



President's Notes for November 2017

It's now November. The nights are growing longer and will continue to do so until just before Christmas. That bodes well for operations on 80 and 160 meters, at least for those who are able to operate on 80 and 160. A thought: with the recent expansion of operating privileges to 630 and 2200 meters, can we still call 160 meters Top Band anymore? For most amateurs, it will remain Top Band, I suspect, given the need to register beforehand with the Utilities Technology Council and the challenges in building antennas for those bands. There would seem to be opportunity for crossband contacts for these bands. And another thought: will contesting be permitted on those bands? There isn't much bandwidth available on those bands (2.1 kHz on 2200 meters, 7 kHz on 630), so I'd be surprised if it was.

As you may know by now, our 220 MHz repeater is back in service. Murray, KE8UM, had repaired it some time ago, but he was not able to get back to the repeater site until the end of October.

Our meeting in November will cover some important topics. First, we need to determine where we will hold our annual holiday dinner, which will take the place of our December meeting on the 7th. For the last few years, we've been to Mexican Fiesta, but perhaps we are looking for something different this year – or perhaps not. One possible candidate, Amantea in Garden City, recently closed its doors. Second, we will consider two proposals to upgrade our equipment: one to upgrade our DR-1X repeater to the new DR-2X model, and one to upgrade our FT-991 transceiver to the FT-991A.

Since I expect to devote a significant amount of time to the upgrade discussions, this month's presentation will be fairly short. I plan to talk about the Volunteer Examiner System: what it replaced, how it grew, etc. Most of us are familiar with two or maybe three VEC's, but you may not know that there are currently 14 VEC's in the US.

See you at the meeting – hope you can all make it!

73, Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) Club Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2017

Ford Amateur Radio League Meeting Minutes October 12, 2017

Call to order at 6:05 PM by Roger, KD8CSE

1. **Minutes from Prior Meeting:** reviewed and updated. Motion to approve by David, N8HKU, 2nd by Sam, KD8YTR. Approved by voice vote.
2. **Treasurers Report:** reported by David, N8HKU, in place of Pat. \$90 for the Entertainment books deposited, but not transferred to FERA, yet. David, N8HKU, continues to work to achieve the transfer. \$0.17 interest last month to the account. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Tom, W8TJB, 2nd by Rod, K8SGL. Approved by voice vote.
3. **Board of Directors discussion:** No formal meetings held.
4. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Repeater:** 220 Machine will be reinstalled once Murray is able to schedule time to access it. He is ready to go. So far, we have heard one instance of interference from the lights, but the Sunday night net and almost all mornings have been without issue.
 - B. **Sunday Night Net:** continues.
 - C. **Education and Training:** None scheduled at present.
 - D. **Communications and Newsletter:** Bolt went out without Meeting Minutes, which were made available at the club meeting. (Post meeting: Minutes are posted on the club website.)
 - E. **Historian Discussion.** No update.
 - F. **Equipment Inventory:** No changes from last meeting.

5. Unfinished and Current Business

- A. None.

6. New Business

- A. **Great Lakes HamCon Update:** Few participants and vendors this time, but very good participation from the ARRL, Dayton Hamvention were there. Forums were good and relatively well attended, both Saturday and Sunday.
- B. **VE Session results:** FARL volunteered to conduct the Volunteer Exam training session: 14 participants took tests. 10 new Technician licenses, 2 General licenses. 2 participants failed to earn a new or upgraded license.
- C. **USECA Swap:** October 29th: Will be held at the United Food & Commercial Workers 876 Hall 876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights, MI 48071. This is a common location for local swaps.
- D. **Yaesu Repeater Upgrade:**
- a. Reported by Tom, W8TJB, as discussed during the Yaesu System Fusion Forum, Great Lakes HamCon, Saturday, Oct 7th.
 - b. Yaesu offering repeater swap to upgrade it with the following proposed features. (nothing at the moment on the Yaesu website about this)
 - i. WiresX linking built in
 - ii. 2 receivers, 1 xmtr. Could use 2nd receiver as a remote link or a control input. (Note the DR-2X is listed as dual receive, dual transmit.
 - iii. Upgrade: Offer ends Dec, 2017. \$300 for base upgrade, \$500 upgrade with linking
 - iv. Better transmitter heat sink, will run 50W continuous.
 - v. Controller: recording capabilities. News recording and playback features.

7. Application for Membership:

- i. Art Bardell, KD8VXN, made an application for membership;
 - i. Ford employee in DSC-1
 - ii. General class licensee
 - iii. Interested in VHF/UHF, digital, repeater construction, and operation, HF (no gear yet)
 - iv. Application was reviewed and approved.
 1. Art will contact Pat, WD8JDZ, with the membership fee.

8. Program:

2017 Field Day in Review was presented by David, N8HKU.

Fewer points this year, due to computer network issues affecting the start of the event and overnight operation, and many fewer CW contacts.

20m and 15m bands were open during the contest, better than last year.

Presentation will be available on the club website.

Adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Attendance:

Roger Reini, KD8CSE

David Treharne, N8HKU

Sam Wells, KD8YTR

Tom Bray, W8TJB

Rod Deyo, K8SGL

Art Bardell, KD8VXN (new member)

Chris Jenks, KD8VPJ

Meeting minutes submitted by David Treharne, N8HKU

Tiny LF Signal Makes the Hop from Newfoundland to the UK – ARRL

For Joe Craig, VO1NA, in Torbay, Newfoundland, things have been pretty



exciting lately on VLF (very low frequency). He's among the early MF, LF, and VLF experimenters in North America — active even before Canada allocated Amateur Radio bands in that part of the spectrum. He believes he accomplished a “first” for a Canadian radio amateur on October 22, when his very VLF, very QRP signal on 8.27 kHz (that would be the 36-kilometer band) was copied in the UK.

“After much effort on both sides of the pond, SWL Paul Nicholson in Todmorden finally copied a three-letter message,” he told ARRL. “It’s the lowest-frequency transatlantic message, made possible because of Paul’s [EbNaut](http://abelian.org/ebnaut/) (<http://abelian.org/ebnaut/>) coherent BPSK mode and DL4YHF’s [Spectrum Lab](http://www.qsl.net/dl4yhf/spectra1.html) (<http://www.qsl.net/dl4yhf/spectra1.html>) spectrum analyzer.” Even more amazing: The power was 10 μ W ERP. Craig is permitted to run 10 mW by regulator ISED Canada (formerly Industry Canada). The transmission path was more than 3,500 kilometers (approximately 2,170 miles).

VLF signals have been copied across the Atlantic in the past. In March 2014, a very slow-speed (QRSS) CW signal on 29.499 kHz, transmitted by Bob Raide, W2ZM, a New York Experimental licensee, initially was detected in the UK by Nicholson. In June 2014, Dex McIntyre, W4DEX, in North Carolina, transmitted an *EbNaut* signal on 8.971 kHz, while running on the order of 150 μ W effective radiated power. Nicholson detected that signal too. McIntyre needed no FCC license to transmit on 8.971 kHz, because the Commission has not designated any [allocations](http://www.qsl.net/dl4yhf/spectra1.html) (<http://www.qsl.net/dl4yhf/spectra1.html>) below 9 kHz, dubbed “the Dreamers’ Band.”

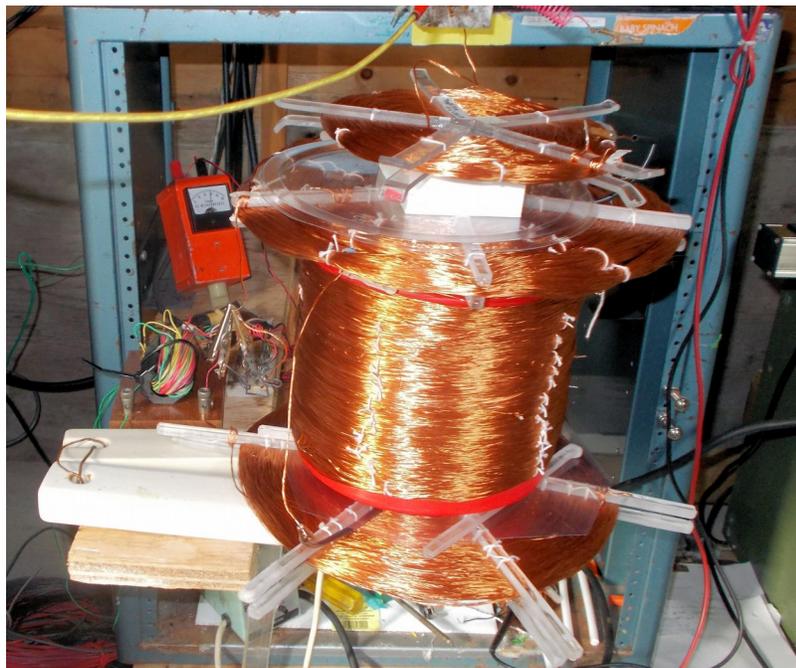
Craig’s transmission from Newfoundland began at 2300 UTC on October 22 and ended 7 hours later. “Paul replied by e-mail the following day with the correct message,” Craig said, “and there was much rejoicing across the pond and in the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland!”

Craig said that Nicholson had detected a carrier from VO1NA this past spring, but it was not stable enough to send a message.

DL4YHF's *Spectrum Lab*, with a GPS module output signal used to calibrate the computer and help from DF6NM and DK7FC, worked much better, Craig said. "Paul measured the phase for a few days before the message was sent. With the new high-stability carrier, Paul got me on the first call."

The final stage of his VLF transmitter is what Craig described as "the very Canadian Traynor Group One/SC stage amplifier" from the 1970s. He says his is "the only known VLF transmitter in Newfoundland and Labrador." His antenna, by the way, is approximately 100 meters (approximately 328 feet) of #12 copper wire, about 12 meters high on average.

Craig's [blog](http://www.uccs.mun.ca/~jcraig/vlf.html) (<http://www.uccs.mun.ca/~jcraig/vlf.html>) offers more information.





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 |

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.



2017-2018 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.

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|-----------------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
| President | Roger Reini | KD8CSE | 734-728-1509 |
| Vice President | Tye Winkel | KC8YEJ | 313-805-8294 |
| Treasurer | Pat Quinn | WD8JDZ | 734-729-1993 |
| Secretary | Mac Lunn | KD8TPO | 313-805-0427 |
| 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 |
| Historian | Tye Winkel | KC8YEJ | 313-805-8294 |



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 6:00 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 09, 2017 at 6:00PM

Topic: Annual Holiday Dinner Selection & Equipment Upgrade

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