

# FEEDLINE

NOVEMBER 2007

# SPECIAL EVENT

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 1, 2007

SKYWARN  
RECOGNITION  
DAY

(details inside)

The **FEEDLINE** is the official journal of the *Forx Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*, PO Box 14773, Grand Forks, ND 58208-4773. The Forx ARC is incorporated in the State of North Dakota and is a non-profit organization as defined in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Permission is hereby granted to copy any original article published in this newsletter, provided the source is credited.

Articles are solicited for publication. Content must be geared towards amateur radio or advancement of the communications art. Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual. The editor reserves the right to revise all material for space consideration

# MEETING MINUTES

## October 30, 2007

Due to a lack of a quorum an informal meeting was called at 7:32 PM – Larry KI0W presiding

There were 12 members and 0 guests present

**Secretary's Report** - John KA0SVY distributed copies of the minutes of the September meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** – Karen N0TKP presented the report and passed a copy of the report around the table.

**ARES/EC Report** – John WA0LPV reported that there was no activity this month. Activities Report - The club Christmas party was discussed. As Christmas day this year falls on a meeting day it was decided to have the party January 8, 2008. Donna KC0SKD will arrange for a room. More information will be forthcoming at the November meeting. There will be no meeting in December.

**VE Report** – Testing will be November 14, 2007 at 7:00pm in the Campbell Library, East Grand Forks.

Repeater Report - Discussed the interference being heard on the 94 repeater. Many have heard it. John WA0LPV has not but will monitor the repeater.



**Sioux Club Report** - There was no report from the Sioux Club. A 40 - 80 meter dipole has been put up on the roof of the Memorial Union.

### Old Business

A. Hamfest - N0TKP - We had 82 people sign in for the Hamfest. People liked the location and time of the year because it wasn't so cold. We also had a nice turnout for the banquet

B. Tech Class - KE0A/KI0LS - no report as they were in class.

C. JOTA - KA0SVY - JOTA went well. We had three groups of boys; 2 to 5 in a group. 20 meters was open so the boys all got to talk on the radio. Some really enjoyed it as they came back later to see if they could talk some more. Greg KC0TIY had two boys take the weather merit badge and gave a weather talk to all others that were interested. even the model railroad guys enjoyed having the boys at their setup.

D. Club Website - WA0LPV - Bugs need to be worked out on the website. The account and user name should be up October 31, 2007. Cost will be \$2.00/month. The domain name will be [www.wa0jxt.org](http://www.wa0jxt.org)

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## 2008 DUES ARE DUE

Once again it is approaching the end of another year. Now is the time to renew your dues with the club for the year 2008. Your dues provide the club with funds, which pay for newsletter postage, correspondence postage, club repeater maintenance, club activity insurance premiums, club activities, and other expenses. Club activities include Field Day and the Hamfest among others. Please support your club and renew your dues today.

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### **Are YOU an ARRL Member?**

If not, your joining will be money for the club. Contact John KA0SVY, Club Secretary for ARRL membership forms or checkout the club web site.

**You may be asking yourself...**

**Why should I be a national member of ARRL, if I can just participate locally with my club?**

**ANSWER:** Your national dues support ARRL and many of our national and local initiatives. Your dues support an organization that represents ham radio operators in governmental matters-such as working to protect our frequency privileges. Your dues go towards communications research, educational outreach, and help supply local volunteers with the materials they need to provide excellent public service. Your club IS ARRL.

**FEEDLINE**

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### **New Business**

A. Skywarn recognition day - 1 December 2007

B. WA0LPV - There is a new ham in town who is the civilian contractor for the UAV contract. John WA0LPV was contacted about students working on the UAV project having ham licensed. The students would study on their own and we would do the testing.

Next meeting 1930, November 27, 2007

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### **FOR SALE**

#### **Kenwood TS140S HF Transceiver**

160 m - 10m

LSB, USB, CW, AM, FM

Frequency range 500 kHz to 30

MHz

**\$300**

#### **MFJ Versa Tuner**

1.5 kw

Model MFJ-962C

\$150

#### **Benchner Low Pass Filter**

Model YA-1

52 ohm, 1.8 - 30 MHz

1.5 kw continuous power

5 kw peak power

**\$30**

Harold N0SAA

yllek@mncable.net

218-686-8617

1602 Greenwood St. E # 120

Thief River Falls, MN 56701

**NOVEMBER 2007**

**Monthly North Dakota Section  
News Summary  
November 14, 2007 9:32 AM**

NORTH DAKOTA: SM, Kent Olson, KAØLDG - Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you all get a chance to visit family and/or friends over the holiday and enjoy both the company and cooking. Congratulations to the Souris Valley ARC for winning the ND Top Gun club for Field Day 2007. They had a score of 4,920 which was over 1600 points higher than the next by (the Forx ARC with 3234). So, now we all know who to try and beat next year. I had fun visiting with folks at both the Grand Forks Hamfest, and the Totten Trail Hamfest. There was lots of good stuff and good times had by all. I helped out with the Boy Scouts and the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) a few weeks ago. There were a lot of scouts that visited our site, and we made quite a few contacts with other scout stations around the USA. Keep up the great ham radio work around the State, and let me know what you have been doing. Upcoming hamfests: Fargo, April 26th. Section's web site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~qt1pf16/>. HF NM K8BBM net reports for October: Weather Net: 49/837/3. Data Net: 31/806/17. Goose River Net: 4/33/1.

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ARRL North Dakota Section  
Section Manager: Kent R. Olson,  
KAØLDG  
ka0ldg@arrl.org

**OPERATIONS  
APPROVED  
FOR  
DXCC CREDIT**

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, announced earlier this week that all operations from Vlad Bykov's, UA4WHX, last trip have been approved for DXCC credit.

These operations include, but may not be limited to, the following: 5X1VB -- Uganda; 9U0VB -- Burundi; 9X0VB -- Rwanda; D20VB -- Angola; D60VB -- Comoros, and J20VB -- Djibouti. Other operations include: 3DA0VB -- Swaziland; 5R8VB -- Madagascar; A25VB -- Botswana; C91VB -- Mozambique; ST2VB -- Sudan; Z2/UA4WHX -- Zimbabwe; V51VV -- Namibia, and OD5/UA4WHX -- Lebanon.

If you have any questions concerning these operations, or any questions about the ARRL DXCC program, please e-mail the DXCC Desk <DXCC@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 26, No. 45  
November 9, 2007

**Milly's reviews and views of  
eQSL and LOTW  
(Logbook of the World)  
By Chris Milly Milford  
KC0CRU**

Greetings out there, I know many of you are fascinated with chasing QSL cards and getting cards sent to you in the mail, if you're a mail only ham, don't waste your time reading my article. However, if you are interested in other forms of conformations then read on as I discuss some pros and cons of this new means of QSLing.

I've been a licensed general ham radio operator for about 6 months now, I'm currently working towards my first award, the coveted WAS award, otherwise known as the Worked All States award. It's the logical choice for new HF'ers to chase down QSL's from one person in each state. Once you get all states and pay the radio league they send you a nice plaque that you also pay for, but hey it's cool and gets you on the air shouting out CQ all over the place.

There are various ways to earn your WAS, some people go on and participate in HF nets out there like the O'Miss net. I'm not one of them, if I capture Delaware on the air by calling CQ that seems to make it more worth while then if the hams are gathered on one frequency and all you have to do is shoot ducks in a barrel. So as far as working nets to get WAS I'm not that big on, after all when was the

last time you heard KC0CRU check into the Monday night net? I'm just not a net kind of guy.

Ok, now we have established that I like to hunt down my states, well how good am I at it? The first night I was a licensed general still had my /AG designation I was able to pop off 38 states in one night's work. Wow! It's that easy, right? Well those were the easy states, like North Dakota and Colorado and Delaware. I had some help of course; some kind-hearted ham out in HF world spotted my callsign on the DX cluster, a very useful tool, except when you're a ND ham.

Being a ND ham has its advantages, #1 you're very well liked on HF, #2 people will tackle each other to talk with you and its kind of fun to listen to the pileups, and #3 there's always someone on the air to talk with and you always have the weather to discuss. Cold and windy, no snow and no flooding, all is well in North Dakota. There is a dark side to being a ham in North Dakota, #1 you're VERY well liked on HF. Everyone in the entire world wants your contact, so that kindhearted ham out there that first spotted me had a laugh when my voice went away that first night on the air.

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So, now you have 4 million ham contacts in 3 hours what's next? Here are some hints coming from a newbie. The first thing you should do is check qrz.com and make sure that your information is current, things like address and your rules for QSLing. My rules are set pretty simple, I have it listed that you QSL direct, and if you want a quick return you send a SASE, (Self addressed stamped envelop). The next thing you need is a QSL card, I just made my own, but you can go and order them from an on-line source. And finally, what I have just done is set up accounts on eqsl and lotw and this is where the review comes in.

We will start with the easy one; some people do not send out cards anymore and have embraced the Internet for there confirmations. [www.eqsl.cc](http://www.eqsl.cc) is pretty nice and easy, the good points are that it's quick to set up an account; you don't need a lot of time to set it up. I got mine going in about 15 minutes, but it took me another couple of hours to figure out what I was going to do with a qsl design, I just went ahead and re-built my qsl card and uploaded it to the server. To do your own design they ask for a donation, so I gave a huge 5 bucks and upgraded to a bronze member. There really isn't much reason to give more unless you are a nice guy; some people question me on this point so they get 5 bucks. Once I upgraded I was eligible for their own awards, could

put up my own qsl card and that's all I really wanted to do. The pros of eQSL are its easy to set up, they have a way to authenticate your identity so you can apply for awards like eWAS and eDX100 and ePF300. The cons are, since it is a separate program not supported by ARRL the logs and cards sent through eQSL do not count for ARRL award's, that's why they made their own.

If you're an ARRL lover then you may want to sign up for this other service that people are talking about, Logbook of the World (LOTW). In my opinion had I known what it was going to take to sign up for LOTW I might have thought about getting a six pack (pop) so I could do something while I wait for things to take effect. LOTW required me to download a software package called TQSLCert, this builds what is called a certificate which you email to ARRL, and then you have to wait for about a week for ARRL to send you a postcard in the mail that has a password on it. Using that password you can access the web account and request a login to your LOTW page, but first they have to email that to you so you wait again, ARRL ought to be renamed, Authentication time is Really Really Long. In fact if we are speaking of acronyms LOTW stands for Lots Of Time Wasted, but after several weeks of waiting and hours of waiting I got my login

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information from ARRL and went on to find out that it's not that full featured. All LOTW is it seems is a place to store your logs, no QSLing, and really kind of a pain to use because once you have your logbook digitized into what is called the ADIF format you use their software they send you TQSL to reformat that into a special format that LOTW uses, then you can upload your log. Of course Lots Of Time Wasted again because it's not good enough for ARRL to have your logbook, they need to process it, so that takes from 5 seconds to 24 hours to do. Now the good part about LOTW is that you ARE eligible for ARRL awards, you can also set up different stations and have different logs for each station and they keep pretty good track of your contacts for WAS and DXCC so it's still pretty good.

There is one last thing I want to mention that might be useful to non-North Dakota hams who sign up for the eQSL program, they have this nifty little application that allows you to request a sked with other stations. When I authenticated myself as myself, I had this little blinking icon on my front page, clicking on the sked icon brought up 2000 requests for North Dakota. WOW! See fella's we are loved! After all the work on-line getting these programs set up, I have to say, its nice to have the immediate gratification of getting eQSLs sent to my email

box, but nothing will replace going to the mailbox and getting the letters with SASE's and a card from a new state, like Wyoming, Montana, Mississippi, Vermont, Hawaii and Alaska. I say this because those are the only states I have left for my WAS. Not shabby for 6 months of work. 73's and anyway you confirm QSO's whether it be via LOTW, eQSL or post keep talking because everyone wants North Dakota, I can share the love. 73's -KC0CRU (Can't Really Understand) Milly

For information: (i.e. the 5 second summery)

Website for eQSL: [www.eqsl.cc](http://www.eqsl.cc)

Website for LOTW: [www.arrl.org/lotw](http://www.arrl.org/lotw)

Both are free, eQSL asks for donation to upload your own QSL design, or you can use one of their designs for free, but you have to donate to be eligible for awards through them. LOTW is free, but it takes a bloody long time to get set up with them. LOTW does not have QSL cards, but you are eligible for ARRL awards only through LOTW and not eQSL.

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**MONDAY  
NIGHT  
NET  
9:00 PM  
146.940 (-)**

## SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY

Saturday, December 1, 2007, mark your calendar and plan to check out the Skywarn Recognition Day Special Event. The event held annually is sponsored jointly by the National Weather Service (NWS) and the ARRL. It is recognition by the NWS for the contribution Hams make during Skywarn activities.

Hams across the country set up stations at and with their local NWS office and work the bands for 24 hours (0000 – 2400 UTC on December 1). Locally this would equate to 6:00 PM CST Friday, November 30 to 6:00 PM CST Saturday, December 1. While any contact will be acceptable and logged the primary goal for each NWS station is to contact as many other NWS stations as possible. The event is not a contest and no “points” are accumulated. However, there will be a certificate presented to each station based upon the number of NWS sites contacted.

All modes of every Amateur Band can be used to make contacts. This includes phone, CW, RTTY, PSK-31, packet, VOIP, repeaters, and whatever other mode that equipment at the site permits. Once a contact is made specific information is required: signal report, QTH, and a brief description of the current weather at the NWS site. After the required information is exchanged further

chatting is at the discretion of the operators.

The local ARES and the Forx Amateur Radio Club will be at the NWS office located at 4797 Technology Circle in Grand Forks, ND. For more information please contact your local Emergency Coordinator: EC Gerry N0NGW, EC John WA0LPV, or DEC Larry KI0W.

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## WRC-07 WRAPS UP IN GENEVA; WILL LIKELY MEET AGAIN IN 2011

The final working session of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) in Geneva drew to a close Thursday afternoon, November 15. The signing ceremony for the Final Acts will take place Friday. According to International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, the principal achievements and disappointments, as they relate to the Amateur Services, of the conference are:

### Achievements

\* Maintenance all existing amateur allocations, including the 7.200-7.300 MHz allocation in ITU Region 2 (the Americas) that had been somewhat at risk in connection with consideration of additional allocations for HF broadcasting (see below).

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\* A new worldwide secondary allocation at 135.7-137.8 kHz with a maximum radiated power limit of 1 W e.i.r.p. (given the low efficiency of practical antennas for this frequency range, this limit is not as severe as it may sound).

\* Inclusion of an item, "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services" on the provisional agenda for WRC-11 (set for 2011).

\* Avoidance of future agenda items that pose serious threats to key amateur allocations.

\* Some improvement in the so-called "country footnotes" that provide for different allocations by country in all or part of the 1.8, 3.5, 50 and 430 MHz amateur bands.

#### Disappointments

\* No new allocation for the Amateur Service in the vicinity of 5 MHz, and no agenda item to consider such an allocation at a future conference.

\* No future agenda item to consider an amateur allocation at 50 MHz in ITU Region 1 (Europe, the former Soviet Union, Mongolia, Africa and parts of the Middle East).

The amateur issues were of course a minor part of the WRC-07 agenda, but the Amateur Service was involved in one of the most contentious agenda items dealing with allocations between 4 and 10 MHz. A series of European Common Proposals had proposed changes to allow for an increase of

350 kHz in HF broadcasting allocations, with a footnote for administrations to allow the Amateur Service to use 5.260-5.410 MHz on a secondary basis and with a radiated power limit of 250 W; however, HF broadcasting had no support from the other regional organizations and no compromise acceptable to all parties could be found. Ultimately the European administrations had to accept "no change" for broadcasting, effectively scuttling our chances for a 5 MHz allocation.

The IARU had hoped that if an allocation could not be achieved at WRC-07, an appropriate agenda item could be included for WRC-11. The 2007 conference, however, had little interest in taking up HF issues at the next conference, tentatively set for 2011, having little to show for a great deal of effort expended on HF in preparing for WRC-07. The only HF issues on the provisional WRC-11 agenda have to do with oceanographic radar applications and the implementation of new digital technologies for the maritime mobile service.

The International Telecommunication Union's planning for the next World Radiocommunication Conference begins on Monday in Geneva, with the convening of a two-day Conference Preparatory Meeting for WRC-11. Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, will attend on behalf of the IARU.

The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 26, No. 46  
November 16, 2007

## URL's of Interest

### **Forx Amateur Radio Club**

[www.qsl.net/wa0jxt](http://www.qsl.net/wa0jxt)

### **ND Section**

<http://home.earthlink.net/~qtipf16/>



## **TRIVIA**

The following trivia question is taken from *The ARRL Handbook 2006*. The answer will be published in the December 2007 issue of the *FEEDLINE*.

WHAT IS TTL?

October's trivia question was:

WHAT IS 11111010111?

And the answer is:

Binary equivalent of 2007

# ANNUAL DUES FORM

January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
CHK# _____
DATE _____

As stated in the bylaws of the Forx Amateur Radio Club dues expire on the last day of December (December 31, 2007 in this case). Dues are payable as follows:

Regular Membership	\$20.00
Family Membership	\$27.00
Student/Youth Membership	\$10.00
Senior Membership (62+)	\$10.00

If you have paid your dues for the year 2008, thank you. You will continue to receive the *FEEDLINE* published monthly. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2008, please use the form below.

Please make your check payable to: FORX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 14773  
GRAND FORKS, ND 58208-4773

Please do not mail cash. Cash is acceptable if your dues are paid to the Treasurer directly.

**Please complete the following form to be included with your dues payment:**

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip+4: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type (circle one): Regular / Family / Student / Senior

**To receive the club newsletter *FEEDLINE* via E-mail, please provide your address below:**

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you an ARRL Member? Yes / No    ARES Member? Yes / No**