



President's Notes for April 2017

It is time again for the annual club elections. Being a Ford Employee Recreation Association Club, the officers for President, Vice President, and Treasurer are only open to Ford Motor Co employees and retirees. The offices of Secretary and Activities Manager are open to all members, including associate members. Please consider running for an office!

This coming Saturday, April 15th, is the Michigan QSO party from noon to midnight. I hope to get on the air and I hope you can do so as well! I received a note that the Livingston Amateur Radio Club in Howell, will start a 15 day Special Event Station from April 15th-30th, operating W8P. Suggested frequencies will be 21.300, 14.226, and 3.850 MHz. In addition, a new Emergency Operating Center (EOC) will be opening up and also celebrate the Michigan State Police on April 22nd and 23rd. Their suggested operating frequencies are 3.560, 3.930, 7.065, 7.230, 14,030, and 14.230 MHz.

Last month, I sent a letter on behalf of the club to the ARRL regarding the repeater directory RFinder to the ARRL, as was discussed in the February and March club meetings. Somewhat to my surprise, I received a request from the ARRL to have a phone discussion with CEO Tom Gallagher and Editor-in-Chief Steve Ford. We held a 30 minute discussion on March 21st. My summary is as follows, with more discussion during our April meeting:

Mr. Dale Williams and Mr. Larry Camp,

As part of the discussion on RFinder and the Repeater Directory discussion, the Ford Amateur Radio League wrote a letter to Tom Gallagher at the ARRL after reading a letter from the Michigan Area Repeater Council, MiARC. Attached is the letter, the resulting conversation notes from Tom Gallagher and Steve Ford from the ARRL, and from Daniel Thompson from MiARC. I wanted to keep you both informed to the various conversations going on regarding the submission of repeater information into the repeater directory.

Two items have come of this discussion, in my opinion. 1. Many repeaters may not be listed in the Directory this year, as repeater owners, such as ourselves, were very accustomed to having our information loaded into the Repeater Directory right from the coordination body, which did not happen this year. MiARC were under the impression that the RFinder would use prior year's data, yet the ARRL indicated this was not the case. I was unaware that we could submit data to RFinder directly. 2. No one is sure of the process to verify the repeater information, and how to keep the exact location of the repeater sites as secure as possible, at least against those not skilled enough to find a location via direction finding. MiARC felt they had to provide only exact coordinates with the listings, ARRL feels that the data can be sent obscured or modified, and RFinder has not reached out to repeater owners/trustees to verify information, correct it, or prevent issues with locations.

The issues above seem like they can be solved, and at least the on-line version improved over the course of the coming year. Please stay in touch with us to allow us to help and participate in developing and implementing the solution to allow the best access to Repeater Directory information for all.

The response from Dale Williams, ARRL Great Lakes Director, is below:

David,

Thanks for forwarding the updated correspondence. As we move forward, I think that clarity is being added to the issues of concern for everyone involved. This move to a different media has exposed some unexpected complexities and we are reaching the stage where each is being addressed and resolved systematically.

Thanks for your concerns and thanks for bringing them to the ARRL in a concise and clear manner.

I met with Tom Gallagher over this past weekend and I have nothing to report beyond what we have already shared with MiARC. As the publication date is upon us, I think our next step will be to rationally and carefully examine the product in the field, both in

printed form and on-line and then offer recommendations for any changes or improvements.

73,

*Dale Williams WA8EFK
Director
Great Lakes Division
ARRL*

David Treharne
N8HKU
President: FARL



Club Dues: Dues are due this month! \$15/yr. Ok to send them to the club PO Box if you cannot attend the meeting!

Michigan QSO Party: www.miqp.org

What happened to Heathkit? See the website with more information:
http://electronicdesign.com/analog/whatever-happened-heathkit?code=UM_Classics03217&utm_rid=CPG05000005582956&utm_campaign=10366&utm_medium=email&elq2=1a6fd30050e147e1992d64c01355e879

High Altitude Balloon Mobile APRS on April 8th !

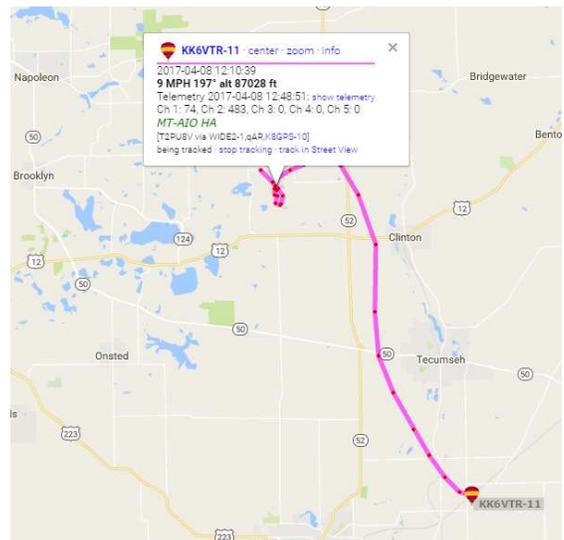
- David Treharne, N8HKU

I was in my car travelling for an appointment on Saturday at noon when APRS reported a balloon mobile station, KK8VTR. I thought, hot air balloon 26 miles away? Then I flipped the screen on my Yaesu FT-400XDR for the information, and found the report was from an altitude of 76,000 ft! It rose as I travelled. My last report was at 12:10pm, as shown on the map below. When my appointment was done, it was still tracking on the APRS. I got a photo of the last report I had, 26 miles away, 7,400ft, and falling



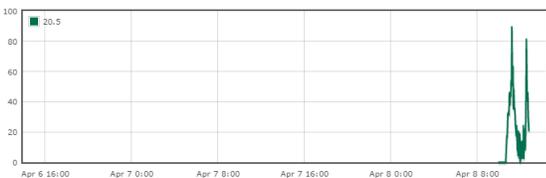
fast. When I got home, I looked it up on APRS.fi, and found that it was released near Manchester, MI, and landed near Tecumseh.

That was the first balloon I had seen on the APRS, although I have seen small airplanes showing up before. When the APRS calculates distance, it is using the distance to a point on the ground, not including altitude. At 80,000 ft, the actual distance



between us would need to include an additional 15 miles of altitude! The balloon was not digipeating through the closest ground station, but points far afield, such as Northern Indiana and mid-Ohio, near Columbus. The Internet Gateway antennas were not pointing up for signals! I was picking up the signal in my car courtesy of the Chelsea Digipeater. Always fun to see who may be transmitting on APRS!

Speed of KK6VTR-11 2017-04-06 14:00:00 -> 2017-04-08 14:27:13 EDT
MPH - APRS reported speed



Altitude of KK6VTR-11 2017-04-06 14:00:00 -> 2017-04-08 14:27:13 EDT
ft - Reported altitude





Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – March 09, 2017**

Ford Amateur Radio League Meeting Minutes March 9, 2017

Call to order at 6:05 PM by Dave was done.

(Roger was on Vacation)

1. **Minutes** from prior meeting reviewed, motion made and approved.
2. **Treasurers Report:** Pat reported that the balance was (not shown) with interest (not shown).
 - Pat discussed with have \$ in account and interest. Not stated here.
 - Income of \$90 received.
 - Table fee for Livonia Hamfest of \$17 was discussed, motion made to approve this and seconded.
 - Motion to approve treasurer's report approved.
 - M. Lunn offered to have the new students that pass exam get a discounted membership to the FARL; he has 6 years ahead paid and can offer this. Not decided at the meeting, some discussion of free or reduced but goal of engagement was noted.
3. **Board of Directors Discussion:**
 - Ham Con Oct. 7-8, 2017 was discussed as new event for the calendar being held at the Michigan International Speedway. The Great Lakes Amateur Radio Association is trying this for first year and looking for support, sponsorship by the radio clubs in region. Letter from Larry Camp Michigan Section Manager was attached. Board had met on this and recommended VE testing support for this first event year. Discussion held and agreed to the recommendation.
 - RF Finder discussion of a final letter sent by FARL (Dave Treharne as president) was held and agreed.
4. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Repeater** has some interesting issues; one AM had an output with no PL sent. This is not normal as the PL is used but repeater has variability.
 - B. **Net** is going and OK in Analog so far.
 - C. **Education and Training**, none coming. Tye has 4-5 people in Ford for the next class and mix of technician and general class. Plan is for class on the

11-12 times at Ford, Building 2 or 3, 6-8 weeks time and end prior to Easter per Bill.

- D. Education and Training has classes starting in next two weeks and test by the end of May per Bill Boyke.
- E. **Communications and newsletter** – send items to Rajiv Bolt is sent out to a list with the note, should be to all but contact Roger if issues.
Website had no comments or issues.
- F. **Historian** has transitioned to TyeWinkel, no discussion at meeting.
- G. No **equipment** discussion.

5. Unfinished and Current Business:

- A. Club Certification form for FERA submitted by Dave. All the events, support of community and status were discussed and should be enough.
- B. FERA dinner at Henry Ford's Fairlane home held 4/6 and first dinner in the restored house, tickets for all clubs available at cost if you want to attend.

6. New Business:

- A. Toledo Hamfest coming March 19, communicate to Mac if you're looking for a carpool.
- B. Club Elections at April Meeting, please attend and run for office!
- Yaesu Shirts from Dayton were at meeting; M. Lunn offered to the group and passed out.
- LARC Hamfest was discussed to support for a club table. Two were to be there and sell, a club table was supported for \$17 by motion to approve. Bill or Roger to get a table. Who has the FARL banner was asked but not known at the meeting.
- New program discussion, Mac mentioned the STEM classes for basic electrical, Arduino programming later in spring. Could have a guest speaker from IEEE and local Ham Radio come to present.

Program: VOACAP Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program was discussed by Dave and example of the use of this to predict Field day results. www.voacap.com is the website for program; Dave saw this from an ARRL article and thought does it fit the data of the field day from our records of logging program.

This is a long term program that has been used by VOA for decades and improved from reports, models that is now software and has selections for the band used, location, antenna

type, height of antenna, power, noise level, time of day and day. The prediction has an actual time of day and day, since this was done in March 2017 the actual data was used from records so it's a real comparison of real field day data. The overall pattern is predicted by the program, the actual data was used as information graphic and the areas mostly fit. Some extreme examples of prediction by a band, time of day and location at far point (Alaska, Texas, and one sample point) was discussed. The test of VOACAP does predict the best time of reaching on a band the distant points was used and it mostly fit the pattern predicted. The bounces on layers are also shown and it's a good fit of results. Vertical antenna shown vs. dipole (G5RV used in 2016 field day is just a dipole to this program).

Overall a very good presentation and example of what the government does, long term studies and large data sets applied to predictions. Some comments are that the antenna orientation does not have an angle entered in the program, seems to be an issue for propagation and reception but it predicts well without this.

Adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Attendance:

1. Malcolm Lunn, KD8TPO
2. Bob Stead K8ETE
3. Sam Wells, KD8YTR
4. Bill Boyke, N80ZV
5. Robert Rusty Eizen, N8RGI
6. Rodney Deyo, K8SGL
7. Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ
8. Dave Treharne, N8HKU



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

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.



2016-2017 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	Mac Lunn	KD8TPO	313-805-0427
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 6:00 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 13, 2017 at 6:00PM

Topic: USB SDR Radio Receivers, Tye Winkel, KC8YEJ & Club Elections

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