

FEEDLINE

MARCH 2009

**ALL SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING
NOW THROUGH
APRIL 25, 2009
HAVE BEEN CANCELLED
DUE TO SPRING FLOODING**

... ..



What is Jeff KDØBTT looking for? See details on page 3.

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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

February 24, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Larry KI0W

There were 12 members and 0 guests present

Secretary's Report - The informal minutes from January were distributed by John KA0SVY. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - By Karen N0TKP - The report given through cell phone was accepted. She also reported that the Hamfest has been registered with ARRL

ARES/EC - by Gerry N0NGW - Skywarn training will be April 2, 2009 at 6:30PM in the Grand Forks PD building.

Activity's Report - by Donna KC0SKD - Scout leaders at the Eagle recognition banquet were interested in JOTA which will be the third weekend in October

VE Report by Rod KE0A -There are a few people who want to test but no one has specifically asked as of this time.

Repeater Report - Paul KA0CAF - The repeater is still working. Rod KE0A reported that John Vik KB0BSJ will check the .39 repeater as it is not working. We would like to use it for the sled dog race.



Sioux Club Report -Rod KE0A said there was a meeting but he did not attend.

Old Business

A. Red River Sled Dog Race. - by N0NGW - a signup sheet was passed around for those who wish to help with the race. They are expecting 19 or 21 teams this year. We will need someone in Halstad 24/7. Spotters will be needed in Frog Point part of the time but not 24/7 and we will need people in East Grand Forks from when the first dog arrives till the last one leaves. (Warm up in EGF will be in the basement of Whiteys. There will be space for HAM parking in Halstad and volunteers should wear their vests if they have them. Frog Point will have an 8X20 fish house with heat and electricity and leather chairs. Rod KE0A said that Halstad will have a pancake breakfast Saturday and Sunday and there will be live radio coverage of the race.

B. North Dakota QSO Party - Rod KE0A reported that the North Dakota QSO Party will be March 21 - 22. Also N1MM has a free logging program.

C. Suspense File - John KA0SVY reported that the suspense file has been updated and to let him know if anything needs to be added.

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DATES OF INTEREST

March 2009	
28	Mid Winter Madness, Robbinsdale, MN
28	CQ WPX SSB
31	Club Meeting
April 2009	
18	Fargo Hamfest
28	Club Meeting
May 2009	
15-19	Dayton Hamvention
26	Club Meeting
June 2009	
27-28	Field Day
30	Club Meeting
July 2009	
10-12	Peace Garden Hamfest
28	Club Meeting
August 2009	
25	Club Meeting
September 2009	
29	Club Meeting
October 2009	
3	Grand Forks Hamfest
27	Club Meeting

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FIELD DAY 2009

T-SHIRTS

PINS

**Now on sale at the
ARRL
Be ready
for Field Day**

Order yours today

RED RIVER SLED DOG DERBY Gerry NONGW

Communications Specialists:

Gerry Nies NONGW; Jeff Matson KDOBTT; Jim Watt KC0XW; Charlie Hofferber KI0LS; Donna Schaffer KC0SKD; Neil Woolsey KC0REN; Jerry Moran KC0GWK; Larry Holm KI0W; Sarah Chelliah KC0TIZ; Gary Garritson KC0JPP; Dick Wright KA0HDN; Noah Chelliah KC0SKE; Steve Dufault KB0QQE; Rod Klug KE0A; John Schaffer KA0SVY; Mike Heiler KA0ZLG; Toni Haddanuff W0IVA; John Vik KB0BSJ; Alex Archer KC0REL

The Derby:

Planning, preparation and ham radio skills all contributed to the success of the Red River Sled Dog Derby. The race was from Halstad, MN to a checkpoint at Frog Point/Belmont Park to the turnaround in East Grand Forks (EGF) Lafave Park, back to Frog Point and finish in Halstad. Each of the 20 teams could have up to 12 dogs. The rules required a minimum of 8 hours accumulated rest time plus the time differential to compensate for the staggered start. The race was on the Red River of the North and covered 150 river miles.

The morning dawned cold and clear. The excitement was evident with chatter on the radio; getting the repeater warmed up for the next 20 hours. Rod KE0A, Larry KI0W, and John KA0SVY were on the road to Halstad as they reconfirmed the repeater coverage

in preparation for the event. Jeff KDOBTT and Gerry NONGW were not far behind.

Rod KE0A, Larry KI0W, John KA0SVY, Jeff KDOBTT, and Gerry NONGW arrived at the Halstad Legion Recreation Center and started setup for round the clock support of the race. The ham station location was determined and radios were moved into the building. A 2 meter beam on 30' of mast was pointed toward John KB0BSJ's repeater in East Grand Forks and the coax was run. After trying the radio and tweaking the direction the beam was pointing it was found to be full quieting into the repeater. OK, everything was ready for this part of the event. A vertical for HF operation was set up if it got quiet, additional coax was run but, there was no time to try it; there would be time for that later. Rod KE0A and John KA0SVY worked net control in Halstad all day until relieved.

It was getting close to the start of the race so the hams went out to see the first teams off; that was what this was really all about. The national anthem was sung but nearly drowned out by the 240 dogs who were barking that they wanted to start the race.

The first team was in the chute the dogs were barking, jumping and tugging at their harnesses. 3, 2, 1, GO! The team went quiet and lunged out of the gate. They headed across the snow and disappeared over the dike. Another team was lined up and took off and then Larry, Jeff, and

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Gerry took off to setup the Frog Point checkpoint station.

At Frog Point a large fish house was used for the shack, a luxury, it was heated and had 110v. This was not just operating out of a car like last year. A folding J-Pole was attached to 30 feet of mast and the mast was secured to the fish house and tied off. Coax was run but, where would the coax get into the house? This was a fish house so we had lots of choices; it was just a matter of which hole we would run it through. When checking the radio it was found that it was solid into EGF and Halstad. Everyone could exhale, all the planning had fallen into place.

Jeff KDOBTT checked out his spotting point from where he would let the Frog Point operators know that the dogs were on the way. Jim KCOXW was also at Jeff's spotting point until the first set of mushers passed and then returned to Grand Forks to prepare for the evening Lincoln Park assignment. Dick KA0HDN would do the first shift; Gary KCOJPP would be there for a while. The station would report arrival and departure times to Halstad. The times were relayed to Halstad where they were calculated and reported back to Frog Point on the return leg letting the organizers know how much time each team would have to take before they could leave on the final leg. Sarah Chelliah KC0TIZ, Noah Chelliah KC0SKE, and Alex KC0REL, were relieved by Larry KI0W and later Steve KB0QQE for the overnight

and morning at Frog Point for the teams returning. They started coming in about midnight with Jeff KDOBTT spotting for the teams on the return to Frog Point checkpoint. Donna KC0SKD was at East Grand Forks, Lafave Park where she operated for 12+ hours with Patsy Nies, Neil KC0REN, and Jerry KC0GWK. They relayed reports from Charlie KI0LS or Jim KCOXW of teams passing at Lincoln Park. They also reported departure times from East Grand Forks. Jim KCOXW and Charlie KI0LS joined Donna KC0SKD in her car after they had finished spotting at Lincoln Park. Beside the time reports the race officials used hams for other race communication.

Taking times and relaying them to the computer guys during the night at Halstad were Mike KA0ZLG; and Toni WOIVA. They were eventually relieved by Rod KE0A and John KA0SVY. Gerry N0NGW was the spotter for teams coming in to Halstad.

There was a great deal more traffic when you have 20 teams versus the 3 that were there last year. The race committee acknowledged the key role that ham radio had to the race with a medallion presented at the race banquet. Without ham radio there would not have been a good way of communicating all of the times needed for the race as well as help indicating location of the teams. Visit the Red River Sled Dog Derby web site at www.redriversleddogderby.com/ for more information on the race.



(l-r) Larry KI0W, Rod KE0A, Gerry N0NGW and the web master at Halstad, MN net control (photo by John KA0SVY)



(l-r) Larry KI0W, Jeff KD0BTT, Rod KE0A, Gerry N0NGW at the beginning of the derby (photo by John KA0SVY)



(l-r) Gerry N0NGW, Jeff KD0BTT, Larry KI0W setting up the J-pole and station at Frog Point Checkpoint (photo by Jim KC0XW)



Two mushers racing north to the Frog Point Checkpoint (photo by Jim KC0XW)

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The North Dakota QSO Party will be on March 21st and 22nd, 2009 and you will see the information by going to the website of www.k0ln.com. The contest this year is 8 hours in length so everyone should get in on the fun. The QSO party starts at 1700Z or 12 Noon on Saturday and goes until 0100Z or 8 PM on Saturday evening.

Ken Muggli, K0HL is organizing a get together for Hams, CB'ers, SWL's, and professional telegraphers. He is calling the event "RADIO FOR THE SAKE OF RADIO". In the immediate area there are several ex professional telegraphers who are for the most part ex RR telegraphers. It would be fun and interesting to visit with these gentlemen. The focus of the event will be sharing good conversation among folks with an interest in radio and will not be a Hamfest. Ken has made arrangements with a local restaurant to provide a meeting place and food. The gathering is April 4th, 2009, at 10:00 AM CDT in the Wilderness Cafe at Glen Ullin, ND.

*** TRAINING *** SKYWARN Training for Grand Forks County is April 2, 09, SKYWARN Training for Polk County is April 6, 09, SKYWARN Training for Ward County is April 21, 09, and SKYWARN Training for Burleigh County is April 28, 09.

*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

The Red River Radio Association Hamfest will be held April 18th, from 8 AM - 3PM at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds in Fargo. Go to www.rrra.org for more information. May 15th-19th, 09 is the Dayton Hamvention, Field Day 2009 is June 27th & 28th, Peace Garden Hamfest is July 11th & 12th, 09 and the Grand Forks Hamfest is October 3rd, 09. If you have any other events you want posted, send me an email.

February Net Report from Dave-K8BBB, ARRL ND Net Manager: Goose River Net on 160 Meters- 4 Sessions, 53 Check-ins & 1 Message passed, ND CDO/WX Road Info- 44 Sessions, 858 Check-ins & 9 messages passed, DataNet on 75 Meters- 24 Sessions, 519 Check-ins & 7 Messages passed. The DataNet has returned to its normal time slot at 6:30 PM CDT, on 3937 kHz. CDO/WX will continue to be held at 12:30 PM CDT until the end of March, 09 Thanks to the crew for handling the extra sessions.

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE NORTH DAKOTA SECTION NEWS FOR THE LATEST NORTH DAKOTA BULLETINS AT www.arrl.org 73's Lynn - W0CQ

ARRL North Dakota Section
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WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY TO RECOGNIZE AMATEUR RADIO'S ROLE IN DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS

Each year on April 18, radio amateurs celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On that day in 1925, 84 years ago, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded <<http://www.iaru.org/>>. In 2009, the theme of the event is Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication.

"It is not by coincidence that last year's meeting of the IARU Administrative Council (AC) <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/26/10186/?nc=1>> chose this subject at this time," said IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communication Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS. "While the Amateur Radio Service has traditionally made its contributions to emergency and disaster response ever since its very beginnings almost 100 years ago, this role has gained a lot of importance just in the recent past."

Citing the fact that natural, as well as manmade disasters are on the rise, Zimmermann pointed out that today's modern communication technologies are "increasingly complex, infrastructure-dependent and therefore also increasingly vulnerable. The Amateur Radio Service puts two equally valuable

assets at its disposal for emergency and disaster prevention, preparedness and response: A large number of very flexible and mostly infrastructure-independent, local, national, regional and global networks, and a large number of skilled operators, who know how to communicate with often very limited means and to establish communications even under the most difficult circumstances."

Zimmermann said that the tools available to Amateur Radio operators "range from the most robust means such as battery-operated stations operating in Morse code, to links through Amateur Radio satellites and interconnectivity with the Internet, in voice, text, image and data modes. They range from local VHF networks of fixed, mobile and portable stations to shortwave networks that span the globe. All these networks are operated on a daily basis by men and women who are thoroughly familiar with their technology and their intricacies."

"Telecommunications have become a commodity that society takes for granted," Zimmermann stated, adding that "the sudden loss of that service is often felt in a similar way to the loss of shelter, food and medical support. When disasters occur in regions that do not have good coverage by public networks - or when existing communications infrastructures have just been disrupted or destroyed by such

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events -- the Amateur Radio Service comes to the rescue. Amateur Radio operators provide communications for the rescuers and relief workers and their organizations and they help to provide communications for those affected by a disaster."

Zimmermann continued: "In fact, contributions to emergency and disaster relief are a major argument for the preservation and the extension of the privileges the Amateur Radio Service enjoys in international and national regulations. This is one of the reasons why more and more

Amateur Radio operators -- through their clubs and their national societies -- prepare very seriously for their role in emergencies; however, their skills can be put to use only if they are known by other first responders. Effective response to emergencies can only occur with the work of volunteers in all the various fields, from search and rescue to medical assistance and those who can provide food and shelter. Communication skills are a new, but equally vital commodity."

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TRIVIA

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

WHAT DOES THE SILVER BAND ON A RESISTOR INDICATE?

February's trivia question was:

TRANSISTORS ARE USUALLY DRIVEN BY WHAT TWO VOLTAGES?

And the answer is:

BIASING AND SIGNAL

This may be found on page 6.23 of *The ARRL Handbook 2006*