



FARL President's Notes, December 2009

Well, here we are in the last month of 2009. This will be the last Bolt you see before the New Year, and so I think it's appropriate to reflect on this past year and think about what is to come. We've had quite a few new members join us this year. Many have been hams of long standing, but some have been recently minted hams. And some of those hams became hams thanks to the training and exams offered by Bill, N8OZV, at Ford and other locations this year. We've helped to sell off equipment belonging to silent-key amateurs, insuring that they'll be back in service rather than gathering dust in a no-longer-used shack. We had another successful Field Day partnership with LARC. We provided radio and some SAG support for the PEAC Celebration of Cycling again. And all these should continue in 2010. And maybe, just maybe, Solar Cycle 24 will take off.

Unfortunately, it seems we won't be performing one of our usual service activities this year. At the time of this writing, **the Speaking With Santa/Radio Santa event at Mott Children's Hospital scheduled for December 1st has been cancelled, as have other Christmas activities at the hospital due to the concerns over the H1N1 virus.** There was a slight possibility at the time of writing that the event might go forward after all, but it seemed unlikely. The safety of the patients must take precedence, of course; still, even though I've only been doing this a couple of years, I'm disappointed I won't be able to make the rounds in an elf costume with my HT, helping to brighten the day for young patients who probably don't have that many bright days at the hospital. We'll try and make up for missing this year with a Christmas-in-July event next summer, as well as resuming our normal event next December.

If you're looking for Christmas presents at a hamfest, then unless you went to the L'Anse Creuse event, you're out of luck. They're all over for the year. But if you're looking for after-Christmas presents, then there is the Hazel Park event coming up in January. Look for our table there! Advice to our newer hams who don't yet have their first transceivers: you can find good deals at the swaps. Hazel Park was where I found my first HT the day after passing my Technician exam.

Don't forget: we don't have a regular meeting this month (so don't go to the EMDO Building), but we do have our annual Christmas dinner down in Southgate at Mallie's Sports Grill & Bar (www.malliesbar.com). It may be a little farther away from our normal stomping grounds than what we're used to, but I'm assured that we will have good food and a good time. If you can make it, great, see you there! If you can't, then see you at our January meeting.

73,
Roger, KD8CSE

**Ford Amateur Radio League** (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club)
Club Meeting Minutes - November 12, 2009

Business Meeting

1. Call to Order at 6:33 p.m. by Roger, KD8CSE, President.
2. Introductions of attendees. No guests were in attendance. Seventeen members were in attendance.
3. Minutes from prior Meeting on October 08, 2009 were approved as written by voice vote.
4. Treasurer's Report presented by Dave Treharne N8HKU. The report was approved as presented by a voice vote.
5. Communications from the Board of Directors – No communications were presented this month.
6. Committee Reports:
 - a. Repeater - No issues were reported. Report any issues to Roger KD8CSE, Dave N8HKU, or Murray KE8UM
 - i. Repeater Phone Patch Instructions: Ask N8HKU if needed.
 - b. Education/Training - The Ford Yacht Club is going to try to reschedule training for mid-November through December on Saturdays. If this time does not work for the Ford Yacht Club the training may move into January. We will need volunteer examiners at this training. Please contact N8OZV. N8OZV will also be willing to do additional training for a group, please contact him if you would like to set up a training class.
 - c. Communications-Newsletter/Website
 - i. Newsletter - A December editor is needed. Roger KD8CSE will ask Rajiv KD8LHF if he is willing to publish the December newsletter and to see if he would be willing to be the permanent editor of the newsletter.
 - ii. Website: www.k8utt.org - Nothing is on the for sale page this moment. If you have something for sale please give Dave N8HKU the information and a picture. You can also give Dave copies of your presentations to post on the web.

7. Unfinished/Current Business:

- a. Christmas Dinner Dec. 10th: at 6:00 p.m. Mallie's (www.malliesbar.com) was selected as the site of the Christmas dinner. Members, families, and friends are invited. Additional details will be on the website www.K8UTT.org
- b. Radio Santa Tuesday, Dec. 1st, at 6:00 p.m., Mott's Children's Hospital at U of M at the Big Bird in the Main Hallway: Park at Women's and Children's Hospital Parking Deck. Volunteers, sign up with N8OZV he needs a list of volunteers who are interested. As of right now we have the minimum number of members to support this effort. We still need additional volunteers. This is our 16th year. This gives hospitalized children the opportunity to talk to "Santa" at the North Pole. Contact N8OZV for additional details. Costumes are included. We are not allowed to ask how they feel, what is wrong, and when will they be going home.

8. New Business/Announcements

- a. Distribution of newsletter by e-mail along with regular mail. An e-mail will go out to see who would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail instead of regular mail. Both methods of delivery will be supported.
- b. The club voted to get a table for the L'Anse Creuse Hamfest on December 6th and the Hazel Park Hamfest on January 17th. Bill WA8HEA will secure tables at both of these Hamfests.

9. John, N3JM gave a presentation on Lightning and its Effects. There were fantastic graphics along with information on how lightning forms and the different types of lightning. John also presented safety tips and showed the aftermath of lightning strikes. If you would like a copy of the presentation please contact John and he will send you a copy. He will give a presentation on grounding in February.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Reminder: The meeting for December will be replaced by the Christmas dinner at Mallie's.



UPDATE: Hands-Free Radio Operation In Ontario and Canada - Roger, KD8CSE

You'll recall that in October's meeting, we discussed a new law soon to take effect in Ontario that forbids the use of any hand-held communication or entertainment device while driving. This included the use of two-way radio equipment (emergency personnel excepted). It also included a provision that it would not be applied to amateur radio operators immediately but would be phased in over a three-year period. It turns out that this phase-in period applies only to amateurs holding a Canadian radio license. For US and other hams, there is no phase-in period; it is in effect now (see Weaver's Words for November 28, 2009 from the ARRL – Jim Weaver, K8JE, is ARRL Division Manager for the Great Lakes Division)

The Radio Amateurs of Canada blog (<http://racblog.wordpress.com/>) contains several posts about the new Ontario law and the reaction it has received. I recommend reading the entries and the comments about those entries. The blog also makes it clear that there is no national legislation governing hands-free operation in vehicles; the provinces control that, and practices vary widely across Canada.

What does this mean to us amateurs in the US? It means we should stay abreast of the latest news and research on hands-free operation and monitor any ARRL announcements on the subject. We may also want to consider advancing any purchases or homebrewing of any hands-free interfaces for our mobile rigs.

73,
Roger, KD8CSE

Upcoming Contests Calendar

December

- 4 - 6 ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- 5 - 6 ARRL International EME Competition
- 12 - 13 ARRL 10 Meter Contest



Operating Courtesy - James Weaver, K8JE

(Weaver's Words, ARRL Great Lakes Division)

Our ability to drive on streets and highways in reasonable safety depends on orderly driving practices by our fellow drivers and us. Our ability to conduct day-to-day business depends largely on basic honesty between other people and us. So too, our ability to operate and enjoy Amateur Radio depends on mutual courtesy between our fellow amateurs and us.

To exist in harmony with each other, we need to respect the needs and rights of each other. When it comes to this, all that is needed is to observe the Golden Rule -- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

It is unfortunate that too many hams overlook the Golden Rule. Instead they fail to observe good operating practices and FCC regulations when operating. This occurs most noticeably, but not totally, during contests and DX pileups.

I refer to the bad operating that occurs when in their eagerness to compete, contesters or DXers thoughtlessly transmit on top of ongoing QSOs. Equally bad is when a member of a scheduled net or QSO acts as though the frequency belongs to them and barges into another QSO, contest or DX pileup to claim the frequency by brute force. Either situation represents poor operating practice -- and maybe a flagrant rules violation.

There are gray areas associated with QRM. These gray areas often occur as propagation shifts. As this shift occurs, distant, previously-unheard stations may come into range . . . right on top of an ongoing QSO or net.

When propagation shift results in QRM, which station is at fault? Neither, probably. The situation is an act of the propagation gods. Yet, much of the time we hear one or both stations complain ad nauseum about the discourteous behavior of the other guy who suddenly started to QRM. Never mind that the other guy may have been on frequency for at least as long as the other operator.

A mature operating attitude is all that is needed to resolve coincidental QRM such as this. Someone probably should QSY.

If you are a net control or net manager, the message is that the net does not own a frequency; any frequency. Most NTS nets of which I am aware understand this and act accordingly. Members of a few other nets sometimes seem to be uneducated about this fact and often try to capture "their" frequency by stomping all over (technical term) other operators.

Courtesy is a free, readily-available commodity. It should be exercised more frequently and more fully.



Amateur Radio: An Emergency Communication Service?

- James Weaver, K8JE (Weaver's Words, ARRL Great Lakes Division)

FCC's statement that Amateur Radio is not an emergency communication service created furor among a number of amateurs. They heatedly insist Amateur Radio is an emergency communication service. I understand what they are saying, but I disagree with them. To call the great service we love and enjoy an EmComm service short changes it. Ham radio is much more than an EmComm service.

The basis and purpose of Amateur Radio as the FCC lists them in Part 97 are:

97.1 Basis and purpose . . . fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary, non-commercial communications service particularly with respect in providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Section 97.1 identifies four purposes for Amateur Radio. Only one of these relates to EmComm. By definition, Amateur Radio is more than an EmComm service. Realizing this fact does not detract from ham radio as an important provider of emergency communication support to the public. It merely allows us to realize the broader value FCC places on our service.



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 Garden City ARC is conducting 'Extra' license classes through the Garden City Public Schools. Classes run from Sep 22, 2009 through Jan 12, 2010 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Cost is \$25. Contact 734-762-8430 to register. 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	Dee Flint	248-981-8145	N8UZE@arrl.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. Contact them for additional information.



2009-2010 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	Bill Brezina	WA8HEA	313-563-2905
Secretary	Debbe Yeager	KD8IWV	734-981-3188
Repeater Chair	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
K8UTT Trustee	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Activity Chair	John Stucka	N3JM	313-576-9880
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/Dinner:

December 10th at 6 p.m., Mallie's Sports Grill & Bar

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