



President's Notes for June 2015

Dayton Hamvention is behind us, and Field Day is in front of us.

The Arrow bus to Dayton was indeed very early in the morning. In spite of a lot of construction on the way down, we made it there in good time, and got the outdoor shelter in the flea market set-up quickly. I ended up bringing down only my Cushcraft beam to sell. Michael, KE8QEZ, a summer intern at Ford, ended up purchasing my Icom 745 and antenna tuner from me, so I did not bring those down. I would have never had guessed who bought my Cushcraft antenna: a ham from Brazil who was up on vacation. He brought one suitcase, and the antenna will be his 2nd bag! (I had it packaged in an old ski bag I had, so it did wrap up fairly well for long distance travel.) Being HF radio-less for the first time in about 30 years, I was now free to do some shopping and buy my first new HF radio ever, as all my prior radios were “experienced” by at least 10 years. I ended up purchasing a brand new ICOM 9100 HF/VHF/UHF radio, the so-called “Shack in a Box”, as it operates all bands through 70cm. Since it was very heavy, I had it shipped to me after the event. It is now set-up and running in my shack, and I look forward to making HF contacts on it, as well as future satellite work!

I did end up joining AMSAT down at Dayton, to help me to understand the satellite operation and support their efforts. At the AMSAT booth, I talked with a ham from the Grand Rapids area who was running the booth. His club was supporting a school who was trying to obtain a slot to talk to the International Space Station through ARISS. His school's application had not been completely accepted, yet, though. The effort that the Dearborn Schools and Gordon, KD8COJ, had put together to obtain a time slot has turned out to be very well done! We will continue to work with Dearborn schools on the educational platform, along with continued work and testing of the radio set-up. We will likely hold a license training session, and quite possibly some radio science related lectures for the students! If you are interested in supporting, please let me know!

Finally, we will be discussing our yearly Field Day exercise during our Club meeting this month. Please attend the meeting, and please let us know if you will be attending! We look forward to a strong club participation, and we also need to know who will be attending and when, so we can plan the food. Look at the Field Day article in the Bolt for more information!

73,
Dave, N8HKU



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2015**

Meeting Minutes for FARL, May 14 2015

In Attendance: 4 members, 0 guests

Dave Treharne, N8HKU

Roger Reini, KD8CSE

Rich Maske, K8RMM

Sam Wells, KD8YTR

Meeting called to order by Dave, N8HKU, 6:35 PM

Minutes from April meeting presented. Motion to accept by Roger, KD8CSE; seconded by Sam, KD8YTR. Motion passed unanimously, minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report – Dave presented on behalf of treasurer Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ, who did not attend. He presented two reports, one for the month of April to May and one for the year, May 2014 to May 2015; that report will be given to FERA as the club's annual report for tax purposes. For the monthly report, there were no expenses incurred. Motion to accept by Roger, KD8CSE; seconded by Sam, KD8YTR. Motion passed unanimously, monthly report approved. The annual report was not put to a vote, as Dave saw some possible discrepancies that needed correcting; he was to consult with Pat on those.

FERA – Rich, K8RMM, expressed interested in selling Auto Show tickets next year to Dearborn Schools staff. Also, Dave, N8HKU, mentioned that there is a FERA discount for memberships at The Henry Ford this month.

Board of Directors – no meeting in April

Committee Reports:

Repeater – status unchanged from last month: 2 meter and 220 MHz repeaters functioning normally, 440 MHz out of service. Contact Dave, NH8KU, for emergency repeater shutdown.

Training/Licensing – the most recent round of training at Ford ended May 5 with a testing session in which 2 hams successfully passed their exams; Sam Wells, KD8YTR, upgraded to General Class at that session. Congratulations! Next testing session targeted for early July.

Newsletter – the May edition of the BOLT went out in time for the meeting (barely). If anyone has anything to contribute to the BOLT, send it either to editor Rajiv Paul, KD8LHF, Dave, N8HKU, or Roger, KD8CSE.

Historian – post is currently vacant; we need to retrieve the archives from the previous historian, John, N8NWA.

Equipment Inventory – there is a 220 MHz Ringo Ranger antenna that was supposedly held by John, N8NWA, but he reported he did not have it. Roger, KD8CSE, said he had a Ringo Ranger antenna but thought it was for 2 meters. Dave, N8HKU, asked him to verify that. Subsequent to the meeting, Roger verified that he in fact had both a 2 meter and a 220 MHz Ringo Ranger antenna.

Unfinished/Current Business:

ARISS Contact with Dearborn Schools – the contact is still scheduled for late October or early November. The antennas are set, and the team will be receiving a mast-mount antenna preamp for the contact. We plan to set everything up at Field Day; this will be done in conjunction with the LARC's satellite operators. Gordon, KD8COJ, will invite the Dearborn teachers to attend Field Day.

New Business:

Hamvention – there was still room on the Arrow bus for the Saturday trip

Field Day – the club will be working with LARC once again. There is a new Field Day coordinator for LARC, Tyler Burda, K8DTB.

Upcoming Swaps – Rich, K8RMM, reminded everyone about the Midland swap on June 20, at which he planned to sell some items. That's the day before the Monroe swap on Father's Day.

Presentations – the first presentation was the conclusion of the address given by Joe Taylor, K1JT, at the ARRL Centennial Convention; the second was a presentation on the history of the Ford Engineering Laboratory building, which turned 90 years old in December and which recently re-opened; it is where Dave, N8HKU, now works.

Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM

Minutes by Roger Reini, KD8CSE, Vice-President



Club HF Radio Not Working! – Dave, N8HKU

Our club Yaesu FT-990 radio has stopped working. It lights up only the meter dial, and the RF gain control affect the meter, but the display does not turn on and there is no audio. I have not been able to get the microprocessor reset to work, and the memory battery looks OK at 3.2V. I found some buttons stuck on the main panel, due to interior damage, and fixed it. However, the radio is still not powering up. I am working on a plan to send it in for service. I am not sure who can service this old of a rig any longer. I will try to get it repaired for Field Day.



2015 Club Dues Reminder!

Club dues are due! \$15 per year.

Please send it to the club PO Box.

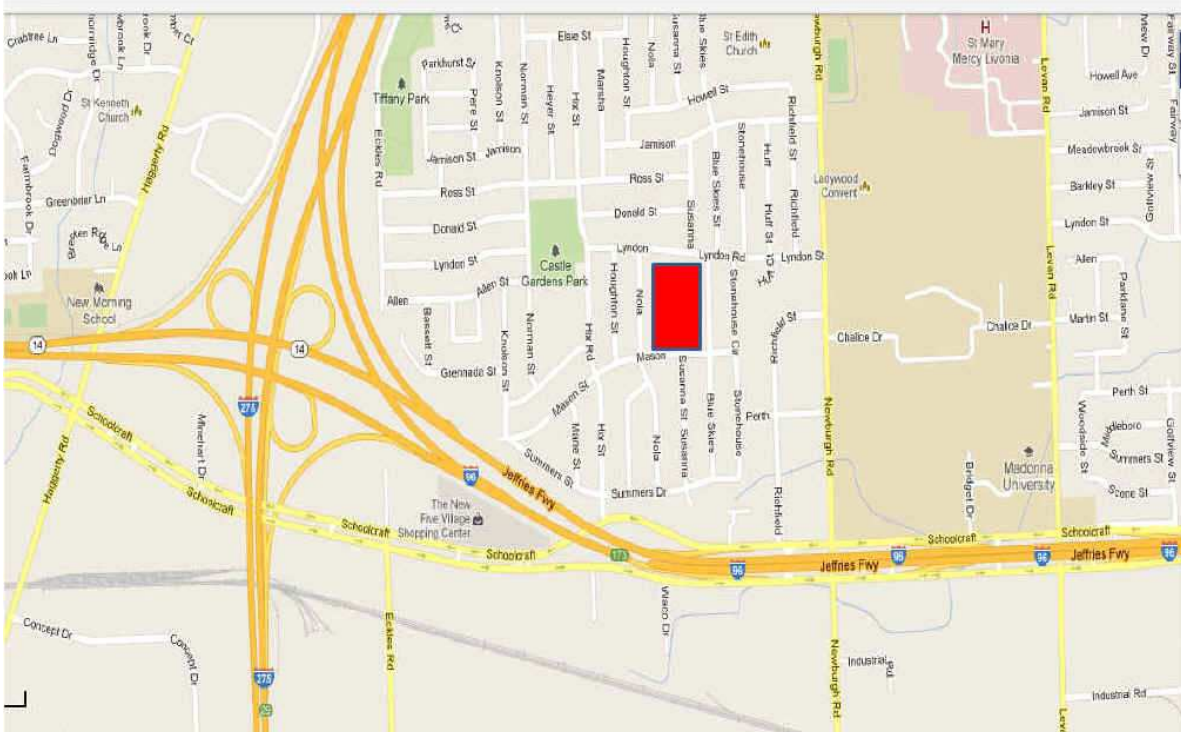


2015 Field Day – Dave, N8HKU

Are you ready to participate in Field Day this year? Block off your calendar for our annual Field Day exercise with the Livonia Amateur Radio Club (LARC) on June 27th and 28th.

We will begin set-up at 9am at the Field Day site. We will begin operating at 2pm on Saturday, and will run 24 hours continuously until 2pm on Sunday. We will then take everything down right after 2pm. We do expect both new licensees and guests from the Dearborn School system to attend, so having many club members to be present to help and to answer questions is a very good thing.

Location: 37855 Lyndon Street, Livonia, MI 48154, west of Newburgh Road and south of Five Mile Road. This is the same place as last year, but I-96 is open this year, making travel to and from the site much easier.



We will be running 4A again this year. 1 CW station, 2 SSB stations, and 1 Digital station. We will be able to run one station in the VHF/UHF band, including satellite, without changing the 4A designator.

The FARL is assigned to run the 1 SSB station this year. We will use the club G5RV for the antenna, which will cover 80m-10m. We will use the same canopy tent as we had last year, which was a fairly easy setup and tear down, and it has sides that we can drop during the night and during any wet weather. Our main radio is planned to be the club FT -990, but we may have to send it out for repair at the time of this writing, as it did not power up during test out. It had not been used since Maker Faire 2014. The backup radio will be my new ICOM 9100.

Gordon Scannell, KD8COJ, will bring his ARISS satellite set-up with a 440 MHz antenna and check out its ability to perform. LARC will also have satellite equipment present, so a comparison and education can be made with some seasoned veterans of the “beyond the Earth” communication.

The Ford club will be responsible for Breakfast on Sunday, as is our usual custom. Last year, I baked a couple of dishes and brought them warm to the site, using a hot plate to keep them warm during the morning. I think that went over well, and we can plan that again for this year. The LARC will provide meals for the Saturday and Sunday lunch, and Saturday dinner. The menus are being worked on.

For more information, check out the club website for information at:
http://www.k8utt.org/2015_Field_Day.htm

73,
Dave
N8HKU



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.



2014-2015 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.

Vice President	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
President	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
Treasurer	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
Secretary			
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 11, 2015 at 6:30PM

Topic: 2015 Field Day (http://k8utt.org/2015_Field_Day.htm)

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