

FEEDLINE

SEPTEMBER 2008



(l-r) Larry KI0W and Rod KE0A ready and waiting for the next tour group during the National Weather Service open house held on Saturday, September 20, 2008 in Grand Forks

The **FEEDLINE** is the official journal of the *Forx Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*, PO Box 14773, Grand Forks, ND 58202-4773. 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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

DATES OF INTEREST

September 2008	
30	Club Meeting
October 2008	
4	Grand Forks Hamfest
4	SET
10	10-10 Sprint
12	North American RTTY Sprint
25	CQ WW SSB
28	Club Meeting
November 2008	
1	ARRL Sweepstakes – CW
15	ARRL Sweepstakes – Phone
25	Club Meeting
December 2008	
TBD	SKYWARN Recognition Day
TBD	Christmas Party
January 2009	
27	Club Meeting
February 2009	
24	Club Meeting
March 2009	
31	Club Meeting

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

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

Forx Amateur Radio Club Hamfest October 4, 2008

Place:

Zion United Methodist Church
1001 24th Avenue South
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Schedule of events:

8:00 AM	Vendor Setup
9:00 AM	Open to Public
9:15 - 10:15AM	Seminar
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Seminar
11:30 AM	Lunch available on premises
12:30 PM	Test Session begins
12:45 - 1:30 PM	Seminar
1:30 PM	Vendors Close down
1:45 PM	Door prize drawing Auction of Donated Items
2:00 PM	Close

Banquet:

5:30 PM at Royal Fork Buffet Restaurant
Columbia Mall, Grand Forks, ND 58201
(No advance tickets needed.)

Registration fee:

\$5 per adult, no charge for children with an adult

Vendors - \$5 registration fee only, no table charges

Please call to reserve tables: Karen (NOTKP), 701-775-7781
Table space is limited - please call to reserve!!!!

Talk-In Frequency: 146.940 (-)

[Club members are requested to bring something for desert]

**Monthly North Dakota
Section News Summary
September 18, 2008**

NORTH DAKOTA: SM, Kent Olson, KAØLDG - As this is my last Section News article, I thought I'd pass on a few thoughts. First off, I'd like to thank everyone for supporting me through the last seven plus years while I have been your Section Manager. I didn't quite know what I was getting into when I first volunteered, but soon began to enjoy the position. This was made possible by all the great help I received from hams around the state and those who welcomed me and volunteered to help me in the section. Having been involved with many organizations, I can say that there are none finer than Amateur Radio. The spirit, comradery, and professionalism shown by the hams in ND is top notch. I know that Lynn, WØCQ, will do a great job, and please help him if he asks. The rains didn't stop a great time for those who attended the Fargo tailgate swapfest. They intend to make it a yearly event, so plan for it the weekend after Labor Day. The Benson Cty ARC participated in a joint exercise in which a road, acting as a dam, broke, resulting in a flooded residential area. Great job showing what amateur radio can do! On a similar note, October 4th is the ARRL's Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Talk to your EC about participating and show others in your community what ham radio can provide.

Upcoming Hamfests: Grand Forks on October 4th. Thanks again and I hope to see you at a Hamfest or have an occasional QSO. Take care & 73!

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

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Potato Bowl Parade

Saturday, September 13, 2008 was forecast to be a wet and rainy day. However, the precipitation held off until the parade which began at 9:30 AM finished. The Forx Amateur Radio Club provided emergency and logistic communication assistance to the Grand Forks Jaycees during the staging of the 100 plus units of the parade. The following individuals helped out: Noah KC0SKE, Lance KC0YWZ, Rod KE0A, Dick KA0HDN, Paul KA0CAF, Bob KC0CFO, John KA0SVY, Jim KC0XW, Larry KI0W, Nancy K9DIG, Gerry N0NGW, Donna KC0SKD, Karin N0TKP, Gary KC0JPP.

Amateur Radio and the Internet

Today the World Wide Web offers extended range for much of the population but before the internet radio amateurs ventured beyond the local neighborhood through the magic of radio. For decades, long before the internet, hams would see radio as a means to maintain friendships, stay in touch with loved ones and help others contact family in remote places of the globe.

Long distance chess was once a popular on air activity. Amateur Radio operators would set up chess boards and moves were exchanged over the air. Each radio operator maintained their chess board according to the moves transmitted by each other. Often these games would be played out over the course of days or weeks during scheduled contacts. The activity was not about finishing the game quickly as it was it was about meeting on the air often.

A lot of naysayers have claimed the internet to be the death of Amateur Radio. In fact some non-radio people when asked about ham radio will respond with "hasn't the internet made that obsolete?" On the contrary, if anything the internet has enhanced Amateur Radio. Think about the many ways hams use the internet.

Radio Clubs

Club members can stay informed all the time through the use of e-

mail reflectors. Various users groups allow people to exchange ideas and information about their favorite piece of equipment or operating mode. If you think about it these user's groups are like virtual specialty clubs for people with a shared interest. Many clubs use the internet to distribute electronic newsletters and maintain websites to keep members informed and attract new members.

The DX Game

Some of you may remember two ringers, when your buddy would call your house and let the phone ring two times then hang up. This code was to let you know about some hot DX that was on the air. Of course you would not dare answer the telephone before the second ring for fear of someone incurring a long distance charge. Today, through the use of the internet we can utilize real-time DX spotting networks to find out which stations are on the air. If you have your rig interfaced with your PC using the appropriate software the network will automatically switch your transceiver to the DX's operating frequency.

The internet has enhanced the DX game in other ways by providing Dxpediton log information on line while the Dxpediton is still in operation. This helps eliminate the "insurance" QSOs and allows the Dxpediton work as many stations as possible while limiting the number of duplicate contacts.

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There are software programs available that monitor the DX cluster and if a needed DX station is spotted you will receive an e-mail alert on your Blackberry or other personal e-mail device. How cool is that? Just look at it as the digital version of the two ringer DX alert.

Contesting and Awards

ARRL's Logbook of The World would not be possible without internet technology. LoTW's use of public and private keys lets users all over the world to upload electronically signed logs and when QSOs are matched the users receive credit for their contacts to be used toward awards. More information about Logbook of the world can be found on the ARRL website. <
<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/> > Contest scores are now published on the internet allowing participants to quickly sort and analyze the data.

Public Service

A variety of public service groups such as ARES use the internet to call up volunteers, maintain databases of people and equipment available for disasters and to inform the public of their services. Being able to transmit digital information via radio and then inject it into the internet electronic mail system has allowed radio amateurs to move messages much faster than was possible using the antiquated relay system.

Licensing and Education

Today many people will prepare for their Amateur Radio license exam by using one of the many practice exam websites. These sites will randomly quiz the user from the VEC question pools and score the results. This undoubtedly eases some of the test jitters and exposes areas of strength and weakness.

ARRL offers an on-line license class for those applicants who may have scheduling conflicts with traditional classes or just enjoy doing things at their own pace. <
<http://www.arrl.org/cce/Tech.html>
>

In addition to licensing courses ARRL offers a series of Emergency Communications courses (EmComm Level I, II, III) and other subjects such as Antenna Modeling, Radio Frequency Interference and HF Digital Communications. <
<http://www.arrl.org/cep/> >

On The Air

The Internet Repeater Linking Project (IRLP), Echolink and remote base stations could not exist without the internet. These technologies have opened the world of Amateur radio to a whole new group of users as well as offered areas of experimentation to seasoned radio amateurs.

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Adaptability

Traditionally the Amateur Radio service has always made use of whatever was available. Whether salvaging parts from discarded television sets in the 1950s, repurposing surplus military equipment in the 1960s or integrating electronic hardware today, hams have always utilized technology in creative ways to suit their needs. An internet connection in the ham shack is as common as the J-38 straight key once was. The fact that you are reading this e-letter demonstrates the positive influence the internet and computers have had on Amateur Radio.

ARRL Club Newsletter
August 28, 2008

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QST de W1AW
Special Bulletin 8 ARLX008
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT August 26, 2008
To all radio amateurs

FCC Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 25

On August 11, the Federal Communications Commission announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to

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\$12.30. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 25, 2008.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The notice in the August 26, 2008 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008," includes regulatory fees expected to recover a total of \$312,000,000 during FY2008, encompassing all the services the FCC regulates.

More information is available at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/08/11/10257/?nc=1>.

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SEPTEMBER 2008

FOR SALE

Cushcraft
2-meter
3-element beam

\$35

Jerry KC0GWK
701-775-0084

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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

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**DUTCH AMATEUR
RADIO SATELLITE
NOW LIVE**

The linear transponder aboard the new Dutch OSCAR 64 satellite <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/22/10117/?nc=1>> (otherwise known as Delfi-C3 <<http://www.delfic3.nl/>>) is now open for CW and SSB operation.

The spacecraft boots into transponder mode whenever it is in full sunlight. Ground controllers will briefly switch the satellite to either "basic" or "science" configuration once every two weeks; otherwise, the linear transponder will be the default mode. The transponder uplink passband is from 435.530-435.570 MHz with a downlink passband from 145.880-145.930 MHz. The transponder CW beacon can be heard at 145.870 MHz.

Delfi C-3 was successfully launched April 28, 2008 from India aboard a Polar launch vehicle <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/28/10067/?nc=1>> and was successfully commissioned, currently transmitting telemetry on the 2 meter amateur band. In addition to its 2 meter downlink, Delfi C-3 has an uplink on the 70 cm band.

The satellite was developed by a team of some 60 students and faculty members from various polytechnic schools in The Netherlands. Delfi C-3 carries two experiments -- one involving thin film solar cells developed by Dutch Space, and an autonomous wireless Sun sensor from the Dutch Government Research Institute (TNO). E-mail reports are welcome <info@delfic3.nl>.

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August 1, 2008

**THIS COLUMN RESERVED
FOR BRIEF NOTES.....**

**THIS COLUMN RESERVED
FOR DETAILED NOTES OF
THE NOTES OF THE FIRST
COLUMN.....**

www.waØjxt.org

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TRIVIA

The following trivia question is taken from *The ARRL Handbook 2006*. The answer will be published in the October 2008 issue of the *FEEDLINE*.

WHAT COMPONENT IS THE:
“...MOST NONIDEAL OF REAL WORLD COMPONENTS.”?

July’s trivia question was:

What is the temperature coefficient of polyester at 20°C?

And the answer is:

$\pm 500 \text{ PPM}^\circ\text{C}$

This may be found on page 6.6 of *The ARRL Handbook 2006*