

FEEDLINE

DECEMBER 2008



(front to back) Larry KI0W, Donna KC0SKD, Les W0LAH working the
SKYWARN Recognition Day Special Event

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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

November 25, 2008

Due to lack of quorum an informal meeting was held

There were 10 members and one guest present

Secretary's Report - There were no minutes as the last meeting had no quorum.

Treasurer's Report - By Karen N0TKP - There was no report as the treasurer was absent

ARES/EC - No report

Activity's Report - No report

VE Report by Rod KE0A - The fee for taking the test is now \$15.00

Repeater Report - Paul KA0CAF - The repeater is working

Sioux Club Report - No report

Old Business

A. Equipment at former W0OSP residence - By Rod KE0A - the Scamp trailer has been picked up. We have the \$20 or the trailer. Rod KE0A has the coax, ground rods, tool box, saw horses, etc. We still need to dispose of the towers.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - An executive committee meeting was called to order by Larry KI0W to dispose of the \$20 from the Scamp. A motion was made



by Gerry N0NGW seconded by Jim KC0XW to give the \$20 to Rod KE0A for storing the equipment. The motion passed. The executive committee meeting was adjourned.

B. Christmas Party - John KA0SVY reported for Donna KC0SKD that the Christmas party will be at the Italian Moon December 30, 2008 at 5:30PM. A discussion was held and it was decided that we will have cake.

C. Sled Dog Derby - By Gerry N0NGW - The derby will be March 7-8, 2009. If there is anything we need we should let the Derby people know. They are open to suggestions. There are already 8 teams committed and there could be up to 20 teams. (Their limit) We need to work on what equipment we might need. The building at Halstad will be heated. Nancy K9DIG is doing fine in Alaska. She maintains a blog. Link is on her website.

D. Skywarn Recognition Day - by Larry KI0W - According to Dave at NWS we should be registered now. The techs there will have the equipment set up. The event will run from 0001Z 6 Dec. to 0001 7 Dec. Rod KE0A will bring a laptop with a logging program. We plan to bring the amp out there Thursday so the techs will have time to hook it up.

(continued on page 4)

DATES OF INTEREST

December 2008	
30	Christmas Party
January 2009	
1	ARRL Straight Key Night
3	Kids Day 2009
3	ARRL RTTY Roundup
10	North American QSO Party-CW
17	ARRL VHF Sweepstakes
17	North American QSO Party-Phone
27	Club Meeting
February 2009	
21	ARRL International DX Contest – CW
24	Club Meeting
March 2009	
7-8	Red River Dog Sled Race
7	ARRL International DX Contest – Phone
7	Iditarod Race Begins
21-22	ND QSO Party
31	Club Meeting
April 2009	
28	Club Meeting

Table of Contents

Article	Page
Meeting Minutes	1
Dates of Interest	2
2009 Dues are Due	3
Iditarod	4
SKYWARN Recognition Day	4
Christmas Party	4
ND Section News	5
Triple Play WAS	6
Desecheo	7
URL's of Interest/Trivia	10

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

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

2009 DUES ARE DUE

Once again it is approaching the end of another year. Now is the time to renew your dues with the club for the year 2009. Your dues provide the club with funds, which pay for newsletter postage, correspondence postage, club repeater maintenance, club activity insurance premiums, club activities, and other expenses. Club activities include Field Day and the Hamfest among others. Please support your club and renew your dues today.

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The following only applies to the printed (snail-mail) version of this newsletter:

Did you find a **RENEWAL FORM** in this issue of the *FEEDLINE*?

If the answer is:

NO

then your dues are paid through December 31, 2009.

If the answer is

YES

then your dues are still due for 2009.

Are YOU an ARRL Member?

If not, your joining will be money for the club. Contact John KAØSVY, Club Secretary for ARRL membership forms.

For every **new ARRL member** or a previous ARRL member who has had a lapse of membership for 2 or more years the club gets:

\$15.00

For every **ARRL membership renewal** submitted through the club, the club gets:

\$2.00

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You may be asking yourself...

Why should I be a national member of ARRL, if I can just participate locally with my club?

ANSWER: Your national dues support ARRL and many of our national and local initiatives. Your dues support an organization that represents ham radio operators in governmental matters-such as working to protect our frequency privileges. Your dues go towards communications research, educational outreach, and help supply local volunteers with the materials they need to provide excellent public service. Your club **IS ARRL.**

(continued from page 1)

New Business

Gerry N0NGW reported that Grant KB0HOD and Cheryl KB0QWU Kahlbaugh have moved to Illinois. She is sick and they have set up a Caring Bridge site for her. They hope to move her closer to home.

The next club meeting will be 1930, January 27, 2009

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IDITAROD RACE

Local Ham Nancy K9DIG will be among the many racers running the Iditarod Race in Alaska. The race begins on March 7, 2009. Nancy is presently in Alaska training for the race with her dog team. To read what it is like during her training you can read her daily blog at:

<http://reachfortheskykennel.com/>

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**SKYWARN
RECOGNITION DAY
SPECIAL EVENT**

Beginning Friday December 5 at 6:00 PM and ending 6:00 PM Saturday December 6 local ARES members took part in the annual SKYWARN Recognition Day Special Event. The event is held at the National Weather Service in Grand Forks each year. It is an

event which recognizes the contribution that Hams provide throughout the year during severe weather across the country. Whether the weather is in the form of severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, blizzards, amongst others, Ham radio operators are ever present and willing to help with emergency communications.

This year when the event was over the tally was:

294 contacts made
25 NWS Offices contacted
12 Hams participating

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**Christmas Party Details
Donna KCØSKD**

Our FORX Amateur Club Christmas Party is back (by request!) at the Italian Moon!!!

**When: Tuesday,
December 30th**

**Time: 5:30PM
- whenever**

**Where: Back Room of
the ITALIAN MOON on South
Washington St. in Grand Forks,
ND.**

As always spouses and others are welcome.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

The Club will provide the party and you get to pay for the food and drink! What more could you possibly want?!?

Details are still being invented. Suggestions are very welcome. Gifts to exchange? Games? Brain strains for certain??

Suggestions Already Made:

1. To bring a food item for the food bank as an admission charge. (MY suggestion, in case you were curious)

2. To have a Christmas Cake for dessert paid for by the club. Chocolate? White? Mixed? Spiced? Filled? (I prefer a whipped butter cream frosting or whipped cream frosting, but am open to whatever you want IF this is an accepted decision.)

3. Bring an exchange gift from your "Gee, I can always use another one of THOSE!" box. (hidden-wrapped in something!)

Contact:

Activities Director!
Donna Schaffer KCØSKD
701-739-2957 Cell
701-772-6626 Home
jfdmse@gra.midco.net.

Have you ever thought about the fact that EVERYTHING we do as a club seems to be an activity?? hmmm...

Monthly North Dakota Section News Summary

Date: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 12:56 PM

The North Dakota QSO Party has been brought back to life and will be on March 21st and 22nd, 2009. I will post more information on this after the New Year and the ARRL will be listing it in the contest section of QST. The Central Dakota ARC will hold its Hamfest in Bismarck on February 28th, 2009.

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE NORTH DAKOTA SECTION NEWS FOR THE LATEST ND BULLETINS

73's Lynn - W0CQ

November Net Report from Dave-K8BBM, ARRL Net Manager Goose River Net, 160 meters, 5-59-1 CDO WX/Road Info Net, 75 meters, 45-857-3 DATA - 75 meters, 39-557-17 Thanks to the Net Controls- AI0Q, K0HDA, K0MAD, KR0W, N0RDJ, KD0YX, KE0XT, W0KRC, WF00, KE0VF for efforts, especially in long conditions in the evening. Also, thanks to N0CKB, Bill from Minot, who is stepping up to fill in some gaps as a net control station

ARRL North Dakota Section
Section Manager: Lynn A. Nelson,
W0CQ
w0cq@arrl.org

GET READY FOR THE ARRL TRIPLE PLAY WAS AWARD

As of January 1, 2009, the ARRL will offer another award: The Triple Play Worked All States Award

<<http://www.arrl.org/awards/#tripleplay>>. This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the starting date and must be confirmed via Logbook of the World (LoTW) <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>. All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

In their July 2008 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors decided to implement this new award. Based on a suggestion by former ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director Hans Brakob, KOHB, the League's Programs and Services Committee referred the award's parameters to the Board where it received enthusiastic approval.

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Triple Play Award is a one-time award -- once you have made the required 150 confirmed contacts via LoTW, you're done. "Even so," Sumner writes in "It Seems to Us" in the January issue of QST, "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the

first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). Maybe you prefer to be the quarry; it will quickly emerge which states are the most difficult to find, offering opportunities to earn the gratitude of your mates by activating the ones you can get to with your portable or mobile rig."

The Triple Play Award is not a contest, but Sumner points out that the ARRL RTTY Roundup <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/rty.html>> takes place the first weekend in 2009, with the North American QSO Party (CW and Phone)

<<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>> following soon after. "Contesters are among the most loyal devotees of LoTW," Sumner writes, "so participating in these three events should take care of all of the easy states, as well as some of the more difficult ones." He warns that it can be addictive once you begin making your contacts for the Triple Play Award!

The rules for the Triple Play Award state that two-way communication must be established on the amateur bands with each state on each mode (the District of Columbia may be counted for Maryland). There is no minimum signal report required. Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 50

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

miles apart. Club station applicants must include their club name and call sign of the club station or trustee on their application. The Triple Play Award will be issued on sequentially numbered certificates, starting with #1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application as submitted via LoTW. There are no endorsements for this award.

Contacts made through repeater devices or any other power relay method may not be used for WAS confirmation (a separate WAS award is available for satellite contacts). All stations contacted must be land stations; contacts with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft, cannot be counted. The only exception to this rule is permanently docked exhibition ships (such as the Queen Mary) and other historic ships will be considered land based.

Triple Play Award applicants who reside in the US must be ARRL members to be eligible to receive the award. DX stations do not need to be ARRL members.

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 48
November 21, 2008

DATES SET FOR DXPEDITION TO DESECHEO ISLAND

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has notified a group of hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, that they will be able to mount a DXpedition to Desecheo Island (KP5, IOTA NA-095), February 12-26, 2009 <<http://www.kp5.us/>>. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on the Most Wanted list, kept by "DX Magazine." Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the USFWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).

Per USFWS rules, only 15 operators will be allowed on the island at one time. "We have arranged with USFWS to allow a shift change about half way through the DXpedition," Allphin told the ARRL. "This has allowed a number of hams on our waiting list an opportunity to participate in this DXpedition."

Johnson said the team will be running CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 meters. "We've had tremendous support from DX organizations all over the world and from numerous equipment and antenna manufacturers," he told the

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

ARRL. "We are diligently working on the propagation studies to reach our hard to work areas of Asia and Europe. This and with our planned antennas, we should knock Desecheo off of the Most Wanted List for a long time to come." Desecheo is the second most-wanted DXCC entity in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe.

According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the lack of amateur activity on Desecheo is due to the USFWS not issuing the needed Special Use permits. "The USFWS has always claimed safety concerns as a reason to not issue the permits," he said. "Since the island was used as a bombing range, there is the possibility that unexploded, live munitions are still on the island. It is always a good thing when an entity that had activation difficulties in the past gets on the air again."

On Friday, December 19, three DXpedition team members, USFWS personnel and an unexploded ordnance (UXO) expert will go out to Desecheo to sweep and clear the assigned area of unexploded ordnance and other hazards. "We are uniquely fortunate for a 'sneak preview' of our operating site the week before Christmas," Johnson said. "We will spend a day on Desecheo clearing hazards from our operating sites. Rarely does such a most-wanted entity have an opportunity for a sneak peak to optimally plan

logistics, stations and antennas." There will be no radio operations on this trip.

The KP5 DXpedition team will assemble in Puerto Rico on Sunday, February 8 for mandatory UXO training. They will spend the next few days training, preparing and staging the several tons of equipment for transport to the site and set out for Desecheo on February 12. Allphin said that as soon as they land on Desecheo, two stations will be "immediately activated. Stations will continue to operate until the final moments of departure on February 26."

Allphin is an experienced DXer, having visited 80 DXCC entities and operated from 40, including Peter I Island, Howland Island, Kingman Reef, the South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia Island. Allphin and Johnson have both participated in DXpeditions to Heard Island and Bhutan.

"For a team leader, the challenges are pretty much the same for Desecheo as they were for Peter I and other remote DXpeditions," Allphin told the ARRL. "Take logistics -- you still must make sure everything you need gets there. Although there is a Radio Shack 20 miles away, the boat trip is \$1000! The team must be selected on compatibility, experience and operating skills; that never changes.

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

The difference this time is that Glenn and I have been inundated with requests to join the team. The close proximity makes it look like an easy DXpedition, I guess!"

ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager and experienced DXpeditioner Dave Patton, NN1N, said that both Desecheo and Navassa Islands (currently third on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list) saw frequent operations in the late 1970s through late '80s, but operations from the islands have been very limited since then. With the islands under the control of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, combined with decaying "infrastructure" on Navassa, there are more issues that must be dealt with than there were 25 years ago.

"A well-organized and lengthy operation from Desecheo will be a nice treat for the world's DXers," Patton said. "With W0GJ and K4UEE leading the operation, I think we can all count on a first class effort that will give maximum exposure to Asia/Oceania and Europe where KP5 is most needed. I also think that Glenn and Bob can demonstrate to the Fish and Wildlife Service that a DXpedition can take place and not damage the environment or cause big problems amongst other hams or for other agencies. I hope hams will be invited back to Desecheo more frequently in the future and expand

the places where hams may operate."

In 1979, upon the recommendation of the DX Advisory Committee, Desecheo Island was added to the DXCC list for contacts made after March 1 of that year. KP4AM/D -- with operators N4EA, KP4Q, N4ZC, KP4DSD, KV4KV (now KP2A) and KP4AM (now W4DN) -- made the first DXpedition to Desecheo in March 1979. Various groups have made their way to Desecheo since the first trip, but other than a brief operation in December 2005, there has been no activity from the island since 1994. "It is so exciting that our DXpedition to Desecheo coincides almost exactly 30 years to the day of the first operation from Desecheo," Johnson told the ARRL.

In June of this year, CNWR invited written proposals from hams who had previously made inquiries about an Amateur Radio operation from Desecheo; CNWR indicated that they would allow one group to activate the island. After reviewing the proposals, CNWR would then select a group and prepare to issue a Special Permit to the successful party, limiting the group to no more than 15 people staying no longer than 14 days. Applicants had 45 days to prepare and submit their proposals. According to Allphin, seven groups submitted proposals.

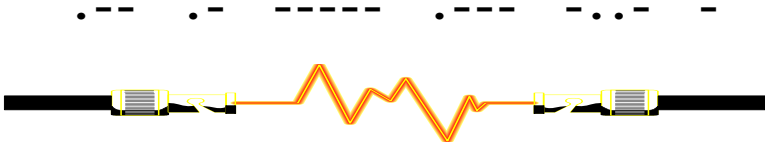
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(continued from page 9)

"A panel of three Fish and Wildlife Service employees, from areas within the Service outside of the Caribbean refuge, spent September 24 and 25 reviewing and evaluating the [seven] proposals," Allphin said. "The selection criteria used were those outlined in the proposal invitation letter and points were awarded for how well criteria were addressed for thoroughness and documentation."

"It was truly an honor to have our proposal and team selected from the stiff competition," Johnson told the ARRL. "This has been a true team effort on our part from the start. We look forward to activating an entity in the Top 10 Most Wanted that is located in our own back yard! We are most grateful to the USFWS for giving us this opportunity to activate this rare entity."

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 47
November 26, 2008



TRIVIA

The following trivia question is taken from *The ARRL Handbook 2006*. The answer will be published in the January 2009 issue of the *FEEDLINE*.

WHAT DOES THE GREEK LETTER LAMBDA “ λ ” STAND FOR?

November's trivia question was:

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CONDUCTOR
IS PLACED IN A MAGNETIC FIELD?

And the answer is:

A current will be induced in it

This may be found on page 6.14 of *The ARRL Handbook 2006*

ANNUAL DUES FORM

January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
CHK# _____
DATE _____

As stated in the bylaws of the Forx Amateur Radio Club dues expire on the last day of December (December 31, 2008 in this case). Dues are payable as follows:

Regular Membership	\$20.00
Family Membership	\$27.00
Student/Youth Membership	\$10.00
Senior Membership (62+)	\$10.00

If you have paid your dues for the year 2009, thank you. You will continue to receive the *FEEDLINE* published monthly. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2009, please use the form below.

Please make your check payable to: FORX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 14773
GRAND FORKS, ND 58208-4773

Please do not mail cash. Cash is acceptable if your dues are paid to the Treasurer directly.

Please complete the following form to be included with your dues payment:

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip+4: _____

Membership Type (circle one): Regular / Family / Student / Senior

To receive the club newsletter *FEEDLINE* via E-mail, please provide your address below:

E-mail Address: _____

Are you an ARRL Member? Yes / No **ARES Member?** Yes / No