



President's Notes, May 2013

As we begin another term of office for our club officers, I'd like to say thank you for electing me to another term as club president.

As I start these notes, the bombings at the Boston Marathon remain fresh in my mind. No hams were injured in the blasts, thank goodness. But many hams were providing communications support, and they responded admirably to the challenges thrust upon them by events. The ARRL had a brief article about the radio response three days after the attack; it may be reprinted elsewhere in the newsletter. One of the hams working the marathon, Tim Carter, W3ATB, wrote of his experiences and posted them on his website (w3atb.com), later speaking to Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, of HamRadioNow.

Now most of us have supported public service events before, though not necessarily on the order of the Boston Marathon; the Free Press International Marathon is closest in size and complexity, I'd have to say. The PEAC Celebration of Cycling Ride is a decent-sized event, as well. I can't help but wonder if I would be able to perform as well as the hams from Boston if a major calamity were to strike an event I was working. I would sure hope so – but I also hope never to be in such a situation.

The year has gone by pretty quickly so far; it seems hard to believe that Dayton Hamvention is only a short time away. Those of us who are going are no doubt thinking about what we want to obtain down there, what booths we want to visit and what forums we want to attend. I missed last year due to a conflict, but I am looking forward to this year's event.

On to club business: our meeting this month is May 9, one week and one day before Dayton Hamvention. Our presentation topic this time is *S9V31 portable HF antenna by LDG* presented by Richard, K8RMM. Slots for presentations are available in the fall. And don't forget about Field Day next month!

73,
Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2013**

Attendance: 5 Members, 2 guests

Members: David Treharne, N8HKU,
Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ,
Bill Allen, KD8KTF,
Bernie Mitchell, KD8KEO,
Roger Reini, KD8CSE.

Guests: Mike Hanlon, KC8FEP (LARC Field Day Chairperson)
John Mathey, K8AZT

6:32pm Call to order by Roger, KD8CSE

Quorum needed for elections. $\frac{1}{2}$ the average member attendance of the prior 3 club meetings: Jan: 6 members, February: 8 members, March: 6 Members. Average 6.67. 5 members meet the quorum.

Minutes from March Meeting. Motion to approve by WD8JDZ, 2nd by KD8KTF. Approved by voice vote.

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Treasurer's report: Read by Treasurer Pat, WD8JDZ. Motion to approve made by KD8KTF, seconded by N8HKU. Approved by voice vote.

Board of Director's correspondence: BoD made an emergency meeting to approve Repeater repair expenses in March. \$60.66 approved to Murray Scott, KE8UM, for repeater repair expenses. Treasurer sent payment by check.

Repeater repair discussion: Was this repair different than last time or similar? Murray, KE8UM, to be asked about this.

2m repeater: Now fully functional, Sunday night net is back in operation.

Education and training: Nothing new, nothing planned at present.

Newsletter: Came out yesterday evening, later than normal.

Historian Report: No report, historian not in attendance.

Inventory Report: Report from Dave, N8HKU. All inventory remains. Cushcraft R7 antenna is not functional at this time, however, after damage last year and repair to the matching section. Bernie, KD8KEO, offered support with the Owner Manual and parts from his scrap R7.

Yearly Activity Report: A summary of activities with the club provided. Dave, N8HKU, requested Roger to list out the monthly meeting presentation topics as well, update next meeting.

Treasurer Annual Report: Not available this month. Put on the agenda for May. Report is also due to FERA.

Constitution and Bylaws: No update this year.

Nominating Committee: No committee formed, no report.

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Elections: Require 3 members minimum per quorum, have 5 members present. Quorum met.

Office of President: No nominations received. Roger, KD8CSE, is willing to stay in office for another year. Roger approved as President by Acclimation.

Office of Vice President: Pat, WD8JDZ, nominated Dave, N8HKU, for another term. 2nd by Bill, KD8KTF. Dave approved as Vice President by Acclimation.

Office of Secretary: Current Secretary: John Turoski, N8NWA, not present at meeting. No nominations received. John, N8NWA, is to remain in office until a successor is named.

Treasurer: Dave, N8HKU, nominated Pat, WD8JDZ, for another term. Pat approved by Acclimation.

Activity Manager: Current Manager, Bill Boyke, N8OZV, was not present. No nominations received. Bill, N8OZV to remain in office until a successor is named.

Appointments: Murray Scott, KE8UM, re-appointed as Repeater Chairperson by President Roger Reini, KD8CSE. John Turowski, N8NWA, re-appointed as Historian by President Roger Reini, KD8CSE.

Field Day Discussion:

Mike Hanlon and John Mathey from LARC led a discussion

on the 2013 Field Day.

New location: Linden, West of Newburgh, north of I-96.

Mike wanted to make sure we wanted to be involved. We will run 4A again.

FARL: Will provide SSB station #1, network logging software and the router.

FARL: Sunday breakfast and lunch.

Review of site: Trees on site, but several hundred feet between trees in many cases. Recommend that we use fiberglass or metal poles to support centers or ends of the wire antennas, to keep the wire lengths reasonable. Recommend SSB#2 station bring an antenna that is better tuned to 10, 15 and 20 MHz. Analysis of the results from the G5RV and Carolina Windom antennas confirm these antennas have deep nulls in its pattern due to the long wavelength relative to their size.

Motion to Adjourn: 7:56pm.

David Treharne, N8HKU, Vice President



Radio Amateurs Provide Communication Support in Boston Marathon Bombings - ARRL

As has happened many times in years past, over 200 Amateur Radio operators participated in communications for the Boston Marathon on Monday, April 15, 2013. Unlike prior challenging situations such as very warm weather for the runners or other weather-related challenges, this year's marathon will be remembered for the bombings that took place at the finish line. Despite this heinous act, professional first responders, medical volunteers from the American Red Cross that staffed the route, and Amateur Radio operators performed magnificently in the face of adversity.

"Within minutes, cell phone systems became overloaded and making phone calls and text messages was difficult. Amateur Radio operators performed communication duties under duress and performed admirably. No Amateur Radio volunteers were injured on the course in this terrible act," said Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, who is the Amateur Radio Course Communication Coordinator and associated with a consortium of clubs and groups known as Marathon Amateur Radio Communications ([MARC](http://www.mmra.org/marc/)) (<http://www.mmra.org/marc/>).

"At the finish line net control, which was only 400 feet from the initial blast, we heard the explosion. I poked my head outside to confirm what I thought it was and saw the white smoke. We immediately knew what had happened and commenced a roll call of all ham operators and medical tents. State Police authorities initially ordered us to lock down and post a ham for security watch outside the net control trailer. Thankfully none of our people were hurt," said Paul Topolski, W1SEX, Amateur Radio Finish Line Coordinator.

Following the explosion and roll call, Topolski stated that they began pulling together updates and sent the information via the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Web-EOC software tool and provided updates via Amateur Radio. Shortly after sending a few updates both Boston Police and Massachusetts State Police gave the order for the tent area to be evacuated. "In my mind, the course end of things is where a lot of work needed to happen as runners eventually needed to be stopped, congregated and transported to safety and staging areas," Topolski said. "At the finish line, our job was to check on the safety of our people, provide those initial updates and evacuate per police instructions. Three of our Amateur Radio operators redeployed to the Boston Marathon Course Net Control Center."

Across the course outside of the finish line after the bombings occurred, first aid stations were consolidated to larger first aid stations to pool runners for pickup and to keep runners warm as there were enhanced tents along the route where runners could be kept warm and hydrated. At the Heartbreak Hill first aid station, amateur operators had a complete base station setup, including a computer, and were prepared to handle health and welfare traffic as required. Several shelters were set up along the route at churches and schools, and Amateur Radio operators from secured first aid stations went to those shelters, providing communications in those areas until runners were moved out of their locations.

"My role at the request of Steve, W3EVE, as event organizer before the race was to shadow the course medical tent coordinator for the Red Cross, Kandi Finch," said Rob Macedo, KD1CY, who is also the Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator. "It was a challenging position but all organizers on both the Amateur Radio side and Red Cross side said things went well in coordinating during normal race conditions and particularly after the bombings."

At course net control, which was away from the bombings, ham operators controlled their nets calmly and professionally while also expressing an appropriate level of urgency. Over a dozen amateurs at the net control center pooled together to announce messages and keep status of changes along the course route as required.

Net Control Center Coordinator, Karen Brothers, K1KEB, kept in constant contact with MEMA, where Terry Stader, KA8SCP, was stationed. Stader became the MEMA 'Ops' point person at the State Emergency Operations Center as runners were transported from the shelters to other staging locations. From his location at the EOC, Stader was able to sort out the sheltering plan and reception centers for the runners, subsequent transport of runners from shelter locations and give out information on MBTA bus and train operations.

Jim Palmer, KB1KQW -- who served as a net control at the Net Control Center -- stated that nets were doubled up on operators, to allow one person to operate the radio while the other listened and logged priority calls and ambulance requests, creating a more efficient operation. "Several ambulance requests for dehydration and exhaustion were handled due to the runners needing to be stopped," Palmer said. The specific net that Palmer ran also provided a link between the marathon course and the American Red Cross in its Cambridge facility. Lou Harris, N1UEC; Frank O'Laughlin, WQ1O, and Dan Howard, K1DYO, staffed the Red Cross in Cambridge.

Many amateur operators who volunteered along the marathon route praised Net Control's support after the bombing. "Net Control did an awesome job," said course volunteer David Wihl, KB1VEG. "The workload was busiest after seven hours on the radio, and it didn't let up for another couple hours."

Several young radio amateurs from the Clay Center Amateur Radio Club also supported Net Control Operations, both as direct net control operators and runners for the operation as they have done in the past. This provided a tremendous learning opportunity for these young operators, from both an Amateur Radio perspective and an overall learning perspective.

"Despite the total lack of warning in this situation, amateurs followed a creed I've long since preached since the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the mutual aid response to those attacks: 'blessed are the flexible for they will not get bent out of shape,'" said Steve Schwarm, W3EVE. "Amateurs on the course did what they had to do to assure their own safety and runner safety working with the Red Cross medical people. They did an outstanding job and I was told so by Red Cross organizers as well."

From an ARES perspective, a heightened state of awareness on the Boston Marathon event is typical, but within 15 minutes of the bombings, Eastern Massachusetts ARES Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator, Carl Aveni, N1FY, issued an ARES Stand-By and requested that amateurs give availability for the next 24 hours. Within minutes, 20 amateurs offered their availability.

The ARES sub-regional command center at the Acushnet, Massachusetts EOC (under call sign WA1EMA) was utilized as a control point to obtain critical situational awareness of the rapidly changing situation, as well as to monitor resource nets per a report filed by Acushnet Emergency Management Communications Officer Ed Caron, KA1RSY; he also serves as the South Shore Massachusetts ARES District Emergency Coordinator. A total of five Amateur Radio operators were deployed to this facility. An ARES resource net was called on the 147.18 Bridgewater repeater with Byron Piette, K1YCQ, as net control with 11 stations checking into the net.

"In terms of having amateurs within ARES who cannot get directly involved in the marathon, we have a process where we have them monitor in case of a situation like what occurred on Monday. That process paid off and facilitated a rapid response to our request for possible additional support," said Carl Aveni, N1FY.

Some radio amateurs who volunteered in the Boston Marathon have posted their stories online; read one such [story](http://w3atb.com/66-boston-marathon-2013-bombs-carnage-and-amateur-radio-operators) (<http://w3atb.com/66-boston-marathon-2013-bombs-carnage-and-amateur-radio-operators>) is from Tim Carter, W3ATB, of Meredith, New Hampshire.



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	313-405-2573



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: May 09, 2013 at 6:30PM

Topic: S9V31 portable HF antenna by LDG - Richard, K8RMM

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