

FEEDLINE

FEBRUARY 2008

Read it all, inside, today.....

New Features of the Club Web Page

Field Day 2008 - New Rules

Satellite Voice Repeater

Go-Kits

.....and more

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.

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MEETING MINUTES January 29, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM – Larry KIOW presiding

There were 14 members and 1 guest present

Secretary's Report - John KAOSVY handed out copies of the minutes of the last meeting (November 2007) and Board of Directors meeting December 22, 2007. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - By Donna KCOSKD for Karen N0TKP. Report accepted.

ARES/EC Report by John WA0LPV - We are in winter mode

Activity's Report - Donna KCOSKD reported on the Christmas party at the Speedway restaurant. She asked if there were any suggestions or changes the membership would like to see. She also gave out one last Christmas present to Dick KA0HDN for his dog. It was a peanut butter dog bone.

A motion was made and seconded to have the Hamfest the first Saturday in October. The motion passed.

Karen N0TKP through Donna KCOSKD volunteered to take on the job of organizing the Hamfest. The general feeling of the club was



that she should do it again as she did a great job last year.

VE Report by Rod KE0A – No test sessions scheduled

Repeater Report by Paul KA0CAF – Nothing to report

Sioux Club Report – Not much activity - no report

Old Business

A. Club web site – John WA0LPV reported that the site is up and running. The \$26.00 we paid covers the site for December 2007 and all of 2008. There is a new link for QSL managers. Members were asked what else they would like to see on the site.

B. Skywarn Recognition Day – Rod KE0A reported that we made 350 to 400 contacts with 15 to 20 other NWS stations included in that count. There have been quite a few QSL cards requested.

C. Donna KCOSKD asked if we would like to do JOTA again this year. We will keep it in mind.

New Business

A. Rod KE0A for Nancy KC0YXB - There will be a dogsled race early in March along the Red River from Halstad, MN to Lincoln Park and back. It will be a two day event. She is asking if the club will help out with communications at the various checkpoints along the

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DATES OF INTEREST

February 2008	
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
9	North American RTTY Sprint
25	Club Meeting
29	CQ WPX SSB Contest
29	Midwinter Madness, Robbinsdale, MN
April 2008	
29	Club Meeting
May 2008	
27	Club Meeting
June 2008	
24	Club Meeting
28	Field Day

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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

Club Web Page Update

John WA0LPV

I have made several changes to the club's web page (www.wa0jxt.org). I have added a link to Fargo's instructions on using the Super-Link system. They did an excellent job so rather than try to repeat the page; I just put a link to theirs.

I have also added a UTC clock to the 'contest page'. It will be interesting to see what happens when we go to day light savings time; hopefully it will still be correct. Also on the contest page, I have added code for the contest listing. If the contest is currently running, the name of the contest will appear in red. The contest will stay listed for 5 days so you can look at the 'Rules' link to see where you should submit your logs. I have also added a link to 'Live Scores'. This is a web site that posts testers scores as the contest is happening. The current version supports WriteLog and N1MM logging software. I personally use N1MM software and it can be configured to automatically send your scores at selected time intervals. Some argue that the web site gives the tester an unfair advantage, personally I don't see how. It makes me try harder to keep in the running! Rod is doing an excellent job of listing upcoming contests.

If you check under the 'Solar Information' link, you will find a link to the auroral oval. This data is collected from satellites and is a

footprint of any auroral activity. If the bands are dead, a check of the auroral oval might explain what's happening. There's also a link to the sunspot activity.

I have included a number of links under the 'HF Propagation' tab. These are links to software that can be down-loaded to predict HF propagation based on the current sunspot activity.

I plan to add a page where you can make suggestions on what should be added or removed from the web page.

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ARISS TEAM LOOKING FOR GROUND STATIONS

Do you want to be part of the international network of ground stations that help support Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) operations? ARISS is looking to add numerous ground stations capable of relaying ISS Amateur Radio sessions with schools and also serve as back-up communications relays should they be needed. Locations all over the world will be considered, but the greatest need for stations is in Central America, South America, Falkland Islands, Western Australia, Canada and Alaska.

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The following are guidelines for stations wanting to be considered: Third Party agreement with United States or waiver from their telecom agency; ability to speak and understand English; minimal horizon obstructions; 24/7 access and availability of station; operator(s) willing to support scheduled contacts at various times; phone patch; AZ/EL tracking satellite system, preferably an auto tracking system with the capability for manual override; multi-element Yagis for 2 meters and 70 cm (circular polarization preferred); pre-amps and transmit output greater than 70 W. If you can specify your station's EIRP and receive sensitivity (thereby taking into account cable losses, pre-amps and antenna gain), it would be greatly appreciated.

Stations that can support the following will be given special consideration, but these items are not required: Auto Doppler adjustment of frequencies; ability to speak and understand languages other than English; 1.2 and 2.4 GHz satellite hardware; Packet; SSTV; Digital ATV; redundant power system, and high-speed Internet.

If you or your club would like to be considered for selection as one of the new ARISS ground stations, send an e-mail <ARISS-telebridge@amsat.org> to ARISS with details about your station and contact information. -- Information

provided by Frank Bauer,
KA3HDO, ARISS International
Chairman

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river. There are already 6 sled teams signed up and they hope to have 10; turned over to the Activities Director to coordinate the schedule, etc

B. Civil Air Patrol - John KA0SVY received an e-mail from Joshua Rivera, Vice Commander of the North Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol asking if we could help some of their members get their ham license and also arrange some training. Several members agreed to be on a committee to do this, John KA0SVY, Larry KI0W, Rod KE0A, Charlie KI0LS, Gerry N0NGW, and Jeff KD0BTT. John KA0SVY will contact the CAP to arrange a meeting.

C. Rod KE0A reported that he saw on a web site a report on the Dayton Hamfest. Tim a ham from UND who works with the hydrogen car was interviewed in the report.

The next club meeting will be
1930, 26 February 2008

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM

ARRL TO OFFER AWARD FOR 6 METER OPERATIONS

Attention 6 meter operators -- there's a new award to work toward! The ARRL Board of Directors approved a new award honoring the late Fred Fish, W5FF, the only amateur who worked and confirmed all 488 grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States on 6 meters. The Fred Fish Memorial Award will be granted to any amateur who duplicates Fish's accomplishment. Fish was a mainstay on the VHF+ bands for many years, having achieved Worked All States (WAS) on 6 meters through 432 MHz, as well as DXCC for 6 meters. He is widely regarded as a gentleman operator and one of the finest amateurs in the VHF+ community. ARRL Contest Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, will oversee this award. Kutzko, an avid VHF+ operator himself, said, "We hope the new award will increase 6 meter activity throughout the US and the world. We also hope it will lead to the activation of rare grid squares in the US by encouraging the native ham population of a rare grid square to give 6 meters a try, as well as through so-called 'Grid DXpeditions.' We actively call on the 6 meter community to help educate VHF+ newcomers to the fun that is available on 6 meters." Complete details on the Fred Fish Memorial Award will be available soon.

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FIELD DAY 2008 RULES AND FORMS NOW AVAILABLE

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for Field Day, ARRL's flagship operating event. Field Day, held the fourth full weekend in June, brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says there are several rule changes this year, mainly concerning "Get on the Air" (GOTA) stations and the elimination of the Demonstration Mode Bonus Category. The complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. A full 2008 Field Day page on the ARRL Web site will be coming in the next few weeks.

GOTA (Get on the Air) stations are those stations set aside by Field Day teams designed to get non-hams or newly licensed hams on the air. Unlike in past years where GOTA stations were limited to only one band, the 2008 rules state that these stations may operate on any authorized HF or VHF Field Day band. Keep in mind that only one signal may be transmitted from the GOTA station at any time.

Henderson said the eligibility for operating the GOTA station has

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changed slightly: Anyone who has been licensed since Field Day 2007 is eligible to operate the GOTA station, regardless of license class.

For 2008, the Demonstration Mode Bonus category has been eliminated and replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. "This bonus is intended to encourage clubs and groups to do some more formal educational activity during their Field Day operation," Henderson said. If you have any questions concerning what activities might be appropriate for this bonus, Henderson said you should submit them via e-mail <fdinfo@arrl.org>.

Be sure to read the Field Day rules and FAQs in the 2008 Field Day Packet for details of these changes. There are also numerous small changes in the FAQs and support materials in the packet that should help groups and individuals as they plan their Field Day activities, Henderson said.

The 2008 Field Day Packet also includes an expanded Press Kit, thanks to the work of ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. Included in this expanded portion of the packet is a sample "Field Day Proclamation" for those groups who work with local city or town officials toward getting a Field Day Week declared in their location.

"We are excited that historic station K6KPH will once again participate transmitting the W1AW special

Field Day Bulletin on the West Coast," Henderson said. More details are available in the Field Day Packet.

Information concerning the popular Field Day pins and T shirts will be announced in the next few weeks.

Henderson said that those wishing to obtain a complete Field Day Packet via US mail need to send a 9 x 12 inch self-addressed, stamped manila envelope with 5 units of postage to Field Day Packet Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

If people wish to order display kits for their tables at Field Day, please contact Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, ARRL Education Manager, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, tel 860-594-0296. The cost for the display kit ranges from \$8-\$12 depending on shipping. To ensure having the kits in time for Field Day, you are encouraged to order them no later than June 13.

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SATELLITE SERVES AS VOICE REPEATER -- UPLINKS ON FM, DOWNLINKS ON SIDEBAND

Launched in January 1990, AMSAT-OSCAR 16 (AO-16) -- a digital satellite -- has been unavailable for use while the command team dealt with a serious computer problem. The satellite has since been recovered, and is now a voice repeater, at least for an unspecified "test period" using FM voice on the uplink, but transmits DSB voice on the downlink (best received on SSB).

Since AO-16 was recovered approximately six months ago, the command team -- Bruce Rahn, WB9ANQ, Jim White, WD0E, and Mark Hammond, N8MH -- attempted to reload the satellite software almost a dozen times without success. The team performed a series of memory tests that pointed toward a hardware failure that prevented the spacecraft software from restarting successfully.

AMSAT Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, said, "After concluding that the spacecraft computer system was damaged, and as discussions about decommissioning were taking place, Jim recalled a series of low-level commands that Tom Clark, K3IO, included in the spacecraft design during construction. One of these commands allows an uplink

receiver to be directly tied to a downlink transmitter. The twist is that the uplink is regular FM, but the downlink via the BPSK transmitter is DSB (Double Sideband). Mark placed the satellite in this mode early this week and did some testing."

Glasbrenner said the satellite hears very well; the reduced bandwidth by using either USB or LSB on the ground station receiver "allows for a very robust downlink. Tuning the downlink is just like on a linear transponder, meaning it is tight and with fast Doppler. Uplink tuning is not required, just as with the FM mode V/U satellites. My personal observations include being able to access and hear the satellite within one degree of the horizon, much lower than any other current bird for my location [in Florida]. This should be an easy satellite with omni antennas and a 70 cm preamp."

Glasbrenner said that he would like to open the satellite to general use for a test period. The uplink is 145.920 FM, and the downlink is 437.026 SSB +/- Doppler shift. He asks that users restrict their uplink power to a reasonable power level, and do not transmit without being able to hear the downlink; all general single-channel guidelines apply. Please submit reports via e-mail <ao16@amsat.org>. "Enjoy this bird's new life!" Glasbrenner said.

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Disaster "Go-Kits" Updated

I am routinely asked "what personal items do I need to take when sent to a disaster area"? The short answer: Take everything you would need to survive on a camping trip for a week, plus some disaster specific items. Our Go-Kits need to be always on our minds and ready to go. A complete Go-Kit will help us provide better support to our served agencies.

Your kit will need to be tailored to meet your specific needs but the following is a suggested minimum content list. Prepare and test your kit well before the next event, as you may need to hit the ground running when called.

The idea of your personal kit is to help you survive, be more comfortable and protect yourself from unknowns the best you can. We cannot be productive nor do our job if we are a burden on the system. Your communications equipment "Go-Kit" is a separate list. Remember to register with your local EC, and never self-deploy to a disaster scene.

Training cards: Training cards/certificates for ARRL, FEMA and other certifications are important items to take with you. Laminate your training cards to protect them. Minimal training includes FEMA IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800 and ARRL EC-001, EC-002 and EC-003.

Served agencies are requiring volunteers to have certain training and experience before deploying them. Training will help you to know the lingo, procedures and processes. Red Cross First Aid and CPR training is also a must. A good way to get general training is to enroll in the next Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class. Then, take the Red Cross training, and the ARRL and FEMA Independent Study online courses.

Vaccinations and medications: Tetanus, Hepatitis-A, Hepatitis-B, and TB all are recommended vaccinations. (Check with your doctor to make sure you get the right shots). Personal prescription medications: copies of all prescriptions, including generic names for meds and a note from the prescribing physician on letterhead stationary for controlled substances and injectable medications should be carried. Also: First aid kit or CERT kit; First Aid Quick Reference card and equipment manuals in zip lock bags; acetaminophen, aspirin, ibuprofen, or other medication for pain or fever; mild laxative; anti-diarrhea tablets; throat lozenges; antacid; antifungal and antibacterial ointments or creams; cough suppressant/expectorant.

Documentation: Addresses, e-mail and phone numbers for family,

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friends, work, doctors; ID cards - make copies of everything in your wallet and leave them with someone at home; paper, pencils; reference material, e.g., frequencies, net schedules, operator instructions for all equipment; reading material for spare time; ARES message forms.

Personal: Cash or traveler's checks, change; cell phone, battery, charger; waterproof watch; moist towelettes for sanitation; disinfectant; laundry detergent; toilet paper; towel (highly absorbent, travel towels if possible); extra pair of prescription glasses, copy of prescription; soap, shampoo, anti-perspirant, shaving kit; tooth brush and paste; lip balm; sunglasses; ear plugs, eye shades; Kleenex.

Clothing: Gloves (leather, medical, non-latex types); comfortable, light-weight long pants, long-sleeved shirts; sturdy shoes and boots (at least two pairs); rain gear; rubber boots; hat/cap; hard hat; safety goggles; dust mask or cotton T-shirt to filter air.

Food and Water: Bottled water; water filters/purification system, tablets; nonperishable food items; Power Bars.

Camping items: Candles, matches, lighter in a Ziploc bag; Ziploc bags; flashlight and extra batteries or shake/crank-flashlight; can opener;

garbage bags (they double as ponchos) and plastic ties; paper towels; fire extinguisher; duct tape; tent; compass; signal flares; hand tool kit; Spare AA, C, and D batteries; knife, such as a Swiss Army Knife or Leatherman; fork, knife, spoon kit; insect repellent containing DEET (up to 50%); sunscreen (preferably SPF 15 or greater); crank-powered weather radio; Pair of FRS radios and spare batteries; ropes of various lengths; pillow, bedding; air-mattress; bungee cords; chemical illumination sticks; electrical tape; small hand saw, or tree limb saw; small Teddy bear for yourself or in case you find an upset child.

Put your go-kit supplies in re-sealable plastic containers, and then pack them full of trash on the way out. Take a spare everything.

The idea of your Go-Kit is to prevent you from becoming a problem in the disaster relief effort. -- Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, ARRL Southeastern Division Director, former Alabama Section Manager and member, National Emergency Response Planning Committee

The ARES E-Letter
January 10, 2007



