

FEEDLINE

FEBRUARY 2009

IT'S BACK!!!!

THE EVENT

EVERYONE

HAS BEEN WAITING FOR

Hurry and check out page 3 for exclusive details.....

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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

January 27, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Jerry KCOGWK

There were 14 members and 0 guests present

Secretary's Report - The informal minutes from November were distributed by John KAOSVY.

Treasurer's Report - By Karen N0TKP - The report for January 2009 was passed out as well as a breakdown of 2008 and December 2008. Report was accepted

ARES/EC - by Gerry NONGW - It has been slow. There may be an exercise in the near future. The group discussed when to have Skywarn training. We will try for April 7, 2009.

Activity's Report - by Donna KCO SKD - The Christmas party went well and was well attended.

VE Report by Rod KE0A - The fee for taking the test is now \$15.00. There are no test sessions scheduled.

Jerry KCOGWK reported that one of the snowmobile groups might be interested in training.

Repeater Report - Paul KA0CAF - The repeater is still working.

Sioux Club Report - Rod KE0A said he attended a meeting and no



big projects are scheduled. There has been some equipment donated to them and they plan to have new shelving for it.

Old Business

A. Red River Sled Dog Race. - by NONGW - Gerry NONGW and Rod KE0A attended a meeting in Halstad for the sled dog race. There are 18 teams registered at this time and there could be 20. The plan is to start at Halstad, one sled every 10 minutes. There will be a checkpoint at Frog Point and near Cabelas in East Grand Forks

The racers will then return to Halstad with a stop at the Frog Point checkpoint. It is about 160 miles round trip and an accumulated 8 hours of rest is required. The sled dog people would like to have someone at Halstad the entire time of the race and also need someone with internet access. We discussed how we would do our part. The prizes are good so there will be some top name racers participating. Rod KE0A said that there will be breakfast in Halstad Saturday and Sunday morning. We should also be thinking about 2 meter communication and maybe a taller pole with a 2 meter beam

B. Hamfest 2009 - Karen N0TKP stated that she needs help if she does it again. We discussed how last year's Hamfest went and what we should do this year. The Sioux

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DATES OF INTEREST

February 2008	
16	ARRL International DX Contest – CW
16	St Cloud MN Hamfest
23	Bismarck ND Hamfest
23	CQ WW 160- meter Contest – Phone
23	North American QSO Party - Digital
26	Club Meeting
March 2008	
1	ARRL International DX Contest – Phone
9	North American RTTY Sprint
25	Club Meeting
29	CQ WPX SSB Contest
29	Midwinter Madness, Robbinsdale, MN
April 2008	
29	Club Meeting
May 2008	
27	Club Meeting
June 2008	
24	Club Meeting
28	Field Day

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EARLY

REMINDER

FORX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

HAMFEST

OCTOBER 3, 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

MEETINGS HAVE RETURNED TO:

**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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Club was a big help. Donna KC0SKD said she would help with arranging the seminars. Jim KC0XW moved and Donna KC0SKD seconded to hold a Hamfest again this year. The motion passed. Rod KE0A moved and John KA0SVY seconded to have it on October 3, 2009. The motion passed.

New Business

A. Meeting Location - Donna KC0SKD explained the room assignment problem. She talked to the lady who schedules rooms. We were not in the 2007 book so we were not notified. The room was available and we could have a larger one if necessary. We are in their book for the rest of 2009 (except December) and we will be notified when to renew. Jerry KC0GKW moved and Dick KA0HDN seconded to return to the Altru meeting room. The motion passed.

Jack WB0BMD stated that there is a need for people to recognize that we exist and what we can provide. Art Culbert is in charge of emergency operations at Altru. We need a liaison with Altru. Gerry N0NGW said he would contact Art Culver

B. North Dakota QSO Party - Rod KE0A reported that the North Dakota QSO Party will be held the 21st and 22nd of March 2009. Lynn W0CQ has said to look in QST for details.

C. Other stuff - John KA0SVY asked for help updating the suspense file. Larry KI0W has a copy and it needs updating. We will get with him to update it. Donna KC0SKD reported that Olger Langheids wood burning Dodge pickup could be made available as an alternate source of energy for Field Day. We will consider this a possibility. Rod KE0A reported that World Radio is no on line and free.

The next club meeting will be 1930, February 24, 2009 in Room E at Altru Hospital

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32PM

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FIELD DAY PACKETS AVAILABLE

February 2: Get ready for ARRL Field Day, June 27-28, 2009. Packets will be available February 2 on the ARRL Field Day Web site <www.arrl.org/fieldday>. Packets include the complete rules (including changes for 2009). Other reference items that will be available include forms, Section abbreviations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more.

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**HAM RADIO
OPERATORS
GO TO THE DOGS
Gerry N0NGW**

Or the dogs come to them; on March 7th and 8th when hams will support the Red River Sled Dog Derby.

The race will run 154 miles through the Red River Valley, on the Red River of the North. The Red River Valley has been called one of the world's flattest landscapes. The area is mostly open farm land with a rich history of the fur trade with Fort Gibraltar & Fort Garry in Winnipeg. The trail will travel along routes that Alexander Henry and his men traveled in the 1800's. The race will start and finish in Halstad, MN. The teams will start with 8 - 12 dogs each. The area has limited trees except along the Red River.

Grand Forks hams will support the race with hams at the start of the race, the check point at Frog Point also know as Belmont Park, East Grand Forks, turning around back to Frog Point, and the end of the race when it returns to Halstad.

We will need hams throughout the 24 hour period. No, you will not be needed to be there for 24 hours. We will set up blocks of time when your services are needed. You will need to be prepared to be out in the elements for periods of time.

As of February 13 there are 19 teams entered.

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For more information come the club meeting on February 24th or contact Gerry N0NGW at 701 740 5947 (cell). We will also have a meeting before the event.

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

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

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS TO BEGIN AGAIN ON MIDWAY ATOLL

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced on Monday, January 26 that they would once again allow Amateur Radio operators the opportunity to operate from Midway Atoll. This the first time that USFWS has allowed amateurs to operate from the wildlife refuge since 2002. The USFWS started a program earlier this month to encourage visitors to experience Midway's wildlife, history and culture, as well as non-wildlife-dependent activities -- including Amateur Radio to ensure the safety of the wildlife on the Refuge, the USFWS said that Amateur Radio operations will be permitted for **two weeks only**, from **October 5-19, 2009**. "Radio operation will be allowed only within a designated area on the north side of Sand Island and the use of portable generators will not be permitted," said Midway Atoll Refuge Manager Matt D. Brown. "There is 120 V power available at the operation site. Any modifications to the island power grid/infrastructure must be approved in advance and be paid for entirely by the radio operators. Although determined to be a wildlife-compatible activity," Brown said, "this [Amateur Radio] opportunity is being conducted on a trial basis." Brown has the authority to discontinue the activity at any time, based on wildlife protection and conservation goals.

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For more information, please contact Brown via e-mail <Matt_D_Brown@fws.gov> or by phone at 808-954-4818. Lodging arrangements can be made with Darlene Holst via e-mail <dholst@chugach-ak.com> or by phone at 808-954-4801. Midway Atoll is located in the North Pacific Ocean, approximately 1250 miles northwest of Honolulu.

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NORTH DAKOTA TO OFFER STATE QSO PARTY IN MARCH

Stations working on their Triple Play Award <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/>> or Year of the State QSO Party Award <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/ysqso/>> will want to be on the air on Saturday, March 21 as North Dakota -- always a rare state -- will hold their first QSO Party in 14 years.

"The North Dakota QSO Party (NDQP) is certain to put North Dakota on the map -- and hopefully off the Needed List of many a deserving amateur," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. The contest is

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sponsored by the North Dakota Radio Association (NDRA) with help from several other North Dakota clubs.

Newly appointed North Dakota Section Manager Lynn Nelson, W0CQ, told Kutzko that interest has been high for starting the event up again. "I had many hams asking me to kick off a State QSO Party," Nelson said. "We are encouraging North Dakota stations to work 20 meters in the afternoon hours. This will help to tackle the demand of the state -- and its many rare counties -- for several Amateur Radio awards, including the ARRL's Triple Play and Year of the State QSO Party."

The North Dakota QSO Party runs from 1700 UTC Saturday, March 21-0100 UTC Sunday, March 22. All bands from 160-2 meters (except 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters) are acceptable. Complete rules and forms can be found on the NDRA Web site <<http://k0ln.com/>>. Don't miss your chance to work one of the rarest states in the country -- get in on the fun of the North Dakota QSO Party!

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LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD NOW EASIER THAN EVER

In order to better accommodate new users as well as existing account holders, ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) has been updated

<<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>.

According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Assistant Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, these improvements were made based LoTW help questions and listening to users.

"Through the efforts of Membership and Volunteer Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, and Information Technology Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, we have also added an automated results table on the LoTW Users Home Page that lists members in numeric order who have achieved the Triple Play Award," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "IT personnel have also fixed a number of longstanding issues with Logbook in recent weeks, and some additional enhancements are underway."

Added enhancements include:

- * A LoTW User's Corner that includes quick links to log onto your account, save or renew a certificate and ways to address PC failure.

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* The GET STARTED section <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/start.htm>> has been simplified with links for each of the four steps in the certificate process.

* LoTW instructions are now available in nine languages: English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Russian, Slovenian and Spanish. Options to select a language have always been available, but they have now been moved up front to the GET STARTED page. The languages are identified with icons of flags to represent each language.

* The GET STARTED pdf file has been updated to include new screenshots and refinement of some of the processes.

* The software download section now consists of only three icons representing the three operating systems for which software is available: Windows, Mac and Linux. The user simply selects their operating system and they are redirected to the download specific to their system.

* A new link has been added for QSL Manager, Club Calls and DXpeditions. This link gives details on establishing an account for these special operations and includes a section for 1x1 call signs.

* A new PowerPoint overview is available from the LoTW site. This presentation has also been added to our multimedia library <<http://www.arrl.org/multimedia>>. The program is an overview of

LoTW and what users can expect from the service. There are screenshots of LoTW pages, as well as a condensed version of the certificate and award application process.

With more than 200 million QSOs submitted, ARRL's Logbook of The World system is a repository of log records submitted by users from around the world <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/22/10576/?nc=1>>. When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. Yaesu is the principal sponsor of the LoTW Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/02/10138/>>.

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SKYWARN

Don't forget that SKYWARN season is fast approaching check the NWS Web site:

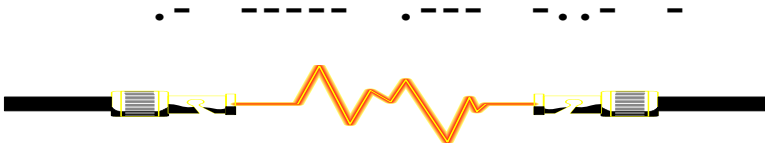
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/fgf/>

for spotter training in your area.

Answers to last month's crossword:

			1 T			2 C								
			E			Q					3 K			
4 F	E	S	S	E	N	D	5 E	N		6 H	E	N	7 R	Y
A			L				L				Y		A	
8 R	A	D	A	R			E						D	
A					9 W		C			10 M	11 A	X	I	M
12 D	E	F	13 O	R	E	S	T				M		O	
A			H		S		R		14 G	A	P		P	
Y			M		T		O				E		I	
		15 L			I		N				R		O	
16 E	D	I	S	O	N			17 W		18 N	E	O	N	
N		N			G			A					E	
E		E			19 H	E	A	V	I	S	I	D	E	
R					O			E					R	
G				20 T	U	B	E			21 M	O	22 R	S	E
23 Y	A	G	I		S								C	
				24 H	E	R	T	Z				A		

www.wa0jxt.org



TRIVIA

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

TRANSISTORS ARE USUALLY DRIVEN BY WHAT TWO VOLTAGES?

January's trivia question was:

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A HEATSINK?

And the answer is:

To provide a high-power component with a large surface area through which to dissipate heat

This may be found on page 6.17 of *The ARRL Handbook 2006*