



President's Notes for February 2016

The shortest month of the year gets a bit longer, as we celebrate the leap year. February is also the time of Groundhog Day, and Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow this year, meaning we are to have an early spring. Since Phil historically has only been 39% accurate in his prognostications over the years, let us hope that he managed to get it right this year!

Our new Yaesu repeater has indeed arrived, and the ADR device to keep it from locking up when in use with our repeater controller has also arrived. Mac, KD8TPO, has been in contact with Murray, KE8UM, to get him the equipment so some set-up can begin. Murray has got the 220 MHz machine working again, and is bringing it down for reinstallation on Feb 6th, hopefully all successful by the time you read this. He will put the back-up repeater and controller on the 2m machine, and take the primary controller with the new repeater back to his house.

We got some good news this past month from the Ford Employee Recreation Association, FERA. They had found we had not cashed reimbursement checks from our 2014 fund raisers, such as the Auto Show tickets. For reasons unknown to us, we never got the checks. FERA made a deposit for the amount of these checks into our account in January. DFCU Financial does have an account to account transfer system working. We will encourage FERA to direct deposit into our account in the future, now that we have it set up. This will mean no lost checks for us. We have spent a lot of money on the new Yaesu club radio and accessories, so this helps replenish the funds.

Update on the Yeasu FT-990 radio that has been non-functional since last year: Tye Winkel, KC8YEJ, did some more digging after the January club meeting. He reported during the meeting that the main digital board was working fine, as he

has a friend with the same radio, and he swapped it out for a test. However, he took apart the display head unit, which I had apart last year. Looking for damage in addition to the cracked stand off and button damage I had found, he found the main circuit board to be cracked, which has severed various connections. This sent him looking to see if anyone had a spare display board for sale. We have not found any working ones to date. Our best bet will be to sell the unit for parts, as the digital board alone could be used to transform another damaged radio into a working system again. Roger will bring it up in the February club meeting.

Speaking of the February club meeting, Roger will be leading it, as I will be far, far away on vacation. No radios will be in play, but my wife and I plan to enjoy a lot of solar radiation on a nice beach.

Updates from prior discussion on digital radio: When comparing the digital radios in the newsletter, I managed to get dyslexic. The DRM radio I referred to is actually DMR, or Digital Mobile Radio. DMR happens to be an acronym we use at Ford as well with our electronic module diagnostic systems, called a Direct Memory Read. So, to keep the two items separate in my head, I changed Digital Mobile Radio to DRM. Thanks to Bob, K8ETE, for telling me this and for telling me that you can buy 45-50Watt mobile radios that are Analog/DMR compatible. While the VHF units are particularly rare, I did find Connect Systems would sell a VHF mobile for \$280 plus a programming cable or \$15. A similar Vertex radio was out of stock and not accepting backorders at this time.

David Treharne
N8HKU
FARL Club President

**Ford Amateur Radio League** (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club)
Club Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2016**Meeting Minutes for FARL****January 14, 2016**

In Attendance: 8 members, 1 guest (who became a member)

Dave Treharne, N8HKU

Roger Reini, KD8CSE

Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ

Bill Boyke, N8OZV

Rodney Deyo, K8SGL

Rich Maske, K8RMM

Tye Winkel, KC8YEJ

Sam Wells, KD8YTR

Mac Lunn, KD8TPO

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM by Dave, N8HKU, President

Minutes from November were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Rich, K8RMM, and seconded by Bill, N8OZV; the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report was given by Pat, WD8JDZ. Income came from the sale of an antenna tuner and a small dividend. There was discussion about checks from FERA from 2014 that were never deposited; the monies from those checks will be directly transferred from FERA to the club account. Motion to approve made by Bill, N8OZV, and seconded by Sam, KD8YTR; the treasurer's report was approved.

Membership Application: the attendees reviewed the application by Mac Lunn, KD8TPO, to join the club. Motion to accept made by Bill, N8OZV and seconded

(simultaneously) by Tye, KC8YEJ and Roger, KD8CSE; it was approved, and Mac became a member.

Board of Directors: the board approved the gift of a Yaesu DR-1X System Fusion repeater from Mac, KD8TPO and approved the sale of the MFJ voice keyer and the Kenwood TS-830. They are currently listed for sale on the club website.

Repeater: The 2 meter repeater is operational; the 220 MHz repeater has been repaired but has yet to be returned to service. Costs for the repair were \$30; this will either be reimbursed directly to Murray, KE8UM, or be applied toward his club dues. There was some strange QRM on the 2 meter repeater January 6 in the afternoon, making it difficult to use for a time; it vanished and has not recurred to our knowledge.

Sunday Night Net: still going strong on Sunday nights, 8 PM, on the repeater.

Education/Training: Tye, KC8YEJ, received a request for a testing session at Ford for several people ready to take their exams; Bill, N8OZV, said he would arrange for one on January 21 pending availability of sufficient VE's (availability was subsequently assured). Classes for General class will start up on Tuesdays in February with testing scheduled right before Easter.

Website and Newsletter: the website is still up and running, and the BOLT was published in time for the meeting.

FERA: Bill, N8OZV, reported that the FERA websites, internal and external, are in the process of being moved from Ford servers to ClubHosting servers. The club would be able to use space on those servers, if needed; Roger, KD8CSE, confirmed that the club could continue to use space on his personal hosting account. Auto Show tickets are being sold at work, and sales are going well.

Historian: Tye, KC8YEJ, volunteered to serve as Historian; Dave, N8HKU, agreed and appointed him to the post.

Inventory: the list needs to be updated to add the new DR-1X System Fusion repeater.

FT-990 Status: Tye, KC8YEJ, reported on his ongoing efforts to diagnose the issues with the FT-990 transceiver. It was feared that the main digital board was faulty, but it checked out fine when installed in another FT-990. However, the display board is suspect; a standoff had been damaged, and it's likely there are other faults inside (this was confirmed shortly after the meeting: the board is broken in several places, as are several traces; it is too damaged to repair, in Tye's opinion). These boards go for \$160 or so on eBay, so it may make sense to obtain another display board; alternatively, it could be parted out and sold. Further action was deferred.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business this month

NEW BUSINESS:

Disposition of Old Club Gear: Roger, KD8CSE, moved that the club obtain a table at the upcoming LARC swap in order to sell the surplus club equipment; Bill, N8OZV, seconded. The motion was approved by acclamation. The FT-990 will not be sold at this time

DR-1X Repeater Information: Dave, N8HKU, spoke about the recently-obtained Yaesu DR-1X repeater, drawing extensively on notes published in the BOLT newsletter for this month.

FT-991 Demonstration: due to the very full agenda, it was deferred to March.

February meeting: Roger, KD8CSE, will run the meeting in the absence of Dave, N8HKU. Presentation topic is TBD; it will likely come from the ARRL Library.

PRESENTATION: Dave, N8HKU, presented on the 2015 Field Day effort.

UPCOMING SWAPS: Hazel Park, January 24 and Livonia, February 21.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Minutes recorded by Roger Reini, KD8CSE, Vice-President

**Livonia
Amateur Radio Club**

Talk-in
145.35 with 100 PL
or 146.52 Simplex

**45th
ANNUAL
SWAP-N-SHOP**

GREAT
VENDOR
ACCESS

Buy and Sell Amateur Radio
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Electronic Test Equipment

Civic Park Senior Center
15218 Farmington Rd.
Livonia, MI
(SE corner of Farmington
Rd. and 5 Mile Rd.)



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*Lots of Tables
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or \$17 pay pal
if paid in advance or
\$20.00 if available and
paid at the door)
*Door Prizes
*Food Concession
*Tickets \$5.00 or \$6
pal pal

Sunday, February 21, 2016 8:00am - 12:00pm



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@arrl.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.



2015-2016 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			
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: February 11, 2015 at 6:30PM
Topic: TBD

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