

FEEDLINE

JANUARY 2009

NEW MEETING LOCATION

THE JANUARY 27, 2009 MEETING LOCATION WILL BE AT:

SEASON'S RESTAURANT
300 3RD AVE NE
EAST GRAND FORKS, MN

SAME TIME: 7:30 PM

COME EARLY FOR PRE-MEETING DISCUSSIONS AND A MEAL

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Have you paid your dues for 2009?

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 501I(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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

January 2009	
27	Club Meeting
February 2009	
8	North American Sprint – CW
14	St Cloud, MN Hamfest
14	CQ WW RTTY WPX
15	North American Sprint – Phone
21	ARRL International DX Contest – CW
24	Club Meeting
28	Bismarck Hamfest
28	North American QSO Party – Digital
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
Party	1
Dates of Interest	2
License Activity	3
Hamming in Winter	4
Ham Crossword	5
Bandwagon	7
ND Section News	9
Trivia	10
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**GRAND FORKS
MONDAY
NIGHT
NET
9:00 PM
146.940 (-)**

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

FCC LICENSE ACTIVITY ON THE RISE

According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, there continues to be a heightened interest in Amateur Radio following the FCC's elimination of the Morse code exam requirement in February 2007: "The number of new license applicants remains strong under the new Amateur Radio Service rules. The following table chronicles all 14 FCC authorized VEC organizations' new license activity over the last few years." In 2008, the total number of US amateurs rose 1.2 percent, from 655,800 in 2007, to 663,500 in 2008:

New Amateur Totals
2006 through November 2008

Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	1274	1647	1755
Feb	1605	2435	2998
Mar	2531	3478	2816
Apr	1728	2673	3090
May	2283	2607	2562
Jun	1967	2281	2402
Jul	1401	1786	2077
Aug	1623	2183	2084
Sep	1357	1462	1763
Oct	1781	2109	2303
Nov	1993	2132	2197
Dec	1569	1935	2019

Totals:	21,112	26,728	28,066

Somma said that the number of General and Extra class upgrades is also on the rise. "When looking at 2006 totals," she said, "we see that upgrade applications for 2007 were up 286 percent; in 2008, they were up 146 percent over 2006. Requests for new club licenses also remain strong. In 2008, we had 671 applications for club licenses come in, while in 2007, there were 506 applications. That's an increase of 133 percent."

Calling it a "ripple effect," Somma said that the number of amateurs who want to be volunteer examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up. "Here at the ARRL VEC, we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as examiners and instructors," she said.

Somma further broke down the numbers to show the approximate number of licensees per FCC license class:

Novice:	18,500
Technician:	322,500
General:	145,000
Advanced:	62,000
Extra:	115,500
Total US Amateurs:	663,500

"I can think back to the mid 1980s when there were approximately

(continued on page 4)

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450,000 US Amateurs," Somma recalled. "These are the highest numbers of General and Extra class licensees I have ever seen." As of April 15, 2000, the FCC no longer issues Novice or Advanced class licenses. "As expected, the number of Novice and Advanced class licensees has decreased," she said. "As I look toward 2009, I see Amateur Radio growing in a positive direction." -- Some information provided by Joe Speroni, AH0A

The ARRL Letter
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HAMMING IN WINTER by Rod Klug, KE0A

It's winter, you're in North Dakota, and you think there's nothing for a ham to do. Well here's a list of my top ten ham activities to keep the winter blues from setting in.

- 1) **Burying your radials** is a perfect task for right now. There's thirty inches of snow outside so use that to your advantage. Bury all those radials under the snow so your neighbors don't see them. But if it's too cold for that even with your Carharts, boots, and mad bomber hat, try

- 2) **Putting an antenna in the house.** You can put a directional 2-meter beam in your attic or try a loop receiving antenna in the bedroom. But if the XYL objects to 60 feet of coax snaking its way down the stairs, try
- 3) **Finishing that project you were working on.** You really need that outboard speaker you were building of solid oak with that red LED light to indicate transmitting and the green LED light for receiving. But if you can't remember where you put the schematic, try
- 4) **Reading all those back issues of QST** you put aside for another day. That project article you wanted was in there somewhere. But if the ads catch your eye more than the articles, try
- 5) **Googling those radios** like the Yeasu X-7 HT or the ICOM Pro-III HF rig. Drool over the specs and the reviews, thinking how much fun it would be to have GPS or Blue Tooth or the latest DPS features. But if the price seems a little high right now, try

(continued on page 7)

Ham Crossword - (Author Unknown)

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16								17		18				
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23														
				24										

ACROSS

4. R.A. _____ (1866-1932) – First Voice (and violin) transmission
6. J. _____ (1797-1878) – First user of telegraph; Made bell strike; Unit of inductance
8. Predicted by Tesla; A way to use radio waves to detect objects
10. H.P. _____ (1840-1916) – Founder of the ARRL
12. Dr Lee _____ (1873-1961) – Invented the Audion Vacuum Tube; Broadcast 1st radio ads
14. Quenched spark _____ - A method for transmitting telegraphy
16. T.A. _____ (1847-1931) – Invented the microphone
18. _____ tube invented by J. Flemming; Detects radio frequencies by lighting up; A noble gas
19. Dr O. _____ (1850-1925) – Predicted the ionosphere Layer named after him
20. Used to amplify signals; Developed by Flemming, DeForest, and Tesla
21. S.F.B. _____ (1791-1872) – 1st message: “What hath God Wrought?”
23. H. _____ (1886-1976) – Antenna inventor who worked on wireless power transmission
24. H.R. _____ (1857-1894) – Discovered electromagnetic waves; Cycles per second

DOWN

1. N. _____ (1856-1943) – Holds the patent for invention of the radio; Unit of magnetic induction
2. First code for disaster, replaced by SOS
3. Invented by A. Vail; Used by Morse to send telegraphy
4. M. _____ (1791-1867) – Discovered electromagnetic induction
5. Flows from cathode to plate amplifying the radio signal
7. The theme of this puzzle
9. G. _____ Jr (1846-1914) – AC pioneer; Held many Tesla patents
11. A.M. _____ (1775-1836) – Worked with electromagnetism; Unit of current
13. G.S. _____ (1789-1854) – Discovered proportionality of current to potential
15. _____ radio: Wired wireless invented by G.O. Squire; Sends radio waves through a solid medium
16. Electricity is potential _____; Tesla wanted to transmit this wirelessly
17. Radio _____; First detected by Hertz
22. A radio company from 1919-1986; Formed by GE and holder of many radio patents

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- 6) **Downloading some demo software.** Check out the latest contest software like Writelog or N1MM. Or search up some digital interface software like MMTTY. But if that gets you wanting to connect, try
- 7) **Getting your computer and radio to work together to send and receive RTTY.** This is probably the most challenging aspect of ham radio. But if two days of only receiving RTTY and being unable to send frustrates you, try
- 8) **Watching the Packet cluster** for obscure spots like Algeria or Tunisia. Sure, all you'll be able to do is hear them, they'll never hear you. But if you want to be able to get out over the air easier, try
- 9) **Following up on that New Year's resolution** and brush up your CW. Work with your favorite program or listen on the radio. But if even that can't keep you from getting bored, you can always try
- 10) **Cleaning your ham shack.** Yes, that is a last resort. But who wants dust building up on their rigs and amps and tuners? And if nothing else, it will keep

the XYL from giving you jobs to do!

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Let's Get on the Maker Bandwagon By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a week ago, I got an e-mail from a ham down in Texas who had attended the Maker Faire (makerfaire.com). "Makers" are people who love to tinker and make things. They even have their own magazine, *Make* (www.makezine.com).

He was amazed at the lack of any amateur radio content. He wrote, "The Maker Faire was unbelievable. Incredible stuff. Pedal powered carnival rides, robots, computer drive routers, kits. Outside of a table with a Vectronics kit, and a license manual, and a QRP book, the only radio stuff was from a pirate radio group."

I'm kind of amazed at this as well. It just goes to show how disconnected amateur radio is getting from the mainstream. These are exactly the kind of people we want to get interested in amateur radio, yet there was no one there representing us.

Ham radio needs to be at these events and get plugged into the

(continued on page 8)

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"maker community." The Faire has not yet released attendance figures for this particular Faire, but more than 65,000 people attended the Faire held in May 2008. Dayton, with its attendance of about 20,000, looks anemic by comparison.

I blogged about this back in May (<http://kb6nu.com/why-cant-dayton-be-more-like-the-maker-faire/>). One of the things I suggested then is moving Dayton to some place like Austin. Seriously, if you were a new, young ham, where would you rather go, Dayton, OH or Austin, TX? Let's be real here.

And can there be a worse place for an event than Hara Arena? The parking lot, where they hold the flea market looks like a mine field, and it usually rains, making the flea market a wet, unpleasant experience. Is it any wonder that fewer and fewer vendors choose to haul stuff out there? Some of us older hams might fondly reminisce about the bargain we found while traipsing around wearing a trash-bag poncho, but a story like that is not going to resonate with new hams.

Please don't get me wrong. I don't mean to badmouth the Dayton Amateur Radio Association or the Hamvention. I actually think that they do a great job, all things considered. I'm just pointing out that if ham radio wants to again be part of the mainstream, we have to

get with the program. Unfortunately, that program probably won't be at the Hara Arena.

Ham radio has got to figure out how to latch onto the Maker phenomenon. At the very least, the ARRL should have a booth at the next one, and in addition to all the books and t-shirts, they need to come up with some kind of demo or display to attract makers into ham radio. I don't know what exactly, but I'm willing to start talking about it.

This phenomenon might also be a boon for clubs who hold hamfests. Just as the computer craze turned ham swaps into ham and computer swaps in the 80s, perhaps ham clubs could turn their hamfests into a combination hamfest and Maker Faire in their communities.

As I said earlier, Makers are exactly the kind of people we want in ham radio. Let's go out and get them.

When Dan's not pontificating about ham radio, you'll find him working CW on 40m, teaching ham classes, or running for the ARRL Board of Directors. Read more by going to www.kb6nu.com. Send e-mail to cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Monthly North Dakota Section News Summary Thursday, January 15, 2009 3:28 PM

The North Dakota QSO Party will be on March 21st and 22nd, 2009 and you will see the listing it in the contest section of QST.

The Central Dakota ARC will hold its 19th Annual Hamfest in Bismarck on Saturday, February 28, 2009 - 7:00AM - 3:00 PM CST at Saint Marys Grade School, 807 East Thayer Avenue, Bismarck, ND

Talk-in 146.34/94, Vendors will be Burghardt Amateur Center, Watertown, SD and Interstate Batteries.

Program Schedule:

7 AM - Registration opens (\$7 at door) and Swap table setup. (tables \$5)

8 AM - Hamfest opens

9 AM - ARRL VE testing

11 AM - Seminars - ND Section ARRL Forum by W0CQ

12 NOON - ND Net control/Manager meeting by K8BBM

2 PM - Home Brew Contest prize Award

3 PM - Hamfest closes

W0CQ will hold an ND ARRL Forum at 11:00 am and talk about his visit to W1AW.

K8BBM- Net Manager will hold a ND Section Net meeting at the Bismarck Hamfest, Feb 28th, at noon, room to be announced. All net control stations, net participants, interested parties are welcome. This meeting is for the Goose River net, DATA net, ND cdo wx road information net.

November Net Report from Dave-K8BBM, ARRL Net Manager
Goose River - 160 m - 4 sessions, 52 qni, 1 qtc
Cdo WX Road info, 3937 KHz - 48 sessions, 907 qni, 16 qtc
Data Net, 3937 29 sessions, 665 qni, 10 qtc

Thanks to wb0gmd, n0ckb, ke0vf, w0krc, w0osp, kf0hr, w0tf, kr0w, kd0yx, wf0o, k0mad, k0hda, n0rdj and ai0q who acted as net controls. Our special thanks to Robert, ke0xt, for his service as a net control. Robert is currently off the air.

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE
NORTH DAKOTA SECTION
NEWS FOR THE LATEST ND
BULLETINS
AT ARRL.org

73's Lynn - W0CQ

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