absolutely necessary to enjoy the airwaves the way we can today and in the future.

73,
Bill Brezina, WA8HEA



IMPORTANT - Ford Radio Club Call to Action - IMPORTANT

I am forwarding this message from the ARRL Great Lakes division so that more ham radio operators can respond to the call to action. Please write a letter and fax it to Representatives Waxman and Barton using the instructions included in the message. It is important to get this legislation out of committee so it can be acted upon otherwise it will simply die in committee, like so many other bills, due to inactivity.

I will also have printed copies of the suggested letter available at the next club meeting for members to sign and add their addresses, and I will fax each of them to Reps. Waxman and Barton. Please remember to change the date of the letter. I have already sent my letter to both of them. I do not get charged for long distance phone calls so there is no cost to me or the club for faxing these letters.

THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT! Please forward this message to all club members and publish this as an article in the next Bolt.

73,
Bill Brezina, WA8HEA

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "ARRL GL Division" <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
To: wbrezina@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 6:08:57 PM GMT -05:00 US/Canada Eastern
Subject: SPECIAL CALL TO ACTION -- Version No. 2

Dear fellow ARRL member,

A few days ago, I asked you to FAX letters to US Representative Henry Waxman and to US Representative Joe Barton urging them to release Senate bill S. 1755 from the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to the floor of the House. Although this is a Senate bill, it was passed by acclamation by the US Senate and now is awaiting action in the US House of Representatives. Our intent is to get the bill out of committee. After this has been done, we will notify you of the correct time to write in support of the bill to your own US Representative. Rep. Waxman is Chairman of the Committee and Rep. Barton is the ranking minority member of the Committee. Letters to your individual representatives will come later.

For the many of you who have already sent your letters, thank you. I apologize for this extra message. For you who have not yet sent letters, please do.

We strongly believe our goal of getting S. 1755 to the floor of the House will be accomplished provided every ARRL member who can get to a fax machine will help us fill the offices of the Committee leaders with fax messages.

What is the purpose of S. 1755? This is the first step toward overcoming the prohibitions against amateur antennas that are so common in CC&Rs included in land contracts. S. 1755 will direct the Department of Homeland Security to study and report on any needless impediments that prevent Amateur Radio from providing critical supplemental or replacement communication in time of emergency and disaster. We have reason to believe DHS will conclude among other things that CC&Rs that prohibit amateurs from putting antennas on their property are excessive and damage our ability to provide service in emergencies. Such a conclusion will lead directly into a second step of having a reasonable antenna law introduced into Congress. In essence, we are aiming at having a Federal law that provides much the same benefit for land contracts that FCC PRB-1 does for state and local ordinances.

Please copy the following message, add your personal information and make any other changes you may wish, and send the two Faxes within the coming day or two. Please also send e-mail copies of your letters to Division Legislative Action Chairman John Meyers, NB4K, nb4k@arrl.org.

If you do not have a home or office FAX machine, your local office supply store, shipping center and many drugstores and other stores will send faxes for a small fee.

If you will be at the Marshall or Toledo hamfests this weekend, you may stop by the ARRL booth where we will print a letter for you to sign and will take care of Faxing it for you.

The fax number for Chairman Waxman is: 202-225-2525

The fax number for Congressman Barton is: 202-225-1919

If possible, please also e-mail or USPS mail copies of your letters to Great Lakes Division Legislative Action Chairman John Meyers, NB4K (nb4k@arrl.org), 218 Cory Ln., Butler, KY 41006. John will collect these letters and letters we receive from other sources and forward them to John Chwat, our Washington lobbyist, to use when he visits Mr. Waxman and Mr. Barton. The main thing, though, is to fax letters to Congressmen Waxman and Barton.

One final comment. Please do not confuse this request with requests for action on bills that have been introduced into the Michigan and Ohio legislatures. These bills and S. 1755 need your active support. They provide different benefits to Amateur Radio. The PRB-1-type bills currently active in the Michigan and Ohio legislatures are being managed through Michigan SM Dale Williams, WA8EFK (wa8efk@arrl.org) and Ohio SM Frank Piper, KI8GW (ki8gw@arrl.org).

The letter to Representatives Waxman and Barton follows.

73, tnx,
Jim

PS to Club officers: Helping members generate letters would be a great and beneficial project for a club meeting. All that would be needed is a laptop and printer.

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director
ARRL Great Lakes Division
5065 Bethany Rd.
Mason, OH 45040
E-mail: k8je@arrl.org, Tel.: 513-459-1661
ARRL - The national association for Amateur Radio

Representative Henry A. Waxman
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Joe Barton
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2010

Dear Chairman Waxman and Ranking Member Barton:

As one of more than 680,000 Amateur Radio licensees throughout the United States, I urge your support for passage of S.1755, the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act," which is pending in your Committee. This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

S. 1755, a bipartisan bill sponsored by both Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins, passed without opposition in the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on November 4, 2009. On December 14 it passed by unanimous consent on the Senate floor. It was referred to your Committee on the following day.

This bill promotes and encourages the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response.

Please pass S.1755 and send it to the House floor and to President Obama for signature.

If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact John Chwat, the Washington, D.C. representative of the American Radio Relay League, Inc., 703-684-7703 or by e-mail to john.chwat@chwatco.com <<mailto:john.chwat@chwatco.com>>.

Sincerely,

[your name, address]



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.



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	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: April 8, 2010 at 6:30PM

Topic: Club Elections & Software-Defined Radio by Bill, WA8HEA

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