

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

President's Note

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Hello, and welcome to Autumn in Michigan. In spite of the serious frost of last spring, there are some Michigan apples ripe for the eating. I just tasted my first one of the season from my local orchard, Wiard's, here in Ypsilanti Township. I can tell already that the leaves are changing. The signal strength of the Tin Lizzy repeater on the roads around my house has improved a couple of S-units. The moisture in the leaves and the air apparently causes me signal loss on both transmit and receive. However, that changes with fall and winter. You may be able to hear me all the way into my driveway as winter approaches if we are chatting on the 2m repeater.

I am still busily writing QSL cards from the club Anniversary special event weekend. I hope to have them done soon, but am making steady progress. See a further article about the weekend in this newsletter.

I enjoyed the day of the PEAC Celebration of Cycling on September 15th. We had pretty good amateur participation this year, and we seemed to have a good group of riders. I was happy to find out that there were no stranded riders in downtown Ann Arbor on the 100 mile route. With the mid afternoon Michigan Football home game crowd clogging all of the main streets, I had to turn around at the Ann Arbor border or get stuck in traffic. Look for an article from Pat in this newsletter.

Dave,
N8HKU



Bike Ride, Sept 15, 2007

The sponsors of the PEAC Bike Ride would like to thank all the people who helped make the ride a success this year. The PEAC staff appreciated what we have done to help them, and so have the students who participate in the program. The program works with mentally and physically challenged individuals and helps them ride bikes and become more able to fit into society.

The ride went very well with amateur radio operators at all the crucial food stops and working sag wagons as well. There were no real problems with the riders this year due to the efforts of all concerned. Riders were grateful for all the help that was provided and

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

the food at all the stops as well. There were about 400 riders participating this year, about the same as last year. The weather was great, although it was pretty chilly in the morning and there were some winds that didn't help on the outward part of the trip. The good part about the wind was that it was a head wind going out and a tail wind coming back. For the people who worked the ride, and have worked it in the past, Kevin was again the last rider to finish this year. Kevin is physically handicapped, rides a tricycle, and rides the 100 mile route each year.

As of this time, the banquet for the bike ride will be November 8 at Greenmeade in Livonia. Unfortunately, this is the same time as the club meeting is scheduled. An invitation will be sent to all the people that worked the ride. Last year the banquet was great and I expect it to be similar this year.

Patrick Quinn, WD8JDZ

Club Members note:

We send our condolences to Rod, K8SGL, on the passing of his wife, Mary Sue, in September. We also wish Rod well in his own recovery, as he has been in the ICU since her passing, although he was able to attend her funeral. We miss you from our meetings, Rod!

Recovering Hams

We wish Rusty, N8RGI, continued recovery from triple heart bypass surgery. Reports indicate he is steadily improving. Rusty should be out of rehab in October. Our attempts to get him on the air into the 2m repeater from his rehabilitation room in Romulus have not been successful, possibly due to a well metalized building.

Further questions can be directed to Bill Boyke N8OZV (313) 805-8877

50th+ Anniversary Celebration

The club got a portable station on the air on Saturday, September 8th for the Ford Amateur Radio League's 50th+ anniversary celebration. The club Yaesu FT990 transceiver was brought out for use, mostly into the club Cushcraft R7 vertical antenna. We got on the air a little after 9am. We planned to staying on the air until 5pm, but shut down a bit after 4pm. Band conditions were positively miserable, with no bands really working during the late afternoon. Bill, WA8HEA, put up a G5RV late in the afternoon to see if it was our antenna, but our last contact, located in Colorado, actually liked the R7 better. In total, the club worked 32 stations portable as K8UTT. We did manage to work club member Dick, N8DM, who was operating mobile from New Jersey. Thanks for checking in with us on 40M!! Many thanks to Bill, WA8HEA, for the lead in setting up the operating tent and bringing much of the gear. Thank you to Bill, N8OZV, for scouting out possible sites all summer, and to Roger, KD8CSE and Bob, N8JUH, for participating as well.

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

The idea of the club anniversary weekend was to get club members to also operate from their home stations over the weekend as part of our Special event. We publicized a Tin Lizzy Club award to any station who worked a total of three of us, including the portable station, over the weekend. Unfortunately, it turned out there were only three club stations on all weekend who made contacts, K8UTT, N8OZV, and N8HKU. We would like some feedback as to why so few club members participated in the event. Perhaps we did not get the planning correct? Was the event not interesting to members? Anyways, with only three stations on the air that weekend, we only managed to have one station work all three of us. Terry, VE3BQ, from Ontario, managed to contact all three of us. Bill, N8OZV, is working on a special certificate for him, and we are sending out club QSL cards to the rest who made contacts with us. I have received several QSL cards for both K8UTT and N8HKU to my house already. We had some great stories about Ford vehicles in some of the on line discussions, and some more commentary with the cards. I received one in September who had turned his 1930 Ford Model A into a tractor. I will work to get some of the cards posted up on the web for all of us to enjoy.

Dave, N8HKU

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.

Propagation:

Last spring, we had a presentation on Propagation, The Sun and Radio Propagation, still available on the club website at: <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hall/2183/Presentations.htm> In it, there was a discussion on where the bottom of the solar cycle was. It was predicted that it would happen last March, but there was some speculation it would not happen until later this year. Well, all appearances are that it is happening in late September and October. (Right on top of our Special Event weekend). We have had zero sunspots on the sun for the past 3 weeks. We have had some solar wind that has made the noise level in the atmosphere noisy, though. Not a great combination. The good news is that we, as amateurs, can still communicate under these conditions. The sun emits enough UV without sunspots to ionize the F layer for 40m and 20 meter communications. If we can get out under these conditions, we can only look forward to improvements from this time forward. I have also found another site that is working to determine what our real maximum usable frequency (MUF) is. We used to have them in QST and on

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

the ARRL website, but I do not see them there anymore. I have been using www.propnet.org for a look at current and predicted band conditions. Have a look!

Dave
N8HKU

SB PROP @ ARL \$ARLP041
ARLP041 Propagation de K7RA

ZCZC AP41
QST de W1AW
Propagation Forecast Bulletin 41 ARLP041
From Tad Cook, K7RA
Seattle, WA October 5, 2007
To all radio amateurs

SB PROP ARL ARLP041
ARLP041 Propagation de K7RA

We are on the road this week in Port Moody, British Columbia.

Sunspots reappeared, but only briefly. In fact, it was one sunspot, number 971, emerging September 28 for just a few days. This after 21 days of no sunspots. Now we are back into a zero-sunspot period of indeterminate length, just four days so far.

Solar wind provided geomagnetic disturbances. September 29 was the most disturbed day. There was another rise in activity centered on October 3.

Currently the Air Force predicts a moderate rise in geomagnetic activity peaking October 20 with a planetary A index of 15, and a much larger rise to planetary A index of 25 on October 26. But <http://spaceweather.com/> reports another solar wind stream to arrive on or around October 11. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions October 5-7, unsettled October 8, quiet to unsettled October 9, quiet October 10, and quiet to unsettled October 11.

With September over, it is time to look at some averages.

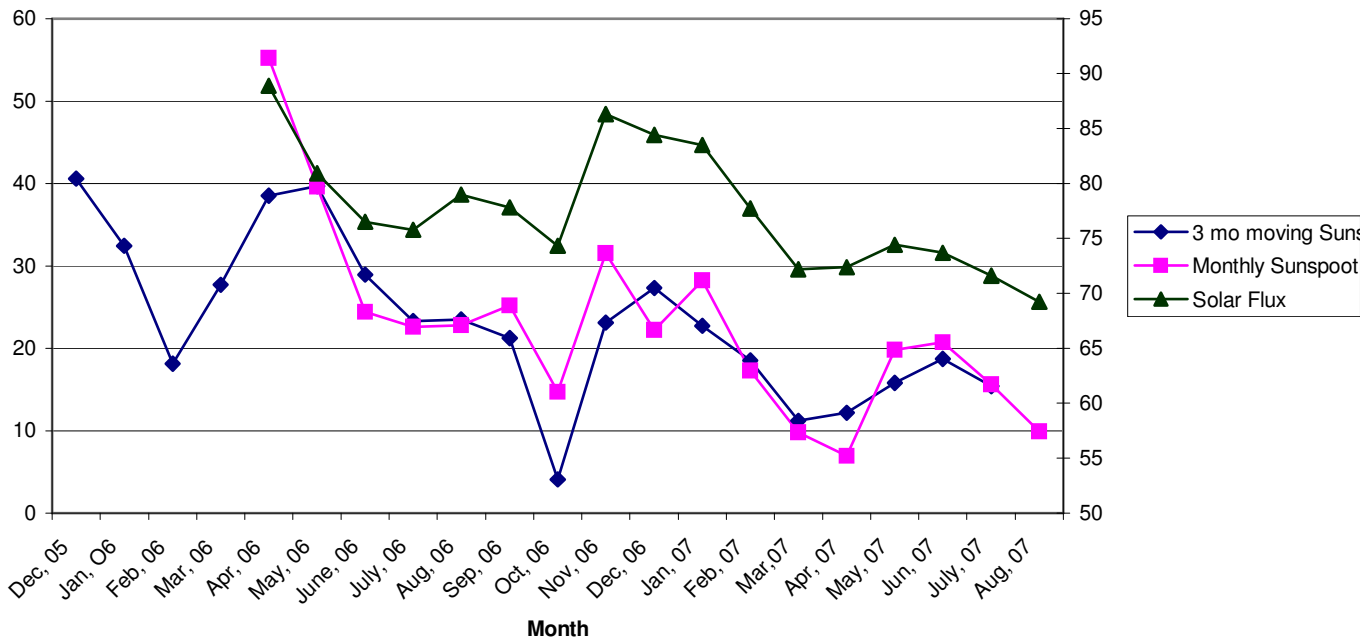
Monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers for April 2006 through September 2007 were 55.2, 39.6, 24.4, 22.6, 22.8, 25.2, 14.7, 31.5, 22.2, 28.2, 17.3, 9.8, 6.9, 19.8, 20.7, 15.6, 9.9 and 4.8. Monthly averages of daily solar flux for the same period were 88.9, 80.9, 76.5, 75.8, 79, 77.8, 74.3, 86.3, 84.4, 83.5, 77.7, 72.2, 72.4, 74.4, 73.7, 71.6, 69.2 and 67.

The average solar flux and sunspot numbers for September were the lowest on this side of cycle 23. This suggests we are still in the cycle bottom, or perhaps haven't reached it yet.

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

Sunspot and Solar Flux



FARL CLUB MINUTES -- September 13, 2007

Prepared by Roger Reini, KD8CSE, club secretary

Meeting called to order 7:12 PM. Chaired by vice-president Pat, WD8JDZ, in the absence of president Dave, N8HKU. 7 attendees this evening

Minutes from previous meeting (June) were read and approved
Treasurer's report read by Pat in the absence of Bill, WA8HEA
No communications from the board

REPEATER: 220 MHz repeater not working properly. The phone patch is not responding to any of the codes and instructions we have for it (the repeater can still be called for control purposes, though)

TRAINING: Classes conducted by Bill, N8OZV, going well. In the last 6 months, they've produced 3 new Technician licensees, and 2 to 3 are in training for their General licenses

WEBSITE: Was revamped over the summer by Dave, N8HKU. Everyone responded positively to the new layout. Bill, N8OZV, called up the pictures that were posted from 2007 Field Day.

NEWSLETTER: Bill, N8OZV, will do this coming month's newsletter again. Official editor Rusty, N8RGI, who has been ailing, is considering resuming his editing duties when he feels sufficiently

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

recovered.

50th ANNIVERSARY EVENT: Bill, N8OZV, showed the QSL's he received for his efforts during the special event weekend and what he plans to send out. He added two new states to his log, New Hampshire and Vermont. The event as a whole had decidedly mixed success, due to low participation among the membership and poor band conditions that weekend. Strong consideration is being given to continuing the event in either October or November, when band conditions are expected to be better and the hours of darkness longer. This will likely be a topic on next month's agenda.

FIELD DAY 2007: The event went well; the report is now on the Tin Lizzy club Website (http://www.geocities.com/capecanaveral/hall/2183/2007_field_day.htm). Our performance is thought to be on a par with last year's.

PEAC RIDE: The Celebration of Cycling ride is this Saturday, Sept. 15. If you're working at the event, plan to show up at the Warrendale area of Hines Park at 7:30 AM, then head out to your respective areas.

WEEKLY NET: Sunday nights at 8 PM on the 2-meter repeater (145.27 MHz)

NEWS: Roger, KD8CSE, mentioned an article from today's Wall Street Journal stating that Congress was contemplating legislation to remove incandescent light bulbs from the market starting in 2012 in favor of compact fluorescent bulb. Since many of these bulbs are known to generate noise in the HF range, this is of concern to amateur radio operators.

PRESENTATION: Roger, KD8CSE, gave a presentation on W1AW, the ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. He had visited the station in May. The presentation is available on the club Website (<http://www.geocities.com/capecanaveral/hall/2183/Presentations.htm>)

BRAZIL: Al, [callsign], told of his recent trip to Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he met with the present of the local chapter of a major Brazilian radio club (3000+ members strong). The club station had an AM tube transmitter that filled the whole room where it was located, but it was fully operational. Many old and classic books filled the library. While there, he operated 2 meters in the president's truck. Many of the hams who worked him reacted with disbelief at his call sign (an American call sign here in Brazil?)

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM. Afterwards, Roger, KD8CSE, informally presented a slideshow with higher-resolution versions of the pictures in the presentation, along with pictures from the headquarters tour that were not included in the presentation.

The Bolt

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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.

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

The Bolt

The Official Publication of the Ford Amateur Radio League

2006-2007 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 September 13, 2007.

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