



President's Notes for April 2015

The calendar says it's spring. The trees don't quite agree yet; I haven't seen any leaves budding just yet. And on the last day of March, while most of us likely had a cold rain in the morning, those in the north part of town saw some snow. But soon, the weather will catch up to the calendar and it will be spring.

For ham radio in Michigan, April has meant the Milford hamfest and the Michigan QSO Party. Well, the hamfest isn't taking place this year, although there is hope it will be revived next year. But the QSO Party is still going strong and will be held April 18.

Here's something to consider for long-range planning: in the summer, the FERA General Council usually sponsors a summer outing for council members. For next year, Bill Boyke, N8OZV, who happens to be the FERA Vice-President for Council Activities, has suggested expanding the event to all FERA club members and inviting the clubs to put on demonstrations of their activities. For example, the Triathlon Club could stage a mini-triathlon. We could set up and operate a special event station, or we could provide radio support to that mini-triathlon. If there were enough of us, we could do both. It sounds like a very good idea to me; it would be a great way for the club to get exposure in front of people who would otherwise not know about what we do.

It's April, and that means it's time for annual officer elections. We had to postpone elections last year until May due to lack of a quorum. Please help us avoid a repeat by coming out to the meeting and help make up a quorum. All officer positions are up for election: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Activity Manager.

And after the elections have concluded, we will have a special treat: the first part of a lecture by Joe Taylor, K1JT, given at the ARRL Centennial Convention in July: DXing with Weak Signals and Beyond. It's a fairly long presentation (over 45 minutes), so the second half will be presented in a future meeting, most likely in May.

Hope to see you at April's meeting!

73,
Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2015**

Meeting Minutes for FARL March 12, 2015

In Attendance: 6 members, 0 guests

Dave Treharne - N8HKU
Pat Quinn - WD8JDZ
Roger Reini - KD8CSE
Rod Deyo - K8SGL
Sam Wells - KD8YTR
Richard Maske - K8RMM

Meeting called to order:

By Roger at 18:37 EDT

Review of the minutes

Reviewed. No comments for update

1. Motion by Pat, WD8JDZ to accept
2. Seconded by Rod, K8SGL.
3. Minutes from last month accepted unanimously

Treasury Report:

By Pat, WD8JDZ

1. Account balance was reviewed
2. Expenses incurred: None.
3. A donation check was presented to the club in honor of the estate of Stephen Zdan. The club has sent a Thank You letter. The donation was made possible by Bill, WA8HEA, who sold the amateur radio equipment from the estate.
4. Motion to accept made by Dave, N8HKU, 2nd by Sam, KD8YTR.
5. Treasurer's report accepted by all.

Repeater Report:

1. 2m and 220 MHz repeaters are working, 440 machine is not. Dave, N8HKU made the yearly update to the repeater coordinator. 440 was listed as it may be up by June, 2015.

- i. No interest at the meeting to go and find the 440 repeater. With it being at that remote site, and it being not connected to the 2m and 220 machine, there is not much interest in it. The club does not have plans on restoring this repeater.

2. Sunday night net: Ongoing, had a good crowd over the past few Sundays.

Training Report:

1. Extra Class training is now being held in the Ford Building 1 Atrium conference room on Tuesdays at 11am. Anyone can access this conference room.

Website info:

By Dave-N8HKU: Website is up to date.

FERA:

Equipment Inventory:

No new information to report.

Old Business:

1. Spare 2m repeater: No action on getting the repeater from Murray, KE8UM, and placing it into the Adoba site.
2. Field Day 2014: No bill from LARC or 2014 Field Day expenses.
3. Dearborn Schools ARISS contact: Mentors have been assigned to our proposal. We will still hold the event at the Berry Center in their auditorium.

New Business:

1. Toledo TMRA swap: This Sunday, March 15th.
2. Elections: Reminder that club elections are in April

Presentation Topic:

Digital HV Voice: David, N8HKU

Presentation available on the Club website under Presentations

Adjourned:

By Roger at 7:47pm local time.

Utah Group Puts Broadband-Hamnet to Work for Food Project – ARRL

A small band of Amateur Radio volunteers in Utah’s Salt Lake Valley successfully used a broadband WiFi network set up on the 2.4 GHz amateur band to help coordinate the Boy Scouts of America’s “Scouting for Food” project on March 21. in which Scouts collect items donated to a food bank. Local radio amateurs provide both voice and digital mode communication.

This year for the first time they used a **Broadband-Hamnet™** (<http://www.broadband-hamnet.org/>) (BBHN) system that coupled modified wireless router gear on amateur frequencies to create a peer-to-peer WiFi network to share audio and video over a generous patch of real estate. BBHN is a descendent of the former ARRL High Speed Multimedia (HSMM) Working Group **efforts** (http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/QEX_Nov_2004_p3-18.pdf) , earlier known as the “Hinternet” and pioneered by John Champa, K8OCL (SK), and others in the early 2000s.

“[W]e would call it WiFi on Steroids!” said David Bauman, KF7MCF. The Utah hams linked 13 nodes across the valley to form a network “that is like a mini private Internet,” Bauman explained. “They then used this network to send live video and audio back to the BSA Headquarters, showing them what was happening at food drop off sites and at the [truck dispatch] headquarters. Bauman called it “a huge step forward in technology from the old days of Morse Code.” Retired clergyman Robert Jelf, KG7OHV, of Magna, headed up the team.



Brandon Bauman KG7RWO, at his BBHN node near BSA

Just outside BSA Headquarters near the University of Utah, Brandon Bauman, KG7RWO, was able to watch via his laptop as volunteers miles away dropped off canned food items and as YRC freight dispatched trucks to pick-up sites around the valley. Brandon was part of an Amateur Radio group that assists the Boy Scouts in the Scouting for Food Project each year by providing communications. This marked the first time BBHN technology was used to support the project in the Salt Lake Valley. Their WiFi network, known as a wireless mesh network, was able to cover a large portion of the valley.

“The farthest point from our hub site was 8.5 miles across the city through a narrow path lined with lots of manmade objects for signals to bounce off,” Jelf said. “While the mesh group was used to show video of the dispatch of trucks and of truck trailers at collection points within the hub site path, collection took place throughout the Wasatch Front area and elsewhere in Utah.”



ARRL President, Directors and Officers Educate and Advocate on Capitol Hill – ARRL

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, made a new Amateur Radio friend on Capitol Hill this month as she headed a contingent of League Directors, officers, and staff advocating for **H.R. 1301** (<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c114:H.R.1301>) — The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015. Not only that, but Rep Daniel Benishek, KB8TOW (R-MI), signed on as an H.R. 1301 cosponsor. Others new to the fold include Reps Eliot Engel (D-NY), David Joyce (R-OH), and Jackie Walorski (R-IN), raising the total number of cosponsors to 26. Benishek is one of two known radio amateurs in Congress. The other is Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), who heads the subcommittee that will consider H.R. 1301.

“I visited 10 Congressional offices, including that of Dr Daniel Benishek, who represents Michigan’s 1st District. Dr Benishek is also an ARRL member,” President Craigie said this week. “He was very friendly, and I appreciated his meeting with me to talk about the bill.” Benishek’s legislative aide sat in on the conversation, she said. “We were already in the area for the Executive Committee meeting on March 21.”

If approved and signed by President Obama, the measure would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions — also known collectively as “deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions” or CC&Rs.

President Craigie said she got a cordial reception at all of the Capitol Hill offices she visited, and there was good dialog with the staff people she met. “I don’t mind probing questions,” she added. “They show that the staff person is actually thinking about the points I’m making.”

Rep Walden, also an ARRL member, and two of his subcommittee staffers met with ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB; West Gulf Division Director Dr

David Woolweaver, K5RAV; ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, and President Craigie to talk about strategy for H.R. 1301 going forward.

“At the end of the meeting, I asked Rep Walden how the ARRL could help him to help us,” President Craigie recounted. “He replied that it’s essential to continue educating people on the Hill — members of Congress, Senators, and their staffs — about the value and importance of Amateur Radio.”

President Craigie said ARRL officials can’t do the job by themselves, though. “ARRL members throughout the country must take advantage of every opportunity to convince our lawmakers that Amateur Radio is beneficial and that this bill is key to maintaining Amateur Radio as a resource,” she said. She encouraged ARRL members to write or call their US House members, urging them to sign on as H.R. 1301 cosponsors.

A regularly updated **H.R. 1301 page** (<http://www.arrl.org/hr-1301>) on the ARRL website includes key “talking points” and other information for Amateur Radio delegations or individuals to use when contacting US House members for their support.

President Craigie pointed out that one opportunity to contact their representatives in person would be during the Easter recess, March 27 through April 12, when lawmakers or their aides will be available at their district offices. At this time, League members are being encouraged to contact only US House members. Similar legislation has not yet been introduced in the US Senate.

“Members of Congress may hold open town hall meetings or be available to meet with constituents in the home district,” President Craigie pointed out. “The **information** (<http://www.arrl.org/hr-1301>) we need to prepare ourselves is posted on the ARRL web site. It’s not rocket science. It’s just telling someone briefly in plain English how Amateur Radio makes our communities better places to live and then asking for co-sponsorship of H.R. 1301.”

Others in the ARRL team visiting Capitol Hill were First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR, Second Vice President Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF; Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD.



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.



2014-2015 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 09, 2015 at 6:30PM

Topic: Club Elections and WJST Video with Joe Taylor, K1JT

The Ford Amateur Radio League

PO Box 2711

Dearborn, MI 48123