



## President's Notes, July 2013

Another Field Day has come and gone. This was our first one at the new site in Livonia. I can't describe how it went because I was not there. I was traveling in Texas on Field Day weekend, and I was listening to the radio activity on 20 meters as I drove through west Texas and the Hill Country on I-10. Later that Saturday afternoon, I visited the Field Day site for AA5RO, the Alamo Area Radio Organization. I wrote a separate article comparing their setup to our setups in prior years, so I won't repeat that information here. I'll just say that it was very interesting and illuminating to compare the differences between their operation and ours. Going to visit another Field Day setup is something I would recommend for everyone. You don't have to do what I did; there were and will be several operations in the metro Detroit area.

To those who sent their dues in as a result of last month's reminder, thank you very much. Your contributions are very much appreciated. If you haven't sent in your dues, please do so ASAP. We need to keep up our membership and our member base. If you're not sure when your membership expires – you paid for multiple years in advance, say – contact me or our treasurer Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ. Between us, we should be able to figure out your situation. For most of us who pay from year to year, it's simple: memberships expired in April.

Historically, July has been a quiet month for the club, but for the last few years, July has meant Maker Faire Detroit and the special event station N8M. And that's what is going to happen again this year. July's meeting will be devoted to finalizing Maker Faire plans; our meeting will take place two weeks and two days before the start of Maker Faire. If any urgent club business needs to be handled, we'll be able to handle it, assuming there is a quorum. The next meeting will take place in September, at which time we'll have our traditional Field Day wrap-up presentation. We might even have a presentation on my visit to AA5RO.

73,  
Roger, KD8CSE



## **Ford Amateur Radio League** (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2013**

### **Minutes, FARL Club Meeting - June 13th, 2013**

Meeting was called to order by Roger, KD8CSE at 18:38 (6:38p.m.)  
6 members were present.

#### **Minutes from prior meeting:**

Minutes from May 2013 were reviewed:

Strike comment about “Sunday night net on hold and 2 Mtr repeater needing repair”

since repeater is operational again.

In treasurers report, to read as “FERA” not “FARA” as written.

Amended minutes approved.

#### **Treasurers Report:**

Pat, WD8JDZ read the report. Motion to accept as read.

**Board of Directors Meeting:** No formal meeting was held.

An informal phone communications was held, 2 members were available.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Repeaters:**

The 2 Mtr repeater is up and operating again thanks to Murray.

The 440 repeater is still in need of a new antenna.

The 220 is working good.

Join the Sunday night net @ 8 p.m.

**Education and Training:** No news.

**Communication - Newsletter/Website:**

Information on new field day location on website. If you have a story or info for the newsletter, please contact Dave, N8HKU.

**Historian:** No new news.

**Equipment Inventory:** Up to date

**FERA:** No new business

**Unfinished/Current Business:**

None

**New Business and Announcements:**

PEAC Ride is Sept 14<sup>th</sup> looking for volunteers.  
Contact Pat (WD8JDZ)

**Announcement:** 2 videos and 1 audio file are available about the California Palomar repeater and club station. Also various California field day stations and a funny audio clip about tower climbing. As donated by Ted (KD6AKT) Cost of \$1. Contact Roger (KD8CSE)

**Field Day Business:** Expenditure of up to \$300 was approved.

If you are going to attend, contact Dave (N8HKU) @ 734-476-1666 before the event so we know how much food will be needed.

Sending out email reminders for the event.

Looking into purchasing a club tent for use during different events. We currently have to borrow one.

Dave (N8HKU) will be getting food for Sunday lunch. If you wish to help with the food, please contact Dave (N8HKU).

Setup begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday at the **NEW LOCATION!!!!** Check the website for the location.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:26 (7:26p.m.)



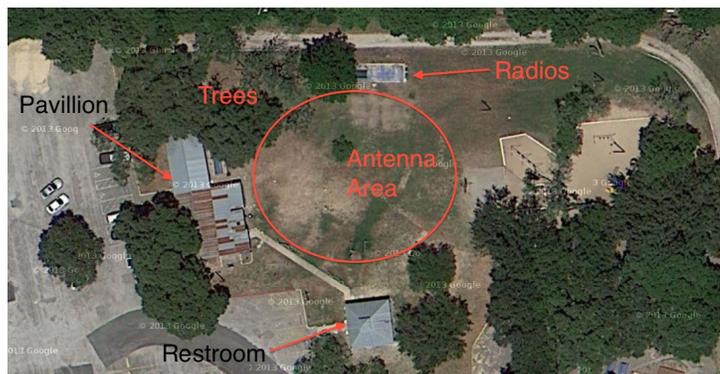
## **Field Day, AA5RO Style**

by Roger Reini, KD8CSE

While many of our club members were working our joint Field Day operation with the LARC, I was vacationing in

Texas at the time and thus was unable to do so. But that meant I could do something I had never done before: visit another club's Field Day operation. I could see their operation and compare it to how we have run our operation at the fire station. Based on my route and my schedule, I chose to visit the Field Day operation for AA5RO, the Alamo Area Radio Organization, in northwest San Antonio.

The AARO (not to be confused with Ann Arbor's Arrow club) set up in Raymond Russell Park, a Bexar County park. This meant that they could not conduct a 24-hour operation like we do. The park closes at 8, but they could remain until midnight (they did not operate on Sunday). Visibility of the operation was quite high, much higher than



at the Livonia fire station. They operated as 5A compared to our 4A, but their rig setup was slightly different. They had dedicated CW and digital stations, but their remaining 3 stations were dedicated to 40, 20 and 10 meters, unlike our SSB stations that could change to any band within the capability of their antennas. Yaesu equipment was well represented there; I counted at least 2 FT-857's and an FT-817, along with an FT-897 and FT-890 and some others I don't recall. The 20 meter station used a Kenwood transceiver (didn't catch the model number).

The AARO club relied on manual logging versus our networked logging capability. They did not seem to be making as many contacts as we had been, though I could not say if that was due to poor band conditions this year or to not being as aggressive on the bands. The digital station was having terrible problems with interference on the PSK sub-band; everyone was on top of everyone else!

One advantage of dedicating a station to a single band is that the antenna can be tuned precisely to that band without compromises to enable acceptable performance on other bands. For example, the 20-meter station used a Buddipole raised 16 feet in the air, and the other dedicated stations appeared to be using inverted V's. The digital station was using two loop antennas. I don't know what the CW station used; it was set up farther away from the others, and I didn't make it over there.

Speaking of the set-up of the overall operation, the club used a permanent pavilion for the food setup, the VHF station, and central meeting place. There was only one awning erected, that for the 10 and 20-meter station. Since operations wouldn't be 24-hour, the need

for tents or carports was significantly reduced. Having the 10-meter and 20-meter stations on the same table under the same awning was a slight difficulty, especially if both operators were speaking at the same time. I found myself plugging the ear not covered by the headset when I worked 10 meters. And I had rotten luck on 10 meters: I only heard two stations that couldn't hear me, and all of my calling CQ seemed to do nothing but heat the ionosphere. Then again, the band was opening up as I left.

The dinner arrangements were comparable to ours; they served grilled chicken, grilled sausage and jalapeño sausage (this was Texas, remember), pinto beans, potato salad and a number of dessert offerings. Being in the large pavilion, there was more room to spread out and cook and eat than in our tents. And they had their share of visitors; besides myself, there were hams from Wisconsin or Minnesota (I forget which). All in all, their opportunities for fellowship were comparable to ours.

So how does AA5RO's Field Day operation compare to ours? As a single-day operation, there is little chance of obtaining a high score; then again, the purpose of Field Day is not necessarily to obtain a high score. They seemed to be doing a good job with the limitations of their site, and they were making contacts – and that's the important thing.

My thanks to Tony Saucedo, K5ZUP, AARO president; Mike Brown, AE5WT; and all the other AARO members in attendance who made me feel most welcome. If they ever find themselves in Livonia during Field Day, they'd be just as welcome to visit our operation.



## 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	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.



## 2012-2013 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>	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
<b>Secretary</b>	John Turowski	N8NWA	313-258-1996
<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	313-405-2573



## 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: July 11, 2013 at 6:30PM**  
**Topic: Maker Faire!**

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