

# The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

## President's Note May 2009

Well, here we are at the start of a new month and a new term for club officers. We've had some changes in the board of directors; for starters, after having served two terms as secretary, I am now the club president; Dave, N8HKU, is now vice-president after having ably served as president for several years (ever since I've been a club member), taking over from Pat, WD8JDZ; Bill, WA8HEA, continues as treasurer; Debbie, KD8IWV, takes over for me as secretary; and John, N3JM, takes over from Bill, N8OZV, as activities chair. Congratulations to our newly elected board members, and thanks to our outgoing members. Of course, the ultimate thanks for our club's ongoing success must go to you, the club members. Without your support, we wouldn't be able to do anything.

Now when you come to this month's meeting, you may think that nothing has changed, for Dave will still be presiding over the meeting. That's because I will be in Dayton with my uncle, attending the first day of Four Days In May (I'll probably talk about that in the note for next month). Even if we weren't attending that, we'd be driving down so that we could be ready to go first thing Friday morning. Now I suppose I could have called in to the meeting and followed it (thanks to SYNC), but it would have been real hard to preside from the road.

It was great seeing everyone at the Milford swap on April 18. Significant road construction no matter which way you went couldn't keep us from getting there. And to those of you who participated in the Michigan QSO Party, I hope you did well and got what you wanted out of it. I spent part of that day triking on the Huron Valley Trail between South Lyon and New Hudson and Kensington Metropark and suffering from outrageously high frequency RF burns from a transmitter 93 million miles away (most people would call it "sunburn").

I note with sadness that retiree member Ralph Chrysler, KC8QFX, became a Silent Key on April 24. He had been ailing for several years and had been receiving hospice care the last few days of his life. Although I never met him, I join with all the club members in paying tribute to him.

73,  
Roger Reini,  
KD8CSE

## Michigan QSO Party

Bill Piper, N8PRC, and Russ VanZanten, WB8CHE, activated the Tin Lizzy club callsign, K8UTT, for the Michigan QSO party last month. Together, they made a total of 108 contacts. Congratulations on their effort. If you have an event that you wish to activate the club call sign for, please contact the club callsign trustee, Dave, N8HKU. You can receive permission to activate the club call up to your personal license class for the duration of an event.

## 2 M/70 CM J-Pole Antenna Project Update

Please contact Bill, WA8HEA, regarding your J-Pole antenna if you have ordered one from him. His phone number is 313-563-2905. He has some ready to mount, and is looking to help mount a couple in order to take SWR and performance measurements with in-use conditions.

# The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

## FARL Meeting Minutes, April 9th, 2009

Minutes recorded by Roger Reini, KD8CSE, outgoing Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: at 7 PM by president Dave, N8HKU. There were 13 members and 2 guests present.

MINUTES: Minutes from March were approved as read.

TREASURER: The main expenditure last month was the telephone bills for March and April. Bill, WA8HEA, also reminded the members that dues were now due and that he would be available to take them. The treasurer's report was approved as read.

BOARD ACTIVITY – FREE MILFORD TABLE: The club has been offered a free table at the Milford swap, which will take place on April 18 from 8 AM to 1 PM. We plan to take advantage of it.

REPEATER: No repeater problems. Phone patch information still available from Dave, N8HKU.

TRAINING: A Technician class will be starting April 23 at 11:30 AM in the Building 2 Atrium and will run on Thursdays thereafter; Bill, N8OZV, will be conducting the training. This first day happens to coincide with Take Your Children To Work Day; whether that helps or hinders attendance is not yet known. In addition, Bill, WA8HEA, is working with another ham in studying for Extra Class licenses; others are welcome to join them.

NEWSLETTER: Thanks to WA8HEA for putting together the April newsletter. Volunteers for the May issue are needed. The newsletters are often arriving damaged in the mail; the damage is believed to take place after they leave Ford. Perhaps stapling the newsletters closed is no longer a feasible mailing method; they may need to be taped closed.

WEBSITE: Member Bill Piper would like to see the e-mail addresses of the officers on the website. There was general agreement, although Roger, KD8CSE, expressed concern that doing so would expose his account to address harvesters and increase the likelihood of spam and other junk mail. There are ways to counter this, though, such as the use of an arrl.net address. Also, the website now includes a For Sale page; it currently lists the gear from a Silent Key. Bill, WA8HEA, may list some additional gear there.

BILL VALADE: Retired member Bill Valade has moved to Henry Ford Village and is looking to sell some of his gear. Bill, WA8HEA, said he and others would help inventory it and dispose of it, perhaps using the table at the Milford swap. He and his wife are also ailing, so calls for best wishes are welcome; he's in the phone book, and his number didn't change when he moved. Someone asked if Henry Ford Village had its own amateur station, but no one knew the answer.

ELECTIONS: After determining that a quorum was present, president Dave, N8HKU, said that club elections could proceed. We would be electing a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Activity Chair (Repeater Chair and Trustee have been appointed positions). He then opened the floor for nominations, and these nominations were received: for President, Roger, KD8CSE; for Vice President, Dave, N8HKU and Pat, WD8JDZ; for Treasurer, Bill, WA8HEA and Pat, WD8JDZ; for Secretary, Debbie, KD8IWV; and for Activity Chair, Bill, N8OZV and John, N3JM.

With nominations closed, voting began. Because they were the only ones nominated for their positions, Roger, KD8CSE and Debbie, KD8IWV, were declared elected by acclamation for President and Secretary, respectively. For Vice President, Dave, N8HKU was elected by 8-5; for Treasurer, Bill, WA8HEA, was re-elected by 8-4. For Activity Chair, John, N3JM, was elected. Congratulations to the newly elected board, and thanks to the outgoing officers.

J-POLE PROJECT: Bill, WA8HEA, announced that the material has been cut and the brackets done; now he's trying to find U-bolts of the right size, preferably stainless steel, 1/4" bolt, 1 1/2" diameter. That combination is proving hard to find, as the typical thickness is 3/8" for that diameter. He might consider going to 1 1/4" diameter U-bolts instead. When the antennas are completed, he will deliver them and help set them up, for he wants to get real-world performance data on them.

# The Bolt

## The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

**NEW MEMBERS:** Applications were received from two prospective members. The first was from Rajiv Paul of Dearborn, who is not yet licensed. The second was from a former member, Bob Waite, N8DBZ, who wants to rejoin (he's also a LARC member). Both applications were accepted.

**FIELD DAY:** Once again, the Livonia ARC (LARC) has invited the club to join with them in Field Day June 27-28 at the firehouse on Plymouth Road. We accepted the invitation. There is word that an amateur station may be set up in the basement of the station; this was inspired by our efforts there last year. **T-SHIRT:** there is interest in coming up with a T-shirt with LARC and Tin Lizzy logos on it, but what would make a suitable Tin Lizzy logo? The existing ones on QSL cards and badges might be candidates, but would they display well on a shirt? Ideas may be developed over the next month. This will certainly be discussed at the next meeting.

**OTHER SITES:** Bill, WA8HEA, mentioned visiting other Field Day sites, which he did last year, specifically mentioning the Stu Rock site as a great location but with little support.

**MAY PROGRAM:** The presentation on emergency communications needs a presenter. The two Bills, WA8HEA and N8OZV, volunteered to split the presentation between them.

**MICHIGAN QSO PARTY:** Is April 18 from noon to midnight local time. There are plans to activate K8UTT as a club station for this event; Bill Piper and Russ VanZanten were heading this up. Bill, WA8HEA, was signing up volunteers for this effort.

**ELMER LIST:** Bill, WA8HEA, was also signing up volunteers for an Elmer List to help the newer hams.

**ECHOLINK PRESENTATION:** The two Bills gave tonight's presentation on Echolink in the place of Al, W8AMH, who was unable to attend the meeting. WA8HEA spoke about the Echolink software, while N8OZV operated the laptop. Internet connectivity was provided by a cellular modem, as the Ford network would not have allowed Echolink traffic to pass. Briefly, Echolink is an Internet-based linking system that allows control of transceivers and repeaters by an Internet connection. At the controlling end of the connection, there can be either another transceiver or a computer. This allows one to communicate worldwide. The Echolink software runs under Windows [there is a compatible program called EchoMac for Macs – KD8CSE]. It shows the list of active users, links and repeaters, and that list can be filtered by various criteria. N8OZV demonstrated how the link can control a repeater by connecting to the GMARC repeater, WW8GM. Roger, KD8CSE, verified that N8OZV was getting out on the WW8GM repeater; unfortunately, since he couldn't remember how to set the PL tone on his new V8XR HT, he was unable to reply back.

**ADJOURN:** 8:42 PM

Next meeting will be May 14. As the new president will be attending Four Days In May in Dayton, the meeting will be run by the new vice president, who is also the outgoing president.

## 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!**

# The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

## Dayton Hamvention

The Dayton Hamvention is just around the corner (May 15-17<sup>th</sup>). Make your plans now if you want to attend since the tickets cost less if you buy them in advance. It can also be difficult to get rooms in the area, especially if another event is going on at the same time. Dayton is arguably the world's largest ham radio convention and always has interesting forums, lots of activities, all the major equipment vendors and a huge flea market. The flea market alone is worth the trip. Go to <http://www.hamvention.org/> for more information about the Dayton Hamvention.

If you don't want to drive down or spend the night, the ARROW (Ann Arbor Radio) club has a bus or two that will take you down and back in one (long) day. It is great way to travel with a bunch of fellow hams and relax during the trip. Contact ARROW through their website at <http://www.w8pgw.org/>. Tickets are limited and they expect to sell out.

Here is a sampling of some of the activities and forums going on at the Dayton Hamvention this year. It looks to be a very interesting event!

### ARRL Forum Schedule

On Friday, May 15 at 10:30 AM in Room 5, Henderson and a group of other Field Day aficionados will share some helpful hints they have garnered from decades of Field Day operations. Special Field Day 2009 posters will be available to participants (while they last), as well as some special Field Day surprises.

Ham Radio and the Law -- Getting It Up and Keeping It Up" on May 15 at 12:15 PM in Room 3. Join this discussion by Amateur Radio attorneys on legal issues of interest to hams on topics that include how to avoid restrictive covenants, how to present your case for a tower permit and how to defend against nuisance claims.

Come ask QST's very own "Doctor" your technical Amateur Radio questions in person on May 15 at 12:15 PM in Room 2. QST Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will provide his best answer on the spot, or get back to you shortly after the National Convention.

Digital Contesting May 16 at 1:15 PM in Room 3,: If you've ever wanted to try digital contesting but weren't sure how to get started, we definitely have a forum for you! Join ARRL Publications Manager and digital guru Steve Ford, WB8IMY and learn how to get started in digital contesting.

ISS Flight: Get up close and personal with Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, on Saturday, May 16 at 1:30 PM in Room 1. In October 2008, Garriott -- son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL -- fulfilled a lifelong dream to experience spaceflight and traveled to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. While living on the ISS, he conducted scientific experiments and environmental research, but he also had a chance to do quite a bit of Amateur Radio operating, including sending slow-scan TV (SSTV) images. Owen Garriott, W5LFL, initiated the first ham radio contacts from space 26 years ago aboard the shuttle Columbia on STS-9.

At the EXPO -- and Beyond!

Vintage Gear: If you enjoy waxing nostalgic over the gear of yesteryear, drop by the ARRL

# The Bolt

## The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

exhibit area to meet vintage equipment photographer Joe Veras, K9OCO. He will be autographing his book, "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation" -- filled with photographs of classic and legendary transmitters – that was recently published by ARRL <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0228>>. You can also tour a 1964 Collins Radio Company communications van – a Ford Econoline van that traveled as a mobile demonstration center for Collins equipment. The van, decked out with vintage gear from the S-Line period, will be there for you to explore.

Bring your license and get on the air from W1AW/8 at the ARRL National Convention. Operating times and frequencies will be posted at the station. Meet W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, from the famed Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters.

Logbook of the World: Representatives from Logbook of the World (LoTW) will be on hand, giving demonstrations and answering your questions <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>>.

## Tin Lizzy Club Calendar – 2009

May	14 <sup>th</sup> : Emergency Communications 15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> : Dayton Hamvention
June	11 <sup>th</sup> : Club meeting: Preparation for Field Day 27-28 <sup>th</sup> : Field Day
July & August	No club meetings but activities may be scheduled
September	10 <sup>th</sup> : Micro controllers, N8OZV 19 <sup>th</sup> : Celebration of Cycling
October	8 <sup>th</sup> :Digital Communications: Kenwood Sky command: WA8HEA.

## 2009 Club Dues

Just a reminder: the annual club dues (\$15) were due in April. The club dues are an important part of our club income and entitle you to the privileges of being a Tin Lizzy Club member. These include the club newsletter, special presentations on ham radio topics, updates on ham radio events and opportunities to participate in ham radio activities and social functions.

You can pay your dues by cash or check (made out to FARL) at a club meeting or send them to: FARL, PO Box 2711, Dearborn, MI 48123. Your newsletter mailing label indicates your dues status. Please contact Bill Brezina, WA8HEA, at [wbrezina@att.net](mailto:wbrezina@att.net), or 313-563-2905, if you have any questions regarding club dues.

New member dues are \$20 the first year and include the cost of the Tin Lizzy Club name badge. Additional or replacement name badges can be ordered by contacting Bill.

## 2009 Field Day

# The Bolt

## The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

The Livonia Amateur Radio Club has once again invited us to join them at the Livonia Fire Station #6 on Plymouth Rd for the 2009 Field Day exercise. Field Day is June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. We are going to attempt some changes this year. We will have access to the basement of the fire station from which to set up one or more stations. We will run coax up the stairs and outside to the antennas. The idea is to work toward an alternative Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Fire Station #6. The Livonia club has an EOC established at the Livonia Police Headquarters.

We are looking for volunteers to help set up and participate in the Field Day this year. We will set up as many stations as we can find operators to run. We had a lot of participation last year, so we might be able to bring on an additional station if we have enough operators. Since we have moved to a networked software, we have flexibility to run multiple stations, stay within the rules, and have an accurate log of all contacts. Please contact any Board member if you plan on participating in Field Day and will not be at the May club meeting!

The LARC is planning on purchasing T-shirts this year, as was brought up in an email and at the April club meeting. Please contact a club member if you wish a shirt, so we have an idea on how many to order. We do not have an exact cost at this time, but it should be reasonable.

We are still looking for tents. Here is a note from John, K8AZT, [k8azt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k8azt@sbcglobal.net), please contact him if you have a tent to loan:

As far as the FD operation goes, we are working with same layout as last year if that is ok with you. We have one tent (10X15+) for sure (Bill B's) and a promise of a 400 sq ft tent from Livonia Fire Dept. I think we have one additional tent from (size?) one of the LARC members but have to confirm that. That still leaves us one tent short if we are going to have the bigger tents. I believe we can come up with the smaller (10X10) tents if absolutely necessary. If you guys have access to another larger tent, please let me know. If we can't find 4 of the larger sized tents, then I will start canvassing for some smaller ones. (no pun intended).

Below is the communication between the LARC and the Livonia Fire Station.

**From:** Driskell55@aol.com [mailto:Driskell55@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 5:43 PM  
**To:** swhitehead@lfdmail.com; swhitehead@ci.livonia.mi.us  
**Subject:** LARC FIELD PERMISSION

Fire Chief Whitehead  
Livonia Fire Department

Chief Whitehead:

I am **Sharon Keller President of the Livonia Amateur Radio Club**, and I know that it is a little early to be asking for the Training Tower for our Field Day this year which is **June 27 and 28**. But, I want you to think about something. And even if it is early, we are asking for the use of the **Training Tower for our Field Day this year**.

**What if the Police and Fire Department got hit with something, and it knocked out all the radio's etc. What would the Police and Fire Department do in this case? That is where the Livonia Amateur Radio Club, and the Ford Tin Lizzy Club come in.**

# The Bolt

## The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

This is what we would like to do this year. We would like to have one of our radio's set up in the basement, of Fire Station #6 and work our contest from there plus have them outside like we have had in the past in tents using the training tower for our antennas.

This would be the **alternet EOC in the Emergency Operations Plan for the 24 hours**, that we would be having this event. This would mean that we would have to run coax from there going to an antenna, and someone would be on the radio for 24 hours. **That would mean that, people from time to time would be in the basement of the Fire Station but not causing any interference to the Fire Department. Our equipment would not interfere with anything at the station.**

The Fire Station location has already demonstrated it's effectiveness as a communications center during the prior Field Day Operations with the Livonia Amateur Radio Club, and the Ford Amateur Radio Club (Tin Lizzy).

**Set up would start at 9:00 a.m. on June 27, 2009 and tear down would be at 2:00 p.m. June 28, 2009.** If possible please come out and see just what it is that we do, and how we can help both the Fire and Police Departments.

Please think about this, and advise at your earliest convenience.

Sharon Keller KA8SRC  
President LARC

Sharon,

I apologize for the delay in getting back with you, knowing that you are probably in the late planning stages for your exercise on June 27-28.

I have met with the Command Staff concerning your request regarding the utilization of the basement at Station 6 during the upcoming exercise. We addressed the issues that I had previously communicated to you, and feel that given your responses, there should be no problem with honoring the request concerning the basement use.

We will be prepared to accommodate your group on the days requested, knowing that the LARC has always been trustworthy, professional and responsible while on site.

Please make sure you make contact with the Station 6 OIC on arrival to the site and then again after you have completed your exercise.

The on-duty Shift Commander's (Battalion Chief) office number is (734) 466-2434 and can be reached anytime if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you for continued support and efforts toward preparing to provide emergency communications support in the event of catastrophe or system failure.

Take care and be safe.  
-S-

**Shadd A. Whitehead, Fire Chief**

***Livonia Fire & Rescue***

14910 Farmington Rd

Livonia, MI 48154

Office# (734) 466-2430

Fax# (734) 466-2082

Email: [swhitehead@lfdmail.com](mailto:swhitehead@lfdmail.com)

# The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

## 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](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>	Bill Brezina	WA8HEA	313-563-2905
<b>Secretary</b>	Debbe Yeager	KD8IWV	734-981-3188
<b>Repeater Chair</b>	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
<b>K8UTT Trustee</b>	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
<b>Activity Chair</b>	John Stucka	N3JM	313-576-9880

## Club Meetings

The Ford Amateur Radio Club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, except for Christmas and the summer months (July & August). The meetings are held at 7 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: May 14<sup>th</sup>, Topic: Emergency Communications from Bill, N8OZV**

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