

FEEDLINE

OCTOBER 2008



(l-r) Rod KE0A and Lance KC0YWZ installing a temporary vertical to be used for upcoming November Sweepstakes

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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MEETING MINUTES September 30, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM - Jerry KC0GWK presiding

There were 11 members present.

Secretary's Report - John reported the last meeting was July 29 and minutes should have been in the Feedline

Treasurer's Report - Karen N0TKP handed out the report. The report was approved.

ARES/EC report - Gerry N0NGW reported that we had a real active summer. There were 8 hours of callouts since August 2. There were a number of hams at the NWS open house which went quite well. He also talked about doing ID cards at the Hamfest and will bring the camera and computer. He will also talk to NWS about problems bringing up the superlink during severe weather events.

Activities - Paul KA0CAF passed around a thank you card from the Jaycees for helping with the Potato Bowl Parade. Karen N0TKP reported on the Hamfest (see Old Business)

VE Report - Rod KE0A reported a testing session will be held at the Hamfest Saturday October 4, 2008 at 12:30 PM.



Repeater Report - Paul KA0CAF reported that the repeater is still working.

Sioux Club Report - Noah KC0SKE gave a detailed report on the reorganization of the Sioux Club. They have four members - Noah KC0SKE, Sarah - KC0TIZ, Lance KC0YWZ, and Meagan. The Club also has 4 Auxiliary members, Rod KE0A, Charley KI0LS, Gerry N0NGW, and Steve KBOQQE. Auxiliary members need to attend at least one meeting a year and dues are waived. The shack has been cleaned up with new bins, shelves and a new computer. John KB0BSJ has agreed to fix the repeater Noah KC0SKE has discussed insurance and equipment issues with the maintenance people. They will have a booth at the Memorial Union on October 29 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM to help get people to know about Ham Radio. There will be an informational meeting at 4:00 PM in the Medora room...all are invited to attend. The Sioux Club will have members at the FORX ARC Hamfest to help anywhere they are needed. And they will be available for Sweepstakes weekend.

Old Business

A. Hamfest - Karen N0TKP said the yellow flyer that was sent out has all the information. She also asked what we should donate to the

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DATES OF INTEREST

October 2008	
25	CQ WW SSB
28	Club Meeting
November 2008	
1	ARRL Sweepstakes – CW
1	Thief River Falls, MN Hamfest
12	FMT
15	ARRL Sweepstakes – Phone
22	CQ WW DX – CW
25	Club Meeting
December 2008	
6	SKYWARN Recognition Day
13	ARRL 10-meter Contest
TBD	Christmas Party
January 2009	
27	Club Meeting
February 2009	
24	Club Meeting
March 2009	
7-8	Red River Dog Sled Race
31	Club Meeting

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

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

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church for using their building. It was moved and seconded to wait till all the receipts are in to decide what we will give. All members should bring some kind of dessert. Rod KE0A will bring doughnuts, John KA0SVY will bring coffee. There is a nice door prize: MFJ 4245 power supply. Burghardt gave us a \$20 discount on it.

B. Potato Bowl Parade - Gerry N0NGW reported that the Hams did well and the Jaycees did less well and they are aware of that.

C. Club Equipment at former WOOSP residence - Rod KE0A reported that the Scamp trailer needs a new home as well as some other tower parts and pieces. Also, did we want to keep the Scamp or dispose of it. It was decided to take the trailer to Jeff KDOBTT's place and decide what to do with the stuff inside. Gerry N0NGW will take some of the aluminum poles. Jerry KCOGWK will arrange for a flatbed trailer to haul the rest away from where it is now.

D. Grant Application - Jerry KCOGWK reported that we are too late this year to apply for a grant but if we have any ideas what we could do with \$5000 we can apply next year.

New Business

A. Paul KA0CAF received a call from Digi-Key Corp. They will give hams a 10% discount but you

need to register with them. This all came about when Gerry N0NGW asked the guys on the Potato Bowl Parade float what kind of discount they were giving. I guess it never hurts to ask

B. John KA0SVY reported that he had visited with John WOOSP and Bonnie KBOJGM in Bismarck. They are doing well and say hi to everyone.

C. Rod KE0A reported that North Dakota does not yet have a QSO party scheduled for 2009. The idea of the event is to try to contact as many hams in as many different counties as possible in the time allotted for the event. We will try to get more info/ideas about this at the Hamfest.

D. The next meeting will be 1930L 28 Oct 2008

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41PM

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FORX ARC Special Meeting October 4, 2008

A special meeting was called to order at the Royal Fork by Larry KI0W at 6:47 PM.

There were 13 members and two guests present.

A motion was made by Gerry N0NGW seconded by Jeff KDOBTT to pay Zion Methodist Church \$50 for the use of their facilities. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.



The swap/sale floor of the 2008 Hamfest.



Nancy K9DIG presents Gerry N0NGW with the coveted Traveling Trophy.

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY CELEBRATES TEN YEARS!

The 10th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) special event will take place Saturday, December 6, 2008. SRD is co-sponsored by the National Weather Service and the ARRL. SKYWARN Recognition Day is a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping keep their communities safe. During the 24-hour special event, Amateur Radio operators visit their local National Weather Service (NWS) office and work as a team to contact other hams across the world.

The original SRD concept took shape in the summer of 1999. Scott Mentzer, N0QE, Meteorologist-In-Charge of the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas was trying to think of a way to let storm spotters know how valuable their reports were to the National Weather Service. Since many of those storm spotters were also hams, it seemed like a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on Amateur Radio. Mentzer worked with Rick Palm, K1CE, of ARRL Headquarters, to formulate a plan.

With the approval of NWS headquarters and a commitment to participate from many local NWS offices, the first "National Weather Service Special Event" took place on November 27, 1999. At the end

of the event, an amazing 15,888 QSOs were logged, with contacts made to all 50 states and 63 countries. The Des Moines forecast office took the honor of making the most contacts of any office that first year with 761 QSOs (and went on to lead the pack through 2003 by logging between 1300 and 1500 contacts each year).

Feedback from the first event was overwhelmingly positive from both the NWS staff and the local ham clubs. Suddenly there was incentive for more NWS staffers to either obtain a license or upgrade so that more people could work ham radio during severe events. In addition, many club members had never visited an NWS office, and they learned the value of their reports and how they were used in conjunction with existing technology.

And so began an annual tradition. The following year 85 of the 122 NWS offices participated in the event, making nearly 24,000 QSOs. Perhaps the most unusual one in 2000 was with an airliner 39,000 ft above Utah. The pilot ended the QSO with a request for a "spot weather forecast" for his arrival at Salt Lake City airport.

In 2001, the name of the event was changed to SKYWARN Recognition Day, which seemed to better relate what the day was all about. Each year since the

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inception of SRD, the number of NWS offices and local ham clubs participating has increased, until now over 100 offices sign up each year to take part. The most contacts made during any SRD occurred in 2006 when, thanks to the staff and local hams in the Grand Junction area, 1640 QSOs were logged!

Station call signs have also changed over the years. Some offices and clubs apply for a special event call sign such as W3B in Brownsville or N0Y in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Other call signs hint at office location, including WX9GRB in Green Bay and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center. Still others represent more of the big picture, as in KC0SKY in Pleasant Hill, Missouri.

Another change in recent years has been a greater use of digital communications in addition to CW, RTTY and packet radio. Each year more and more contacts are being made using Echolink, Winlink and the use of Reflectors.

2008 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC December 6th. Last year contacts were made in all 50 states and 40 countries during the 24 hour event. If you haven't joined in the fun, 2008 is your year! To learn more, check out our Web site: <<http://hamradio.noaa.gov>>. -- David Floyd, N5DBZ, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS

Goodland, Kansas,
<david.l.floyd@noaa.gov>

The ARES E-Letter
The American Radio Relay League
October 15, 2008

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ARRL GENERAL LICENSE COURSE ON CD-ROM NOW AVAILABLE

Now there is even more help for upgrading to a General class Amateur Radio license -- the new "ARRL General Class License Course"

<<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1387>>. The course includes the popular "ARRL General Class License Manual" with an all new instructional CD-ROM. This package has everything you need to upgrade.

The CD-ROM includes topics divided into "bite-sized" sessions, allowing you to learn at your own pace. The visual animations, along with colorful illustrations and audio, make your learning experience exciting and fun. The CD-ROM also includes quizzes and practice exams based on official exam questions to help reinforce your learning. The complete "General Class License Manual" is on the CD, giving you the freedom to have the entire book at your fingertips.

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There are many reasons to upgrade your license, including:

* More frequencies -- The General class licensee has access to more bands.

* More communications options -- As you access the General frequencies, you now have many more ways to make contacts on new modes and with new groups of hams. Your new skills are also valuable to your emergency team or club.

* New technical opportunities -- With your new General class privileges, you now have many more ways of assembling and operating a station. The effects of the ionosphere and solar conditions will become second nature. Your improved technical understanding of how radio works will make you a more knowledgeable and skilled operator.

* More fun -- The traditional activities of ragchewing, DXing and contesting continue to attract hams as they have for decades. You'll find that even familiar activities take on new and interesting aspects on the HF bands.

Not only does upgrading your license grant you more privileges, but your experiences will be much broader. You'll enjoy Amateur Radio in ways that hams have pioneered and fostered for generations. These new privileges are well worth the effort.

By earning your General class license, you will gain access to nearly all amateur frequencies. Remember: There are no bands on which a General class licensee can't transmit! As a more experienced ham, your wider knowledge will allow you to experiment with, modify and build equipment and antennas to improve your communications abilities.

The "ARRL General Class License Course" with CD-ROM is available from the ARRL for only \$74.95 <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1387>>. This course is valid for exams given until June 30, 2011.

Minimum System Requirements for CD-ROM -- Microsoft Windows Vista/XP/2000/NT/98/95 or Apple OS X; 200 MHz processor; 32 MB RAM; sound card and speakers; 4-speed CD-ROM drive or higher. Requires Web browser -- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0, Mozilla Firefox 2.0, Apple Safari 3.0 or later versions. Some documents require Adobe Reader.

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 41
October 17, 2008

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAMS

If you haven't looked at the independent study programs of FEMA's Emergency Management Institute lately, do yourself a favor and click on:
<<http://training.fema.gov/IS/>>

Many new courses have been added, and a few of the classic original courses have been revised. Some of the newer courses that struck me as significant for ARES members include:

IS-102 Deployment Basics for FEMA Response Partners (New 9/9/2008)

IS-802 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) #2 - Communications (New 8/6/2008)

IS-775 EOC Management and Operations (New 8/6/2008)

IS-100.a Introduction to Incident Command System (Revised 7/28/2008)

IS-200.a ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents (Revised 7/28/2008)

IS-809 Emergency Support Function (ESF) #9 - Search and Rescue (5/21/2008)

IS-808 Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 - Public Health and Medical Services (4/11/2008)

IS-800.B National Response Framework, an Introduction (2/4/2008)

FEMA's Independent Study Program offers courses that support the nine mission areas identified by the National Preparedness Goal: Incident Management, Operational

Planning, Disaster Logistics, Emergency Communications, Service to Disaster Victims, Continuity Programs, Public Disaster Communications, Integrated Preparedness, and Hazard Mitigation.

Education in all of these should be ARES training goals. Here is what Dennis Dura, K2DCC, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager, recently told the nation's Section Managers in re the ESF#2 Communications course: "Many of you may already be aware of this course (IS-802), or have taken it. It is a relatively new FEMA on-line independent study course that presents the concepts of Emergency Support Function #2-Communications. For those that have heard my presentations around the country, I strongly encourage integrating ARES in the local, county, regional or state government emergency operations plans, of which ESF #2 is a part. This presents us a variety of mission options, not beholden to any one specific group, and we become more aligned with the emergency management structure. The course will take approximately 30 minutes to complete."

The ARES E-Letter
The American Radio Relay League
October 15, 2008

GET READY FOR THE ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES

This year marks the 75th running of the premier domestic contest, the ARRL CW Sweepstakes <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/novss.html>>. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, the event started back in 1929 as a competition for handling formal traffic messages and is one of the oldest traditions in Amateur Radio. "The contest exchange contains more elements than usual, an homage to the traffic-handling days of yore," he said. "If you have never participated in Sweepstakes, you are really missing out on some serious fun! A complete primer by ARRL Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, on how to participate in Sweepstakes can be found in the Radiosport supplement in the October 2008 issue of QST."

Kutzko said that since 2008 is the 75th running of Sweepstakes, ARRL is anticipating record levels of participation and many prizes will be available for those who participate: "We'll have a special magnet that will be sent free to all stations that submit a log with 75 of the 80 ARRL and RAC Sections worked. As in previous years, those who submit logs with at least 100 contacts will be able to purchase Participation Pins."

The major challenge in Sweepstakes is to work all 80 ARRL/RAC Sections; this is

known as a "Clean Sweep." "This year, we will be awarding a Clean Sweep whisk broom to all stations that make a Clean Sweep," Kutzko said. "Brooms were last available in 1983, the 50th running of Sweepstakes. In addition to the free brooms, Clean Sweep coffee mugs will also be available for purchase. This year's mug will be fine etched glass and will truly be a collector's item."

Thanks to ICOM America <<http://www.icomamerica.com/>>, the Principal Award Sponsor of the November Sweepstakes, certificates will be awarded for first place in each of the 80 ARRL/RAC Sections for all six entry categories; plaques will be available to the overall winners in each entry category, as well as the winners in each Division. "ICOM has provided plaques and certificates for Sweepstakes winners since 2005, and we are grateful for their support over the years," Kutzko said.

"Certain Sections are always rare for Sweepstakes, especially on CW," Kutzko pointed out. "VY0/VY1/VE8 (Northern Territories), VE1-VE9-VY2 (Maritimes), VE2 (Quebec), VE4 (Manitoba), VE5 (Saskatchewan), VO1-VO2 (Newfoundland-Labrador), Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming always seem to be highly sought after. If you live in one of these places (or want to travel

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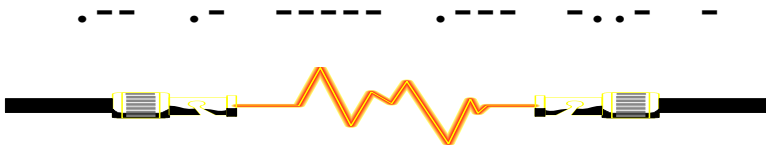
there), this is a golden opportunity for you to be the 'rare DX.' Stations in these Sections get to hear 'Thanks for the Sweep!' more than once during the weekend. Even if your CW is rusty or your station is modest, your effort to put a rare Section on the air during CW Sweepstakes will be appreciated by every single station that works you."

Whether you want to go for a Top 10 finish, or simply get on the air to hand out a few QSOs or work on

your Worked All States Award (WAS)

<<http://www.arrl.org/awards/was/>>, Kutzko said the November CW Sweepstakes is guaranteed fun and excitement. Be sure to check out the complete rules and entry forms. Come be a part of one of Amateur Radio's finest traditions <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/novss.html>>.

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 42
October 24, 2008



TRIVIA

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

WHAT IS: "SKIN EFFECT"

September's trivia question was:

What component is the:
"...most nonideal of real world components."?

And the answer is:

The Inductor

This may be found on page 6.8 of *The ARRL Handbook 2006*