



## President's Notes for January 2017

**Happy New Year!**

**Club Christmas Dinner:** Thank you to all who attended our Christmas dinner at the Mexican Fiesta! We enjoyed the evening together, in spite of the snow storm that left the roads incredibly slick that night. It did reduce the crowd overall at the restaurant perhaps, so they were easily able to accommodate our group that night.

**Field Day:** I was reading the LARC Tuned Circuit Newsletter, and they just published their 2016 Field Day results in the January newsletter. I just looked at our Bold and found out that we have not put our results in our newsletter, yet, either! (We did send out an email about it.) So, for a formal record in the Bolt, this newsletter contains our official results. The LARC was also 4A this year, and they were under ½ of our score. Did you know Winter Field Day is January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>? Sounds like a real adventure in Michigan during the winter! I would tend to operate “Home” mode. They do have a version that allows you to run emergency power during that mode, so maybe I will use that as an excuse to flip on the backup generator and let it run the house and the shack for a while! I did find that the normal 10 minute exercise of the generator during the winter does not let it run long enough to keep the engine oil in good condition, so running the house on it was necessary to get the water out of the oil mixture.

**Computers:** My wife and I had a major computer upgrade in our house this holiday season to my wife's computer and the ham radio shack computer. My wife's 10 year old Windows XP computer completely quit this fall, right after we received the new computers, but before finding out her email contact listing did not save properly in the backups. I was unable to restore her computer to retrieve those files, but did give it a great try, and

did restore the rest of her files from the back up. (My bad, as the IT expert, to have neglected her contact list from the updates.) We now have all of the computers in the household running on Windows 10, and it is nice to use the modern operating system. My ham radio computer also got updated, and it is running well with what I have installed so far. Fortunately, the old computer is still running, and I am in the process of transferring some of the operating settings to the new computer that were also not caught up in the backup, like the FLDigi configuration for my Icom IC 9100. The new computers were purchased during one of those “Black Friday” sales that started at Thanksgiving. So far, I am very happy with them, and my wife is slowly getting used to the newer operating system, and the touch screens are nice to navigate websites with. Post-Christmas, I also managed to find a good deal on a 2<sup>nd</sup> monitor for the ham station, a 23 inch Acer version. I am certain that my contest scores are going to soar with the new set-up! 😊 To round out the house set-up, we purchased a new printer, also using the post-Christmas sales. I am pleased as to how relatively easily all of the new technology got set-up and running. While it always helps to be computer literate and knowledgeable about how things go together, and that I had the correct USB cable to temporarily connect my printer to my computer, the task of connecting everything up to the home network and loading the new files went off smoothly. The encrypted network was maintained, programs new and old seem to work, and we are off into the New Year in style. I am happy to report that the upgrades to computer technology are much less stressful than they used to be.

Over the holiday break from Ford, I managed to listen to a few of the ARRL “The Doctor is In” podcasts. They are just under 30 minutes each, with Steve Ford and Joel Hallis, the “Doctor”, discussing various topics and taking email-submitted questions. I enjoy their chats while driving or doing

housework, and I encourage you to check them out if you get the chance. Most of our phones support applications that retrieve and play podcasts; I use Doggcatcher for my Android phone. One of their podcasts on the Anderson Powerpole connectors, gave me the topic for this month's club presentation! Another one had information the Roger, KD8CSE, may use with his February presentation!

**Amateur Radio Antenna Restrictions:** As you may have heard, the Senate failed to bring the proposed law regarding reasonable antenna installation accommodations up for a vote before the Congress left for Christmas. One Senator from Florida refused to allow it for a vote without a debate, in spite of considerable lobbying by the ARRL and individual amateurs. The bill will need to be reintroduced in the new Congress, so our letter writing campaigns will begin again in 2017. As one who has endured many different antenna restrictions at my home QTH over the years, I fully support this bill, and hope it gets a better chance during this coming session.

73,

David Treharne

N8HKU

FARL Club President



## Morse Code Game Trainers

Here is a link (<http://www.hamradioqrp.com/2016/12/gamify-morse-code.html>) to an article on Mobile App Gaming Morse code trainers. They add some fun to learning (or relearning, as I am apt to need to do) Morse code in between on-air uses. I tried Morse Toad and some others. They can add a bit of fun to the learning process!



## LARC-FARL Field Day Results for 2016

K8UNS, with a score of 7,582 points, was:

- #1 (of 6 entrants) in class 4A in Michigan
- #2 (of 94 entrants) for all of Michigan (behind USECA K8UO)
- #3 (of 16 entrants) in class 4A for the Great Lakes Division
- #8 (of 132 entrants) in Great Lakes Division overall
- #12 (of 132 entrants) in class 4A for the entire US and Canada
- #81 (of 2696 entrants) overall for the entire US and Canada

### Contact Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	740	71	1494	2,295

3,116 points from contacts, 6,232 Score with 100 multiplier, plus 1,350 in bonus points! For the 7,582 final score.

*There was no Club Meeting but a Club Dinner in December 2016. Therefore November 2016 Club Meeting Minutes are reprinted here.*



## 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 it's been shut off 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and it's at the Mexican Fiesta in Dearborn (Telegraph and Ford Road corner, a block west on Telegraph). Parking was discussed and it's 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



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

<b>President</b>	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
<b>Vice President</b>	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
<b>Secretary</b>	Mac Lunn	KD8TPO	313-805-0427
<b>Repeater Chair</b>	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
<b>K8UTT Trustee</b>	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
<b>Activity Chair</b>	Bill Boyke	N80ZV	313-805-8877
<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 6:00 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 12, 2016 at 6:00PM**

**Topic: The Anderson Powerpole Connector System, by David Treharne, N8HKU**

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