



FARL President's Notes, March 2010

I'm starting these notes on the evening after LARC's swap meet. It appeared to be a very successful swap, based on their using a third room this year and on the parking lot being so packed at 8:30 AM that I had to go down to the library and park there. It may not have been that convenient for me, but it was solid testimony to the health of the swap. Attendance at the Hazel Park swap seemed to me to have been lower this year, but Livonia made up for it. I saw many of you there that day, and I know that LARC thanks everyone for their support.

It's not too soon to think about club officer elections. We will be holding them in April, so think about whom you'd like to nominate.

This month's presentation will be the presentation we were supposed to have last month: station grounding for lightning protection by John, N3JM. The very successful testing session we had last month caused the start of the meeting to be delayed by 45 minutes, and with the amount of business we had during the meeting, we simply ran out of time. And so John will make his presentation this month, with the presentations for following months being delayed in turn.

In two months, Dayton Hamvention will be upon us, and many of us will be heading there for one or more days. Some of us will be going early for special pre-Hamvention activities, such as Contest University or Four Days In May (that's where I'll be, again). For the benefit of the newer hams, I strongly encourage you to go if you can. To date, I've gone every year since I've received my license (four years, five this year), and I've learned (and bought) quite a bit during that time.

That is all for now – see you at the meeting!

73,
Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes - February 11, 2010**

Meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by President Roger, KD8CSE. Meeting began 45 minutes late due to the license test session that began before the meeting.

8 members were present, no guests.

Minutes from the January 2010 were reviewed and a motion made for their approval by W8AMH, seconded by N8RGI. Minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's report was read by Roger, KD8CSE, on behalf of Treasurer Bill, WA8HEA, who was absent. Expenses from last month included the LARC hamfest table rental, the repeater phone bill, and the purchase of the TM631 radio. Upcoming expenses are the P.O. Box fees and mailing labels. A check from FERA was accepted and given to Dave, N8HKU, for deposit. The Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Field Day: Bill WA8HEA has accepted the chair for the 2010 FARL-LARC Field Day exercise. Roger KD8CSE will make sure LARC knows.

Equipment: Club equipment, particularly the mobile equipment, is available to loan to club members. Please contact a club officer if interested. Dave N8HKU to contact Rajiv KD8LHF, as he has expressed interest in an equipment loan.

Repeater ID and announcements: The club meeting notice was heard correct for a start at 6:30pm. However, the required callsign ID is was not heard within the 10 minutes allowed. Contact to be made to Murray KE8UM to try and get the callsign added to the announcement. The 2m and 1 ¼ meter machines do cross talk their ID messages, but that was not seen as a problem.

Education and Training: Bill N8OZV to begin classes at the Ford Yacht Club starting in mid March. An exam is scheduled for Saturday, April 11th at 2pm in the Yacht club Board room. A second exam is scheduled for May 9th at the same location. Bill will work on starting up license training sessions at Ford this spring.

Upcoming LARC swap: The table rental includes a ticket for entry. It was decided that Bill WA8HEA is to use the complementary ticket. Al, W8AMH to take the ticket and the banner to the swap on Feb 21st.

LED Banner: Bill N8OZV demonstrated an LED banner that he has obtained. He was willing to donate it to the club, but the club needed to purchase a programming remote control device for it to work properly. The remote control is \$25 plus shipping through Ebay. A motion to purchase a remote control programmer for \$25 plus shipping was made by Roger KD8CSE and seconded by N8RGI. Motion was approved. N8OZV then donated the LED banner to the club, serial number 81766A. The controller used to demonstrate the banner was added to the club possessions, Bill N8OZV and Bill WA8HEA to order a replacement.

Toledo Swap: Club reviewed this swap and its new location. No motion was made to rent a table, as the club does not usually rent a table at this swap.

Milford Swap: It was confirmed that Bill WA8HEA has a complementary table rental for this swap.

Headset for the Yaesu FT990 Transceiver: Dave N8HKU presented the club with options for purchasing a headset for the Yaesu transceiver. The transceiver is used during Field Day and other activities, and the use of a headset with attached microphone is the preferred operating method. The MFJ headset currently employed is quite worn out. A hand switch was also demonstrated that makes it easy to operate the transceiver. After a discussion of two Heil options and one MFJ headset option, a motion was made to purchase a Heil Proset with the HC4 (contest) microphone, along with a Heil Hand switch, for a maximum cost of \$180 plus shipping. Motion was approved. Dave N8HKU to purchase, with the option to buy over Ebay or at the Hamvention, as long as the purchase is completed in time for Field Day.

Club Historian: Al W8AMH presented information on the Power Squadron Historian responsibilities. He will provide the club an electronic copy. The responsibilities appear to be very similar to what the FARL would need. A volunteer was requested at the meeting, but the issue was postponed to a future meeting. Roger KD8CSE to put a note in the March Bolt to help generate interest in this position.

Club Secretary: Roger KD8CSE reported that club Secretary Debbe KD8IWW was still in Hawaii and would not be standing for re-election in April. She did send word that she would be present at the March club meeting. A new Secretary would need to be elected in April.

Presentation: John N3JM started a presentation on Lightning and its effects. Due to the lateness of the evening, it was requested that John return next month to complete his presentation, and reschedule the March presentation from Bill WA8HEA for a future meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dave N8HKU, Vice President.



2010 Dues Reminder

Please remember to pay your 2010 club dues to Bill Brezina by the April meeting. You can either pay him at the club meetings, or you can send a check to FARL, PO Box 2711, Dearborn, MI, 48123. The dues are still \$15 to renew for the next year (April 2010 to April 2011). Bill will give you a new membership card as your receipt for the dues. You can also order a club name tag for \$5 if you need to replace one or simply want another one. New member dues are \$20 which includes the price of the name tag.



Club Historian Duties

We are in the midst of defining the duties and responsibilities of the club historian, who will become the keeper of the club archives and the point person for their transition to a digital format. As a thought starter, consider the job description for the historian of a *Power Squadron* historian, as provided by AI, W8AMH:

The Historian serves as custodian of records including:

1. Minutes of Organizational Meeting.
2. The Squadron Charter.
3. List of Charter and Honorary Members.
4. Record of Incorporation.
5. Bylaws including amendments.
6. Important correspondence.
7. Minutes of meetings.
8. Publicity clippings and photographs.
9. Biographies and photos of present and past officers.
10. Special awards given or received.

He will advise the Commander of significant anniversaries and solicit help from all members in collecting information and photographs pertaining to all squadron activities that may be retained as part of the Squadron history.

With modifications, this could serve as the basis for the duties of our club historian. Let's discuss this during the March meeting.

73,
Roger, KD8CSE



FCC Reaffirms Statement on ROS

In mid-February, European amateurs first used a new, experimental digital mode known as [ROS](http://rosmodem.wordpress.com/) (<http://rosmodem.wordpress.com/>). On February 23, 2010 -- after FCC review of the original documents provided from the developer's Web site -- the FCC made the following statements on ROS:

"[Section 97.305](#) is the rule that specifies where different emission types are allowed to be transmitted on different bands.'ROS' is viewed as 'spread spectrum,' and the creator of the system describes it as that. We assume that he knows what he created. [Section] 97.305 authorizes spread spectrum emission types (defined in [Section 97.3](#)) to be transmitted by FCC licensed amateur stations at places we regulate communications only on 222-225 MHz and higher frequency amateur bands. European telecommunication regulatory authorities may authorize amateur stations in Europe to use SS on the HF bands, but this is of no concern to us. The Commission does not determine if a particular mode 'truly' represents spread spectrum as it is defined in the rules. The licensee of the station transmitting the emission is responsible for determining that the operation of the station complies with the rules. This would include determining the type of emission the station is transmitting and that the frequencies being used are authorized for that type of emission."

Since that initial FCC review, several Internet sites have reported a claim -- attributed to the FCC -- that the original statements made had been reconsidered and that the FCC view was now that "ROS cannot be viewed as Spread Spectrum and it would be encompassed within [Section 97.309](#) (RTTY and data emissions codes)."

When queried about this new statement, the FCC's Consumer Assistance Office stated that "[T]he information contained on the ROS Web site was *not* provided by the FCC." They then reaffirmed the original statements that originated from the FCC's Wireless Bureau, which handles Amateur Radio rules for the US.

The ARRL supports -- as one of the basic purposes of Amateur Radio -- the experimentation and advancing the technical skills of operators. The development and use of any new mode is exciting to many amateurs, and the League encourage amateurs to experiment within the parameters of the rules; however, the ARRL also reminds US licensees that according to [Section 97.307](#), spread spectrum communications are only permissible in the US on frequencies above 222 MHz.



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	Dee Flint	248-981-8145	N8UZE@arrl.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.



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
Bolt Editor	Rajiv Paul	KD8LHF	313-244-2515



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: March 11, 2010 at 6:30PM

Topic: Station Grounding for Lightning Protection by John N3JM

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