



President's Notes, May 2012

Here we are, May 2012. We had our annual officer elections last month, and it turned out that Dave, N8HKU, and I have swapped positions. He is now vice-president, and I am the club president once again. Other club officials were re-elected and/or re-appointed to their present positions. And now we go forward into our next year.

Since this is May, it's time for Hamvention. No doubt many of us will be going down this year, whether for a day or for all three days. But I won't be going this year. It turned out there is another event taking place on the same weekend that I wanted to attend, and there wasn't anything I was particularly looking for at Dayton this year. So you all will have to give reports about what you saw and found down there this year.

Our summer is going to be pretty busy this year, as it has been for the last few years. We've got Field Day with the Livonia club at the end of June, as we have been for many, many years. But this will most likely be our last time at that site, or at least the last time to use that fire tower. We'll have more details about Field Day next month. Then in July, we'll be participating in Maker Faire again at the Henry Ford Museum. We'll have multiple stations set up in the courtyard of the museum, and there will be space inside for exam sessions and lectures. Our July meeting will be devoted exclusively to the final preparations for Maker Faire. As always, we need plenty of volunteers!

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find a short article on how I tracked down an EMI source that has been causing some problems for me on my drive into the office. I won't mention any more about it here, but if any of you have had similar experiences, feel free to write them up for the Bolt and submit them to our editor Rajiv.

Our Sunday night net on 2m and 220 MHz has been doing well in recent weeks with the regular participation of hams who weren't participating last year. Great! But there's always room for more, so if you're available and inclined to join in, then by all means join in!

What will be our presentation topic this month? At the time of this writing, I don't know. We'll figure out something by the time of the meeting. June, of course, will be devoted to Field Day, and July will be devoted to Maker Faire. For the rest of the year volunteers are always welcome. And with that, I will wrap up this month's column. Be sure to come to the meeting on the 10th.

73, Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2012**

Minutes, FARL Club Meeting – April 12, 2012

Meeting was called to order by Dave, N8HKU
At 18:36 (6:36p.m.)
xx members were present.

Minutes from prior meeting: Prior minutes were reviewed Murray's call was corrected (KE8UM) and approved as corrected.

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 2M repeater is functional.

Dave, N8HKU still has phone patch operating instructions if needed.
Don't forget the Sunday Night Net @ 20:00(8p.m.)

Education and Training: Bill Boyke, N8OZV & Roger KD8CSE started classes, 6-7 people are expected to take the exam on 5/3 between 11:00-12:30.

Communication - Newsletter/Website: No new information on the newsletter or website.

If you have a story or info for the newsletter, please contact Dave, N8HKU or Rajiv.

Historian: nothing new

Equipment Inventory: up to date

FERA: No new business

Unfinished/Current Business:

Unfinished Business:

Brief discussion of the upcoming Maker Faire: It will be held July 28th & 29th. James reported that we will be in the same location; further discussions are in the works and more details to follow. A planning meeting is to be held on 4/28, Roger will represent FARL.

Current Business:

The PEAC ride is this September 8th, looking for volunteers now for planning purposes.

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. LARC is looking for a field day chairperson from the FARL side.

Club inventory was reviewed.

Annual treasurer's report was presented.

No proposed changes to the bylaws or constitution were suggested.

Monroe Swap will be on June 17th, discussion for getting a club table will be done during the club May meeting.

Presentation: Dave N8HKU, gave a presentation on the recent tornados that hit the Dexter area.

Club elections:

Club election was held, the club officers are as follows:

President	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
Vice President	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Treasurer	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
Secretary	John Turowski	N8NWA	313-258-1996
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	313-244-2515

Meeting was adjourned @ 19:47 (7:47P.M.)



TRACKING DOWN SOME INTERFERENCE

By Roger Reini, KD8CSE

As many of you know, I'm regularly on the air on the Tin Lizzie repeater on the way to work most mornings. On occasion, early on my drive into the office, I would hear what sounded like someone doubling on the repeater, someone trying to reach the repeater while another person was transmitting on it. The thing is, this would always happen in the same location, Ford Road east of Wayne Road. Not knowing of any club members living in that precise area, or all that close to it, I wondered if something else was causing that interference.

Whenever I drove past when no one was talking, I heard nothing. But one day, I decided to drive through that area with the squelch turned down and with the tone squelch turned off; I doubted that the source of the interference would be conveniently sending a 100 Hz tone to bypass the tone squelch! And sure enough, when I drove through the area, I heard a very strong signal, enough to be full quieting on FM. I thought I heard a regular ticking sound, as well. But I wasn't in a position to investigate further at the time, yet more investigation was needed.

One recent Saturday morning, I got the chance to investigate. I set up the radio on 145.27, turned off the tone squelch and turned down the main squelch, and then I drove through the area. It turned out to be a very localized phenomenon; I couldn't hear it at the intersection of Ford and Wayne. But just east of there, I started to hear it. Once again, it was full quieting. I noticed where the signal faded out, then turned on a side street to backtrack and make another pass. One block south of Ford Road, I heard those pulses or ticks again, but they were very weak. Might I need to hunt northward, towards the car dealership in the area? As it turned out, no.

As I drove on Ford Road past the area of strongest signal, I turned into one of the parking lots. Suddenly, the answer was right in front of me. There was an LED sign in the window of a music store, and it was flashing on and off in direct time with the ticks on the radio. I'd found the culprit! Further investigation revealed that the interference was present every 20 kHz or so in the 2-meter band. I also heard it on 118.40, the frequency used by the Metro Airport control tower. I didn't hear it on 6 meters or on 70 centimeters, although I had no antenna connected for 6 meters.

The source of the interference has been identified. It appears to be of fairly low range, but it does cause interference to ham radios in vehicles driving past on the street. The cure for the interference will have to be covered in a future story.



The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club Technician Class License Course

The Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club is planning to host a Technician Class License Course

When: First Session on Monday, June 4, 2012

TIME: each week @ 7 pm to 9pm for 12 weeks

Where: City of Southfield Emergency Operations Center

26000 Evergreen Rd., Southfield, MI

(Basement of the Parks & Recreation Center, North end of the Municipal Complex)

Cost: FREE except for License Manual (\$23)

Bonus: FCC License Exam at Last Session (\$15 exam fee)

Contact: Walt Carter, KD8LWC @ 248-548-4645

or email Pidge4645@aol.com

Jerry Begel, W9NPI

Public Information Officer

Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club

248-543-2284

w9npi@comcast.net



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.



2012-2013 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	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
Secretary	John Turowski	N8NWA	313-258-1996
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	313-244-2515



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: May 10, 2012 at 6:30PM
Topic: To Be Decided

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