

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

President's Note: June 2009

As I start these notes for June, I have just returned home from Hamvention and Four Days in May. It's always a blast to go down there and learn from the expert presenters and see the latest goodies – or see the “latest goodies” from the past, such as all of the boat anchors. It never fails that I come home with more than what I went down with. This year, one of the items I picked up was a DV Dongle, a device that allows PC's or Macs to connect to the D-Star system. There aren't any D-Star repeaters in the Detroit area yet; the closest ones are in Howell and in Hell (that's the Hell near Pinckney, so the only way to work with D-Star around here is to use a DV Dongle. It may be worthy of a future club presentation in the fall or winter. One of the other items I picked up was an unwanted item: a sore left foot from walking around so much on that hard parking lot. But that was a temporary inconvenience, as was the fire alarm that went off late Wednesday night at the hotel (false alarm, fortunately).

Now what is Four Days in May like? It's a four-day event (naturally) sponsored by the QRP-ASCI group, devoted to QRP operation. The first day is filled with seminars on all sorts of topics related to QRP circuits and QRP operation. The evenings of the first and second days are devoted to Vendor Nights, Show and Tell nights, and the Homebrew contest, where attendees review the projects in various categories (transmitters/receivers, antennas, accessories, test equipment) and vote for the best in category and the best in show. Saturday night is reserved for the banquet, with excellent food, good door prizes and inspiring presentations, such as this year's induction of three members into the QRP-ASCI's Hall of Fame. And on the fourth day? Well, that's Sunday, and that's getaway day.

As I said, both Hamvention and Four Days in May let you learn from the top amateurs and apply their techniques to your operation, or simply be inspired by the obstacles they had to overcome in order to engage in their radio activities. At Four Days in May, one of the speakers was Oleg Borodin, RV3GM, telling us about QRP activities in Russia and the former Soviet Union, how difficult it was in those days before communism fell and how some of the top QRP operators came over to help. It was difficult for him to give the talk in a language that clearly wasn't his native tongue, but he made himself understood, and the FDIM attendees gave him a standing ovation. Over at Hamvention, the forums I attended this year were the Field Day forum, the Alternative Power Sources forum (the main topic was fuel cells, with an FT-817 being powered by a compact fuel cell), the Bicycle Mobile forum, and Richard Garriott's talk on his experiences as a private astronaut (I went to intermediate and high school with him). Out in the flea market, I got to tune and experience a loop antenna connected to an FT-817, courtesy of Alex, PY1AHD, who specializes in designing and building loop antennas.

I'm writing these notes early because, when this newsletter is being prepared for mailing before the June meeting, I will be on vacation in Uganda. I will have better things to do with my time over there than prepare these notes!

In two weeks and two days from our June meeting, it will be Field Day once again. Plans for the event are well under way, and we'll be giving more updates at the June meeting. Most of the setup will be similar to previous years. I won't be able to participate much on Saturday because I'll be attending a cousin's wedding, and my availability for Sunday is uncertain at press time, but I know that between the FARL and LARC members, we'll have plenty of potential operators. I and the rest of the board encourage you to come on out and help.

See you at the meeting!

73, Roger, KD8CSE

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Field Day, June 27th - 28th, 2009

Well, it is my favorite time of the year; the weather is getting better and we can open the windows to let in the fresh air. It is also time for a lot of ham radio activities including Field Day. It is a great time to get with fellow hams you haven't seen for a while, work on radio projects and simply have fun with ham radio. **Field Day = Fun.**

We've had several meetings with the Livonia Amateur Radio Club (LARC) regarding Field Day operations and have a pretty good idea of who is doing what. We will be participating with their club at the Livonia Fire station located on Plymouth Rd west of Newburgh Rd. and will be using the K8UTT call sign this year. The current plan is to run a 3A operation (3 transmitters running off of emergency generator power) with a GOTA (Get On The Air) station and a VHF/UHF/satellite station (see the site layout plan for details). Both the GOTA and the VHF/UHF stations are not included in the 3A category and are considered "free".

The key to having a successful 3A operation is lots of help putting up and taking down the site and lots of people who want to operate. There is plenty to do for everyone no matter what your interest is with ham radio. And don't forget to invite your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. We plan on starting setup at 9 AM Saturday and teardown will be around 2 PM on Sunday. Non-essential equipment may be packed up before 2 PM. Last year it took 3-4 hours to setup and about 1 hour for teardown.

The Ford Radio Club will provide a SSB Voice/Digital station and the VHF/UHF station. Dave Treharne, N8HKU, will bring the club's Yaesu FT-990, digital interface and his laptop computer and Bill Brezina, WA8HEA, will provide the G5RV and coax for the station antenna. The G5RV antenna will be mounted off the fire tower to a mast near the fence line along the right side of the lot. Dave will be operating RTTY, PSK31 or other digital modes as well as SSB voice. Bill Brezina will provide his laptop computer, Kenwood TS-2000 and coaxes for the VHF/UHF/satellite station and Mike Rudzki, N8MR, (LARC) will provide the 2M and 70CM Egg Beater antennas for satellite work.

LARC will provide a CW station, the GOTA and the 2nd SSB Voice station. John Mathey will provide his Elecraft K3 for the CW operation. Mike Rudzki, N8MR, will have his laptop computer, inverted L antenna to operate 160 meters (as well as 6 meters), and a Carolina Windom to operate 80-10 meters, plus coaxes, for this station. These antennas will be mounted off the fire tower toward the trees at the western edge of the lot.

Fred DesChenes, W8GKH, will provide an ICOM IC-706MKIIG for the GOTA station and will use the LARC Yaesu FT-450 for the 2nd SSB Voiced station. Richard Gibson, K6VEM, will be the mentor for the GOTA station, and coach anyone who has never operated a ham radio before or has been off the air a long time. The GOTA station will only be operational when these qualifying participants are available. The 2nd SSB Voice station will be shut down when the GOTA station is operating; otherwise the 2nd SSB Voice station will be the primary station for the contest. Both of these stations will use a coil loaded vertical and coax provided by LARC.

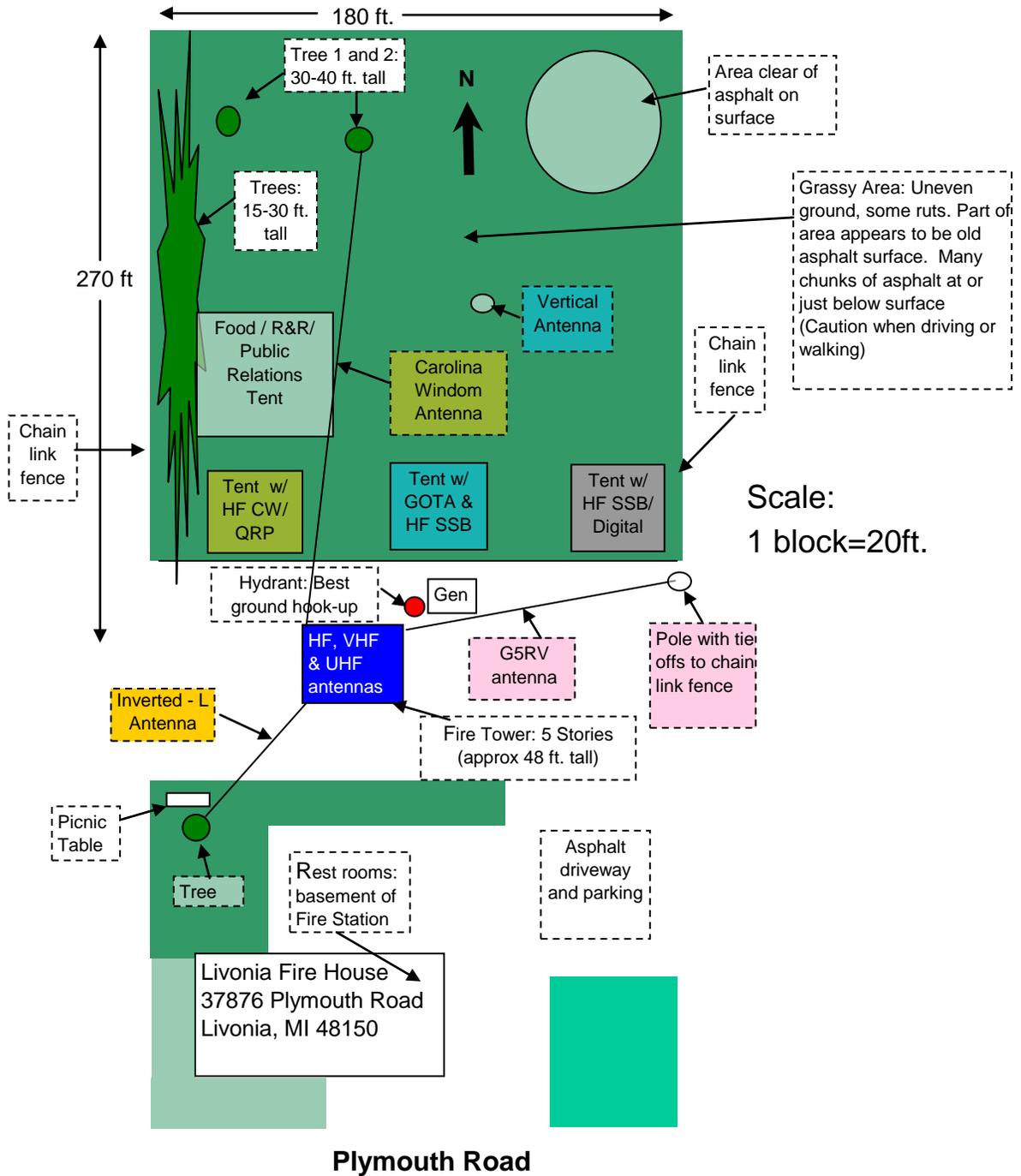
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John Mathey will use his Elecraft K1, battery and solar panels to run QRP from the CW station antennas to earn the bonus points for operating under an alternate power source.

Updated 5/29/09

Site Layout



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John Mathey is providing his 3 KW, super quiet generator again this year and the LARC will provide a 2 KW backup unit as well. Each station needs to provide its own power cable and power strips to get power from the generator to the equipment.

The Livonia Fire Dept is providing a 400 sq. ft. (20 X 20) tent for us to use for the food/R&R/information tent, plus we will have other shelters (10 X 20 screen tent, 10 X 20 carport, 2 cabin tent, etc.) available for station operation. Some of these shelters are water proof and some are water resistant so bring plastic tarps to cover stuff if we get our usual Field Day storm.

Remember to dress appropriately because it can get hot during the day and really chilly at night. Don't forget the bug repellent for our pesky friends; this is, after all, "field" day.

We plan to use the N3FJP Field Day contest software and will be networking all the computers for logging. This really helps if a station changes modes (from Voice to CW, etc.) and speeds up the contact compilation for log submissions to the ARRL.

All meals will be provided by LARC (Lynette Rudzki, K8LCR and Doris Kelterborn, KD8DXJ). Dave Treharne will make his traditional Sunday breakfast for those who worked the night shift and those who come early. If there is something special you would like to make and contribute for the cause, then contact Dave Treharne n8hku@arrl.net or Bill Brezina wbrezina@att.net to coordinate the food. A slight twist on the meals is that you must participate (set up, tear down, operate, train, mentor, etc.) in order to eat. This will include visitors; they will be asked to make some contacts, log, take part in the hands-on training or participate in some other Field Day activity.

Training activities may include such topics as "How to Contact Amateur Satellites", "How to Operate Using a Digital Mode", "How to Prepare and Receive Message Traffic", "How to Use Logging Software For Contests" and "How to Operate in a Contest". If you have a topic you would like to teach then contact Dave or Bill as soon as possible.

We could also use some Field Day "greeters" to meet visitors, give them information about ham radio and take them on a site tour. This makes each visitor feel welcome and helps take some of the pressure off the operators to explain what they are doing in the middle of a contest QSO. Once the visitor has a chance to see the operation, we would strongly encourage them to "jump in" and join the fun. Watching provides insight; participation provides comprehension.

Please take a look at the K8UTT.org website for the latest Field Day updates and plan on joining the Field Day fun on Saturday and/or Sunday, June 27th and 28th. We look forward to seeing you there.

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FARL MEETING MINUTES, May 14, 2009

Minutes recorded by Debbe Yeager, KD8IWV, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Vice President Dave, N8HKU. There were 8 members and 1 guest present.

MINUTES: Minutes from April were approved as read.

TREASURER: Treasurer's report read by Bill, WA8HEA. Expenses; \$5.00 for dues, \$40.00 donation for Ralph and \$37.27 for telephone bill.

BOARD ACTIVITY: Bill WA8HEA reported on meeting with LARC about Field Day. Field Day will be at the Livonia Fire Station on Plymouth Road near Newberg. We are currently planning 2A with GOTA. We are also looking at having a VHF/UHF station for possible satellite contacts. Bill will look into the network software to see if we need to repurchase it.

The equipment will be located outdoors (the same as last year). We will not be able to set up inside the fire station this year. The food will be provided by Doris and Lynette and a financial contribution has been requested from FARL. We have been invited to attend the next LARC meeting on Monday at 7:30 pm the Livonia Library (5 Mile and Farmington) where they will further discuss Field Day preparations. Contact Bill WA8HEA for additional details on the LARC meeting. As always the goal of Field Day is to have as many members participate as possible.

Food will be simple and Dave N8HKU will once again provide Sunday breakfast. The t-shirt logo with the car and the LARC logo together is slightly preferred at this point.

REPEATER: Bill WA8HEA was unable to bring up the 440 repeater and he has contacted the trustee.

EDUCATION/TRAINING: There is a club sponsored test on May 21st, 11:30 AM at Building 1 located at Oakwood and Rotunda. Technician, General Class and Extra Class testing can be taken for \$15.00. Additional details can be found in The Bolt.

COMMUNICATIONS-NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE: Al W8AMH has volunteered to put together the June newsletter. Our new website www.k8utt.org is now up and running. Contact Dave N8HKU if you need to update the Sale Page.

UNFINISHED/CURRENT BUSINESS: Bill WA8HEA has completed 10 J-Pole Antennas. They can be tuned for 145 and 444/5. They are for sale at \$20.00 each. The actual cost for materials was \$17.95 and Bill will donate the extra money from sales to the club. The next club project will be a tape measure antenna for foxhunting.

NEW BUSINESS: Contact Al W8AMH and give him your e-mail if you are interested in obtaining a Maritime Radio Certificate for boating in Canadian waters. The training will be conducted in Livonia by the Canadian Power Squadron. Training starts next week Monday and Tuesday and continues on Tuesday and Wednesday of the following week. The test will be given on the last Wednesday of class. Al will provide those interested with additional details and directions.

SWAP MEETS: A motion was passed to have a table at the Monroe Swap Meet on Father's

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Day. The cost of the table will be \$15.00. Below is a list of other swap meets in the area.

May 15-16-17

Dayton Hamfest - can take the ARROW bus from Ann Arbor on May 16th

Hara Arena Dayton, OH

Talk In 146.940

June 7

Chelsea Radio Swap n Shop

Chelsea Fairgrounds 20501 Old US Highway 12

Talk In 145.450 (PL100)

June 6

Fulton County Ohio

Bill WA8HEA has two free tickets. This is an all outdoor event.

June 20

Midland Swap

Midland, MI

Talk In 146.72/12

June 21

Monroe Hamfest

Monroe Cty Fairgrounds

M-50 at Raisinville Rd. (2 Miles west of Monroe)

We will no longer get World Radio Magazine. CQ Magazine is offering a single one year subscription to the club for \$27.00 vs. \$36.95 over the counter. If you are interested contact Bill WA8HEA.

PROGRAM: Bill WA8HEA gave a presentation on critical items for a "Go Kit". Bill googled "go kit" and showed how to look for check lists and equipment. He stressed that most items should be put together ahead of time with a list of items to put into the kit if you are currently using them. There are three kits you should pack (1) A kit that contains your personal needs depending on how long you will be gone, (2) Hardware Kit with radio, power source, spare parts and equipment repair capability, (3) Survival Kit containing personal first aid kit, water, etc.

Bill stressed the need to label your items for quick identification. He also showed the group the MFJ-706 Grab and Go Emergency Communications Center.

<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-706>

Field Day is a good opportunity to prepare your Go Kit.

Two good sites to review are; <http://www.races.org/gokit.htm> and <http://www.stetson.edu/~kmccoy/eop.html>

ADJOURN: 8:15 PM

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Michigan PRB-1 FAQs

What is PRB-1? PRB-1 is a 1985 declaratory ruling by the Federal Communications Commission which states that local zoning authorities cannot preclude amateur radio service communications, but must reasonably accommodate those facilities and enact the "minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the state or local authority's legitimate purpose." This ruling is now a federal regulation [47 C.F.R. Section 97.15(b)].

Why was PRB-1 Enacted? When cellular telephones became popular in the 1980s, local zoning boards and municipalities began passing regulations to limit the spread of cell towers within their jurisdiction. In many areas, these same regulations were applied to amateur radio operators, limiting or preventing them from putting up antennas and/or towers. When the Amateur Radio Community appealed to the FCC for relief, the FCC issued the PRB-1 ruling.

Why do we need a Michigan PRB-1 Law? Though PRB-1 is federal law, many zoning boards and municipalities are unaware of its existence, often making the process of getting antennas approved difficult, and in a number of cases, leading to lawsuits that are time-consuming and expensive for all parties.

Who Benefits from a Michigan PRB-1 Law? The Michigan Emergency Communications Preservation Act, as the bill will come to be known, seeks to streamline the process federally licensed amateur radio operators must go through to put up the antennas they require—especially during communications emergencies—and sets a benchmark for uniform local zoning regulations in Michigan. This, in turn, will save time and money for all involved.

Does PRB-1 cover CCRs? No! Neither the original FCC Ruling nor the proposed Michigan codification of PRB-1 ruling will have any impact on CCRs (Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions).

What is the timeframe for Michigan PRB-1 Legislation? Our goal is to have a PRB-1 style bill passed and signed into law by the end of the current legislative session in December of 2010.

Why was the Michigan PRB-1 Committee formed? After Pennsylvania became the 27th state to pass PRB-1 Legislation in 2008, Dale Williams, WA8EFK, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Michigan Section Manager, determined that it was time to get a similar bill passed here and formed the Michigan PRB-1 Committee.

Where can I learn more about the Michigan PRB-1 Legislation effort? As each milestone is achieved, news will be posted on the Michigan PRB-1 website, <http://www.prb1michigan.org/>. To keep current on our progress, sign up for the e-mail bulletin at <http://www.prb1michigan.org/id21.html>. The Committee roster can also be found here.

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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 for current events and activities.

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

Club Meetings

The Ford Amateur Radio Club meets the 2nd 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 (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: Thursday, June 10th @ 7:00PM

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