



FARL President's Notes, February 2010

Another month is here, and that means another newsletter. Our first attempt at reducing the physical mailing list went well, except that I forgot to send the electronic copy out until the middle of the club meeting. Better late than never, I suppose. Still, I shall do better this month.

I enjoy the flexibility of my iPod touch, how it is capable of doing so many things via its apps. It's able to serve as a GPS unit in my car, thanks to an app. It can also serve as a remote control for various devices. And that got me thinking: could it be used as a control head for a radio? Would there be any market for rig control apps? A touchscreen could be configured anyway one wanted. One thing to consider: the iPhone OS is a fairly closed platform, with a well-defined and restricted API for developers. That may not allow the level of hardware integration needed for rig control – not without “jailbreaking” the iPhone or iPod touch. Perhaps other smartphone platforms would offer the needed capabilities. But other possibilities suggest themselves, like logging programs for the new iPad.

Our meeting this month will still take place at 6:30. Something for us to consider: with it remaining lighter for longer in the evening, do we wish to keep the meetings at 6:30 or move them back to 7? They will remain at 6:30 unless there is a motion during the meeting to move them back to 7. On the agenda for February is a discussion of a new headset for the FT-990 for Field Day, the proposed duties for the new Club Historian position, and a presentation from John, N3JM, on station grounding for lightning protection. It's the second part of his presentation on lightning; part 1 was back in November.

Don't forget: before the meeting, we are planning to hold a special testing session, all license classes. It will be a half-hour before the meeting, or 6 PM. Monitor the FARL Member mailing list for the latest details, or check with N8OZV. Hope to see you at the meeting, at the Livonia ARC swap on the 21st, or at both!

73,
Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes - January 14, 2010**

Meeting called to order at 6:36pm, by Roger, KD8CSE, President.

10 members and one guest present.

Minutes from prior meeting, November, 2009 were discussed. Motion to approve minutes by Al W8AMH, 2nd by Pat WD8JDZ, voice vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's report: Read by Roger KD8CSE, as Bill WA8HEA, had prepared the report but was not yet in attendance. Only expenditure last month was the phone bill for the repeater at \$38.45. Motion made to approve the report by Bernie KD8KEO, 2nd by Al W8AMH, voice vote was unanimous.

Board of Directors: No update from the Board of Directors, who did not have a meeting in the past two months.

Repeater: Repeater is announcing a 7pm start to the meeting instead of 6:30pm. Also, the repeater is failing to ID within the allotted time for these announcements. Dave N8HKU, to contact Murray KE8UM about this.

Education and training: Next organized training is this spring at Ford, and starting the first weekend in March for the Ford Yacht Club, with a test planned for May. A test at Ford is planned for April as well. Bill N8OZV, was contacted during the meeting and agreed to conduct an exam at 6pm on February 11th at EMDO, prior to the start of the club meeting. At least two people stated they would look to take an exam that night. Bill N8OZV will publish the meeting time with the ARRL. A 3rd VE at minimum is needed for this exam.

Newsletter: Apologies from Roger KD8CSE for not sending out the email version of the Bolt before the club meeting. This was the first time where the mailing list was shortened to those not wanting to receive it electronically. The newsletter was sent out during the meeting break.

Club tables: The club was reminded that there was a table agreed to be purchased for the Hazel Park swap. A club table was voted upon for the upcoming LARC swap. The table is 8ft long, and costs \$16. A motion was made for the table rental. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Bill WA8HEA to order the table.

New headset for the Yaesu radio: Dave N8HKU reported that the club radio would benefit from a new headset and microphone. The donated one was worn out after many years of work. Dave N8HKU to make recommendations for this at the Feb club meeting.

January Linux Journal: Roger KD8CSE showed a copy of the January Linux Journal which had three articles dedicated to amateur radio. Look for the cover with the Linux Penguin wearing headphones.

Club Archives: Bill WA8HEA reported he has 8 boxes of club materials sorted down to 4. It has historical information on the club, a lot of old stuff, including some about Dusty Dustman, who was featured in the January Bolt. Dave N8HKU also has a box of club historical documents. Bill thought we needed to better archive or scan them. It may be possible to eliminate them after scanning, or at least store them away afterwards. Richard, K8RMM, brought up a possible storage location at this workplace, the Dearborn Public Schools building on Outer Drive, where he does archiving for the school. He has a potential storage location, but DPS does not have a high volume scanner. Bill WA8HEA made a motion to establish a new position of Club Historian, 2nd by Rusty N8RGI. This position could be filled by any club member regardless of other office. The motion passed with a vote of 8 members for it, 2 abstained. Al W8AMH to work out a proposal for the duties of the historian based upon a similar position in the Power Squadron, and bring it into the next meeting. This position may also be an appointed position and not an elected position, with a continued discussion next month.

For Sale: Kenwood TM 631 for sale by Dick KW8B. This is a 2m/220 MHZ radio that the club has borrowed for several Speaking with Santa events and is for sale. The asking price is \$200. A motion was made to purchase the radio for \$200. Motion was approved by unanimous vote. A question was asked if this included the antenna we had also borrowed before. Follow up next month.

Future Club meeting topics: Al W8AMH offered to provide a presentation on Bluetooth headsets and amateur radio for the April club meeting. It was felt that the elections will not take so long as to prevent a presentation.

Applicant for club membership: Richard Maske, K8RMM, a guest at the meeting, made an application for club membership. He was elected as a club member, and welcomed by the membership. Bill WA8HEA will create a name badge for him.

Presentation: Dave N8HKU gave a presentation on three of the antennas used at Field Day last year, the G5RV, the Carolina Windom, and the Cushcraft R7. The dimensions and characteristics of the antennas were analyzed, and the 2009 Field Day results were shown for each antenna on each band. A discussion followed the club meeting on what to do at the next Field Day. Both wire antennas worked well in multiple directions, and the R7 filled in states that the wire antennas missed. The R7 needs to be tuned on the 40m band before assembly on the tower. If the Inverted L is to be used next year, it will need to be set up and tested on the Friday before Field day. Mike N8MR uses the Inverted L at his home, but it did not work well at Field Day. The vertical part of the antenna may need to be located away from the antenna tower, which may be detuning it. Mike had discussed this with Bill WA8HEA and Dave N8HKU, and more plans will be developed in the future. One final recommendation is to make sure the ICOM 706 not be used, as it is very susceptible to nearby RF from other transmitters.

Meeting adjourned by Roger KD8CSE 8:40pm.

Recorded by Dave N8HKU, Vice President.



Equipment for Sale

The following equipment is available for sale.

S. No.	Description	Price
1.	Collins 30L-1 Linear Amplifier w/new PS board & 811As	\$650
2.	Hygain Antenna Rotator and Control Box (AR-35)	\$45
3.	RG8U Coax - Various Lengths Used	\$0.25/ft
4.	9913 Coax - Various Lengths Used	\$0.50/ft
5.	Realistic Minimus 26 Speakers (bookshelf)	\$30
6.	Realistic Optimus XTS 40 Speakers (small cube)	\$20
7.	Solarcon Imax 2000 Antenna w/ GPK-1 radials	\$65
8.	RCA Lab 1200 Automatic Turntable	\$50
9.	Signal Flex SF-CT Cable Tester	\$25
10.	Rolls SX21 Tiny Two-Way Crossover	\$38
11.	Radio Shack 100 Watt Soldering Gun	\$13
12.	Radio Shack 75 Watt Soldering Gun	\$10
13.	Radio Shack 15/30 Watt Dual Heat Soldering Pencil	\$10

For more information, please contact Bill Brezina (WA8HEA) at phone numbers 313-563-2905 (Home) / 313-550-0928 (Cell) or e-mail address wbrezina@comcast.net.



HB No. 5556 - Michigan's PRB-1 Len Todd, N8AGS

If you want the right to put up a Ham tower, it is up to you to do something now! Unfortunately, as I write this, we have one MI Ham wondering if he can even have a 30' tower. However, there are things that you can do about this. For example:

1. If you have not already sent a letter to your Legislators to support HB # 5556, then now is the time.

If passed in 2010, HB # 5556 - Michigan's PRB-1 "Amendment to the MI Zoning Enabling Act" will codify PRB-1 into our Michigan law. It also will establish an allowable tower height of 90' across the state. However, if we do not increase our number of legislative contacts, the Bill may die in committee.

If you have already sent a letter, it is time to re-contact your House Representative to re-kindle interest.

Actual text of HB # 5556: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2009-2010/billintroduced/House/pdf/2009-HIB-5556.pdf>

More information about PRB-1: <http://www.prb1michigan.org/>

Legislative contact letter template: <http://www.prb1michigan.org/id18.html>

Legislative contact information: <http://www.prb1michigan.org/id1.html>

2. Also, tell a Ham friend about this critically important effort. Antennas and the towers that they are mounted on are critically important to us. They are our connection to the rest of the RF world. If need be, help your friend establish contacts with their Legislators. Discuss this topic at your next club or organization meeting.

Len Todd, N8AGS
MI PRB-1 Project Manager
N8AGS@arrl.net
<http://www.prb1michigan.org/>

HOUSE BILL No. 5556

October 28, 2009, Introduced by Rep. Lindberg and referred to the Committee on Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs.

A bill to amend 2006 PA 110, entitled "Michigan zoning enabling act,"

(MCL 125.3101 to 125.3702) by adding section 205a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

SEC. 205A. (1) a local unit of government shall not adopt an ordinance that precludes federally licensed amateur radio service communications or that does not comply with 47 cfr 97.15 and the rules and regulations of the federal communications commission.

(2) a local unit of government shall not restrict antennas or antenna support structures of amateur radio operators to heights below 90 feet, unless the restriction is shown by clear and convincing evidence to be necessary to achieve a defined health, safety, or aesthetic objective of the local unit of government. If a local unit of government adopts an ordinance that regulates the placement, screening, number, or height of a station antenna structure, based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations, the ordinance shall do both of the following:

(A) Reasonably accommodate federally licensed amateur radio service communications.

(B) Constitute the minimum regulation practicable to carry out the legitimate purpose of the governing body.

(3) This section does not apply to any district organized pursuant to federal, state, or local law for the purpose of historic preservation.

(4) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

(A) "Amateur radio services" means:(i) amateur service, as defined in 47 cfr 97.3.(ii) amateur-satellite service, as defined in 47 cfr 97.3.(iii) radio amateur civil emergency service, as defined in 47 cfr 97.407.

(B) "Amateur radio service communications" means communications carried out by 1 or more of the amateur radio services.

(C) "Amateur station" means a station in an amateur radio service consisting of the apparatus necessary for carrying on radio communications.

(D) "Station antenna structures" means the antennas that serve a federally licensed amateur station, including the appurtenances and other structures necessary to support, stabilize, raise, lower, or otherwise adjust the antennas. The station antenna structures shall not be construed to be permanent structures.



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	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. Please 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: Feb 11, 2010 at 6:30PM

Topic: Station Grounding for Lightning Protection by John N3JM

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