

FEEDLINE

MARCH 2008

SKYWARN season approaches. Are you trained and ready?
Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Training April 10, 2008



Such sights are common during the Grand forks SKYWARN season.

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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

February 26, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM – Dick KCOLUR presiding

There were 15 members present

Secretary's Report - John KAOSVY handed out copies of the minutes of the last meeting (January 29, 2008). The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - By Karen N0TKP; Report accepted.

ARES/EC - Gerry N0NGW reported that Skywarn training is scheduled for Thursday April 3rd in the EOC at 6pm.

Activity's Report - John KAOSVY gave the report for Donna KCOSKD - She has appointed Gerry N0NGW, John WA0LPV and Rod KE0A to be in charge of the Ham activities for the dog sled race

VE Report - Rod KE0A – No test sessions scheduled but we have two new general class Hams. Dick KCOLUR and Adam KD0DAW

Repeater Report - Paul KA0CAF – Nothing to report

Sioux Club Report – Not much activity - no report



Old Business

A. Red River Dog Derby - Nancy KC0YXB reported that Ham support for the race will not have to man the bridges. We will, however, need Ham support at Halstad, Frog Point, and Lincoln Park. A lengthy discussion ensued as to how we should do this. Halstad will be manned for the whole race. The recommended operating frequency is 147.39+. And we will try to have at least two hams at each station. Gerry N0NGW asked for money to have two FORX ARC signs made to display at the race stations. It was moved, seconded and passed to do so.

B. Civil Air Patrol - John KAOSVY reported that an e-mail was sent to them but there has been no reply.

C. Hamfest - Karen N0TKP reported that the Church has been reserved for October 4 2008 for the Hamfest. The church will have food for sale as they did last year.

The next club meeting will be March 25, 2008 at 7:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM



FIELD DAY 2008

T-SHIRTS

PINS

Now on sale at the ARRL

Be ready for FD

Order yours today

DATES OF INTEREST

March 2008	
24	Crookston, MN SKYWARN Training
25	Club Meeting
27	Fertile, MN SKYWARN Training
29	CQ WPX SSB Contest
29	Midwinter Madness, Robbinsdale, MN
April 2008	
10	GF/EGF SKYWARN Training
21-25	SWAW
26	Fargo ND Hamfest
29	Club Meeting
May 2008	
16-18	Dayton Hamvention
27	Club Meeting
June 2008	
24	Club Meeting
28	Field Day
July 2008	
11-13	Peace Garden 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



SKYWARN TRAINING

The National Weather Service has issued the following SKYWARN training sessions for the region. Check the NWS web site for other locations. Anyone interested in receiving spotter training for the upcoming summer season of severe weather should attend. Whether you are a Ham or not spotter training is available at these sessions.

Monday, March 24, 2008

6:30 PM – 9:15 PM

Kiehle Hall UMC

Crookston, MN

- . . . - - . . -

Thursday, March 27, 2008

6:30 PM – 9:15 PM

City Auditorium

Fertile, MN

- . . . - - . . -

Thursday, April 10, 2008

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Grand Forks Police Dept

122 South 5th Street

Basement Classroom

ARRL GEARING UP FOR DAYTON HAMVENTION

ARRL EXPO returns to Dayton Hamvention, to be held May 16-18, 2008 at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. The huge ARRL exhibit area is a showcase of displays, activities and program representatives to enhance your ham radio experience. The ARRL EXPO is open to all Hamvention attendees. Meet ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, other ARRL officials, volunteers and staff knowledgeable on a wide variety of topics. Among the highlights of the exhibit space will be a card checking area for operating awards, activities for young hams, the ARRL bookstore and more. ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, is the ARRL EXPO coordinator. "We are looking at some new and exciting venues within EXPO, but I'm not ready to spill the beans quite yet! We are focusing our attention this year on the theme of technology and on Hamvention's theme celebrating ham radio fellowship -- stay tuned for more news. We sincerely thank the 2008 Dayton Hamvention Committee and their volunteers for all they do to make this a signature convention; we are so pleased to participate." Keep an eye on the ARRL EXPO Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/expo>> for updates.

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First Annual Red River Sled Dog Race

Held on Saturday & Sunday March 1-2, 2008; a challenging new event for the Forx Amateur Radio Club to provide communications support.

The race covered a 75 mile section of the Red River of the North from Halstad, MN to Grand Forks, ND. There was one check-point along the route located at Frog Point (Belmont Park) which is just west of Climax, MN and 50 miles (river wise) north of Halstad, MN. The three points, Grand Forks, Frog Point and Halstad had to be manned at appropriate times over the entire 24 hour period of the race. Nancy KC0YXB and other race officials spent a lot of time coordinating the race with club members Gerry N0NGW and John WA0LPV.

The race began in Halstad at 9:00 AM, Rod KE0A, Gerry N0NGW, John KA0SVY, Jerry KC0GWK, Gary KC0JPP, John WA0LPV, and Charles KI0LS set up the base station with VHF and HF antennas for use during the race. This base station also included an HF rig to permit Rod and others to participate in a Contest during the long waits between activities at the check-points. There were four teams of mushers and dogs in the race. Three of these teams would make the entire 150 mile round trip while the 4th would only go as far as Frog Point.

The first team to arrive at Frog Point arrived at about 1:30 PM and the first team to reach Grand Forks arrived at 6:30 PM. All teams had a mandatory four hour rest stop in Grand Forks. The first team out from Grand Forks left at 10:30 PM and the other two teams were gone by 12:30 AM. As each check-point cleared out of mushers the Hams scheduled to be at the next check-point were notified so they could make it to that point prior to the sled-dog team arrivals. This meant lots of traveling back and forth between Grand Forks and Halstad for most of the Hams. The winds picked up and slicked up the roads late in the afternoon of Saturday which made travel interesting to say the least.

Club members providing communications support for the race were: Nancy KC0YXB, John WA0LPV, Gerry N0NGW, Dick KA0HDN, John KA0SVY, Jerry KC0GWK, Gary KC0JPP, Larry KI0W, Adam KD0DAW, Jeff KD0BTT, Rod KE0A, Charles KI0LS, and Jim KC0XW.

-.-. --.-

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



(l-r) Jerry KCOGWK, Charles KI0LS, Rod KE0A, Gerry N0NGW
Setting up the Sled Dog Race net control station in Halstad, MN
(photo by John KA0SVY)



Nancy KC0YXB preparing to begin the race with her team

(photo by John KA0SVY)



John WA0LPV (green vest) reporting arrivals at Frog Point checkpoint
(photo by Jim KC0XW)



Nancy KC0YXB arriving at the Frog Point checkpoint
(photo by Jim KC0XW)

NEW ARRL VOLUNTEER EXAMINER MANUAL NOW ONLINE

The ninth edition of the ARRL VEC/VE Manual <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vemanual/>> is now online on the ARRL Web site. The manual, the most complete source on the Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner Program, has everything you need to know in order to be an ARRL Volunteer Examiner.

"We're really excited about the new Manual," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "We've put a lot of work into it, taking suggestions from Volunteer Examiners all over the United States. It's very comprehensive, yet easy to understand." Somma said the manual is full of new and timely information, taking into account the licensing rule changes that went into effect last year.

"One of the biggest changes to the ninth edition is the deletion of all the procedures having to do with Morse code testing," Somma said. As of February 23, 2007, the FCC no longer requires those upgrading their license to be tested on Morse code. Somma said that more than 80 percent of the Manual's content has been revised.

The Manual, written to help guide amateurs through the VEC program, is also a guide for those aspiring to be Volunteer Examiners. "Any General,

Advanced or Amateur Extra class license holder is eligible to be a Volunteer Examiner," Somma said. "It's a simple process to become a VE -- just complete the ARRL VE application form and pass a 40-question 'open book' test and you're set! If you're an active ham radio operator, you probably enjoy giving back to the Amateur Radio community, be it through public service or as a Volunteer Examiner. Many hams fondly remember their first license examination experience."

Information in the Manual includes how to become an accredited Volunteer Examiner and how to participate in the Amateur Radio examination process, as well as real-life experiences from current Volunteer Examiners. "It's really a reference manual with tons of details. The real-life experiences in the Manual will help current and future Volunteer Examiners know how to deal with those pesky situations that sometimes pop up," Somma said.

For more information on the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Program, please see the ARRL VE Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/index.html>>.

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NORTH DAKOTA:
SM, Kent Olson, KAØLDG –

Great turnout in Bismarck for their annual hamfest. A lot of stuff and stories swapped throughout the day. Congratulations to the new officers of the many clubs in the state. Congratulations to Alex Malm, KCØILL of Bismarck, has been nominated to the U.S. Air Force Academy. He is the son of Mark, NØFAZ and Sharon, NØHGR Malm. The Bismarck hams have installed APRS equipment at the National Weather Service in preparation for severe weather. The Peace Gardens hamfest will be held this July 11-13th. Be advised, you DO NOT need a passport this year to attend. You WILL need a US drivers license or birth certificate though (yes, a passport is good too). Be sure to have at least one of these, and enjoy the festivities. Also in August (8-10), the folks in Rochester, MN are hosting the 2008 Dakota Division Convention. SKYWARN classes are starting up again, and I highly recommend you attending one. Tornado season is right around the corner. New Field Day rules are on the ARRL web site. It's never too early to start planning for this years Field Day. We will have another "Top Gun" competition amongst the clubs in the state. The Minot club is the current "Top Gun", so set your sights high to give them some competition. Upcoming hamfests: Fargo, April 26th, Grand Forks, October 4th. Section's web site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~qt1pf16/>.

HF NM K8BBM net reports for January: Weather Net: 50/1012/4. Data Net: 51/1069/8. Goose River Net: 4/42/1. 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.

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

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NOTES FOR AMATEURS VISITING AUSTRALIA

According to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), Amateur Radio operators traveling to Australia who wish to operate in that country do not need to apply for an Australian Amateur Radio license. This new policy, effective February 15, 2008, allows amateurs who hold a non-Australian Amateur Radio license to operate up to 90 days under a Class Licence

<http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_1311>; licensees who will be in Australia for more than 90 days will need to apply for an Australian Amateur Radio license. -- Information provided by Roger Hickey, W6MSC

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RESOURCES FOR ARES OPS

FEMA National Incident Management System:

<<http://www.fema.gov/nims/>>

IARU Emergency Communications: <<http://www.iaru.org/emergency/>>

IARU Region 2 Emergency Communications: <<http://www.iaru-r2emcor.net>>

Major Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Nets: Hurricane Watch Net: <<http://www.hwn.org/>>

Maritime Mobile Service Net: <<http://www.mmsn.org/>>

Salvation Army (SATERN) Net: <<http://www.satern.org>>

Waterway Net: <<http://www.waterwayradio.net/>>

VoIP SKYWARN/Hurricane Net: <<http://www.voipwx.net/>>

ARRL/Served Agency Memoranda of Understanding:

<<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/>>

National Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster:

<<http://www.nvoad.org/>>

American Red Cross: <<http://www.redcross.org/>>

National Weather Service: <<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>>

Department of Homeland Security - Citizen Corps, FEMA:

<<http://www.citizen corps.gov/>>, <<http://www.dhs.gov/>>,

<<http://www.fema.gov/>>

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials- International:

<<http://www.apointl.org/>>

National Communications System: <<http://www.ncs.gov/>>

National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers, Inc.:

<<http://www.narte.org/>>

Salvation Army: <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/www_usn.nsf>

Society of Broadcast Engineers: <<http://www.sbe.org/>>

Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. <<http://www.QCWA.org/>>

Radio Emergency Associated Communication Teams:

<<http://www.reactintl.org/>>

SKYWARN: <<http://www.skywarn.org/>>

The ARES E-Letter
March 20, 2008

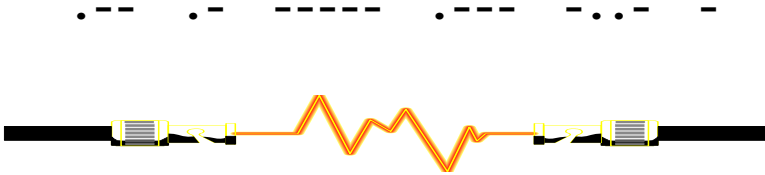
URLs of Interest

Forx Amateur Radio Club

www.wa0jxt.org

ND Section

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



TRIVIA

The following trivia question is taken from *ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION*, Robert L. Schrader, 4th Edition. The answer will be published in the April 2008 issue of the *FEEDLINE*.

WHAT IS A THYRATRON?

February's trivia question was:

WHICH IS FASTER SAM OR RAM?

And the answer is:

RAM

This may be found on page 5.61 of *The ARRL Handbook 2006*