



## FARL President's Notes, January 2010

First of all, a few things from the annual Christmas dinner. It seems that in the December newsletter, while we mentioned Mallie's Bar and that it was in Southgate and even included a URL, we never gave the precise address for it or even its approximate address (Allen and Northline Roads). Sorry about that, club, as Maxwell Smart might have said were he our club president. Overall, though, I thought it was an excellent location for our dinner. My meal was fantastic, and I definitely plan to go there on my own in the future. As for next year's dinner, I heard mentions of considering Chinese or Middle Eastern restaurants next year. We've got all year to think about it.

Over the holidays, we learned of the death in 2008 of early club member and past club president "Dusty" Dustman, K8SSK. Elsewhere in the newsletter, we'll have a belated obituary for him. I never knew him, but I join with everyone in mourning his passing.

Did anyone participate in Straight Key night on New Year's Day? If so, why not tell us about it at the meeting, or write it up for a future Bolt? That goes for anyone with any type of operation: we want to hear about it.

Now that the New Year has arrived, the swap meet season is starting up again. The first one in our area will be Hazel Park on January 17, just three days after our first meeting of the year (6:30 PM on the 14<sup>th</sup>, don't forget!). And speaking about our first meeting, this month's presentation will be from Dave, N8HKU, on antennas for Field Day.

If you want to get onto the club member mailing list, you can send your request to me at [president@k8utt.org](mailto:president@k8utt.org). If you want to stop receiving the Bolt by regular mail (also known as "snail mail"), then send your request to me as well. Fifteen members have taken advantage of this to date.

See you in January!

73,  
Roger, KD8CSE



## Ford Amateur Radio Club History

### D. D. (Dusty) Dustman (K8SSZ – SK)

- ❖ Submitted his membership application to the FARL on Sep 15, 1960.
- ❖ Sponsored by Jim Trevarrow (W8RYG) and voted into the FARL membership on Oct 14, 1960.
- ❖ Initially licensed as KN8SSZ (novice). Later upgraded to General as K8SSZ.
- ❖ Lived on 9250 Louis in Detroit and worked in the Engine and Electrical Engineering Bldg for the Metal Stamping Division.
- ❖ His HF station initially consisted of: An ARC-5 transmitter running 74 watts into an inverted V on 40 meters and a Hallicrafters S-20R with a Heathkit QF-1 Q-multiplier.
- ❖ His VHF station consisted of: A Heathkit Sixer running 4.5 watts into an “L.Z.” antenna from CQ magazine. He also operated VHF mobile using the Sixer and a halo antenna.
- ❖ Other hobbies included HO model railroad and gas model airplanes.
- ❖ He was an activities manager for the club in 1961 then became club treasurer in 1965. He was elected club president in 1967.



Ford Radio Club members take advantage of a noontime break to brush up on procedures for their upcoming Amateur Radio Field Day, June 23-24 (1965). While Maximilian Rosenberger (SK, 10/02/1919-06/11/2007) (foreground) handles the mike duties, Bill Duchin (K8LIB-SK) (left) runs through some technical points with other Club members. Standing (from second left) are Gene Horn (K8CRD-SK), Rus Poulson (W8PCR), Paul Cilla Jr. (K8TKK), D.D. Dustman (K8SSZ-SK, 03/03/1916-07/22/2008), Fred Menders (KB8HR), Bob Younce (SK, 04/10/1930 – 04/14/1989), Jack Wenzel (W8PEF-SK) and Clayt Carn (K8OQN).

**D. D. (Dusty) Dustman (K8SSZ – SK)****Darius Donald Dustman, 03 March 1916 - 22 July 2008****A Memory, By Ralph Irish - W8ROI (ex-WA8GDT)**

I started to work for Ford in May of 1961. It was just a fluke that I heard that they were hiring production workers at the Ford Sterling Axle plant, 'way over in Sterling Township'. At the time, I lived in Waterford Township, in Oakland County, which was about 30 miles from Ford Sterling.

Since I had 'new guy' seniority, I ended up on the afternoon shift, and was there for several years. One afternoon, at lunch, I was sitting eating my sandwich, and I heard some Morse code. There was enough noise in the cafeteria so that I didn't hear anything particularly clearly. At one point, though, there was the proverbial 'lull in the conversation,' and I could hear the code quite well. I grabbed a pencil and on my lunch bag I wrote out, as I heard it:

K H R U S H C H E V

This really got my curiosity up, and I grabbed my lunch and started wandering around the cafeteria. I found a ham and a few would-be hams, sitting at a table which was hidden by other unused tables with the chairs piled on top.

I walked up to the table and watched someone sending with a 'key-buzzer-battery' device, while the others were copying. When they were 'between sets', I was greeted and invited to join them, when I told them that I could 'copy code' a little bit.

I was fresh out of the Navy, and was a Radio Operator for my last two years of service, but all of my training and work involved a typewriter, not writing by hand. It was a simple transition, once I got the hang of it, and I was copying close to 100% every time.

At one point, I was invited to be the sender, and I used my Navy training, and I guess they all liked what they heard, since they all started copying much closer to 100%, with about the same WPM based on the letter count divided by five, and two for numerals, etc. At this point, I became the 'designated sender'.

One of the hams in this group was Steve Solo, W8IEC. He was an electrician in the plant, and had been a ham for probably 10 or 12 years. Steve was a very dedicated 'Certificate Hunter', and DX-er. He was also a member of the Tin Lizzy Club, although he could not attend meetings while he was on the afternoon shift. He encouraged me to get my license, and I put

that on my 'Things To Do' list. I didn't get around to this until late in 1962, however. I found a couple of local hams in the Utica area who ran a TV shop and they wrote the letter or made the phone call to the Detroit FCC Office and had a Novice Test sent to them at the shop. One of them supervised the code test and the other handed me the written exam, and I passed it. It took almost a month for the license to arrive, and I got pretty 'tense' in that time!

Steve also encouraged me to join the Tin Lizzy Club, and I was able to get on the Day Shift in 1963, and attended meetings at the Ford Central Office Building. (Now called Ford World Headquarters.) The club met on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, in a Conference Room, and I got to know many of the members over the next few years.

In 1965 I got on the Ford/UAW Apprentice Program, and started my training as an Electrician. In 1967, Dusty Dunn, K8SSZ was elected President of the club. I don't know who the Vice President was. The following year, Dusty was re-elected President, and I was nominated to be the Vice President. Since the FARL Constitution or By Laws limit one to two consecutive terms as President, Dusty could not run again. I was nominated and elected, and was Club President for two terms. In 1969, I had just finished my Apprenticeship, and had the time to take on the job.

Well, enough about me!

Dusty was a somewhat nervous person, and although he ran the club meetings in a businesslike manner, he was quite fidgety. He got a Novice call, KN8SSZ, sometime in 1960. He next got a Technician license in 1961, and held K8SSZ from that time until his passing. Dusty had problems taking code tests. And, that is an understatement! He could copy the W1AW bulletins solid up to 10 WPM, and at a high percent at 13 & 15 WPM, but when he got down to the Detroit FCC office, he just froze, and could barely put 10 characters on the paper, during the 5 minutes of sending. He got a 'death grip' on the pen or pencil, and his mind went into Neutral, and only a few letters would appear on his test paper.

He tried taking the day off, so he would not have to go into work following the test session. He figured that might reduce the anxiety. It did not! At one point, he did relax a little, and started to get 50 to 100 characters on the test paper, but was still tense enough so that he never got close to passing. A 13 WPM test back then would probably have had around 300 characters, and one needed 65 in a row, at some point during the 5 minutes to pass.

Over time, Dusty got more and more on paper, but was still not getting passing grades. Since they never let you see your paper, he had no way to tell what characters he was weak on. He continued to do code practice in the evenings, and started doing quite well at 15 and 18 WPM.

But, in Detroit, he just was not getting enough on paper.

There were jokes by those who knew him well, about soon getting his own parking place down there, since he was there so often. He went faithfully, once a month for several years. In the interim, he built up the Heath "Twins", the SSB Transmitter and Receiver and Speaker/Power Supply. He had friends come over and test them out, on his antennas, but he could not use his own transmitter for several years.

At one point, thinking that maybe the testers in the Detroit office were being a bit hard on him, he took a trip to Chicago, and took the test there. He again failed it. He went to his doctor and explained the situation, and the doctor gave him a prescription for a few tranquilizer pills, thinking that he might do better during the test if his nerves were calmed a bit. This improved things, but he still didn't pass the receiving test.

After trying the test close to 30 times, he finally passed! He was absolutely elated. He went out of the office, and got a drink of water, and came back in to take the sending test. (Oh, most of you probably didn't have to take a sending test, did you?) Well, the biggest insult came when he failed the sending test! The Engineer who supervised the test gave him several chances to send a paragraph or so, but he kept either sending wrong characters, or made too many other errors. He again left with 'no joy', as the saying goes.

He decided that the following month he would 'do it all!' He practiced as he usually did, and also practiced sending, something that he never bothered to do. The following month, he went down with his tranquilizer pill, and stopped somewhere along the way to take it so that it would be in his system when he sat down at the testing table. He wrote out 65+ correct characters, and nailed the sending test, and after a short break, he went back in and wrote the General License Exam. Back then, they would not tell you "Pass" or "Fail", just to watch your mailbox. If you got something in two weeks or less, it was usually notice that you had failed the written exam. If two weeks passed, you probably passed.

The next two weeks were quite tense for Dusty. After the 14th day, he started to cool down, and after nearly a month, his General License arrived in the mail! He had finally done it! He got on the air that evening, and broke into a few QSOs where he recognized the calls. His friends were all quite happy that he had finally made the grade.

Early in 2006, I was doing some 'browsing' on the internet, and when I looked up Dusty's call, I noted that he had his 90th birthday coming up soon. I got on my e-mail program and notified a lot of people of this, and near his birthday in March, 2006, he got a number of birthday cards, QSL cards with birthday wishes, and several phone calls. He was quite pleased that people

would take the time to do this.

A group of Ford Tin Lizzy hams would go down to the Dayton Hamvention as a group, and many of us took our wives along, as well. My wife and I got to know Aimee Dustman at that time, and she was a charming woman. She and my wife got along famously, and when the women 'went shopping', they were often paired up.

I spoke to Dusty's son recently, and he told me that his Mother had passed away a few years before his Dad. Dusty was living alone up in Roscommon and his daughters called him every night to make sure he was OK. They also went up there and cooked meals that could be put into 'freezer pouches' and then cooked with little fuss, and Dusty was able to eat well, without having to do much real 'cooking'. I did not get the details of his passing, but at age 92, the phrase 'old age' pretty well covers it.

There may be a few on the FARL Roster who remember Dusty, but I don't know how many who knew him are still active in the club or on the air. Many years have passed since I had a conversation with Dusty, and I feel bad about that. I don't know when the move from Detroit to Roscommon took place, but he and Aimee had a good life up there, and he had a decent retirement.



## **Linux Journal, January 2010**

The January 2010 issue of Linux Journal magazine features amateur radio on the cover and in three articles.

The first article, "An Amateur Radio Survival Guide for Linux Users", gives a brief overview of some of the aspects of amateur radio that may appeal to Linux geeks: contest logging (noting the Xlog software), HF digital modes such as PSK, RTTY, etc.; VHF/UHF packet radio, and D-Star, while briefly mentioning APRS, satellites and SDR (software-defined radio).

The second, "Xastir – Open-Source Client for the Automatic Packet Reporting System", describes the Xastir mapping program used with APRS and, in multiple sidebars, describes several aspects of amateur radio, including how to obtain a license.

And lastly, "Rolling Your Own with Digital Amateur Radio" describes how WB8ROL decided to improve upon the Fldigi open-source digital signal mode software. He was not happy with the base version of Fldigi and wanted to add additional features to it. This was easy to do because of its open-source nature; if it had been proprietary software, he would have been unable to do so. As he says in the article, "Few operators ever would buy a piece of radio gear if it came with a license that said they could NOT modify it, and it's natural to see why a lot of us navigate toward open source in general and Linux in particular."



## 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](http://www.k8utt.org) for current events and activities.

<b>President</b>	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
<b>Vice President</b>	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Brezina	WA8HEA	313-563-2905
<b>Secretary</b>	Debbe Yeager	KD8IWV	734-981-3188
<b>Repeater Chair</b>	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
<b>K8UTT Trustee</b>	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
<b>Activity Chair</b>	John Stucka	N3JM	313-576-9880
<b>Bolt Editor</b>	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:

January 14<sup>th</sup> at **6:30 p.m.**

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