



## President's Notes, October 2011

Notes from the annual PEAC Celebration of Cycling Ride: We had a cool, but otherwise pleasant, Saturday for the PEAC bicycle ride this year. We amateurs were once again out in force, manning the base station, the rest stops, and one of the SAG wagons. There was not a whole lot of activity going on this year that our help was needed on, which is a good thing for the riders. Our roads are not getting any better overall, and there are some serious rough patches the riders must navigate on the side of the road. This was my second SAG wagon support of the year, having volunteered for the Komen for the Cure ride in August. Both rides reminded me of the importance of planning, knowing your equipment, and creating a reliable set up. During both events, we had radios that suddenly decided not to work correctly. Sometimes it was during set up, sometimes it was halfway through the event. These were radios that tended to be used rarely, and the operators were not able to get on the air using them very effectively. This made me think about how I use my equipment. In my car, I have a 2m 70cm dual band radio and a trunk lip mount antenna. I use it several times per week to talk to fellow club members during our drives to and from work. We often talk about what is going on locally in our lives, and do not appear to be practicing the radio hobby to a great degree. In fact, to other listeners, it appears that we are just rag chewing. However, this communication gets us familiar with the operation of our radios, and puts them to the test regularly. We know if we have a reliable set up because we test it several times per week. If it becomes unreliable, we find that out as well. We work on our set ups until they become reliable. This continuous operating (testing) gives us the advantage of being able to perform in a public service event in a reliable manner. It also gets us comfortable of operating mobile or portable, which is where a lot of the action is. I had not viewed my morning conversations on 2m amateur radio as "testing" or "training," but that is what it is.

The second thing that struck me was that I do not carry diagnosis equipment while doing these community service exercises. It would have come in handy to have been able to hook up a SWR meter to these malfunctioning systems and determine if the problem was in the radio or in the antenna. A spare antenna or

radio may have been useful as well. I can see that part of my future participation will include some basic test equipment and any back up equipment that I happen to have to hand. I will make sure all of this is working so that it will be useful to me. One third thing I observed is that 2m communication can be very sensitive to elevation and antenna placement while in the field, and it is not easy to predict where a good set up might be located. We have had a lot of experience at the PEAC base station in getting a well performing antenna set up. Some of the field locations have not had as much experience, and we have been left with a weakly performing system. Bringing the ability to put up, and move around if needed, a portable 2m antenna makes a huge difference in hearing from the rest areas. We hams need to adapt to the surroundings while operating from the field, and we learn a lot through participation in these events such as the bike rides. A big thanks to all those who donate a substantial part of their Saturday to volunteer and practice their amateur radio art.

Now that fall is here, it is time to get back on the HF radio. While we started to get some good performance out of the 15m and 10m bands at Field Day, the sunspot cycle is clearly giving us the benefit of 10m now. John, N8NWA, has been providing us updates to what he is working on 10m during our Sunday night nets. The ARRL Letter is giving us weekly updates on the sunspot numbers and is indicating that 10m is wide open as well for much of the day. They are reporting solar flux numbers that have not been reported since 2004. This is a great time for all those who have very limited antenna capabilities. The 10m band does not need much of an antenna to work with. Mobile stations using modified CB antennas can reach across continents! In deference to the sudden increase in solar activity, I am going to freshen up my presentation on Solar activity and discuss it at the October club meeting. I hope to see you there!

73,  
Dave, N8HKU



## **Ford Amateur Radio League** (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – September 09, 2011**

### **Minutes, FARL Club Meeting - Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Meeting was called to order at 18:35 (6:35p.m.)  
9 Members were present.

**Minutes from prior meeting:** minutes from the special July meeting were read and approved without changes.

**Treasurer Report:** Pat, WD8JDZ read the report. Mentioned that we are still awaiting reimbursement from LARC for field day. Other wise, report was approved as read.

**Board of Directors Meeting:** No B.O.D was held this month.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Repeaters:** The 2m and 220 are operating as usual. The 440 seems to be off air again? This will be checked into.

Don't forget the Sunday Night Net held at 8p.m. on the 220/2mtr repeaters.

**Education and training:** Bill, N8OZV talked of the different classes available. Send him an e-mail with any questions you may have concerning training and locations.

**Communication - Newsletter/Website:** The website is currently up to date with all information concerning up coming events, roster, repeater info, etc.

The Newsletter is being worked on.

**FERA News:** No new news.

**Unfinished/Current Business:** The equipment inventory has been updated.

Maker Faire results were very good this year. Plenty of activity. Plenty of help, both with set-up and tear down. Courses were good. Equipment operated very well, with many contacts made. Satellite operation was good even though we were located in a cul-de-sac surrounded on all sides by walls.

The Komen Ride for the Cure was this Aug 6<sup>th</sup>. Contact Dave, N8HKU for any information concerning this.

PEAC ride is this Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for volunteers to help with radio support or SAG runs. Please look at the website: [www.k8utt.org/komen\\_ride.htm](http://www.k8utt.org/komen_ride.htm) for more information or contact Pat Quinn at [pquinn52@wowway.com](mailto:pquinn52@wowway.com)

A motion to have the club donate to two (2) different funds was brought before the members;

1<sup>st</sup> - The AB8ZI Scholarship Fund. Since we did make use of this fund during Maker Faire, it was suggested to donate back in to it a sum of \$50.00. The motion was passed.

For more information on this fund, please go to the Arrow website: [www.w8pgw.org/index.php?s=ab8zi](http://www.w8pgw.org/index.php?s=ab8zi)

2<sup>nd</sup> - The AA9PW Exam site. Another site utilized during Maker Faire. This site consists of mock exams to check your readiness to take a final exam. Motion was approved to donate \$20.00 to this site for use during the Faire.

For more information on this site: <http://aa9pw.com/>

Costs for supplies from Maker Faire along with mailing costs to send out certificates for contacts during the Maker Faire will be discussed at the next meeting.

An e-mail was sent from James, W8ISS to see if there was any interest in the club hosting a microwave users group here in Michigan. It was discussed, and as most members present were not interested in hosting, the club as a whole declined. But, if a person has interest in helping, please contact James French, W8ISS at [w8iss@wideopenwest.com](mailto:w8iss@wideopenwest.com)

It has been noticed that we may be losing our field day site behind the fire station. A developer is looking to use that land to add on to an existing senior center in the area. As of now, it is only a suggestion, but we must keep an eye on this so we can look for a new site if needed. Only time will tell.

**Break:** 19:25 (7:25)

Field day results were discussed along with what worked and what needed fixing. How we did compared to last year. What out final recorded score was? All this is available on the club website:  
[http://www.k8utt.org/2011\\_Field\\_Day.htm](http://www.k8utt.org/2011_Field_Day.htm)

Meeting adjourned at 20:00 (8:00 p.m.)



## Support: Radio Santa

We are planning on hosting the Radio Santa at the Mott Children's Hospital this year, probably in early December. We will be arriving right after the opening of the brand new hospital complex at the University of Michigan, which will open in November if all goes well. This means that our tried and true methods of conducting this very special event will all be changed this year. We will not know how well the 220MHz and 440 MHz will penetrate the walls and ceilings of the new building, nor do we know where the North Pole will be, where our Santas operate and talk to the kids. We will have to play it by ear this year and make sure we are ready to try different antenna configurations on our Santa stations and on our HTs in order to make good communication. I hope that we can get a good turnout this year. We need Elves who are willing to take their HTs to the kids and contact Santa. We have the costumes and we have 220 MHz equipment. All we need are healthy volunteers with a big heart! More will be shared as we firm up our plans.



## Events: Christmas Dinner

It is a club tradition to hold our December club meeting at a local restaurant. Starting in October, we begin discussions on what restaurant to hold the event in. It is fun to move our outing around from year to year, staying in the general Dearborn area. If you have a suggestion on a restaurant that has good food at a moderate price, and can handle a group of 20 to 30 of us, please mention it to a club officer or voice it at the club meeting. We will make a final decision at the November club meeting.



## 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.



## 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>	Dave Treharne	N8HKU	734-476-1666
<b>Vice President</b>	Roger Reini	KD8CSE	734-728-1509
<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>	Bill Boyke	N80ZV	313-805-8877
<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: October 13, 2011 at 6:30PM**  
**Topic: Solar Activity, Dave, N8HKU**

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