

FEEDLINE

JANUARY 2008

NEW CLUB WEBSITE

www.wa0jxt.org

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Have you paid your dues for 2008?

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 501I(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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

There was no business meeting in December for the Forx Amateur Radio Club. Instead a Christmas Party was held at the Speedway Restaurant on January 8, 2008.

THERE

was no December 2007 issue of the *FEEDLINE* .

MEETING MINUTES
November 27, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM – Dick KC0LUR Presiding

There were 11 members present

Since there was no quorum of members present an informal meeting was held

There was no Secretary's Report

There was no Treasurer's Report

ARES/EC Report by John WA0LPV – nothing significant has been going on

There was no Activity's Report



VE Report by Rod KE0A – No test sessions scheduled

Repeater Report by Paul KA0CAF – The noise issue appeared to have resolved itself

Sioux Club Report – ARRL November Sweepstakes was held recently with about 724 contacts made

Old Business
Club website – John WA0LPV reported he will be holding another meeting on Friday to work on the final issues

Technician Class – Charles KI0LS reported that there were three new Techs, and one upgrade to General at the end of the class

Skywarn Recognition Day – Rod KE0A reported that the station has been set up and anyone wishing to participate just go to the NWS office; Special Event runs from 6:00 PM Friday (November 30) to 6:00 PM Saturday (December 1); there is no operating schedule
Christmas Party – Scheduled for January 8, 2008; stay turned to the Monday night net for details

There will be no December meeting

The next club meeting will be January 29, 2008

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Have you paid your dues for 2008?

Article VI, Section 1 of the *BYLAWS* of the Forx Amateur Radio Club states:

“The club, by two-thirds vote of those voting members present at any regular meeting, may levy upon the general membership such dues as shall be deemed necessary for the business of the organization within its objects as set forth in the Articles. If dues are not received within 60 days, membership shall lapse.”

The Forx Amateur Radio Club has essentially only two sources for operating funds. The primary source is dues. The secondary source is the annual Hamfest. However, there is no guarantee that the Hamfest will produce additional funds for the club.

Dues that you pay provide a source of funding for club activities, which include Field Day, the annual Hamfest, postage for mailing the club newsletter, club liability insurance, etc. These funds also help in the maintenance and repair of the club's repeaters.

February's issue will be your last issue of the *FEEDLINE* if your dues remain unpaid on March 1, 2008.

If there is no renewal form included with this issue your dues are paid for 2008.

FORX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETINGS

**Last Tuesday
Every Month**

7:30 PM

**Basement of Altru Hospital
Meeting Room E
(next to cafeteria)**

**Come early for
informal discussions
prior to the meeting.**

**{Please note that operation
of radios/cell-phones
anywhere within
Altru Hospital is
prohibited}**

DATES OF INTEREST

January 2008	
26	CQ WW 160-meter Contest – CW
29	Club Meeting
February 2008	
2	10-10 Winter Phone QSO Party
3	North American Sprint – CW
9	CQ WW RTTY WPX
10	North American Sprint – Phone
16	ARRL International DX Contest – CW
16	St Cloud MN Hamfest
23	Bismarck ND Hamfest
23	CQ WW 160-meter Contest – Phone
23	North American QSO Party - Digital
26	Club Meeting
March 2008	
1	ARRL International DX Contest – Phone
25	Club Meeting
April 2008	
26	Fargo ND Hamfest
29	Club Meeting

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FOR SALE

**Kenwood TS140S
HF Transceiver
\$300**

**MFJ Versa Tuner
\$150**

**Bencher Low Pass Filter
\$30**

Harold N0SAA
yllek@mncable.net
218-686-8617

1602 Greenwood St. E # 120
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

DXCC DESK ANNOUNCES NEW ENTITY

The ARRL DXCC Desk is pleased to announce the addition of St Barthelemy (FJ) to the DXCC List, making the island entity number 338 with an effective date of December 14, 2007. Cards with contacts dated December 14, 2007 or after will be accepted for DXCC credit. New card submissions for St Barthelemy will not be accepted until January 1, 2008 in order to allow time for administrative adjustments.

On February 21, 2007 the French Ministry issued a decree making St Barthelemy an Overseas Collective, where its status is now equal to that of Guadeloupe, Martinique and other French territories currently on the DXCC List. On November 8, 2007 the President of Association Des Radio Amateurs De St Barthelemy, Philippe Delcroix, FJ5DX, contacted the DXCC Desk, requesting that St Barthelemy be considered a new DXCC entity.

The "event date" that caused St Barthelemy to be added to the DXCC list was December 14, 2007, the date the US State Department added St Barthelemy to the "List of Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty" with its Administrative Center in Gustavia, qualifying it under DXCC rules in Section II - 1 Political Entities (c): "The Entity contains a permanent population, is

administered by a local government, and is located at least 800 km from its parent. To satisfy the 'permanent population' and 'administered by a local government' criteria of this subsection, an Entity must be listed on either (a) the U.S. Department of State's list of 'Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty' as having a local 'Administrative Center,' or (b) the United Nations list of 'Non-Self-Governing Territories.'"

French St Martin (FS), while also added to the List of Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty, will remain on the DXCC List, but it is now considered a Point 1 Political Entity under the same classification as that of St Barthelemy.

Please direct any questions you may have about St Barthelemy, St Martin or the DXCC program to the ARRL DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 26, No. 50
December 21, 2007

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

New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool Released

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) has released a new pool of 741 questions and 12 graphics <<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=338>> for the Amateur Extra class license. This pool will become effective for examinations given on or after July 1, 2008, and should be in service until June 30, 2012. It can be downloaded from the NCVEC Web site in Word, PDF or RTF formats. If you have any questions concerning the new Amateur Extra question pool, please contact the NCVEC's Question Pool Committee via e-mail <qpc@ncvec.org>.

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**CROOKSTON
THURSDAY
NIGHT
NET
9:00 PM
147.120(+)**

Monthly North Dakota Section News Summary

Friday, January 18, 2008 9:15 AM

NORTH DAKOTA: SM, Kent Olson, KAØLDG - Happy New Year, and best wishes to you and your family. It's time for those pesky resolutions again, and I'm back to honing my CW skills. I even dusted off the straight key for "Straight Key Night" - I can tell it's been a while since I've used one. Have you made your Ham Radio resolutions yet? This month is great to hunker down and start or finish some fun radio projects around the shack. Thanks to all the ND Section volunteers who give a little more back to Amateur Radio and their communities. I know you have been doing great things in Amateur Radio, so why not drop me a line, and I'll print it here. Upcoming hamfests: Bismarck, February 23rd, Fargo, April 26th. Section's web site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~qt1pf16/>. HF NM K8BBM net reports for December: Weather Net: 61/1142/8. Data Net: 31/468/8. Goose River Net: 5/69/2. For the rest of the winter, there will be an early Data Net at 5PM central time in addition to the regular time at 6:30 PM central time. Thanks to all the Net Control Stations.

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



Straight Key Night -- North Dakota Style

January 1, 2008

CYCLE 24 HERE, EXPERTS SAY

With the appearance of Sunspot 981 -- a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot -- on Friday, January 4, experts at NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said that Cycle 24 is now here. "This sunspot is like the first robin of spring," said solar physicist Douglas Biesecker of the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC), part of NOAA. "In this case, it's an early omen of solar storms that will gradually increase over the next few years."

Solar physicist David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama concurred, saying that new solar cycles begin with a "modest knot" of magnetism, like the one that appeared on December 11 on the east limb of the Sun: "That patch of magnetism could be a sign of the next solar cycle. New solar cycles always begin with a high-latitude, reversed polarity sunspot." The region of magnetism that appeared back in December achieved high latitude (24 degrees North) and was magnetically reversed, but no supporting sunspot appeared until 25 days later.

Reversed polarity describes a sunspot with opposite magnetic polarity compared to sunspots from the previous solar cycle. High-latitude refers to the Sun's grid of latitude and longitude. Old-cycle spots congregate near the Sun's

equator; new-cycle spots appear higher, around 25 or 30 degrees latitude. Sunspot 981's high-latitude location at 27 degrees North and its negative polarity leading to the right in the Northern Hemisphere are clear-cut signs of a new solar cycle, according to NOAA experts. The first active regions and sunspots of a new solar cycle can emerge at high latitudes while those from the previous cycle continue to form closer to the equator.

While experts vary in their predictions on when the solar cycle will peak and how strong it will be, NOAA, in April 2007, in coordination with an international panel of solar experts, predicted that the next 11-year cycle of solar storms "would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months, and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012." In the cycle forecast issued in April 2007, half of the panel predicted a "moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October 2011. The other half predicted a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August 2012. An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. The group is evenly split between a strong and a weak cycle."

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NASA's Hathaway, along with colleague Robert Wilson at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco last month, said that Solar Cycle 24 "looks like it's going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago." They believe the next solar maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160, plus or minus 25. "This would make it one of the strongest solar cycles of the past fifty years -- which is to say, one of the strongest in recorded history." Four of the five biggest cycles on record have come in the past 50 years. "Cycle 24 should fit right into that pattern," Hathaway said.

According to Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, "As for improvement in propagation on the higher bands, we still have a way to go before that happens, and it depends on the magnitude of Cycle 24. The Solar Cycle 24 Prediction Panel has published predictions for Cycle 24, but unfortunately the panel did not reach one consensus prediction. If the larger of the two predictions comes true, we should expect consistent F2 propagation on 10 and 12 meters to start toward the end of 2009. If the smaller prediction comes true, this will be delayed about one year."

Luetzelschwab, who writes the column "Propagation" for the National Contest Journal (NCJ),

continued: "While we wait for improved high band conditions, don't forget the low bands. Around solar minimum and for the next year or so, the Earth's geomagnetic field is at its quietest. This is good for low band propagation. Thus, right now is the time to start (or add to) your 80 and 160 meter DXCC efforts."

According to NASA's Tony Phillips, many forecasters believe Solar Cycle 24 will be big and intense. "Solar cycles usually take a few years to build to a frenzy and Cycle 24 will be no exception. We still have some quiet times ahead," says Hathaway.

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2007 Christmas Party



The OFFICIAL List

ARRL

Dakota Division Director	Jay Bellows KØQB
Section Manager (SM)	Kent Olson KAØLDG
Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC)	Larry Holm KIØW
GF Emergency Coordinator (EC)	Gerry Nies NØNGW
EGF Emergency Coordinator (EC)	John Engel WAØLPV

Forx Amateur Radio Club

President	Larry Holm KIØW
Vice President	Dick Shervold KCØLUR
Secretary	John Schaffer KAØSVY
Treasurer	Karen Noss NØTKP
Activities Director	Donna Schaffer KCØSKD
<i>FEEDLINE</i> Editor	Jim Watt KCØXW

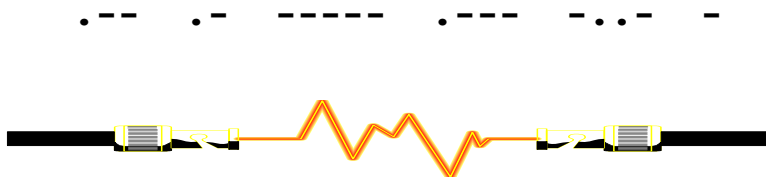
URL's of Interest

Forx Amateur Radio Club

www.wa0jxt.org

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 February 2008 issue of the *FEEDLINE*.

WHAT IS SAM?

November's trivia question was:

WHAT IS TTL?

And the answer is:

Transistor-Transistor Logic

This may be found on page 5.52 of *The ARRL Handbook 2006*