

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

President's Note: April, 2008

Results from the Survey:

Thank you to all who attended the March Tin Lizzy Club meeting. One of our agenda items was from the Ford Employee Recreation Association, or FERA. They were asking how they can help us promote and support our club. We came up with an idea regarding the promotion of our club Field Day activity, which could promote hams from within Ford to join us, and also non-hams who are interested in the hobby. FERA promised to give us good promotion time for our event on the mailings and the websites starting a few weeks before the event. I will certainly take them up on the offer. Please be on the lookout for new people at Field Day this year.

We have our club elections coming up this month. Please volunteer to support your club through a nomination for one of our positions. We have a pretty dedicated group who have been leading the club, and it is very nice to get some additional participation. Training is certainly included in any position, and we do love new ideas and activities. Please come ready to support our club in the election at this meeting. We do need a certain quorum in order to conduct the elections, based on the number of members present at past meetings. We will have to postpone our elections if we fail to reach the quorum, so please attend! The meeting is April 10th!

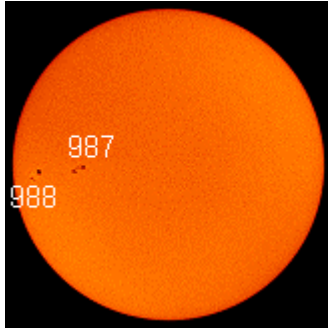
Electronics Gremlins: The electronics gremlins have invaded my home. After updating a wireless router that was resetting regularly, I ended up changing the device ID. While updating this device ID on my basement Ham radio computer, the wireless card seized up and refused to operate. Reloading the software via the CD rom drive was unsuccessful as well, as the CD ROM drive has stopped working. I was left with only the floppy drive with which to get data in and out of it. As this is an old Windows 98 machine, I believe that it is time to retire it. My wife's new laptop has been having a bunch of problems as well, with it back to Dell due to a blown display backlight inverter. Also, we have been off of the internet for a few days as our 3 month old replacement cable modem bit the dust. The prior one only lasted 2 years. This brings up a discussion about how well things are actually made these days. I cannot believe that the overall reliability of things is degrading that far, but the combination of the quantity of high tech gear and the complexity of such gear is part of the issue. I hope that overall quality is not declining. I know we are working very hard at Ford to make the vehicles extremely reliable. The public does not stand for poor quality of our automobiles. Back to the Dell situation: the diagnostics on the laptop were very good. It picked off the problem with the inverter within a couple of minutes of starting the test, and that allowed the service technician to quickly approve a return. The return box arrived the next morning at our door. At least Dell is trying to fix their problem.

Below is a note from Spaceweather.com from the Easter weekend. It shows two new sunspots. Unfortunately, they are near the equator. The sunspots for the new cycle 24 will appear north and south of the equator. Magnetic imaging confirmed that the polarization of these sunspots is consistent with Cycle 23 as well. So, our friend the Sun is not quite ready to usher in the new sunspot cycle just yet.

Daily Sun: 25 Mar 08

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New sunspots 987 and 988 are growing rapidly and pose a threat for [B-](#) and [C-class](#) solar flares. Although [Solar Cycle 24](#) has begun, these are not Cycle 24 spots. Their magnetic polarity associates them with old Cycle 23. Credit: SOHO/MDI
www.spaceweather.com

The good news for us is that the days are getting longer here in the northern hemisphere, meaning there is more time and intensity of the sunshine to ionize the band some and give us some propagation. A reminder that the Michigan QSO party is April 19th. It is a one day affair, and fun to operate on. See the details elsewhere in this newsletter.

A final reminder that the Dayton Hamvention is coming up in May. I have my ticket already, but have not determined when I will leave. I have an appointment with my wife on Friday morning, and we have a dinner to attend back in Ann Arbor that Sunday evening. I will have to work in Dayton in the middle of all of that! I may take the Arrow Club shuttle down, although I would hate to get up that early in the morning. The bus leaves Ann Arbor at 4:30am from Pioneer High School. A wee bit earlier than I usually rise and shine on a Saturday morning!

73,
Dave
N8HKU
FARL Club President

2008 Calendar of Events

April	5	ARGYL Hamfest, Lowell, MI http://www.argyl.org
	10	FARL Club Meeting, EMDO, 7 PM (Election of Officers)
	19	MARC Swap, Highland, MI http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk
May	3	Wexaukee ARC, Cadillac, MI http://www.wexaukeearc.org
	8	FARL Club Meeting, EMDO, 7 PM (Linux for Ham Radio)
	16-18	Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH www.hamvention.org
June	1	Chelsea Swap, Chelsea, MI - for info contact www.wd8iel.net
	7	IRA Good Old Days Hamfest, Grand Rapids, MI http://www.w8hvg.org
	8	GCARC Swap-in-the-Park, Garden City, MI www.gcarc.net
	12	FARL Club Meeting, EMDO, 7 PM (Field Day Preparations)
	14	Midland Hamfest, Midland, MI http://www.qsl.net/w8kea
15	Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI http://www.mcrca.org	

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28-29 Field Day Operations, Livonia Fire Dept.
28 NMARES Tailgate Swap, Elmira, MI <http://www.nmares.net>

July *No Club Meeting*

August *No Club Meeting*

September 11 *FARL Club Meeting, EMDO, 7 PM*
14 Adrian ARC Swap, Adrian, MI <http://www.W8TQE.com>
20 PEAC Bike Ride, Hines Park

October 9 *FARL Club Meeting, EMDO, 7 PM*
12 Michigan State Convention, Kalamazoo, MI
<http://www.kalamazooohamfest.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

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#.

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 can contact any Board member.

FARL MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 14 2008

Minutes recorded by Roger Reini, KD8CSE, recording secretary

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM by president Dave, N8HKU. He thanked Bill, WA8HEA and Roger, KD8CSE, for running last month's meeting while he was on vacation in Hawaii. 7 attendees present at the start of the meeting; one arrived later, making 8 overall.

MINUTES: Minutes for the February meeting were approved.

TREASURER: Bill, WA8HEA, reported on the state of the treasury (sound) and expenses (2 name badges for new members, 2 phone bills, Yahoo web fees and backup battery) and income (2 dues payments). He said that he was looking for a flow/trickle charger for the new backup

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battery for the repeater. Murray's has a reasonably priced model, so the attendees advised him to just go and get it.

TOLEDO SWAP: There was no interest in getting a club table for the swap.

ELECTIONS: They are next month, so start thinking about potential nominees for each office.

REPEATER: The status of the 220 link was not known at meeting time (it was subsequently confirmed that the link is still out of service). For phone patch information cards, see Dave, N8HKU.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: Bill, N8OZV, is planning another Technician class in April. Dave forwarded him contact information for a woman and two friends who were interested in a class.

NEWSLETTER: send articles and other information to Dave, N8HKU.

2 METER NET: on Sunday nights at 8 PM.

CLUB CALENDAR: attendees reviewed the club calendar for the balance of the year. Dave, N8HKU, called for volunteers to be presenters for meetings during the year.

FERA REQUEST: The attendees discussed a request from FERA to consider five questions about the FERA organization: what we would like to see FERA do to help our club, what can it do to help us attract new members, what programs could it offer, how can it attract new members for the executive board and new clubs to the organization. The benefits of FERA were recognized (the ticket sales, handling taxes, the website), but there was an observation that hobbies as a whole were on the decline. There were suggestions for a FERA bulletin board in buildings, where the latest information would always be readily available. There was a suggestion that FERA could leverage its size to get better liability insurance for its clubs, as well as a suggestion to revive the travel expo shows of the past.

OTHER BUSINESS: Bill, WA8HEA, mentioned a website that sold PDF copies of old manuals (service, operating, schematics) for \$2. He did not have the URL readily available.

TRAINING CLASSES BEYOND YOUR LICENSE: After the break, Dave, N8HKU, gave tonight's talk on Training Classes Beyond Your License. Now that you've received your license, what else is there? Quite a lot. The ARRL website sponsors several classes on emergency communications and emergency preparedness (note that FCC rules recognize and encourage amateur radio's role in emergency communications). There are also several technical education courses available in such things as antenna modeling, RFI, HF digital communications, analog and digital electronics. Don't forget about the world of kit building and homebrew, either.

ADJOURN: meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

STATION LOCATOR SERVICE NEW FOR FIELD DAY 2008

This note from the ARRL Letter sounds like a good idea for our club this year.

This year, for the first time, the ARRL has put together a Station Locator to help amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them. According to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, many amateurs have been asking for something like this for many years.

If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started. Just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php> and follow the instructions
ARRL Letter, March 20, 2008

ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many

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ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the IARU E-Letter.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

ARRL Letter, March 20, 2008

IN BRIEF

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, April 6, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, April 18, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). 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/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator cce@arrl.org.

ARRL Letter, March 20, 2008

2008 MICHIGAN QSO PARTY

Attention Michigan Amateurs!!!!

It's that time of year again! It's time to gear it up and get ready for the 2008 Michigan QSO Party. The MiQP has something to offer for everyone and there is no shortage of reasons for joining in on the fun on April 19th, 2008.

Last year was a good year for the MiQP. Activity was up and we hope to do even better this year. We hope to see an increase in activity within the traditional amateur radio clubs in Michigan. I think that most clubs are looking for special activities and the MiQP has some features that should be considered in filling this need.

This type of event is what it's all about. It is a group activity that can be a source enjoyment before, during and after the event! This year we will have the traditional categories such as

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Single-Operator, Multi-Operator and Mobile. But in addition to these, we are adding a new "Emergencies Operation Center" EOC category. This will provide an opportunity to brush up your clubs emergency operation skills and provide great training (and fun). This would also be a great opportunity to expose some of your newer members to emergency communications operations, but in a less formal environment.

As you can see from the rules listed below, this is only a 12 hour event. Please consider getting on the air for the whole thing, or any portion of the 12 hour period. You can operate from home, portable, mobile or at the clubs EOC. With the support of mobile and portable stations, we plan on having activity in all 83 counties.

Last but not least, we ask those of you that have participated in the MIQP to please help us get the word out and encourage other Michigan hams and radio clubs to participate and join the fun. See <http://www.miqp.org> for more details and the rules, !

Date /Time: Michigan QSO Party, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z April 19th t until 0400Z April 20th. Stations may operate the full 12 hours. (12 noon to 12 midnight local Michigan time on April 20th)

Modes and Categories: Phone and CW on 80/40/20/15/10 meters. Single-op, multi-op, mobile and Emergencies Operations Center (EOC) categories. Single-op entries are categorized by output power, QRP (5W or less), Low Power (100W or less), and High Power (greater than 100W)

Multipliers: Work stations once per band and mode. Work other states and Michigan Stations. MI to MI QSO's are allowed. Work portables and mobiles again as they change counties, state or province.

Exchange: Exchange QSO number and location (county for MI stations, state/province or "DX" for others).

Scoring: One point per phone QSO, two points per CW QSO. Count multipliers once per mode. Multipliers are MI counties for all entries, plus states & provinces for MI entries only. Final score is total QSO points times total multipliers.

Freqs: Suggested frequencies: CW-3545, 7045, 14045, 21045, 28045; Phone-3800, 7200, 14250, 21300, 28450.

Log Submittal: Mail logs no later than 30 days after the contest to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruet, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 or via e-mail to logs@miqp.org

More Information: For complete rules, along with free logging software, log and summary sheets, see <http://www.miqp.org>

73 es cu April 19th 2008
Mark NU8Z

Dayton 2008

The ARROW Communications Association, once again, is proud to sponsor a motor coach trip to the 2008 Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio. Started in 2002, this annual club activity has grown in size and

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reputation with Hams across Michigan. We have been host to over 250 Hams for this event. Last year was a sell out and based on early reservations, we expect to sell out again this year!



Join us Saturday, May 17, 2008, when we depart from Ann Arbor at 4:30 am, arriving in Dayton around 8:00 am. On board, you can stretch out, relax, chat with other Hams and enjoy a continental breakfast with coffee as the coach takes you directly to the door of the country's largest amateur radio event!

We arrive at Dayton early enough so that you can enjoy a full day!- Visit exhibits

- See what's new from major manufacturers
- Attend seminars
- Take license tests
- Shop one of the largest outdoor swap meets in the United States

When Hamvention closes at 5:00 p.m., return to the entrance with your purchases and our bus will pick you up for the ride back home. No standing in lines waiting for a shuttle bus or fighting traffic!

Got Stuff to sell? We can help!!!

Got stuff you want to get rid of? We will have an attended booth space in the flea market. If you buy a buss ticket, you can seel your stuff at our booth. The cost of the booth alone is \$70.00 more than the cost of the ticket, which makes the ARROW trip a GREAT value!

This is no ordinary bus trip—it's an ADVENTURE!

Tickets are \$60. This does NOT include your admission to the Hamvention. We suggest that you purchase your 2008 Hamvention ticket(s) in advance to take advantage of the discount and enjoy the day without waiting in line for your ticket.

To order by mail, [DOWNLOAD THE FLYER](#) , fill in the form and mail it in. While you're at it, print out a few extras and pass them out to everyone you know.

Link: <http://www.w8pgw.org/node/829>

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2007-2008 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

Next Club Meeting: Thursday, April 10th @ 7pm
Presentation: Election of Club Officers

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