



President's Notes, March 2012

Did you enjoy spring? What a wild March we had last month. When the low temperatures for the day are above the normal high temperatures, you do have a hot spell. All of that warm weather did spawn some heavy rains and also a few thunderstorms, including the tornados we have already had. I came home under a thunderstorm and a tornado warning, and was constantly looking outside during dinner for a rotating wall cloud that was several miles away but was never seen by me. We did have the tornados destroy a couple of homes in Dexter. One of my coworkers snapped a picture of one from her cell phone. I will provide a bit of a presentation this month on the 2012 Dexter tornado. A reminder to keep your Skywarn training up and be ready to look for storms or head down into a safe area of the house. I did have the batteries in my handi-talkie in good enough shape for the event.

We have club elections this month. We have some restrictions on who can hold certain offices, due to this being a Ford sponsored club, but we have spots open for associate members as well! One area we are looking to fill is the Field Day Chairperson for this year! Please volunteer!

Speaking of Field Day, we have our yearly Field Day exercises fast approaching. We got a note from the folks at the Livonia club just this past month with the following news: They are interested in running Field Day with us, and the Fire Tower will still be up this final year, and the area behind the fire station has been reserved for our use. We will take a vote this month on whether to join the LARC group this year, as we have in the past. This will be our last year at the Plymouth Road firehouse, as there are plans afoot to turn it into a retirement community. We have been coming to this location since I first joined the Ford club back in the late 1990s. We have finally gotten pretty good at locating there!

How my radio is working: My Icom 745 returned a couple of months ago, but I just got it unpacked and set up for some testing this week. Uncle Henry (Ford) has been keeping me very busy lately with the electrified vehicle launches, so I have not really had evenings or weekends to devote to some radio work. However, today I did manage to get a few projects done, including a set up of the radio on the bench and running it into a dummy load. All looked fine and was working well. No sign of intermittent transmissions or other problems. If not sooner, I will put the radio back on the air on April 21st and 2nd for the Michigan QSO party. A favorite spring event, it is kind of fun to be the one who is "wanted." With the high level of sunspots, I will be

interested to see how well 80m will do for intrastate contacts. It is a lot of fun to see how many counties I can work in-state on the low bands during the evening. I hope to hear you on the air!

Finally, those of us who have been on the Sunday night net had found out that the club 2m repeater stopped working properly. Murray, KE8UM, got up to take a look at it and brought it down for repairs. He has put it back up, and we had a very nice net last Sunday. See the article from Murray describing the repairs. Thank you, Murray!

73,
Dave,
N8HKU



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – March 08, 2012**

Minutes, FARL Club Meeting - March 8th, 2012

Meeting was called to order by Dave, N8HKU

At 18:32 (6:32p.m.)

8 members and 2 guests were present.

Minutes from prior meeting: Prior minutes were reviewed and approved as is.

Treasurers Report: Pat, WD8JDZ read the report. Motion to except as read. It was approved as read.

Board of Directors Meeting: No B.O.D. meeting held.

Committee Reports:

Repeaters: As of the meeting, the 2 mtr repeater was operating. Some time after that, it went down. Only running on the exciter. The 2 mtr repeater is down for repair. Murray, K8UM has it sitting home. The 100 watt amp is not working.

The 220 and 440 are operating about the same.

Dave, N8HKU still has phone patch operating instructions if needed.

Don't forget the Sunday Night Net @ 8p.m.

Education and Training: Bill Boyke, N8OZV was not available. So no new news on training.

Communication - Newsletter/Website: No new information on the newsletter or website. If you have a story or info for the newsletter, please contact Dave, N8HKU.

Historian: nothing new

Equipment Inventory: up to date

FERA: No new business

Unfinished/Current Business:

Unfinished Business:

Brief discussion of the upcoming Maker Faire. It will be held July 28th & 29th. Further info to follow.

Rick, K8RMM will have a table at the Toledo swap. Club members are welcome to use.

Current Business:

New member application from Gerald Laurence, KD8RFT. Approved for membership.

The on-line application is now working properly

The PEAC ride is this September. Looking for volunteers now for planning purposes.

Dues are coming due in April. Please bring a check (or money) to the meeting, or mail to club P.O. Box.

As of now, the fire tower is still available for use at the field day site. As for next year ???

Toledo Swap coming up on March 18th for those interested.

Milford Swap is April 14th. Club will have a table available.

Skywarn training has started. The schedule is on the club website.

Break: 18:56(6:56p.m.)

Presentation: Roger, KD8CSE presented the Wouxon radio and it's capabilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:29 (7:29p.m.)



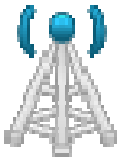
2012 Dues Reminder

Please remember to pay your 2012 club dues to Pat Quinn by the April meeting. You can either pay him at the club meetings, or you can send a check to FARL, PO Box 2711, Dearborn, MI, 48123. The dues are still \$15 to renew for the next year (April 2012 to April 2013). Pat will give you a new membership card as your receipt for the dues. You can also order a club name tag for \$5 if you need to replace one or simply want another one. New member dues are \$20 which includes the price of the name tag.



Upcoming Events

- Members interested in an upcoming event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ill fated voyage of the RMS Titanic may checkout <http://www.gr100mgy.org.uk/pages/about.htm> for more information.
- The ARRL reports on some special event stations planned to be activated for the Olympics: <http://www.arrl.org/news/special-event-stations-planned-for-london-2012-olympic-and-paralympic-games>



Ford Amateur Radio Repeater

K8UTT Service - 2 meter - Murray, KE8UM

Report no coverage.

Had the antennas eyeballed this happened right after bad storm.

3-23-2012 went to site.

Found power amplifier not working. I pulled the repeater to bench.

1. Tab on power transistor was arcing to foil. Pulled transistor cleaned tabs and tinned with silver solder as regular solder would not stick due to arcing damage and remounted. Foil had been damaged and transistor was previously replaced by someone else. Repaired foil also.
2. Replaced both pilot lamps.
3. Added 12 Volt DC pilot lamp for 12 Volts. Indication needed because on off switch kills 100 VAC but repeater is still alive due to batter back up.
4. Added PTT and TX enable push button switches for testing as previously done on 220 repeater.
5. Added RS-232 connector to repeater so it can just be unplugged for service. Added opposite the connector to main cabinet. This will now allow the back up 2 meter repeater to be plugged in.
6. Investigated the receiver chain and found external helical resonators for the original receiver had been left in line. The replacement MR-4 receiver board has the helical resonators built in. This caused too much loss so the external helical resonators have been removed.
7. Spent 3.5 hours on site 3-30-2-12 and completed item 5. During testing I found the link between the two repeaters not working and repaired an open wire. Both repeaters are now linked together and working.

Back in service 3-30-2-16 6:15pm

Next step will be to wire up the backup repeater and bring it to the site.

Murray, KE8UM



2012 Michigan QSO Party

(<http://www.miqp.org>)

16Z on April 21 to 04Z on April 22

(Noon until Midnight Eastern Time on Saturday, April 21, 2012)

The 2012 Michigan QSO Party will occur on Saturday, April 21, 2012 from noon until midnight local time (Eastern Time here in Michigan). This is 16Z on April 21, 2012 until 04Z on April 22, 2012 on the UTC calendar. There are no rules changes from 2011, so published rules and logging software will still be valid.

However, there are (or will be) some improvements here on the web site to support the 2012 event. Thanks to the programming skills of Tim Mitchell, K9TM, the 2012 Planned Operations Details page (see link next to the map at the top of this page) now has an automatically updating map showing the counties with planned operations.

Another improvement which is in the works for implementation prior to the 2012 MiQP involves how electronic logs will be submitted. In the past, entrants would attach their electronic logs to an e-mail and send it to logs @ miqp.org. While this method will still be in place, entrants will be encouraged instead to use the upcoming Log Submittal Web Page planned for the MiQP web site where entrants will be asked a few questions about their entry, then they will be able to upload their Cabrillo file right to the web page. This will allow us to automate the process for receiving logs, which in turn allows us to provide automatic feedback on submitted logs to flag many errors right away and also support an automatically generated list of submitted logs. The process will be the same as used for the Ohio QSO Party for the first time in 2011, and will help us turn around the QSO party results quicker with less manual effort.

Our thanks to all who participated in MiQP 2011. We hope to see everyone in 2012!

73,
MiQP Organizing Committee



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	Jerry Begal	248-543-2284	W9NPI@comcast.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.

The Garden City ARC will hold a 14 week class for the Amateur Extra License.

When: From 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Thursday evenings for 14 weeks, Beginning February 16th and ending May 17th

Where: The Garden City Presbyterian Church, on Middlebelt Road, just south of Ford Road.

Syllabus: 12 weeks of instruction and one week of review. The last class session will be an ARRL license exam.

Materials: No book or manual(s) are required, All instructional material will be handed out in class.

Cost: \$10.00, which is the instructor's cost of the software and handouts that will be used in class. (There will also be a \$15.00 exam fee payable on exam night.)

Instructors: Mat Breton, AB8JV; and Fred Comps, K8KUZ

Space is limited: Reserve your space by contacting Fred at 734-261-6441 or by emailing k8kuz@aol.com



2010-2011 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	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Vice President	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
Treasurer	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
Secretary	John Turowski	N8NWA	313-258-1996
Repeater Chair	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
K8UTT Trustee	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Activity Chair	Bill Boyke	N80ZV	313-805-8877
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 12, 2012 at 6:30PM
Topic: Club Elections

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