

# The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

## President's Note

A thank you goes to Bill, WA8HEA, for lugging in his portable military radio for our club presentation last month. I would have referred to it as luggable, but I am sure it was considered state of the art from the Vietnam war era. Bill has plans for getting it on the air as a low band amateur radio transceiver, and we hope to hear him on the bands. It needs 24V to run, though. If any club member has a 24 V, 20A power supply sitting around, we know of an interested party. Bill can throw a couple of car batteries at it, but that does not improve upon the portability of the design.

I have chosen to take a turn this month to edit the club newsletter for us. Rusty, N8RGI, has done a wonderful job in preparing our club newsletter for many years now. However, he is unable to continue at this time, so the rest of us need to help. Bill, WA8HEA, has been editing for the past several months, but we promised him that he would not have the job full time. In keeping that promise, you have me this month. Please consider if you have a bit of time to take this task on. The job entails bugging board members and club members for input, formatting it a bit, and sending it off to Bill, N8OZV, for printing. The club newsletter is a good way to get the word of our club out, especially to those without internet access. Please help us get our Bolt out by giving any board member a call.

The club website is now upgraded with 500MB of storage space, plus no ads, plus the ability to directly upload to the site from a website program. The club voted to pay a small fee for these services. I will begin revamping the website with more pictures, past presentations, and other goodies with the new space. If you have something to add, please let me know.

Our June club meeting will be the discussion of Field Day. The Livonia Amateur Radio Club (LARC) will be the main host of the event this year, but needs lots of support of supplies and people to make it successful. Please see the articles in this newsletter for more information. Please let us know if you plan to attend this year, as the LARC group needs to plan for food. We will be asking at the June club meeting as well. I hope to see you there!

Welcome to new FARL club members and newly minted Amateurs Katie KD8GDK, and Nadine, KD8GDJ. Katie is a harmonic of Bill, N8OZV, and Carol, N8OZW. Nadine is a harmonic of Al, W8AMH. Al did not know that Nadine took her test until he heard her on the air! Congratulations to both, and we hope you will join in for Field Day this year.

73,  
Dave Treharne, N8HKU  
FARL Club President

## Minutes of FARL Club Meeting, May 10, 2007

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:02 PM by Dave, N8HKU, President

**AGENDA:** Rearranged to allow Bill Boyke, N8OZV, to report early due to other commitment.

**EDUCATION/TRAINING:** Two new hams are joining the club, having been taught by Bill: Nadine Habbal, KD8GDJ, and Katherine (Katie) Boyke, KD8GDK. Congratulations and welcome!

**SPECIAL EVENT STATION:** No response yet from The Henry Ford. Bill will visit in person. If we are unsuccessful, then the alternate location will be the top of Ford Field (park, not stadium). The Dearborn Inn was approached but wanted to charge us.

# The Bolt

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**GENERAL CLASS:** Anyone who is interested in a General license class, sign up. Bill will conduct the class beginning in June on Sunday mornings at the Fairlane food court (before the restaurants open up).

**FERA:** Tickets to the theme parks are now available (Cedar Point, Geauga Lake, etc.)

**MINUTES FROM PRIOR MONTH:** Reviewed and approved with changes to the Treasurer's report.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Last month's report was incorrect as the wrong amount was given; the minutes will need to be corrected. Also, the balance was improperly included in the minutes last month; it is not to be included in copies of the minutes that are made available to non-members (newsletter, Web).

**REPEATER PHONE USAGE:** Dave is still trying to get the phone patch access codes from Murray. Given that the phone is limited to calling numbers in the 313 area code (and a small number of 734 numbers), the patch may be of limited utility.

**PL TONE ON OUTPUT:** We are contemplating putting a 100 Hz PL tone on the repeater output in order to reduce QRM from the repeater in Lowell.

**REPEATER USAGE PROBLEMS:** There have been reports of improper usage of the repeater, such as failure of users to identify properly. Dave has been recording the repeater output on occasion in recent weeks and has heard nothing improper. If anyone does hear instances of improper operation, please inform Dave, who is the repeater trustee.

**CLUB CALLSIGN RENEWED:** The club call sign, K8UTT, has been renewed for 10 years and is now good until 2017.

**NEWSLETTER:** Rusty must relinquish editing duties at this time, so a new editor is needed. Bill Brezina, WA8HEA, has edited the last two newsletters on a temporary basis and will continue in that role for now. A fulltime editor is still needed.

**WEBSITE:** The current site, while free, has limitations that make it difficult to upload and store files. Site capacity is only 15 MB, of which 80% are used. And files must be uploaded one at a time. Host Yahoo has a number of paid upgrade options. The two of most interest:

Option 1 - 500 MB storage, current URL - \$4.95 a month

Option 2 - 2000 MB storage, own domain name - \$8.95 a month

Both feature reduced rates for the first three months and the use of FTP to transfer multiple files simultaneously. Dave recommended the first option; it would be a simple matter to move to the second option if we deemed it necessary. Rusty moved we go with option 1, Dick seconded; this was approved.

**FIELD DAY:** LARC (Livonia ARC) is dedicating their May 21 meeting to discussing their Field Day plans. Anyone wishing to participate with them should attend that meeting. The Field Day site will once again be at the Livonia Fire Station off of Plymouth west of Newburgh.

**CLUB NET:** Reminder that the 2 meter (and 220) club net is every Sunday night at 8 PM. If no one calls the net to order right away, feel free to take over net control and call it yourself.

**CLUB CALENDAR:** There were some vacancies on the calendar for presentations, and those were filled tonight. In September, Roger, KD8CSE, will give a presentation on W1AW; in October, Dick will give one on Operation Spark Gap; and in November, Bill, WA8HEA will give his delayed AMSAT update.

**BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS:** Provided by Bill, WA8HEA

**PRESENTATION:** Bill, WA8HEA, gave a presentation on military radios, or "green radios" (that's green as in camouflage). He based it on an article from the April 2006 QST and exhibited his own Collins PRC-47 man-pack radio. It was a combination tube and solid-state radio capable of operating from 2 to 12 MHz, requiring 24 V DC or 115 V AC (400 Hz) to operate. The radio was powered but had no antenna, thus it could not receive or transmit. Bill planned to use the radio for ARMAD, Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day ([www.armad.net](http://www.armad.net)), which this year is May 26. He noted that he obtained his radio from Fair Radio ([www.fairradio.com](http://www.fairradio.com)), located in Lima, Ohio, which is on the way to Dayton.

**ADJOURNED:** 8:10 PM.

Recorded by Roger Reini, KD8CSE, Secretary

# The Bolt

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## Field Day – June 23 & 24, 2007

By Bill Brezina, WA8HEA

I attended a meeting with the Livonia Amateur Radio Club (LARC) and here is a summary of the discussion regarding the combined (LARC & FARL) Field Day operations.

The plan is to operate a 2A station (2 transmitters operating off of emergency power) with no “free” GOTA or VHF/UHF stations. We will be using the LARC club call sign (K8UNS) if they receive the approval of their new club call trustee in time. Otherwise we will be using the FARL club call sign (K8UTT). They would like FARL to provide the following equipment:

1. FT-990 for the CW station & 2 sets of band-pass filters (FARL)
2. G5RV antenna (SSB), auto antenna tuner, laptop & screen tent (Bill Brezina-WA8HEA)
3. IC-746 w/supply for the SSB station (Pat-WD8JDZ)
4. Dipole antenna (CW), balun & feedline (Dick Moore-N8DM)
5. Digital interface & laptop (Dave Treharne-N8HKU)
6. Elecraft K1, battery & solar panel, 3 KW generator & antenna supports (John Mathey-K8AZT)

LARC will provide 2 other shelters, grill, coolers, food, tables, chairs, vertical antenna and a standby HF rig with an auto antenna tuner. They also plan to use the N3FJP logging software ([www.N3FJP.com](http://www.N3FJP.com)) which they already have on disk. They will handle the food for all meals and we can pitch in to help cook.

This is not a complete list of all the things we need (power strips, extension cords, lights, ground rods, etc.) but covers most of the bigger stuff. We need to cover all the preparation details at the next FARL meeting and get membership approval to allocate some funds for Field Day.

**NOTE:** There are 2 minor Field Day rule changes for 2007. The first is that you can only make 1 contact through any single-channel FM satellite to obtain the 100 point satellite contact bonus. This should provide more stations a chance to access these satellites. The second change lowers the number of required GOTA station QSOs from 50 down to 20 in order to get the GOTA station bonus points. You get 20 bonus points for each 20 QSOs completed up to 100 QSOs per GOTA operator. Please refer to the ARRL Field Day website for details on 2007 rules and points.

Bill Brezina, WA8HEA

## FARL 50<sup>th+</sup> Anniversary Special Event- Mark your Calendars for Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

We are close to an agreement with The Henry Ford to have a Special Event Station just outside the gates of Greenfield Village on September 8th, the weekend after Labor Day. This is the weekend of Old Car Festival. See [www.TheHenryFord.com](http://www.TheHenryFord.com) for more information. Dave Treharne, N8HKU, and Bill Boyke, N8OZV, previewed the area and feel we will have a decent site for the event, with room for us, our antennas, and access to power. We are looking at both HF and VHF/UHF operation. We are looking for club members to attend, support and operate at this site from 9am to 5pm that Saturday. We will get there before the crowds to set up in the morning. We will discuss this further at the June meeting, so please attend! Additional news will go out at the summer Bolt and at and at Field Day. Anyone have any antique radios they wish to display as part of our event? They certainly will fit in with the theme of the weekend!

# The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

## Hams Helping Hams

Bill Brezina, WA8HEA

There are many aspects of ham radio that I enjoy, from talking on the radio to building “stuff”, but some of the most satisfying experiences have come from helping other hams. I think it is just a part of the “Elmer” aspect that stays with you throughout your life with this “hobby”. Many of us have helped others get started in ham radio and occasionally you have to help someone get out of it as well.

Pat Quinn (WD8JDZ), John Mathey (K8AZT), Fred DesChenes and I volunteered to remove a large tri-band beam, and other antennas, on a 50 foot tower installation from the home of a recent silent key. It was obvious this ham, and his friends, had once put a lot of time and effort into building this antenna system and I’m sure it provided countless hours of operating pleasure. It was sad to have to undo all the work that had gone into putting it together and I reflected on the fact that I currently spend more time taking down old antenna systems than putting up new ones.

I would like to thank Pat, John and Fred for all the very hard work they put into helping disassemble the antennas and tower. It was another fine example of hams helping hams, and families of hams, and is truly one of those things I love about this “hobby”.

## Hamvention 2007 Experiences

Roger Reini, KD8CSE

This year was my second Hamvention. When I went for the first time last year, I wasn't sure what to expect. This year, I knew very well what to expect, and I was not disappointed.

The forums that I found most interesting this year were the appearance by astronaut Bill MacArthur on Friday and the Bicycle Mobile Hams of America forum Sunday morning. MacArthur's talk was entitled "Ham Radio Aboard International Space Station", though most of the talk dealt with his mission as a whole rather than his radio operations. Nobody in the standing-room-only crowd minded a bit. It was during his mission that Suitsat 1 was launched. On Sunday, the BMHA forum had less of a crowd but was no less interesting. The featured speaker was Budd Drummond, W3FF, of Buddipole fame, and he spoke about his HF mobile efforts from Montserrat and other islands. Another speaker told of his plans to bicycle through all of the lower 48 states in a year's time beginning next spring and operate VHF and CB (the CB is to tell the truckers not to run over him!). On display were two recumbent tricycles, both well-equipped for the road and configured for VHF/UHF operation

I got to see more of the flea market this year than last, and even then I had to rush through. If one wanted to spend a lot of time at each location, there would be no way to see the rest of the exhibition or catch any forums. Monitoring the Tin Lizzy repeater output frequency, 145.27, with a 100 Hz PL tone squelch allowed me to keep in contact with the other club members who were there without having to listen to constant traffic.

## Kids Day – June 16, 2006

Kids Day is a great time to get way to let kids of all ages experience ham radio and get a certificate to boot! It runs from 1800-2400 UTC on the following suggested frequencies: 3.740 & 3.940, 7.270, 14.290, 18.140, 21.360, 24960 & 28.390 MHz. There will be a lot of kids on the air calling “CQ Kids Day” and what better way for kids to start out than by talking to other kids.

# The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

The suggested exchange includes name, age, location and favorite color. Don't forget to get some photos of this Kodak moment so you can send them to the ARRL. Go to [www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html) for more info on Kids Day and check out the certificate at [www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html).

## Technician and General Classes

Bill Boyke, N8OZV, will be holding Technician training and review classes on Sunday Morning at the Fairlane Mall Food Court near the Subway Food Shop starting June 10th at 10:30-12:30. We can adapt the meeting times and location and add more classes during the week if found necessary.

The Technician class will start assuming NO technical knowledge and will be adjusted to the capability of the students.

Participants are expected to also practice on-line using the QRZ or similar web sites to build up familiarity and confidence before the actual test.

The class will involve taking practice Technician tests and then reviewing the answers and explaining why answers are right or wrong. Training information will be pulled from Gordon West's Books, ARRL Handbook and Operating Manuals and handouts. Students require nothing but a writing implement. All calculations should be able to be done by hand.

Outside testing is scheduled on June 30th, July 10th and 14th. Those that want to can carpool together. Bill will provide a quick review before whichever test you intend to take.

General Classes will start immediately after the conclusion of the Technician classes. Start Date will be either July 8th or July 15th, Sunday Mornings at the Fairlane Mall Food Court near the Subway Food Shop at 10:30-12:30. We can adapt the meeting times and location and add more classes during the week if found necessary.

This class assumes a Technician license or equivalent knowledge and will build on that knowledge.

Participants are expected to also practice on-line using the QRZ or similar web sites to build up familiarity and confidence before the actual test.

The class will involve taking practice General tests and then reviewing the answers and explaining why answers are right or wrong. Training information will be pulled from Gordon West's Books, ARRL Handbook and Operating Manuals and handouts. Students will need a writing implement and a non-programmable scientific calculator. Programmable calculators are not permitted at the actual exam.

The Class should last around 4-6 weeks with testing held sometime either late August or early September.

Contact Bill Boyke, N8OZV, at 313-805-8877 or [WBOYKE@FORD.COM](mailto:WBOYKE@FORD.COM) if interested or need questions answered.

# The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

## Club Meeting Information

The Ford Amateur Radio Club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, except for Christmas and the summer months (July & August). The meetings are held at 7 PM at the Ford Engine Manufacturing & Development Offices (EMDO) building. EMDO is located at 17000 Southfield Rd, Allen Park, MI, on the east side of Southfield just north of the Allen Park Municipal offices. Park in the front of the building and come to the front door near the flagpole. Knock on the door if no one is standing there to let you in.

**Conference call: All FARL club meetings are available via a conference call. Dial in at 7pm to: 313-323-6737. When prompted, enter passcode 19153130#.**

Meeting agendas start with club business items followed by a short break. Presentations on selected ham radio topics of interest are given after the break. Anyone wishing to present a topic can contact any Board member.

## Club Repeater Information

The Ford Amateur Radio League operates 3 repeaters under the K8UTT call. The repeaters are located in the Dearborn, MI, area and are open for members and guests to operate. The 2 Meter and 1.25 Meter repeaters are linked together. New from Murray, KE8UM: The PL is now transmitted on the output, so we may program in coded squelch, which is handy with the Lowell repeater coming in from Grand Rapids some times.

**Club Repeater Net: Sunday evening at 8 PM local time.**  
**Autopatch: Codes are available from N8HKU to club members. The repeater autopatch can reach all of the Detroit Metro area.**

Please contact the following people if there is any problem with a repeater listed below:

<u>Band</u>	<u>Output</u>	<u>Input</u>	<u>PL Freq</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
2 Meters	145.270 Mhz	144.670 Mhz	100 Hz	Dave Treharne	734-476-1666
1.25 Meters	224.520 Mhz	222.920 Mhz	100 Hz	Murray Scott	248-734-1704
70 CM	443.425 Mhz	448.450 Mhz	107.2 Hz	Bob Krause	248-437-6634

## 2006-2007 Club Officers

Please contact any of the officers for information regarding the Ford Amateur Radio League, or go to the club website at [www.geocities.com/capecanaveral/hall/2183/](http://www.geocities.com/capecanaveral/hall/2183/) for current events and activities.

President	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Vice President	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
Treasurer	Bill Brezina	WA8HEA	313-563-2905
Recording Secretary	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
Repeater Chair	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
K8UTT Trustee	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666

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Next club meeting will focus on Field Day preparations.

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