



President's Notes for October 2014

The leaves are turning color and will soon be falling. That means it's fall, the time when 80 and 160 meters become quieter and more usable (and when reception of our repeater may improve). Swap season begins again with the USECA swap in Madison Heights later this month and the L'Anse Creuse swap in December. As for the sunspots, who knows?

An election for ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice-Director is now under way, running through November 21. Those of us who are ARRL members should cast our ballot before then and select our leaders who'll take us into the second century of the League. And this month's section newsletter e-mail has a good commentary from current division Vice-Director Tom Delaney, W8WTD, on how to get more active members in our clubs

Our October meeting will be on Thursday the 9th at the usual time (6:30 PM) and place (EMDO Building, Allen Park). The presentation topic will be Yaesu's new System Fusion digital communications equipment, given by yours truly. Perhaps we'll have some guests from those who took their exams that morning and (hopefully) attained their licenses or got their upgrades.

We are still in need of topics for November and for next year, but we don't need one for December. That's because the December meeting will be replaced by our annual holiday dinner. Start thinking about where you might want to have it this year; we'll make the final decision in November, unless we wind up making a choice this month.

Hope to see you all at the meeting!

73,
Roger, KD8CSE



Ford Amateur Radio League (AKA: The Tin Lizzy Club) **Club Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2014**

Meeting Minutes for FARL September 11th, 2014

In Attendance:

Dave Treharne – N8HKU
Pat Quinn – WD8JDZ
Roger Reini- KD8CSE
Rod Deyo- K8SGL
Rusty Eizen, N8RGI
Bill Boyke- N8OZV
Bill Brezina- WA8HEA
Richard Macke: K8RMM
Guest: Sam Wells- KD8YTR

Meeting called to order:

By Roger at 18:35 EDT

Review of the minutes:

Reviewed.

1. Motion by Bill, WA8HEA to accept
2. Seconded by Rusty, N8RGI
3. Minutes from last month accepted unanimously

Treasury Report:

By Pat, WD8JDZ

1. Account balance was reviewed
2. Pat Quinn confirmed that the phone line was shut off with a check back for \$0.23
3. Treasurer's report accepted by all

Repeater Report:

No new news.

Training Report:

Bill- N8OZV

1. License exam: October 9th.
 - a. Could have a few attending, but could have up to 20.
 - b. Room is large enough to handle a crowd.

Website info:

By Dave-N8HKU: Website is up to date.

Equipment Inventory:

Bill Boyke, N8OZV, has the R7 antenna. He will attempt to reassemble it and get it working.

Old Business:

1. Field Day Expenses:
 - a. No expenses paid, yet, but Dave N8HKU will have some breakfast expenses.
 - b. Nothing from the LARC about our contribution, yet.
2. Maker Faire Expenses:
 - a. Bill Boyke N8OZV incurred the following expenses for Maker Faire:
 - i. Guy wire rope: \$28.95
 - ii. Labels for QSL cards (extra for future use): \$50.85
 - b. Motion to reimburse expenses to Bill Boyke at \$79.55
 - i. Made by Rod Deyo, K8SGL
 - ii. Seconded by Bill Brezina, WA8HEA.
 - iii. Motion passed by voice vote. Pat Quinn to issue a check to Bill Boyke.
3. PEAC ride:
 - a. Had trouble finding an acceptable repeater to use
 - i. 146.92 machine could not be heard at Warrendale
 - ii. LARC machine could not reach the Ann Arbor/Whitmore Lake area
 - b. No major incidences with riders. Ridership was down due to cool, windy weather.

New Business:

1. Application for membership by Sam Wells, KD8YTR.
 - a. He holds a Technician class license, and is a Ford employee, an electrician in the EMDO building.
 - b. Club voted acceptance of the membership application, and Sam was welcomed into the club.
2. Topic for the October meetin: Yaesu System Fusion, presented by Roger, KD8CSE

Presentation Topic:

Field Day Review: Dave-N8HKU

1. PowerPoint Presentation is available on the club website
 - a. Most contacts ever by our club in both the CW and Phone categories!
 - b. Summary of What went right and what can be improved.

- c. Comparison of primary operating bands from 2002-2014 showed that, regardless of the sunspot cycle, 40m, 20m, and 80m are our primary operating bands, usually in that order.
2. Excel worksheet showing all of the results are on the website.
3. Word document of the summary of the Field day is available on the club website.

Adjourned:

By Roger at 19:53.



The 2014 PEAC Celebration of Cycling Ride

- Roger, KD8CSE

After a one-year gap, several hams from the Tin Lizzy club and other groups provided radio support for the 2014 PEAC Celebration of Cycling ride, which started at Warrendale in Hines Park and let riders choose to take 12, 24, 35, 50, 70 and 100-mile routes. Ridership seemed down this year, no doubt due in part to the chilly and windy weather. The sun tried to appear several times throughout the day, but the clouds covered it up quickly until the late afternoon as temperatures hovered in the 50's throughout the day.

The slogan "When all else fails, amateur radio" was not true today, as communications were hampered by poor repeater coverage, forcing contact with some rest stops to be conducted by cell phone. The 146.92 repeater had been used in the past for this ride, but today it was having a hard time receiving input (it had been having difficulties for some time). In fact, the repeater couldn't be heard at all at the Warrendale staging area, even with a J-pole mounted 15-20 feet above ground level. The LARC repeater on 145.35 served well as an alternate, but the most outlying rest stops were unable to hit the repeater consistently. Nonetheless, we managed. There were few calls for additional supplies to be moved from one site to another (the lower ridership contributed to that), nor were there many calls for the SAG wagon (always a good sign). The riders who braved the chilly conditions enjoyed themselves, and the purpose of the ride, a Celebration of Cycling, was fulfilled.

Thanks to the hams who supported the effort: N8OZV, K8SGL, WD8JDZ, KD8CSE, KD8KTF, WA8HEA, K8LHR and N8RGF.

73, Roger, KD8CSE



2014 Field Day in Review

- David Treharne, N8HKU

The combined Ford and Livonia clubs sent club signal K8UNS out into the world during our annual Field Day exercises. This was our second year at the Lyndon St location in Livonia. The clubs operated 4A, containing 2 SSB stations, 1 CW station, 1 Digital station, plus a 6M station and a satellite station. As always, a lot of hands went into the execution of Field Day, and a big thanks go out to all who participated this year!

The results: By the number of contacts made, this was our finest year ever! We made a total of 2,714 contacts over the 24 hour contest period, with 2013, our prior best year, at 1,960. CW and SSB contacts were both up, with digital contacts being down over last year. As has been the trend recently, certain bands have been really workable, while others have not. The 40m band this year resulted in 48% of our total contacts! Both the CW and SSB stations ran this band often during the contest. Second place came in with 20m, with 30% of the contacts, despite problems with the CW station getting interference from the nearby SSB1 station, resulting in a relatively low number of contacts for this station. The 80m band rounded out the top 3 bands, bringing in 17% of the contacts during the overnight time. While I have operated this band in the past early in the morning at Field Day, the 80m band was fully closed down by 7am this year. The 15m band was operating sporadically this year, with the CW station making most of the contacts. No contacts were made on the 10m band, although it was open earlier this spring. A few contacts were made on 6m. Congratulations to our Satellite group, who patched in a replacement antenna when the original was not working, and also got the feel of a new radio, resulting in 5 satellite contacts!

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	344	117	0	461	17
40	412	870	24	1,306	48
20	66	710	30	806	30
15	102	26	0	128	5
6	1	7	0	8	0
SAT	2	3	0	5	0
Total	927	1,733	54	2,714	100

The antennas: The CW station again used their trusty Carolina Windom antenna to work 80m-10m. The SSB1 station used a G5RV for 80-10m, but ended up not using the coax balun, which may have contributed to some interference issues with the CW station. SSB2 had a G5RV Jr antenna for operating 40m through 10m. The digital station was running a Hustler 6 BTW. The 6m station had a beam that they could turn manually, raised up about 15 feet.

What went right and what could be improved upon:

Set up: Easy set up for the stations. The air-powered potato gun from Bill Allen, KB8KTF, launched all of the wire antennas into the tall trees and got all hung up quickly. The tents used by the HF stations went up well this year. The SSB1 station from the FARL used a new shelter design this year that went up much quicker than last year. The food tent worked well, and the Livonia FD supplied inflatable shelter served several stations quite nicely. All stations were set up and ready to go well before the 2pm start of the event. Thanks again goes to Jodie and Ben Haris, who camped out in their RV on Friday night to make sure the items set up Friday did not get disturbed overnight.

Operating: The CW and SSB1 stations got in-band interference this year on 20m when both were on the same band. The CW station was getting a lot of RF on this band and could not operate well, even with the Elecraft K3 transceiver as the main radio. The Carolina Windom and the G5RV were pretty much end to end, but they shared a tree as one of their end points. Normally, the G5RV uses a length of coax with 6 turns of coax near the antenna end to serve as a choke balun. While trying to get the antenna to load up with the internal Yaesu 3000Dx and FT990 antenna tuners, the balun was re-wrapped and then swapped out with a standard coax run. The Yaesu Dx3000 internal tuner never was able to find a match, but the FT990 radio had a better match without the balun. (Past years, the balun helped with the match) The G5RV was run without the balun, but it turns out this may have contributed to the interference. We will have to see what we can do about this. The SSB2 antenna was restrung in a different location this year, to keep it out of the walking path between the tents. The SSB2 and SSB1 stations used band pass filters, and no interference was heard between these stations.

Tents: SSB1: The use of an expandable frame design made it much easier to install this year. The solid sides made it a bit warm inside during the day, so they were often folded up. Adding a few bungee cords to help hold the sides up will be a benefit. It got a bit windy and rainy around noon on Sunday, and the tent sides were blowing into the operating areas of the station. For next year, need to make sure the sides are all zipped together if rain is forecast, and the table moved in from the edge of the tent to give us some room. SSB2 had a good tent

against the elements. CW tent was a screen tent, which I am not sure how dry it was during the brief shower we had. Livonia Fire Tent: Worked well this year, with an air bottle remaining connected to avoid any loss of air pressure condition.

Food: We managed to have good means without our usual head cook tent folks. There was a bit of confusion early on about some of us eating vegetarian. Last year, there were more of us. However, this was dealt with. We will work to add to the vegetarian options for next year for more people. For Sunday breakfast, some pre-baked egg, sausage and French toast items were brought in along with fruit pastries. A hot plate was used to keep everything warm throughout the morning. This seemed to work OK. Good thing there was a 2kW generator working the cook tent, as it got quite the workout as the hot plate warmed up.

Weather: A warm weekend, with no breeze at all on Saturday night, and quite warm, breezy with some rain showers on Sunday. No thunder, through, which was nice. Overall, the fans helped in the operating tents, but all was tolerable. I was glad to have the A/C on for the ride home on Sunday!

Participants on-the-air: 41 participants signed in the logs this year from the two clubs. Of them, 23 operators were logged in to make contacts. This is a decent number. I know we had a few new operators this year, and some hams took the challenge to learn how to operate in a contest-like atmosphere. The CW tent still had the least number of operators, but they put in an excellent effort to pile on the contacts. I still like to encourage hams to work the logging station then take a seat in the operating chair. It looks scary, but a bit of help from an elmer and the contacts can start flowing in. I enjoy seeing others get the hang of operating as much as I like to sit in the chair and work a pile up! Field Day is one of the few times I get to obtain the help of a logger, and it makes it so much easier to work multiple stations per minute when they are coming in strong.

Logging: As a result of our logging problem, plus that of a couple of other clubs, the logging program author, N3FJP, put in a TCP version of networking. That worked out very well for us this year, resulting in no network crashes. We did have a couple of items to improve. The digital station did not join the logging, resulting in a delay of completing the submission while their log was found and imported into our list. We also found out that the time stamp for any contact is not per the Network time, but the time of the individual computer. The CW tent computer had the unfortunate problem of having both the main battery dead and the CMOS time keeping battery dead. This resulted in a number of their contacts being time and date stamped incorrectly. Some attempt was made to correct this, but it did cause several hours of rework after the event was over. The CW computer had software and hardware that integrated

the Elecraft K3 function, allowing memory key settings. So, we could not replace that computer with a spare unit. Since the generator was shut off for refueling (or whenever the generator ran out of gas) this caused a number of issues. For next year, we hope that computer can get a battery replacement!

Geography of contacts: Given our propensity to work the 40 meter band this year, it will come as no surprise that our most worked Sections were a good single skip on 40m. Virginia was top at 6% of contacts, followed by Eastern Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Maryland DC and Ohio rounded out the top sections. For those at least 1,000 miles away, Northern Florida and Western Washington are on top. Only two sections were not worked, Newfoundland and Northwest Territories.

Final Thoughts: The Livonia Amateur Radio Club and the Ford Amateur Radio League have been working together on Field Day for a large number of years. We have seasoned participants who work well to get everything set up and operating. This year, we did not have any formal organizational meetings due to timing and some personnel being unavailable. We did manage to get most everything done right. For next year, we will seek to improve the overall performance and iron out bumps with food and with antenna crosstalk problems. I send a big thanks again to all who participated in this event, from set up, tear down, operating, food, and logistics. Everything worked out well.

73,
David
N8HKU



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.



2013-2014 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: October 09, 2014 at 6:30PM

Topic: Yaesu System Fusion By Roger, KD8CSE

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