



## President's Notes for March 2015

I saw a few club members at the Livonia swap last month. Attendance seemed down somewhat, as did the number of occupied tables. The frigid weather that morning might have played a role in that. The next major swaps will be in Kalamazoo and Toledo.

Last month's presentation by Gordon Scannell, KD8COJ, was very interesting and very timely, given our working with Dearborn Public Schools on a potential ARISS contact later this year. On February 23, Gordon, Dave Treharne, N8HKU, and I attended an ARISS orientation session which provided some very useful information. Next up: our group will be assigned a technical mentor; in fact, we've been assigned two. We'll continue work on our equipment plan, which is due April 30, and we also plan to review the site for the contact on March 4. But we must keep in mind that the contact could be delayed or fall through for many reasons. We got a reminder of that in February when at least one ARISS contact had to be postponed due to a spacewalk taking place that day (Amateur Radio on the ISS doesn't operate during spacewalks).

In the middle of this frigid winter, it may seem like Field Day is a long ways away, but it's closer than we think. I was reviewing the 2015 Field Day information packet one day, and it's started me thinking about our 2015 plans. I'm starting to think of a message to be sent through the NTS (we get bonus points for those, remember) as well as educational activities. Perhaps we could tie the educational activity with the ARISS contact in some way. Something to think about...

This month's meeting will feature a presentation from Dave Treharne, N8HKU, on Digital Voice for HF. And don't forget: next month is our annual election of officers for the coming year. Last year, we had to postpone the elections to May due to the lack of a quorum; I hope we don't have to do so again this year. So please make an effort to come to the April meeting and cast your ballots. But don't forget about this month's meeting!

73,  
Roger, KD8CSE



## **Ford Amateur Radio League** (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – January 08, 2014**

### **Meeting Minutes for FARL February 12, 2015**

#### **In Attendance: 7 members, 3 guests**

Dave Treharne - N8HKU

Pat Quinn - WD8JDZ

Roger Reini - KD8CSE

Rod Deyo - K8SGL

Sam Wells - KD8YTR

Gordon Scannell - KD8COJ

Richard Maske - K8RMM

Larry Koziel - K8MU - guest

Joel Stanley - WU8Y - guest

William Moon - guest

#### **Meeting called to order:**

By Roger at 18:33 EST.

#### **Review of the minutes**

Reviewed. No comments for update

1. Motion by Dave, N8HKU t to accept.
2. Seconded by Sam, KD8YTR.
3. Minutes from last month accepted unanimously.

#### **Treasury Report:**

By Pat, WD8JDZ

1. Account balance was reviewed.
2. Expenses incurred: \$80 paid for PO Box renewal.
3. Motion to accept made by Rod, K8SGL, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sam, KD8YTR.
4. Treasurer's report accepted by all.
5. Upcoming expenses:
  - a. Dave mentioned that we have not yet received any expense bills from LARC for the 2014 Field Day. Dave, N8HKU, will send a note to the LARC regarding this.

## **Repeater Report:**

1. No new news. 2m and 220 MHz repeaters are working, 440 machine is not. Dave, N8HKU will make the yearly updates to the repeater directory.
2. Sunday night net: Ongoing, had a good crowd over the past few Sundays.

## **Training Report:**

1. No update to training.

## **Website info:**

By Dave-N8HKU: Website is up to date.

## **FERA:**

There was a General Council meeting the other day.

For ticket purchases, FERA now allows members to use the Square credit card reader, which does work with the corporate iPhones. It was decided that our club does not need this service at this time.

FERA Elections are next month. Bill Boyke, N8OZV, is currently Vice President

We can send FERA news of our upcoming events for publishing. We can also put in event flyers at the FERA desk, and put a general club flyer at the desk or on the FERA website.

Club certification with FERA: Roger, KD8CSE, is completing the form. Points are given for achieving certain milestones, like flyers, a club roster, and events. Pat, WD8JDZ, asked to send Roger our current roster for inclusion in the form, which is due in 2 weeks. The FARL is at Silver status, which is two from the highest.

**Equipment Inventory:** No new information to report.

## **Old Business:**

1. Spare 2m repeater: No action on getting the repeater from Murray, KE8UM, and placing it into the Adoba site.
2. Hazel Park swap: January 11, 2015. Attendance was down, as was the number of vendors.

## **New Business:**

1. LARC Swap: This Sunday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. Club Constitution updates: None planned for this year.
3. Dearborn Schools ARISS Contact proposal:
  - a. Proposal has been accepted into the next round. There are 15 schools working on 12 slots.
  - b. Next update: A coordination meeting with ARISS group, either Wed, Feb 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm, or Monday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7pm. FARL would prefer the Monday call. Gordon, KD8COJ, will coordinate with the Dearborn schools.
4. Presentations for future meetings
  - a. Dave, N8HKU, will make a presentation on Digital Voice for HF during the March club meeting.

**Presentation Topic:** ISS Contact at the Warren Consolidated School district by Gordon, KD8COJ

1. Presentation was provided by Gordon, and will be located on the club website. Larry, K8MU, was also providing information on the event, as he was also a participant. A video was also shown. Links to this video, plus an extended version, will be posted on the club website.
2. Gordon has a good initial station equipment list, including enough coax for the primary and back-up stations. Primary radios are Kenwood TS-2000.

## **Adjourned:**

By Roger at 8:05pm local time.



*Our club will be receiving a donation from the children of Ford retiree and former club member Stephen Zdan, ex-WB8RGP (SK), representing the proceeds from the sale of his Kenwood TS-830 transceiver and MC-60 microphone, along with some other small items. Bill Brezina, WA8HEA, had been handling the disposition of Stephen's equipment and had sold the last of it at the Livonia swap. Stephen's son Gregg, on behalf of his brothers and sisters, requested that the proceeds be donated to the club. For that, we thank Gregg and his siblings, and we also thank Bill for his efforts in helping radio equipment from silent keys find new homes. - Roger, KD8CSE*



## **ARRL Seeks Member Input on Draft HF Band Plan Proposals - ARRL**

The ARRL is asking members to [comment](http://www.arrl.org/bandplan) by April 19 on possible changes to the League's HF [Band Plans](http://www.arrl.org/band-plan) suggested by the HF Band Planning Committee. The survey is part of the committee's efforts to tweak the band plans for the RTTY/data/CW portions of 80 through 10 meters — excepting 60 meters. The committee developed its suggested revisions to the voluntary band plans after reviewing some 400 member comments in response to a [March 2014 solicitation](http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2014-03-06#toc01) that sought suggestions for using the spectrum more efficiently so that data modes may coexist compatibly.

“The committee concluded that most of the concerns voiced by members could be addressed by modest adjustments to the existing band plans, and mainly by confining data modes with bandwidths greater than 500 Hz to the FCC-designated segments for automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) and to parts of the RTTY/data subbands above those segments,” ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ said. His article detailing the committee's suggestions will appear in the April edition of QST.

The proposed changes differentiate among ACDS, narrow RTTY/data modes having a bandwidth no greater than 500 Hz, and wider data modes having a bandwidth up to 2700 Hz.

### ***Band by Band Draft Recommendations***

The committee suggests several modifications to the 80 meter band plan. FCC action in 2006 reduced the 80 meter RTTY/data sub-band to 100 kHz and limited access to the 3600-3700 kHz segment to Amateur Extra class licensees. “Unless and until the FCC Rules are modified, changes in the band plan for 3500-3600 kHz will not improve the situation,” Sumner said.

The HF Band Planning Committee recommends that the League petition the FCC to move the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data band and the 75 meter phone/image band from 3600 to 3650 kHz and restoring that segment to General and Advanced class licensees. Members are asked to comment on this proposal, as well as on whether or not the ARRL should petition the FCC for these other changes:

- Shift the ACDS band segment from 3585-3600 to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.
- Extend the current Novice/Technician CW segment of 3525-3600 kHz to 3650 kHz.
- Add 80 meter RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians.

On 40 meters, the committee concluded that it would be unrealistic to try to bring the ARRL band plan into alignment with the rest of the world, particularly with Regions 1 and 3 where operating patterns

developed when the entire band, including phone, was just 100 kHz wide and is still only 200 kHz. While 7040 kHz is a recognized RTTY/data DX frequency in the band plan, the best place for other RTTY/data activity in the US is above 7070 kHz. The committee proposes aligning the band plan with the “Considerate Operator’s Frequency Guide,” with wide data modes — outside of ACDS — at 7115-7125 kHz. The “Guide” shows 7070-7125 kHz for RTTY/data, while the ARRL band plan shows 7080-7125 kHz. The FCC mandates that ACDS be confined to the 7100-7105 kHz segment.

On 30 meters, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to 10.140-10.150 MHz, separated from other RTTY/data at 10.130-10.140 MHz.

On 20 meters, the committee recommends using the 1 kHz IARU/NCDXF beacon network frequency (14.0995-14.1005 MHz) as a line in the sand between wide ACDS in the 14.1005-14.112 MHz segment, and narrow ACDS in the 14.095-14.0995 MHz segment.

The committee recommends 14.070-14.095 MHz for RTTY and narrowband data, noting that so-called “weak-signal” data modes often are used between 14.070 and 14.078 MHz.

On 17 meters, the committee recommends confining wide data modes to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 18.105-18.110 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data at 18.100-18.105 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data above 18.110 MHz, limiting options for this band.

On 15 meters, the committee recommends that 21.070-21.090 MHz for narrow RTTY/data modes, the FCC-mandated ACDS segment of 21.090-21.100 MHz for both narrow and wide automatically controlled data station activity, and above 21.100 MHz for any additional wide data activity. The ARRL Board also wants members to comment on the desirability of adding RTTY/data privileges for Novices and Technicians in their existing 15 meter segment, where they’re now limited to CW.

On 12 meters, the committee recommends confining wide data to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 24.925-24.930 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data operation at 24.920-24.925 MHz. FCC rules do not permit RTTY/data operation above 24.930 MHz, limiting options for this band.

On 10 meters, the committee recommends that wide data be confined to the FCC-mandated ACDS segment, 28.120-28.189 MHz, separated from narrow RTTY/data modes at 28.070-28.120 MHz.

### ***How to Comment***

The League has set up a [web page](http://www.arrl.org/bandplan) (<http://www.arrl.org/bandplan>) to record members’ preferences and comments. Those wishing to offer more detailed comments may [e-mail](mailto:bandplan@arrl.org) ([bandplan@arrl.org](mailto:bandplan@arrl.org)) ARRL. The comment deadline is April 19. The HF Band Planning Committee will deliver its final report at the ARRL Board of Directors’ July meeting.



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

<b>President</b>	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
<b>Vice President</b>	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
<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	313-405-2573



## 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: March 12, 2015 at 6:30PM**  
**Topic: Digital HF Modes, by Dave, N8HKU**

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