

FEEDLINE

APRIL 2008



Why is Gerry NONGW sitting here?
What is Gerry watching?
Supervisors usually are the ones wearing hardhats.
Is Gerry supervising?
(See page 7)

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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

March 25, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM – Larry KI0W presiding

There were 16 members and 2 guests present

Secretary's Report - John KA0SVY handed out copies of the minutes of the last meeting (February 26, 2008). The minutes were approved as amended.

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

ARES/EC - John WA0LPV reported that Skywarn training will be April 10, 2008 at 6:30 PM in the Grand Forks EOC. Pictures will be taken at that time for ARES badges. Also, it is time to get the pagers ready.

Activity's Report - Donna KC0SKD reported that the next activity will be Field Day. Gerry N0NGW had a request from the Cancer Society for support on a walk from the Alerus Center to Sertoma Park. It would be April 26, 2008 which is also the day of the Fargo Hamfest. Turned over to the Activities Director. John WA0LPV reported that a balloon flight is also to take place in April possibly on the 26th of the month.

VE Report by Rod KE0A - The next testing will be at the Fargo Hamfest on April 26.



Repeater Report by Paul KA0CAF – Nothing to report

Sioux Club Report – Not much activity - no report

Old Business

A. Civil Air Patrol - John KA0SVY reported no contact. Will try again.

B. Dogsled Race - Rod KE0A gave a report on the activities at the race. There were many hams from the club that helped out. John WA0LPV reported that he, Jim KC0XW and John KA0SVY took pictures of the race activities. If there are any more pictures out there he would like to have them to make up a booklet on the race. Gerry N0NGW said that the race people appreciated what we did. They are talking about having two simultaneous races next year, one from Grand Forks to Halstad and one from Halstad to Grand Forks. They would like the hams to be involved in this.

C. N0GF QSL Cards by Rod KE0A - N0GF sends out 300 to 400 cards every year for Field Day and Skywarn Recognition Day. There aren't a lot left. He asked if we should make up new colored cards to send out. A committee was formed to look into this. The committee is Rod KE0A, Gerry N0NGW and Bobby KA0HHJ.

D. Hamfest by Karen N0TKP - ARRL backing for the Hamfest has been confirmed

(continued on page 3)

DATES OF INTEREST

April 2008

- 21-25 Severe Weather Awareness Week
- 26 Fargo ND Hamfest
- 29 Club Meeting

May 2008

- 10 AFD Crossband Test
- 16-18 Dayton Hamvention
- 24 CQ WW WPX Contest
- 27 Club Meeting

June 2008

- 7 St Paul MN Hamfest
- 14 ARRL VHF Contest
- 24 Club Meeting
- 28 Field Day

July 2008

- 11-13 Peace Garden Hamfest
- 29 Club Meeting

August 2008

- 26 Club Meeting

September 2008

- 13 Potato Bowl Parade
- 30 Club Meeting

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

**ANNUAL
ARMED FORCES DAY
CROSSBAND TEST
SCHEDULED FOR MAY**

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio communications tests in celebration of the 58th anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on May 17, the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 10 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention, scheduled for May 16-18.

The annual celebration features traditional military to amateur crossband communications SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense message via digital modes. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and short wave listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and to receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations. Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense.

Look for schedules and frequencies of participating military stations to

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be published in May on the Army MARS Web site <<http://www.netcom.army.mil/MARS>>.

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April 4, 2008

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NOTES FROM THE DXCC DESK

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, has announced that the following operations have been approved for DXCC credit: the 2007 operation to Uganda, 5X1NH; the 2007 operation to Western Sahara, S05A; the 2008 operation to Burundi, 9UXEV; the 2008 operation to Syria, YK9G, and the ongoing operation of HZ1PS in Saudi Arabia. If you have cards rejected or have any questions concerning these operations, please e-mail the DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 15
April 18, 2008

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the following operations have been approved for DXCC credit: the 2008 VP6DX DXpedition to Ducie Island; the 2008 TX5C DXpedition to Clipperton Island, and the 2007 S05A operation to Western Sahara have been approved for DXCC credit. If you have any questions about these operations, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 12
March 28, 2008

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that DXCC has completed processing applications for 2007. As such, St Barthelemy (FJ) has been added to the DXCC computer system and Logbook of The World <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>>. With the addition, this moves the #1 Honor Roll position to 338 current entities; operators now need 329 entities to qualify for Honor Roll. ARRL "While DXCC has completed applications for 2007, there are a number of application returns still being mailed, so it may be another 2-3 weeks before applicants receive their 2007 return," Moore said. "LoTW is now accepting certificate requests for St Barthelemy; once those logs are submitted, the matches should occur and applicants can claim DXCC credit." For programmers who use the DXCC entity numbering system, the entity code for St Barthelemy is 516. Moore also noted that the 2007 G4GIR/KH9 DXpedition to Wake Island has been approved for DXCC credit: "If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org> to have your DXCC record updated."

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FD PRACTICAL

It has been decided that there will be a practice Field Day 2008 to better prepare North Dakota Hams for the riggers of the official 2008 Field Day to be held on the weekend of June 28-29, 2008.

After several years of devastating results from the isolated Field Day sites across the state it was thought that a practice Field Day would increase the likelihood of one or more North Dakota Field Day sites establishing a record score for this year. Since the goal of this practical is to benefit only North Dakota the following rules will apply.

1. Only North Dakota stations will be counted in the final tally. You can contact other states, countries, continents, and celestial locations but they will not be counted in the final score.

2. Only the power source you plan to use in the official Field Day 2008 will be allowed.

3. Inspectors will be paying visits to all sites to ensure compliance with these rules.

4. All reports and rag chewing (if time permits) must be in North Dakota Speak. This will ensure that you will be able to tell if someone is actually from North Dakota or not. Remember, non-North Dakota contacts do not count.

5. The "theme" of this year's practical will be 'My Least Favorite Time of Year'. Each Field Day group will choose their sub-theme based on the main theme and

then report their choice to the North Dakota Field Day Practical State Chairperson. Once the sub-theme is chosen all participants at the Field Day site will be required to be dressed in the appropriate attire throughout their participation in the event. For example: a winter theme will require all participants to be wearing full subzero weather gear for the entire period. The inspectors will be watching for compliance.

6. Twenty-four hour operation will be required; no breaks.

7. The North Dakota Field Day Practical will run 24 hours beginning 0000 CST and ending 2359 CST (North Dakota time, since only North Dakota contacts matter).

The date that was decided upon to hold the practical Field Day exercise was fiercely debated amongst all Hams within the state. Many dates were placed on the table; each with its own merit. The second most popular date for the 2008 North Dakota Field Day Practical was chosen to be 'THE' date by a unanimous vote. This date decided upon was Saturday, June 21, 2008. The first most popular date for this prestigious Practice Field Day was April 1, 2008. However, this latter date made the intent of this announcement too obvious.



(l-r) on tower Rod KE0A and John WA0LPV
on ground Gerry N0NGW and Gary KC0JPP
Saturday, April 19, 2008

A familiar landmark (John WA0LPV's tower and beam) in East Grand Forks is in the process of being removed in preparation for John's departure from the area. John will be setting up his new station in southern Minnesota.

Other Hams assisting in the demolition project:
Larry KI0W, Charles KI0LS, Dick KA0HDN, Jim KC0XW

NETIQUETTE

Today many people use e-mail reflectors and internet forums as a way to share ideas, thoughts and opinions on just about anything and everything. There are literally millions of people participating in this virtual town hall.

Too often we look at words on a screen and forget that we are actually interfacing with human beings. When people used to use pen and paper to exchange ideas there were numerous opportunities to explore our emotions and organize our thoughts before we sent a message to another person. However today many are quick to react and in a split second can fire off an often hurtful and degrading message.

Here is a great web page about etiquette on the internet or "netiquette" as it has been coined. <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Next time, think about it before you hit the send button.

ARRL Club Newsletter
March 31, 2008

ARRL VE MANUAL NOW AVAILABLE

The ARRL VEC leads the way when it comes to licensing amateurs, thanks to the excellent work of thousands of volunteer examiners who give so generously of their time, energy and skill. Whether you have ever thought about becoming a Volunteer Examiner or you are a seasoned VE, the "ARRL VEC Volunteer Examiner Manual" <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1328>> is the complete guide to the ARRL Volunteer Examiner program. Packed with everything new and experienced ARRL VEs need to know, this book is loaded with information, including chapters on becoming a Volunteer Examiner, the Volunteer Examiner Team, preparing for the test session, Form 605; conducting the test session, session report and returning documents, FCC Part 97 Rules and more. To learn more about becoming an ARRL Volunteer Examiner, please see the ARRL VEC Web Page <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/become-a-ve.html>>. Order your copy of the "ARRL VEC Volunteer Examiner Manual" today.

The ARRL Letter
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April 11, 2008

BELGIAN SATELLITE TO FEATURE D-STAR TECHNOLOGY

Students at the Universite de Liege in Belgium have built OUFTI-1 <[http://www.leodium.ulg.ac.be/cms/](http://www.leodium.ulg.ac.be/cms/ms/)>, a new Amateur Radio CubeSat featuring D-STAR digital-communication protocol that is used for control and telemetry. Amateur Radio operators from all over the world are able to listen in on the ON0ULG D-STAR repeater on 70 cm <<http://www.jfindu.net/dstarlh.aspx?rptr=ON0ULG>>; 2 meters will be operational soon. The objective of this nanosatellite project is to provide hands-on experience to students in the design, construction and control of complete satellite systems, ultimately serving as the basis for a variety of space experiments. The first satellite in the series, OUFTI-1, is a CubeSat - a 10×10×10 cm cube weighing in at no more than one kilogram. -- Information provided by the OUFTI Team

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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:
Use of radios
within Altru Hospital
is prohibited]**

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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

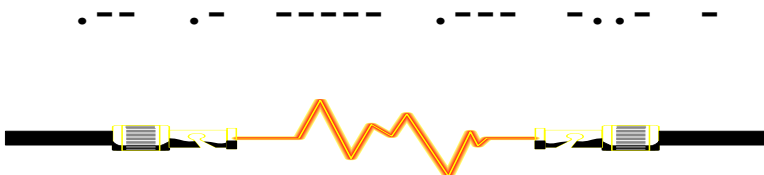
URL's of INTEREST

Forx Amateur Radio Club

www.wa0jxt.org

ND Section

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



TRIVIA

The following trivia question is taken from *THE RADIO AMATEUR'S HANDBOOK*, 1978, 55TH Edition. The answer will be published in the May 2008 issue of the *FEEDLINE*.

WHAT IS THE DIELECTRIC CONSTANT OF MYCALEX AT 1MHZ?

March's trivia question was:

WHAT IS A THYRATRON?

And the answer is:

Gaseous Triode

This may be found on page 149 of
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION, Robert L Schrader, 4th Edition