



President's Notes for December 2016

Our 2m repeater: The noise continues to be quite variable, with some mornings having no noise, some having continuous noise. Each work day, I can see the lights on the hotel if I take Michigan Avenue into my office. With the loss of the leaves from the trees, the hotel is actually visible from the parking lot of the Ford Engineering Laboratory, known by many retirees by its former names of EEE or POEE building. The lights are on and functioning no matter if the noise is present or not. Humid or dry, warm or cold, I have not found a pattern with the weather that predicts this noise. Even though this goes on, please join us for the Sunday night net. We have been able to conduct the net regularly since Murray was up and made some updates in October.

Back on the air over the HF bands: I reassembled my station and got back on the air in November for the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes. The station had been in a state of disassembly over the summer, as I unhooked my radio in order to connect and test the club Yaesu FT-991, its case set-up, and the issues we had with the antenna tuner. After all got set up and tested, I did not have the time to reconnect everything. So, for fall, I dug my antenna tuner out of the club case (I had it in for back-up while the club tuner was out for repair), and hooked up the antennas, grounds, and get everything working. Next, I tackled the MFJ Voice Keyer. I thought we had used it in the past on the Icom radios, but it was completely set up for the Yaesu FT-990 radio. I dug into the case and reset all of the jumpers, plus found the jumper to supply voltage to the Icom IC microphone. Icom

microphones need DC power, and the MFJ tuner blocked that with a capacitor. However, they also supplied their own optional power, and I managed to get that hooked up and working. After all of this, I was ready for the Sweeps! I enjoyed the sweepstakes, managing 63 out of the 83 sections, with 142 contacts over 6 hours of operating. I managed to work 15m, 20m, 40m, and 80m during the contest. Not bad for sunspots at a whopping 28 that weekend! However, my quest for a sweep was dashed by a lack of both close-in and far away sections. I did not log any Hawaii, Alaska, Northwest Territories, Puerto Rico, nor the Virgin Islands. I also missed almost all of the Ontario sections close in. Nevertheless, I enjoyed hunting new sections on the bands and calling CQ with the help of the voice keyer. I am ready for a few more operating events this winter down in my basement shack.

73,
David Treharne
N8HKU
FARL Club President

December Christmas Dinner!

We are heading back to the [Mexican Fiesta Restaurant](#) on Ford Rd at Telegraph in Dearborn Heights for our annual dinner. We will meet up at 6pm on Thursday, December 8th for our event. Look for an email to RSVP so we can get the best table size. Remember to avoid parking in the IHOP parking lot, as they will ticket and tow!



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2016**

Ford Amateur Radio League Meeting Minutes November 10. 2016

Call to order at 6:02 PM by Dave was done, we started the early time OK with most all in the earlier time! A knock was heard and we answered.

1. **Minutes from prior meeting** reviewed, corrected for the spelling of Roger's name (MS Word does not like the spelling) and approved.
2. **Treasurers Report:** Pat reported that the balance was (not shown) with interest (not shown).
 - Dues for \$20 received from prior meeting.
 - The Radio FT 990 sold on eBay and was shipped to a buyer. Final amount to league was \$468.06, cost of shipping, PayPal in the agenda for meeting and will be in the account.
 - Cost of \$15.00 for the Domain name was approved to pay to Roger for the website annual cost.
3. **Board of Directors Discussion:** no comments
4. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Repeater** noise has been lessened and the hum is not as bad as prior to the updates of metal box actions that were done.
Murray (repeater coordinator) has had access again in last month and has worked on shield, ground and a full 2m shutdown relay added. Its working sometime better than prior.
Some issues are emerging yet and its been shut of by remote for noise issue, but does come back on again (on its own). Time announcement is not always correct, sometimes later its correct again.
Battery backup power is added again to be working with the relay. Also Murray added a RS 232 port to have better access to the connections and service.
The access to the site is good so far with new engineering director and may have some interest in the Lighting installation to improve. Dave has some ferrite beads to suggest and discussion may proceed, have to see what the site allows and wants.
 - B. **Net**, going on Sunday nights, can be a noisy but Digital works.
 - C. **Education and Training**, none coming.
 - D. **Communications and newsletter:** send items to Rajiv

E. **Historian** has transitioned to Tye Winkel, no discussion at meeting.

F. The radio for new hams has two kits ready for antenna, radio and cable.

5. Unfinished and Current Business:

- Club Liability Insurance was discussed and in the mail sent, received at box and people somehow this lapsed. Discussion was that for \$320 the policy for the prior amount of coverage can be renewed per quote. Necessary to cover the operations, motion to approve made and approved.

6. New Business

- Party for the year discussed and locations reviewed, Date of meeting. The plan for 12/8 is normal 2nd Tuesday and its at the Mexican Fiesta in Dearborn (Telegraph and Ford Road corner, a block west on Telegraph). Parking was discussed and its tight but you can park at AutoZone, Bank, and on streets around restaurant.)
- Tom Bray was a former member and returned to Ford after Visteon, has rejoined.

Program: GPS: how it works was discussed by Dave Treharne and followed on the APRS topic prior. He thought this would be interesting since the prior APRS with Yaesu Fusion Radio was using GPS and had some issues of operation, but how it works and the signal, satellites and function was a long discussion.

Adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Attendance:

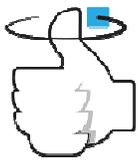
1. Dave Treharne, N8HKU
2. Malcolm Lunn, KD8TPO
3. Jessie Trimble, AC8WP
4. Gerry Trimble, KB8HZ
5. Bob Stead, K8ETE
6. Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ
7. Rodney Deyo, K8SGL
8. Roger Reini, KD8CSE
9. Sam Wells, KD8YTR
10. Al Habbal, W8AMH
11. Tom Bray, W8TJB, ex WB8COX
12. Robert Rusty Eizen, N8RGI

ThumbSat: Here is some information from a group who is working to launch small satellites, called Thumbsats, and working to distribute and sell small SDR receivers to send the data back to their mission control. The receiver is a neat unit, like an SDR dongle. For the schools, they have an automatic azimuth/elevation antenna pointing system made from light, small motors and 3D printed gears.

Their first launch is planned on a Star 1 satellite launch for Dec 15th, 2016. Their 2nd satellite is planned to launch on March 15, 2017. They wanted to share their designs and ideas with as many clubs as possible, per below.

Dave, N8HKU

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THUMBSAT

ThumbSat - Wade VanLandingham, W4VNO
My name is Wade VanLandingham and I manage a non-profit organization called ThumbNet. (

<http://www.thumbsat.com/thumbnet>) To quote part of our own page: ThumbNet was born to encourage students around the world to look up at the stars and to give them a chance to feel that they are part of something larger. The hardware to track and monitor radio signals from satellites in orbit is donated to the schools by ThumbNet, and with over 225 volunteer groups in more than 72 countries, we're having an immediate and positive effect on the lives of hundreds of students around the globe!

I'm not sure if your club puts out a newsletter to your members around the Dearborn area, but I know from experience that finding content can sometimes be tricky month after month. I have a small press release about

a new receiver for Software Defined Radio (SDR) (<http://www.arri.org/software-defined-radio>) that we developed for ThumbNet, that may interest your members. It may make a nice, small article for you, just in time for Christmas.

ThumbNet's N3 SDR receiver is unique in its design and it is competitive in cost with the majority of the SDR dongles on Amazon or eBay. We design and produce updates of the receiver to meet the needs of the ThumbNet network, (This is the 3rd generation.) but due to minimum order quantities from the manufacturer, we end up with several hundred more than we need each time we do so. In order to not have thousands of SDR radios laying around, I try to offer them to others that share our education efforts (like Girl Scouts) or simply may have an interest in working with them (like HAM clubs). The small proceeds that remain go right back into the project to support its continued outreach and growth, and not into someone's retirement fund.

Due to the risk of viruses, I would not send you an attachment to open via email, but your members might like to visit the page here: <http://www.thumbsat.com/thumbnet> and <http://www.nongles.com> to learn more and consider supporting ThumbNet. Reviews are also beginning to appear on various SDR blogs such as <http://www.rtl-sdr.com>.



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	KD8TPO	
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: December 08, 2016 at 6:00PM

Topic: Annual Christmas Dinner: Mexican Fiesta Restaurant, Ford Rd at Telegraph.

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