



## President's Notes, March 2012

Storms: The season for severe storms is already upon us at the end of February and the beginning of March. The yearly NWS storm spotter training schedule has been released for this year. Amateurs can get a storm spotter number that is good for 2 years by attending a session, but you are welcome to get a yearly refresher if you desire it. Please become trained as a storm spotter if you are able to and join in the local 2m storm spotter net when needed. Here is the link to NWS training for this season: [http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display\\_cmsstory.php?wfo=dtx&storyid=63581&source=0](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=dtx&storyid=63581&source=0) . From my house, I have a decent view to the west from a window in our master bathroom. When a storm is coming, I will attach my J pole antenna (build by Bill, WA8HEA) to my handy talkie for good communications to the repeater site. My rubber duck antenna does not get out as reliably, especially if the rain is coming down in sheets. I have not yet had to report any serious weather, but am on the lookout just in case something happens.

Speaking of weather, I am writing this after regaining power to our home today, after a pretty serious wind storm last night. To provide some electricity for the house, I employed an 800 watt 12V to 120V power inverter from the car to the house, along with some extension cords. First, I managed to power a coffee maker to help my wife wake up to the day. Later, I was able to run the TV and satellite dish, the internet modem and router, and some power to recharge a laptop. The irony was that I was running the house components off of electricity I stored the night before. I had a Ford Focus Electric vehicle home for the weekend to test drive a software update. When the power went out at 1am, the vehicle had completed charging and had its 24kwh battery fully charged. I powered the car on in the garage, turned off the AC and radio, and flipped on the inverter, which was clamped to the 12V battery terminals. I appear to have used just under 2kwh of energy from the car. When the power came back on, I was able to recharge the car again. As we know, we can run this type of inverter from a regular vehicle as well. I would have pulled the vehicle out of the garage first in this case before hooking up the inverter. The electric vehicle allowed me to avoid this step. The inverter I used was a modified sine wave, which is a fancy term for a square wave at +/- 115V output. Some equipment, like motors, does not like this type of power, but most electronics handle it OK. I heard a bit of a whine through the speakers of the TV, but it ran fine otherwise. The entire experience got me thinking that we could run a station in a park or public place off of a car with one of these inverters. We have used a generator in the past, like when we ran a special event

station in Dearborn. Using a car and an inverter would make the set up simpler and quieter. I would not want to run Field Day this way for 24 hours, but for an afternoon, this is not a bad idea.

Out of the country: While I was out of the country last month on vacation in Jamaica, Bill, N8OZV, put together a very interesting and informative presentation on operating internationally. If you missed the February club meeting, you can view a copy of the presentation at: <http://www.k8utt.org/Presentations.htm>. One of the interesting things that I read in Bill's presentation is the need to note an approximate location over the air when operating in Canada. I had not known that before. While I have not been operating in Canada for a long time now, I used to travel over to Windsor regularly to visit injection mold tooling shops. I would be in my own vehicle and I did hop on the air with 2m FM radio on occasion. If I head back with my equipment, I will know how to operate. Another interesting thing I learned is what paperwork to take if operating in many of the European countries. The rules are pretty simple, and Bill put many links in to help get the information needed.

This month: For this month's club meeting, Roger, KD8CSE, is planning on giving a presentation on those small, inexpensive Chinese radios from Wouxon. These radios have a unique personality of their own, but they also represent a way for new hams to get their first radio to operate with. I hope that you can join us for our meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. During this meeting, we will also begin talking about officer elections coming up in April.

73,  
Dave,  
N8HKU



## **Ford Amateur Radio League** (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – February 09, 2012**

### **Minutes, FARL Club Meeting - February 9th, 2012**

Meeting was called to order by Roger, KD8CSE in place of Dave, N8HKU at 18:34 (6:34p.m.)

11 members and 1 guest were present.

**Minutes from prior meeting:** Discussion about whether we are going to get a table at the LARC Swap. Minutes stated we were, but members weren't sure if we were. Looking at previous minutes stated that it was approved to get a table if interested. Roger, KD8CSE sent out emails after the meeting stating that the club did have a table at the swap for member use.

**Treasurers Report:** Pat, WD8JDZ read the report. Motion to except as read. It was approved as read.

**Board of Directors Meeting:** No B.O.D. meeting held.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Repeaters:** The 2mtr and 440 repeater are operating about the same. The 220 seems to be operating again. If you notice any problems, please inform a Board member at the e-mail address listed on the website.

Dave, N8HKU still has phone patch operating instructions if needed.

Don't forget the Sunday Night Net @ 8p.m.

**Education and Training:** Bill Boyke, N8OZV discussed the upcoming training sessions. Possibly starting in early to mid March on either Thursdays or Fridays at the Ford Building. Start times 11a.m. For more info, contact Bill at [wboyke@ford.com](mailto:wboyke@ford.com)

**Communication - Newsletter/Website:** No new information on the newsletter or website. If you notice any problems, please contact Dave, N8HKU.

**Historian:** nothing new

**Equipment Inventory:** up to date

**FERA:** No new business

### **Unfinished/Current Business:**

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Discussion of the upcoming Maker Faire. The call sign has been assigned, It will be the same as last year, N8M. It will be held July 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. Futher info to follow.

**Current Business:**

Club got a table at the LARC Swap. (Thank You Roger, KD8CSE) If you have anything to sell, stop by and use the table.

Dues are coming due in April. Please bring a check (or money) to the meeting, or mail to club P.O. Box.

As of now, the fire tower is still available for use at the field day site. As for next year ???

Toledo Swap coming up on March 18<sup>th</sup> for those interested.

**Break:** 19:01(7:01p.m.)

**Presentation:** Bill Boyke, N8OZV & Al Habbal, W8AMH put on a presentation on "How to Operate in Other Countries." It was very informative and can be found on the club website.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:00(8:00p.m.)



## For Sale

1. Yaesu FT-2800M - \$130 OBO
2. Yaesu FT-8800R - \$320 OBO

**Contact: Al, W8AMH, Al.Habbal@Gmail.com**

1. Radio Shack PRO-2026 desk scanner + DC power supply - \$10
2. Midland Wx radio SAME decoding + DC wall wart - \$20
3. Radio Shack PRO-60 VHF/military air band/UHF HT scanner - \$50
4. Yaesu FT-90R VHF/UHF FM rig w/separation kit - \$150
5. Yaesu FT-3000M VHF 70 W FM rig - \$200

**Contact: Joel, WU8Y@arri.net**

Visit [http://www.k8utt.org/for\\_sale.htm](http://www.k8utt.org/for_sale.htm) for latest & complete information.



## Canadian Licensing - Bill Boyke, N8OZV

- Basic Qualification:
  - access all amateur bands above 30 MHz
  - use a maximum of 250 watts DC transmitter input power
  - build ("Build" in the context of the Basic Certificate is limited to the assembly of commercially available transmitter kits of professional design) and operate all station equipment, except for "home-made" transmitters
  
- Basic with honours (80% or above score)
  - access to all amateur bands below 30 MHz
  
- Advanced Qualification:
  - access all amateur bands below 30 MHz
  - use maximum transmitter power of 1000 watts DC input
  - build and operate transmitting equipment
  - establish repeaters and club stations
  - remotely control fixed stations, including the use of radio links
  
- Morse Code (with Basic or Basic and Advanced Certificate):
  - access to all amateur bands below 30 MHz
  
- A fee is not required for the issuance of an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate in accordance with the following:
  - to issue an initial station call sign and Amateur Radio Operator Certificate with Basic Qualification;
  - to issue a replacement certificate due to loss or damage;
  - to issue a replacement certificate with a new call sign, due to a change in address to a new province or territory; and
  - to issue a replacement certificate as a result of obtaining an additional qualification such as 5 w.p.m., 12 w.p.m. or advanced.
  - Canadian Amateur Radio Licenses are for life.

### **RIC-3 - Information on the Amateur Radio Service:**

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf01636.html>



## 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 Begal	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.

### The Garden City ARC will hold a 14 week class for the Amateur Extra License.

**When:** From 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Thursday evenings for 14 weeks, Beginning February 16th and ending May 17th

**Where:** The Garden City Presbyterian Church, on Middlebelt Road, just south of Ford Road.

**Syllabus:** 12 weeks of instruction and one week of review. The last class session will be an ARRL license exam.

**Materials:** No book or manual(s) are required, All instructional material will be handed out in class.

**Cost:** \$10.00, which is the instructor's cost of the software and handouts that will be used in class. (There will also be a \$15.00 exam fee payable on exam night.)

**Instructors:** Mat Breton, AB8JV; and Fred Comps, K8KUZ

**Space is limited:** Reserve your space by contacting Fred at 734-261-6441 or by emailing [k8kuz@aol.com](mailto:k8kuz@aol.com)



## 2010-2011 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](http://www.k8utt.org) for current events and activities.

<b>President</b>	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
<b>Vice President</b>	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
<b>Secretary</b>	John Turowski	N8NWA	313-258-1996
<b>Repeater Chair</b>	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
<b>K8UTT Trustee</b>	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
<b>Activity Chair</b>	Bill Boyke	N80ZV	313-805-8877
<b>Bolt Editor</b>	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 08, 2012 at 6:30PM**  
**Topic: Wouxun Radio, Roger, KD8CSE**

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