

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

President's Note:

And Then, A Miracle Happens....

I have been known to use that phrase at work when we develop a timing plan that tries to push three months of work into one month of time. Every once in a while, it appears to come true! I have several to relate this month.

First, congratulations to Rusty, N8RGI, on his continued recovery. Bill, N8OZV, has done a fantastic job in helping Rusty return home after his recovery from bypass surgery. He did bring Rusty to our October club meeting, and we all enjoyed seeing him. With continued success, Rusty is scheduled to return home on November 5th. Welcome back!

Second, to those who participated in the CQ WW DX contest during the weekend of October 27th and 28th, you were treated to a second miracle of sorts. In spite of the fact the days preceeding the event witnessed absolutely 0 sunspots, 15 meters opened up both on Saturday and Sunday during the contest. I have experienced the band working basically north and south during the daylight hours at this point in the sunspot cycle. However, over the weekend, I managed to log many East-West contacts, reaching over 5,000 miles to the east to the Indian Ocean off the east cost of Africa, and over 5,000 miles west to work not one, but two Hawaiian stations. I also managed into Europe, the west coast of Africa, the Caribbean, and Brazil and Argentina, all on 15 meters. 20 meters seemed to be wall to wall signals during the day, but I mostly stayed on the quieter 21 MHz band. After dark, the upper bands rolled up and disappeared, leaving only 40 meters and lower functioning. I have heard the old timers state that you need to throw a signal onto a quiet band now and then to see if it is really closed. This past weekend did prove that axiom. It also calls into question what else besides sunspots can cause good UV radiation that can ionize the F layer and provide for good propagation. Scientists and engineers do not know it all!

73,
Dave,
N8HKU

October Presentation of Operation Spark Gap

Thank you to Dick, KW8B, and Will, W8USR, for bringing in the DVD on Operation Spark Gap for the October club presentation. The presenter had great knowledge of the spark gap transmitter and the receivers of the time, as he built both for himself during his first years as a ham. I personally loved the way they built their own capacitors out of tin foil and glass!

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Recovering Ham

Rod Deyo, K8SGL, is out of the hospital and is recovering. His surgery was successful, and he does not have to undergo any further treatment at this time. He is currently staying with a cousin. We hope that he can attend a club event soon! (Rod did contact the club portable station during our 50th+ anniversary event in September)

Upcoming Swaps:

We will discuss whether we have enough club interest in getting a swap table at any of these upcoming swap and shops.

Sunday, December 2nd, 2007: L'Anse Creuse Radio Club, Mt. Clemens:
<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/lcarc/swap.htm>

Sunday, January 20th, 2008: Hazel Park Swap: <http://www.hparc.org/>

Sunday, February 17, 2008: Livonia Amateur Radio Club Swap: <http://www.livoniaarc.com/Swap.htm>

Next Club meeting: Thursday, November 8th, 7pm!

The Ford Amateur Radio Club meets the 2nd 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 is located at 17000 Southfield Rd, Allen Park, MI, on the east side of Southfield just north of the Allen Park Municipal offices. Park in the front of the building and come to the front door near the flagpole. Knock on the door if no one is standing there to let you in.

New Conference call: All FARL club meetings are available via a conference call. Dial in at 7pm to: 313-633-2320. When prompted, enter passcode 19153130#.

Meeting agendas start with club business items followed by a short break. Presentations on selected ham radio topics of interest are given after the break. Anyone wishing to present a topic can contact any Board member.

November Club Meeting Presentation Topic:

AMSAT Satellite Radio, by WA8HEA, Bill.
<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php>

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FARL CLUB MINUTES -- October 11, 2007

Prepared by Roger Reini, KD8CSE

Meeting called to order at 7:03 by president Dave, N8HKU
5 members, 7 retiree members and one guest

Thanks to Pat, WD8JDZ, for chairing last month's meeting
Minutes from September reviewed and approved
Treasurer -- club balance is solid. Expenditures this month included
payment for the phone line for the repeater and flowers for the
funeral of Rodney Deyo's wife

REPEATER: Phone patch -- Dave still cannot get it to work. Murray,
KE8UM, said that it was working the last time he checked. He'll
check again. Subsequent to the meeting, it was found that the patch
is indeed working.

TRAINING: Bill, N8OZV, reported that his General license classes are
still continuing at 10 AM on Sunday at the Fairlane food court

NEWSLETTER: Any volunteers to put together the November Bolt?

WEBSITE NEWS: Anniversary contacts listed and their QSL cards shown.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION: QSL's are being prepared for them. Only one
operator, VE3BQ, was able to qualify for a certificate.

PEAC RIDE REPORT: Pat, WD8JDZ, reported that the PEAC ride went
well. There were no big problems, no accidents of any kind. All of
the stations were manned with operators, as were the SAG vehicles.
The thank-you dinner will be held on Thursday, November 8, beginning
at 6 PM. Note that this conflicts with the Tin Lizzy club meeting,
which will begin at 7.

CHRISTMAS DINNER: The club's December meeting will be the
traditional Christmas dinner. Where shall we have it this year?
After much discussion, the consensus settled on three restaurants:
Richter's Chalet, Amantea, and Mexican Fiesta. A final decision will
be made by the November meeting.

SPEAK WITH SANTA: Believe it is still on; the tentative date is
December 5.

MORE TRAINING: Bill, N8OZV, will try to get FERA to announce some
classes intended for Ford employees -- an Introduction to Amateur
Radio class, followed by classes for Technician licenses and possibly
for General licenses. In addition, 10 local high school students are
interested.

CALENDAR FOR FUTURE MEETINGS: Al, W8AMH, requested that someone
prepare a presentation on mobile radio installation. There was
another request for a presentation on software-defined radios, as
well as a proposal for Linux for hams.

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SUNDAY NIGHT NET: Still going at 8 PM Sundays on the 2 meter and 220 MHz repeaters.

BACKUP REPEATER: Murray, KE8DM, reported on a 2-meter Motorola repeater that was available for sale for \$200 or \$250. Might the club be interested in purchasing it as a backup for our repeater? Bill, N8OZV, moved that the club authorize spending up to \$250 to purchase the repeater; Roger, KD8CSE, seconded. The motion was approved.

EQUIPMENT: We now have a surplus speaker and Drake mic at the repeater site; these can be disposed of. We also have 2 extra cans for duplexers, one for 2 meters and one for 220 MHz. We'll keep those as spares.

INVENTORY LIST: There is concern that the publicly available equipment list should not announce to the general public where the equipment is, lest thieves be tempted. The list will be revised to suppress the location.

REQUEST: The Livonia ARC asked to borrow our R7 vertical antenna for use during their special event in early November. There was no objection.

UPCOMING SWAP: The USECA swap will take place on October 28.

FLOWERS: Bill, WA8HEA, asked for \$42 to partially offset the expenses he incurred in ordering flowers for the funeral for Rodney Deyo's wife. He explained that the costs were greater than anticipated due to extra fees but that he was willing to absorb those costs. Bill, N8OZV, moved that the club reimburse WA8HEA for the full amount he incurred. This motion passed. It was further moved that future expenditures for flowers be limited to \$50 (later amended to \$75 to account for fees). This also passed.

PRESENTATION: After a short break for refreshments, Dick, KW8B, played a video dating from the '70s showing a demonstration of a spark gap transmitter.

ADJOURNMENT 9:15pm

Club Christmas Dinner

We need to decide where to have our annual club Christmas dinner on Thursday, December 13th. We have reservations at Amatea's Italian Restaurant, and at Richter's Chalet German Restaurant. Please help us choose at the November club meeting!

Talking with Santa:

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The Tin Lizzy Club' annual Talking with Santa at Mott's Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor has been set for Wednesday, December 5th. We radio amateurs dress up as Elves and help the children communicate with our Santas via UHF amateur radio! Please join us elves as we spread Christmas cheer to the children who are working so hard on healing in time for Christmas! Contact Bill Boyke, N8OZV, to let him know you are coming. We try to be set up and operating by 7pm. This event is loved by the children, and also their parents and the Mott Staff! We love to share some Christmas Joy to our community!

Club Repeater Information

The Ford Amateur Radio League operates 3 repeaters under the K8UTT call. The repeaters are located in the Dearborn, MI, area and are open for members and guests to operate. The 2 Meter and 1.25 Meter repeaters are linked together. New from Murray, KE8UM: The PL is now transmitted on the output, so we may program in coded squelch, which is handy with the Lowell repeater coming in from Grand Rapids some times.

Club Repeater Net: Sunday evening at 8 PM local time.

Autopatch: Codes are available from N8HKU to club members. The repeater autopatch can reach all of the Detroit Metro area. I promise to bring the codes to the November Club meeting! (Dave, N8HKU)

Please contact the following people if there is any problem with a repeater listed below:

<u>Band</u>	<u>Output</u>	<u>Input</u>	<u>PL Freq</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
2 Meters	145.270 Mhz	144.670 Mhz	100 Hz	Dave Treharne	734-476-1666
1.25 Meters	224.520 Mhz	222.920 Mhz	100 Hz	Murray Scott	248-734-1704
70 CM	443.425 Mhz	448.450 Mhz	107.2 Hz	Bob Krause	248-437-6634

Club Website:

<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hall/2183/>

Livonia Club Special Event this Weekend!

LARC will be participating in the 2007 Special Event to commemorate the loss of the Edmund Fitzgerald. We will be operating at the [Dossin Great Lakes Ship Museum](#) on Belle Isle from 1500 UTC - 2000 UTC on Saturday, November 3, 2007. (11:00 AM to 4:00 PM local time) We hope to have two HF stations set up. This will give us the possibility of both SSB and CW operation. Our plan is to operate in the 10, 15, 20, 40, and 80 meter bands.

The LARC has borrowed our club Yaesu FT-990, our R-7 vertical, and our band pass filter set to help them operate both SSB and CW this weekend. We wish them great success!

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2007-2008 Club Officers

Please contact any of the officers for information regarding the Ford Amateur Radio League, or go to the club website at www.geocities.com/capecanaveral/hall/2183/ for current events and activities.

President	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
Vice President	Pat Quinn	WD8JDZ	734-729-1993
Treasurer	Bill Brezina	WA8HEA	313-563-2905
Recording Secretary	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
Repeater Chair	Murray Scott	KE8UM	248-743-1704
K8UTT Trustee	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666

Next club meeting November 8th, 2007.

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