



President's Notes, April 2013

Where is the year going? It's April already. It hasn't seemed much like it with the weather, where winter has wanted to hang on. But the Milford swap is coming up soon, and so is the Michigan QSO Party, and next month we have Dayton Hamvention. So spring is indeed coming.

Did you get to watch the episode of "Last Man Standing" that featured amateur radio as a prime part of the plot? I've written up my comments, which can be found elsewhere in the newsletter this month. We can argue about the details of how ham radio was depicted in the episode, but it definitely brought more exposure to our hobby, and that's to be commended.

Also to be commended is Murray, KE8UM, for repairing our repeater and getting it back on the air. We had our first Sunday night net of 2013 this past Sunday night (the 7th), and it was good to hear everyone on the air again. The activity on weekday mornings is also starting up again. The repeater is sounding as good as ever. Now to tackle the repairs on the 440 repeater's antenna....

An article in the March issue of CQ magazine dealt with "100-watt QRP", or using a random length of wire (or Christmas lights or what have you) in parallel with a dummy load as a means of making contacts in antenna-restricted areas. The efficiency has to be lousy, but when the alternative is being off the air, its attractions are apparent. This is something I'm going to try over the next few months. I tried it this past weekend, attempting to contact HK3C (Colombia) on 12 meters; unfortunately, I wasn't successful, but there are bound to be more opportunities. This may make for a presentation in a few months, so stay tuned.

This month is annual report month and election month for the club, and our meeting will be devoted to those duties, so there won't be a presentation this month. We may have a visitor from LARC coming to discuss plans for Field Day, Michael Hanlon, KC8FEP. Now there's a sign that summer is on its way! You're all encouraged to come out and vote for your officers for next year. I do not believe that any of the current officers are ineligible for their current offices for next year, but that will be verified at the meeting. I hope to see you all there!

73,
Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2013**

Minutes, FARL Club Meeting - March 14, 2013

Meeting was called to order by Roger, KD8CSE at 18:38 (6:38p.m.)
6 members were present.

Minutes from prior meeting:

Prior minutes from Feb. 2013 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurers Report:

Pat, WD8JDZ read the report. Motion to accept as read. It was approved as read.
NOTE: Dues are coming up!

Board of Directors Meeting: No formal meeting was held.

An informal e-Mail communication was held concerning upcoming reports.

Committee Reports:

Repeaters:

Murray got access to the 2m repeater and removed the necessary equipment for repairs. Dave, N8HKU contacted the Dir. Of Eng. for the hotel and sent a letter about the club affiliation and make a good working relationship with the owners.

The 440 repeater is still in need of a new antenna.

The 220 is working good.

Remember the Sunday night net. (On hold until repeater is repaired)

Education and Training:

Nothing new to report. Plans for future classes will be announced at a later date.

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: None.

New Business:

Toledo Swap Mar 17th

Milford swap Apr. 20th

Dayton May 17th - 19th

The comedy show "Last Man Standing" will feature Ham Radio on its March 15th show.

Al, K8WXQ has made a generous notion of letting the club use his satellite equipment for use during Maker Faire and field day. The motion to accept was made by Rodney, K8SGL. Will get more info in the future.

LARC has sent a formal invitation for the FARL to join them at the new location for upcoming field day. Motion to accept was approved.

Break: 19:00 (7:00p.m.)

Presentation: Roger, KD8CSE did a presentation of the W3AO field day site and setup from 2009.

Topic for next month: Committee Reports and Board Elections...

The meeting was adjourned at 19:40 (7:40p.m.)



Comments on Last Man Standing: “The Fight”, March 15, 2013

- Roger Reini, KD8CSE

The March 15 episode of Last Man Standing, entitled “The Fight”, had a significant story line in which amateur radio played a key role. In the episode, middle daughter Mandy is doing poorly in history and has her phone and laptop taken away as a result. She discovers her father’s radio shack in the basement and, after hearing a QSO in progress, realizes it’s another form of social media and gets on the air herself. In the course of these QSO’s, she gets some important help on an assignment about World War II, which helps her grade immensely.

Now I am of two minds about this episode. On the one hand, it didn’t demonstrate correct operating procedure, and it did show operation without repercussion by someone who (presumably) isn’t licensed. On the other hand, it did a good job in depicting a ragchew and highlighting positive aspects of our hobby. To be honest, the producers of the show did warn the amateur community that, for purposes of dramatic license, they would be taking liberties. But the depiction of amateur radio was a favorable one, and if it was received well, we could see future stories involving ham radio. For instance, Mandy could study for her license, or she or her father (Tim Allen’s character) could get into trouble for her unlicensed operation.

73, KD8CSE



FCC Seeks to Reassess RF Exposure Limits

- ARRL

On March 27, the FCC released a *First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* and a *Notice of Inquiry* ([ET Docket Nos. 13-84 and 03-137](#)) (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2013/db0329/FCC-13-39A1.pdf). The documents seek to reassess the FCC’s RF exposure limits and policies, as well as to propose changes to the FCC’s rules regarding human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. These proposed changes would affect the Amateur Radio Service ([Part 97](#)) rules.

In the 201-page document, the FCC noted that “[p]eriodic review of the government’s rules and regulations to ensure they have kept pace with current knowledge and changing needs is an important characteristic of good government, and we here will advance the process of

providing a comprehensive review and modification, where appropriate, of this Commission's various rules pertaining to the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act ([NEPA](#)) (http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/nepapub/nepa_documents/RedDont/Req-NEPA.pdf) requirements for environmental reviews, specifically those reviews related to health and safety of radiofrequency (RF) emissions from radio transmitters. Our actions herein are intended to ensure that our measures are compliant with our environmental responsibilities and requirements and that the public is appropriately protected from any potential adverse effects from RF exposure as provided by our rules, while avoiding any unnecessary burden in complying with these rules."

The document is divided into three parts: a *First Report and Order (First R&O)* and a *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM)* in ET Docket No. 03-137, and a *Notice of Inquiry (Inquiry)* in a new docket, ET Docket No. 13-84. In the *R&O*, the FCC looks at several technical and semantic issues -- initiated in 2003 -- to be revised and updated; in the *FNPRM*, the FCC proposes to further update and revise its procedures and treat all services equally.

In the *Inquiry*, the FCC seeks comments to determine whether its RF exposure limits and policies need to be reassessed. "Since consideration of the limits themselves is explicitly outside of the scope of ET Docket 03-137, we propose with the *Inquiry* to open a new docket to consider those limits in light of more recent developments," the FCC said. "The *Inquiry* is intended to open discussion on both the currency of our RF exposure limits and possible policy approaches regarding RF exposure. We look forward to developing a complete record to determine whether the current rules and policies should remain unchanged, or should be relaxed or tightened."

According to the FCC, mitigation matters are "post-evaluation procedures to ensure exposure limits are not exceeded, such as labels, signs, barriers, enforcement and occupational issues." In its *Notice of Inquiry*, the FCC included clarifications related to the application of occupational exposure limits for devices and at fixed transmitter sites. The FCC noted that it "should be helpful to licensees to codify our earlier adopted policy with regard the use of occupational/controlled limits at Amateur Radio stations."

This policy was first established in the *RF Report and Order of 1996*, but it was not incorporated in the rules at that time. It allows amateur stations to be evaluated "with respect to occupational/controlled exposure limits, as long as appropriate training and information has been provided to the amateur licensee and members of his or her immediate household. Other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee's household must be evaluated with respect to the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits." The FCC will codify this policy by adding a paragraph as a new sub-section in [Section 1.1310](#) -- radiofrequency radiation exposure limits -- to its rules.

The FCC pointed out that one goal of the general exemptions from routine RF exposure evaluation proposed “is to avoid specific exemptions for particular services and ensure a consistent set of rules without exceptions.” With this in mind, the FCC is proposing to delete the special exemptions from evaluation in the Amateur Radio Service in [Section 97.13\(c\)](#) of its rules.

“We appreciate that Amateur Radio operators are knowledgeable about the appropriate use of their equipment, such that separation distances are likely to be maintained to ensure compliance with our exposure limits,” the FCC said. “However, since the existing amateur exemptions are based only on transmitter power and do not consider separation distance or antenna gain, exempt transmitting antennas that are unusually close to people could potentially lead to non-compliant exposure levels.” The FCC said that a separation distance of at least 24 feet would meet its proposed exemption criteria, “considering a currently exempt 50 W transmitter at VHF in accord with Section 97.13(c) and assuming an antenna gain of 6 dBd.”

The FCC noted that existing classification of amateur exposure as occupational “is consistent with use of our proposed general exemption criteria based on general population exposure limits because awareness of exposure greater than the general population limits is required in all occupational settings, including amateur households. Application of the general exemptions proposed here to Amateur Radio installations would preclude the possibility of overexposure and require further evaluation only when necessary, giving guidance for both fixed and mobile transmitting antennas.”

The FCC invited comments on how this would affect the amateur community: “Parties that support maintaining the current exemption based on power alone are requested to explain how it provides adequate assurance that the public is protected against exposure to RF energy in excess of our limits and the extent of the burden imposed by this proposal. We encourage interested parties to comment on the relative costs and benefits of the proposed changes in this section, as well as those of alternative approaches.”

“The ARRL has an RF Safety Committee, consisting of experts in the field,” explained ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ; “The committee members, as well as Board members and staff are reviewing the lengthy document and will formulate a response.”

Comments will be accepted until 90 days after the *R&O*, *FNPRM* and *Notice of Inquiry* are published in the *Federal Register* (<https://www.federalregister.gov/>) (this can take up to six weeks after its release by the FCC). Reply comments will be accepted until 150 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.



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 Begel	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.



2012-2013 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	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	313-405-2573



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 11, 2013 at 6:30PM
Topic: Club Year in Review and Club Elections

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