



## **FARL President's Notes, November 2010**

Hello again, club members! As I type these notes, the USECA swap has just concluded. It looked like there was an excellent turnout today, better than the last time I attended the swap. That should bode well for the future of the event. I found what I was looking for (a magnetic mount that can accept an antenna with a PL-259 connector, and an SO-239 to SMA adapter cable), and now I'll be able to monitor the 220 MHz repeater from my SUV without compromising the 2-meter performance of my mobile setup. With the 220 repeater acting up, we need to know what's going on with it.

One of the tables at the USECA swap was used by the GM Amateur Radio Club, soliciting membership and promoting their 440 repeater located atop the Ren Cen. It's good to see the GM club becoming active again, just as it is good for the industry, the area and the country to have GM returning to life.

Since this is November, that means next month is December. It also means that we'll have our annual Christmas dinner in lieu of our regular meeting. It will be on December 9, probably around 6 PM. Where will it be? We'll determine that during this month's meeting. Another item for December is the possible resumption of Radio Santa or Speaking With Santa at Mott Children's Hospital. As you know, it was cancelled last year due to concerns about H1N1 flu. Now that those concerns have eased, we hope to return to the hospital and enable the children to speak to Santa. Isn't it amazing how 220 and 440 MHz HT's can reach all the way to the North Pole (hi hi)?

As for this month's meeting, we plan to have the long-delayed presentation from AI, W8AMH, on Bluetooth headsets. We'll also review the bylaw revisions and contemplate what we mean by a quorum and if we need to define an "e-mail quorum". Hope to see all of you at the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>!

**As we went to press, we received a word that Joe Meyer, KA8KDO was seriously ill. Let us keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers.**

73,  
Roger, KD8CSE



## **Ford Amateur Radio League** (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club)

### **Club Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2010**

Meeting was called to order at 18:44 (6:44p.m.)

7 Members were present.

**Minutes from prior meeting:** September 2010 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without changes.

**Treasurer Report:** Sent by e-mail from Bill, WA8HEA and read by Dave, N8HKU. The report was approved. A motion was made to pay the club insurance - motion passed.

**Board of Directors Meeting:** None held.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Repeaters:** The 220 repeater is still having some issues with receiving and transmitting. The 70cm repeater is in poor condition. The 2 mtr repeater is operating, but seems to have lost some output power.

Future service or replacement of both the 220 and 2 mtr repeaters is being considered. If you notice any issues with any of the repeaters, please contact Roger, KD8CSE or Dave, N8HKU.

Don't forget the Sunday night net at 8p.m.

**Education and Training:** No new news.

**Communication - Newsletter/Website:** Dave, N8HKU will be doing updates and new links to the website.

**FERA News:** No new news.

**Unfinished/Current Business:** Unfinished business, Article IV Sec. 2 By-Laws is under review. A suggestion was made to read: **“A minimum of three (3) Board members must approve any ‘emergency’ expenditure not to exceed \$300. Any amount above that must be approved by member quorum.”** This will be visited again at the November meeting.

**New Business:** The position of treasurer has been filled. As no one else volunteered, Pat Quinn, WD8JDZ volunteered and was voted in as club treasurer effective immediately. Congrats to Pat, and good luck.

The Christmas dinner locations were discussed; Malley’s, Logan’s Steak House and Mexican Fiesta being mentioned. If there are any other suggestions, please bring them up at the next meeting, or contact Roger, KD8CSE or Dave, N8HKU. A decision will be voted on at the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**BREAK: 19:21 (7:21p.m.)**

**PEAC Ride:** As described by Pat, WD8JDZ; Went well considering the rain. Turnout was low, with not enough Hams volunteering. But a success all the same.

**Presentation:** Roger, KD8CSE described briefly the operation and abilities of the VX8R Handheld radio.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:51 (7:51p.m.).



## Events



### Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald

Don Quarles - W8RIF - [w8rif@comcast.net](mailto:w8rif@comcast.net) / Shanon - KA8SPW

For the 14th consecutive year, members of the Stu Rockafellow Amateur Radio Society will be traveling to Whitefish Point, MI and Paradise, MI to do a ham radio 'Special Event' "Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald". The Fitzgerald went down with her crew of 29 on November 10, 1975 in Lake Superior approximately 17 miles from Whitefish Point, MI. This marks the 35th year of that tragedy.

The call sign used at Whitefish Point will be N8F and the call sign used at Paradise, MI (11 miles South of Whitefish Point) will be K8F. The Whitefish Point Lighthouse # is USA 887. We expect to be operational Friday November 5th thru Sunday November 7th with up to 4 stations.

Our target frequencies are 3860, 7240, 14260, 18160\*, 21360 and 28360\* (kHz SSB) (\* secondary)

**NOTE:** CW operation is not planned.

Only a certificate will be available. Send a 9x12 SASE (N8F / K8F only) to W8VS - Richard Barker 264 N. East St. Brighton, MI. 48116. E-Mail [Rich \(W8VS@ARRL.NET\)](mailto:Rich@W8VS@ARRL.NET).

PLEASE OBSERVE THE CORRECT QSL ROUTES!

Also, teaming up with us this year are:

1. The Livonia Amateur Radio Club (<http://www.larc.mi.org>) from Livonia, MI; using the call sign W8F and operating from the Dossin Museum (<http://www.detroitshistorical.org/main/dossin/index.aspx>), Sun. Nov. 7th, located on Belle Isle in the Detroit River.
2. The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association (<http://www.radioham.org>) from Stillwater, MN, using the call sign W0JH, operating 3 stations from the Split Rock Lighthouse State Park at the west end of Lake Superior (Lighthouse # USA 783).

#### Links Of Interest:

Livonia Amateur Radio Club W8F	<a href="http://www.larc.mi.org">http://www.larc.mi.org</a>
Stillwater Amateur Radio Association W0JH	<a href="http://www.radioham.org">http://www.radioham.org</a>
Fitzgerald	<a href="http://www.ssefo.com">http://www.ssefo.com</a>
Shipwreck Museum	<a href="http://www.shipwreckmuseum.com">http://www.shipwreckmuseum.com</a>
Split Rock St. Park	<a href="http://www.northshoreinfo.com/stateparks/splitrock.htm">http://www.northshoreinfo.com/stateparks/splitrock.htm</a>
Dossin Museum	<a href="http://www.detroitshistorical.org/main/dossin/index.aspx">http://www.detroitshistorical.org/main/dossin/index.aspx</a>

## ARISSat-1 “Suits Up” for February 2011 Launch - ARRL

Earlier this year, astronauts living on the International Space Station ([ISS](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html)) had to discard two surplus Orlan space suits. With the loss of the suits, those involved with AMSAT and Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm)) were at a loss. One of these suits was to be used to house the electronics for the upcoming [SuitSat-2 mission](http://arissat1.org): the batteries were to be mounted inside the suit, solar panels attached to the extremities with the electronics, with video cameras and an antenna mounted on the helmet. But even though the removal of the space suits took away the “Suit” component of the deployment, AMSAT and ARISS forged ahead, changing the configuration of the satellite and Amateur Radio experiment and giving it a new name: ARISSat-1/RadioSkaf-V.



According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, the AMSAT engineering team made the final decision for the satellite to become a cube with solar panels on all 6 sides. “The team is mounting a 70 cm quarter-wave whip on the bottom and a 2 meter quarter wave whip on the top, she explained. “All of the hardware and software goes inside the cube, with the cameras on the outside. ARISS sees this mission as another opportunity for education outreach, as it will provide an opportunity for students around the world to listen for recorded greetings from space, as well as learn about tracking spacecraft in orbit.”

Students at Russia’s Kursk State University are developing an experiment that will measure the vacuum of space; it is expected to be integrated into the electronics once the US-produced equipment is delivered to Russia this fall.

[A band plan for ARISSat-1](http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/images/fck_images/BandPlanI29.jpg) ([http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/images/fck\\_images/BandPlanI29.jpg](http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/images/fck_images/BandPlanI29.jpg)), including CW beacon, SSB/CW 16 kHz transponder (70 cm uplink/2 meter downlink), BPSK telemetry (satellite status and experiment telemetry) and FM (announcements, slow scan television [[SSTV](http://www.arrl.org/sstv-slow-scan-television)] transmissions and telemetry) is now available.

ARISSat-1 will boast:

- 24 different student greetings -- transmitted in 15 languages -- on the FM downlink.
- SSTV shots taken by the spacecraft and transmitted to the ground on FM.
- Telemetry from Russia’s Kursk State University experiment that will measure the vacuum of space. The experiment will be sampling the amount of vacuum each day for 90 minutes, then sending down the data to map the vacuum change as the satellite slowly spirals into the atmosphere. According to AMSAT ARISSat Project Manager Gould Smith, WA4SXM, this is a unique experiment, “as we understand that such measurements have not been taken previously at the altitudes at which ARISSat-1 will operate.”
- Ground station software for both the PC and Mac platforms. This software will be useful to demodulate and display the new BPSK1000 downlink that will include data from the experiment and satellite telemetry, as well as demodulate the older BPSK-400 format used by the Phase III satellites, such as AO-40. Audio from a 2 meter SSB receiver/scanner can be fed into a computer soundcard and the software will demodulate the downlink. Separate programs for displaying SSTV images and decoding CW are currently available from other sources.

Smith said that compared to SuitSat-1, the ARISSat-1 satellite is significantly enhanced: “You will recall that SuitSat-1 was battery operated only (no solar panels), while ARISSat-1 has six solar panels to provide power, plus a storage battery provided by RSC-Energia (the same type of battery used in the Russian Orlan spacesuit). The addition of solar panels will significantly enhance mission duration versus SuitSat-1.”

Other ARISSat-1 upgrades include:

- ARISSat-1 will transmit four different modulated signals across a 48 kHz band, including a 16 kHz wide SSB/CW transponder, extensive BPSK telemetry downlink, CW beacon and FM downlink capabilities. SuitSat-1 did not have a receiver, so it was transmit-only with canned voice messages and a pre-recorded SSTV image, plus CW telemetry downlink on a single FM channel.
- ARISSat-1 will have a student experiment; the system can handle up to three experiments. SuitSat-1 did not carry student experiments.
- ARISSat-1 has 4 SSTV cameras and software to select photos taken with illuminated pixels to be transmitted to the ground on the FM channel. SuitSat-1 did not have SSTV photo capability, only a prerecorded SSTV image to transmit.
- ARISSat-1 has more pre-recorded student messages to transmit -- 24 messages in 15 languages. SuitSat-1 had prerecorded student messages in only 6 languages.
- ARISSat-1 has several “challenges” that students and others will be encouraged to meet, including decoding CW transmission of call signs of those involved with the project, recognizing a “secret word” at the end of the greetings and hearing a recording of a two-way transmission from former Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first human to orbit the Earth.
- ARISSat-1 is a technology demonstrator, featuring the first use of a software defined transponder (SDX) in an Amateur Radio spacecraft. According to one of the team leaders, Gould Smith, WA4SXM, SDX uses software to modulate/demodulate radio signals, rather than analog hardware. SuitSat-1 used a modified Kenwood analog transmitter.

Plans to launch a second SuitSat-spacesuit-turned-satellite were the subject of discussions and presentations at the November 2006 AMSAT Space Symposium and ARISS International Delegates’ meeting. Despite a weaker-than-anticipated 2 meter signal, [SuitSat-1](http://www.arrl.org/ARISS/Suitsat.pdf) (<http://www.arrl.org/ARISS/Suitsat.pdf>) -- a surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit fitted with an Amateur Radio transmitter -- sparked the imagination of students and the general public and turned into a public relations bonanza for Amateur Radio. ARISS hoped to capitalize on the concept by building an even *better* SuitSat that will include ham radio transponders. The [SuitSat.org](http://www.suitsat.org) Web site attracted nearly 10 million hits during the mission. Designated by AMSAT as AO-54, SuitSat-1 remained in operation for more than two weeks, easily outlasting initial predictions that it would transmit for about a week. It re-entered the atmosphere and burned up in September 2006.

“Though ARISSat-1 won’t sport as charming an exterior as its predecessor, it embodies significant enhancement in capability and longevity,” said ARRL Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ. “The ham radio community and schools with access to Amateur Radio ground stations can begin planning their mode of conversation with this new space inhabitant that will be arriving on the scene in just a few months!”



## 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	Dee Flint	248-981-8145	N8UZE@arrl.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.



**Hazel Park ARC** will be holding a comprehensive class on what knowledge is required for the General Class license. Classes are on Tuesdays, September 14 through December 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Southfield EOC (basement of Southfield Parks and Rec Bldg).

**Cost: Free** (although ARRL General Class Manual is required and can be purchased).

Contact **Marsha Fleming, N8FE** at [n8fe@arrl.net](mailto:n8fe@arrl.net) if interested.



## 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>	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>	John Stucka	N3JM	313-576-9880
<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: November 11, 2010 at 6:30PM**  
**Topic: Bluetooth Headsets – AI, W8AMH**

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