



President's Notes for June 2014

Our elections, which were held last month after being delayed from April, resulted in no changes to our roster of officers. No one was nominated for President or Vice-President, so our current president (yours truly) and vice-president (Dave, N8HKU) will continue in those positions. No one was nominated for Secretary, either, so that position remains vacant. Pat, WD8JDZ, remains Treasurer, and all of the appointed positions (Activities Chair, Trustee, etc.) remain unchanged.

This will likely be reaching you after LARC has completed its planned balloon launch, currently scheduled for June 7. I had planned to listen for the balloon beacon; if the launch was successful, I hoped I heard it. We can discuss this at our monthly meeting.

Since this is June, this must be the month of Field Day. That means the presentation for this month will be about Field Day. Yes, we'll be partnering with LARC again, and this will be the second year at the new location north of I-96 and west of Newburgh. It will be my first year, though, because I was in Texas on Field Day weekend and attended the operations of AA5RO near San Antonio. I look forward to seeing for myself how everything at the new site is working out. As for the presentation, it will no doubt be similar to presentations from previous years – site plan, station responsibilities, food duties, etc. As always, there will be a request for volunteers for all aspects of station operation, including operation. Don't miss out!

And don't forget about July and Maker Faire Detroit, not to mention the ARRL Centennial Convention in Hartford. Our July meeting time will be devoted to Maker Faire organization, as has been the custom since Maker Faire started locally in 2010. What new things will be in store for us this year? Come to the Faire and find out, or come to the meeting to prepare for the Faire!

73,
Roger, KD8CSE

**Ford Amateur Radio League** (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club)
Club Meeting Minutes – May 08, 2014**Meeting Minutes for FARL May 8th 2014****In Attendance:**

Dave Treharne – N8HKU
Pat Quinn – WD8JDZ
Rich Maske – K8RMM
Rodney Deyo – k8SGL
Chris Jenks KD8VPJ

Meeting called to order:

By Dave at 18:36 EDT

Review of the minutes

Reviewed

1. Dave Motioned as read
2. Pat seconded.
3. Minutes from last month accepted unanimously

Treasury Report:

By Pat

1. Account balance was reviewed
2. Dues were collected at the meeting, to be reported next month
3. 2 phone payments since last treasury report.
4. FERA to still deposit from ticket sales.
5. Tax info still needs to be submitted (at time of the meeting).

Repeater Report:

By Dave

1. Repeaters are still working
2. Sunday night net still at 20:00 EDT

Training Report:

Nothing to report

Quick Review of Website info:

By Dave

Old Business:

1. Landline Replacement
 - a. Looking at phone from Sprint
 - i. Phone cost \$10.00 (at Kroger's)
 - ii. Service cost \$10.00 a month for 100 minutes (via Sprint reseller iwireless)
 - iii. Motion by Dave for \$25.00 for purchase of phone, service, and related (power strip).
 1. Seconded by Pat
 2. Unanimous
2. Murray still wants to update hardware
3. Elections
 - a. President
 - i. No Nominations
 - b. Vice President
 - i. No Nominations
 - c. Treasurer
 - i. Pat Quinn – Unopposed
 - d. Secretary
 - i. Still Open

New Business

1. PEAC Ride
 - a. scheduled for Saturday September 13th

2. Dayton Trip - May 16
 - a. Bill is going to have space in the car
 - i. Going to HamFest
 - ii. Going to Air Museum
 - b. Contact Bill if you want to ride along

3. Liability Insurance
 - a. Came up during the replacement line discussion
 - b. Pat needs to check on this still to make sure it's paid up to date
 - i. Plans to check when in Dayton.

4. Field Day with Livonia (LARC) club again
 - a. Same place
 - b. 4A again
 - c. Motion to participate
 - i. Dave
 - ii. Seconded by pat
 - iii. Moved

5. Move meeting time
 - a. Postponed to be discussed at a later date.

6. Maker Faire
 - a. Pulled N8M Special Event call sign again.

7. Error in the Bolt
 - a. Last page had the officers listed for the year 2012-2013.
 - i. Don't know if it was just the date or whole list that was incorrect

Presentation:

Dave presented on Roofing Filters: What They Are, and How They Work

Adjourned:

By Dave at 19:46 EDT

Post Meeting:

Conversation during clean up and departure on Field Day and what the different Number Letter combinations mean for the stations.

Meeting minutes recorded by Chris Jenks, KD8VPJ



Monitoring LARC's Balloon Launch

- By Roger Reini, KD8CSE

On June 7, the Livonia Amateur Radio Club (LARC) planned to launch a balloon carrying a payload of an FM voice beacon, an APRS beacon, and an ATV transmitter. As it turned out, the ATV transmitter had to be removed



Launch Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxoz0N98Qkw>

prior to launch, but I'm getting ahead of myself. I'd learned of the launch earlier in the week, and so I made plans to follow the launch.

The launch at the Ionia State Recreational Area was being covered by Twitter and by a live feed of the launch, as well as by reports on LARC's 145.35

repeater. Tweets from K8UNS said that the launch team was at Ionia and preparing for launch, and the video feed confirmed that. The balloon was inflated, but before the payload could be attached, it got away from the handlers and took off on its own! They had a spare balloon, but they didn't

have enough helium to fill it. The launch was delayed by around 3 hours while they found another source of helium.

The preparation of the second balloon went better, although conditions forced the removal of the ATV transmitter from the payload. At 1:52 PM, the balloon and payload were launched. APRS transmissions started right



Flight Path

away and were tracked via the aprs.fi website. I tuned in the frequency for the FM beacon (146.46), turned off the squelch, and listened for the beacon. Would I be able to hear it at home with my vertical J-pole antenna? 25 minutes after launch, I began to hear faint signals through the noise – “Kilo Eight Uniform November Sierra”. I could hear the balloon! As the balloon traveled to the

east and rose ever higher, the beacon signal got stronger. Eventually, it came in as S9 or slightly higher with nearly full quieting – pretty good for 300 mW at around 100 miles away! Tweets from K8UNS said the beacon was heard as far away as Marquette and Akron.

Shortly after reaching 90,000 feet, the APRS feed started showing the balloon descending at a high rate of speed. The balloon had burst, and the payload was coming down via parachute. Where would it land? As I monitored the track on the map, I could hear the beacon signal weakening. Some four hours after I first heard the beacon, I lost it in the noise. The payload landed northeast of Chesaning, intact, and was recovered by the launch team.

Congratulations to LARC on their successful launch!



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.



2013-2014 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	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
Secretary	John Turowski	N8NWA	313-258-1996
Repeater Chair	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
K8UTT Trustee	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Activity Chair	Bill Boyke	N80ZV	313-805-8877
Bolt Editor	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: June 12, 2014 at 6:30PM
Topic: Field Day

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