

# FEEDLINE

APRIL 2009

**SATURDAY MORNING  
COFFEE/BREAKFAST  
NOW MEETING AT  
NORTHSIDE CAFÉ  
3450 GATEWAY DRIVE**

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**SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING  
SESSIONS  
ARE BEING RESCHEDULED FOR  
MAY 2009  
CHECK INTO THE MONDAY NIGHT NET  
OR  
CHECK OUT THE NWS  
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/fgf/?n=skywarn>  
FOR NEW DATES/ TIMES**

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.

Permission is hereby granted to copy any original article published in this newsletter, provided the source is credited.

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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

**March 31, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Larry KI0W

There were 11 members and 0 guests present

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

Treasurer's Report - By Karen N0TKP was accepted

ARES/EC - by Gerry N0NGW - At this time we are on hold waiting to be called if needed. Skywarn training has been postponed till after 25 April.

Activity's Report - by John KA0SVY for Donna KC0SKD - A list of possible places for Saturday morning breakfast was presented. It was decided to have breakfast at the North Side Cafe this coming Saturday.

VE Report by Rod KE0A - Nothing coming up

Repeater Report - Paul KA0CAF - Nothing to report.

Sioux Club Report - No report

Old Business

A. Red River Sled Dog Race. - by N0NGW - The main debriefing has not been held yet but the



organization was pleased with the Hams. We received a medallion for our participation. We then discussed the race in general, what our part was, and what we could do better. We could use more bodies.

B. North Dakota QSO Party - Rod KE0A said it was an 8 hour contest and lots of fun.

C. Suspense File - John KA0SVY reported that we need to pay for the web site and asked where it should be noted in the suspense file. It will be noted in November. Motion by Gerry N0NGW 2nd by Jim KC0XW to pay for the next two years of service at \$2.00 a month; the motion passed and a check was cut for \$48.00 to be sent to Mike Schlieman KB0UYW.

New Business

A. Fargo Hamfest April 18, 2009 - Hope the waters will recede enough to hold it.

B. Field Day June 27-28 - Committee - Rod KE0A, Jim KC0XW, Larry KI0W, John KA0SVY and Gerry N0NGW

C. Nominating Committee - Dick KA0HDN and Gerry N0NGW

D. FORX ARC Hamfest - Karen N0TKP intends to be done at noon and asked if that was a problem with the VE testing. Decided there is no problem with that.

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## DATES OF INTEREST

April 2009	
28	Club Meeting
May 2009	
2	10-10 CW & Digital Contest
15-19	Dayton Hamvention
26	Club Meeting
30	CQ WPX CW Contest
June 2009	
13	ARRL VHF QSO Party
27-28	Field Day
30	Club Meeting
July 2009	
10-12	Peace Garden Hamfest
28	Club Meeting
August 2009	
1	Fargo Hamfest
25	Club Meeting
September 2009	
29	Club Meeting
October 2009	
3	Grand Forks Hamfest
27	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(+)**

## GET READY FOR ARRL FIELD DAY 2009

The official 2009 ARRL Field Day Web page is up and running <<http://www.arrl.org/FieldDay>>.

This page includes a summary of available resources, with links to Field Day forms and rules, logos and reference links. The page also includes a quick link to the map-based Field Day Station Locator where users can search for public Field Day sites. "Field Day is the largest on-the-air operating event," said ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The event draws tens of thousands of radio amateurs to the airwaves over a single weekend." This year, Field Day is June 27-28. According to Henderson, it has become a tradition to create a new logo each year to commemorate Field Day: "This year's logo evokes a sense of the 'great outdoors' in camp-like fashion. We hope the logo inspires even more participants to get active, get outdoors and get on-the-air." This year's logo was designed by ARRL Graphic Arts Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, and Senior Technical Illustrator David Pingree, N1NAS. The Field Day page also includes a link for ordering commemorative Field Day T-shirts, hats, pins and other supplies. All of the items are available for ordering now; many of the items are already in stock. Radio clubs are encouraged to order early.

The ARRL Letter  
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March 27, 2009

## FIELD DAY STATION LOCATOR SERVICE RETURNING FOR 2009

First introduced in 2008, the ARRL's Field Day Station Locator Service was a popular addition to the Field Day toolbox. This service -- an interactive map that helps amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>> site near them -- is free to clubs or individuals who will be operating public Field Day stations. Stations can also be listed by state or province. If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started -- just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site and follow the instructions

<<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>>. ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. On June 27-28, join tens of thousands of Amateur Radio operators as they gather for a public demonstration of our Service.

The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 28, No. 8  
February 27, 2009

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The next club meeting will be  
1930L, April 28, 2009

The meeting was adjourned at  
8:13PM

# **MONTHLY NORTH DAKOTA SECTION NEWS SUMMARY APRIL 16, 2009**

Welcome to the North Dakota ARRL Section News. Spring is here and many parts of North Dakota are fighting floods. A big thank you to all hams that have helped out in different parts of the state to save family homes and businesses. The RRRR Radio Club in Fargo should be commended for the outstanding Amateur Radio support under the direction of club president, Mark Johnson, along with his fellow club members. The Fargo Forum printed headline news describing the outstanding support of the local amateur radio operators. Great Job RRRR!!!

>> Scott Rausch, WA0VKC, of Piedmont, has been appointed Section Manager of the ARRL South Dakota Section starting April 7. He will serve the balance of the term of Rich Beebe, N0PV; Beebe passed away on March 16. According to the Rules and Regulations of the Field Organization, when a vacancy in the office of Section Manager occurs between elections, the position is filled by appointment. Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, in consultation with Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, K0QB, made the appointment effective Tuesday, April 7. Rausch has served as a South Dakota Assistant Section Manager since 2003; he is also an Emergency

Coordinator and an Official Emergency Station within the Field Organization. His term of appointment as Section Manager continues through March 31, 2010.

\*\*\* TRAINING \*\*\* Skywarn Training for much of the state was cancelled due to the flood emergencies. Keep watching for more updates on the new schedule for Skywarn training. SKYWARN Training for Burleigh County is still on for April 28, 09.

\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\* The Red River Radio Association Hamfest was cancelled for the weekend of April 18th and reschedule for August 1st, 2009. Go to [www.rrra.org](http://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.

March Net Report from Dave-K8BBM, ARRL ND Net Manager: Goose River Net on 160 Meters- 5 Sessions, 55 Check-ins & 2 Message passed, ND CDO/WX Road Info- 52 Sessions, 967 Check-ins & 13 messages passed, DataNet- 31 Sessions, 827 Check-ins & 10 Messages passed. The noontime session of the CDO/WX net will cease April 13th. CDO net

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meets Monday-Saturday on 3937 kHz at 8:30 AM CDT and the DataNet meets daily on 3937 kHz at 6:30 pm CDT. Thanks to the crew of volunteers who have called net.

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE NORTH DAKOTA SECTION NEWS FOR THE LATEST NORTH DAKOTA BULLETINS AT [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) 73's Lynn - W0CQ

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ARRL North Dakota Section  
Section Manager: Lynn A. Nelson,  
W0CQ  
[w0cq@arrl.org](mailto:w0cq@arrl.org)  
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## NEW ARRL ADVANCED EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COURSE IN THE WORKS

Over the past several months, ARRL staff has been reviewing the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications online course program

<<http://www.arrl.org/cep/>> and have decided to combine two of the three Emergency Communications courses. According to ARRL Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, the review included a critical examination of the course content, as well as

methods of course delivery and interrelationships with government organizations. Johnson said that the decision was made to revise the Level 3 course to become a new Advanced Emergency Communications Course; this, she said, will replace both the current Level 2 and Level 3 courses. The new advanced course is set to be released during the last quarter of 2009.

"Our aim is to develop professional level courses which are widely accepted by other organizations for the emergency communication component of Amateur Radio," she said. "We are investigating requirements that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is currently putting in place for approved courses, as well as other possibilities to develop emergency communications training that meets the emerging training needs surrounding emergency communications."

Students who have previously taken the Level 2 course will need to have the new advanced course to complete the current Amateur Radio Emergency Communications training program, Johnson explained. "Those who have completed the Level 1 course may progress directly to the advanced course when it is made available; this new course contains content

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formerly included in the former Level 2 and 3 courses." Johnson said that there are no current plans to change the Basic Level 1 course and that that course will continue to be offered in its current format.

With the combining of the Level 2 and 3 courses, Johnson said that anyone who had signed up for the Level 2 course set to begin April 17 may apply for a refund. Any scheduled field instruction of the Level 2 content, as well as Level 2 exam sessions, will also be suspended. "We will honor exam sessions that have been previously scheduled and award Level 2 certificates for any exams successfully completed up to May 31," she said.

"Our training program mandate is to provide the training that ham radio communicators need to be prepared to serve our communities in time of communications emergencies," Johnson explained. "This consolidation of program content will streamline the delivery of the training and apply volunteer and administrative support resources more effectively."

The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 28, No. 14  
April 9, 2009

## **US COAST GUARD TO DISCONTINUE LORAN STATIONS**

Last month, the US Coast Guard <<http://www.uscg.mil/>> announced that due to economic conditions, they would be closing down the 24 LORAN-C (Long Range Aid to Navigation)

<<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/loran/default.htm>>

stations operated under the auspices of the USCG. LORAN stations provide navigation, location and timing services for both civil and military air, land and marine users. According to the USCG, LORAN-C is approved as an en route supplemental air navigation system for both Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) and Visual Flight Rule (VFR) operations. The LORAN-C system serves the 48 continental states, their coastal areas and parts of Alaska.

LORAN-A stations were developed beginning in World War II, and signals were transmitted on frequencies in and around our present-day 160 meter band. LORAN-A was responsible for reduced amateur radio operations, including frequency and power limitations, on 160 meters in the United States. In 1979, the Coast Guard phased out the LORAN-A stations; they were replaced by LORAN-C stations. The newer stations operated on 100 kHz, enabling the restrictions on the 160 meter amateur band due to LORAN functions, to be dropped.

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According to the Coast Guard, the nation's oldest continuous sea-going service will continue to operate the current LORAN-C system through the end of fiscal year 2009; it is in the process of preparing detailed plans for implementing the fiscal year 2010 budget. According to USCG Vice Commandant and Chief Operating Officer Vice Admiral V. S. Crea, further details of the LORAN-C termination plan will be available upon the submission of the President's full budget. -- Some information provided by Cliff Appel, W7CGA

The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 28, No. 10  
March 13, 2009

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**FCC CLARIFIES WHAT  
CONSTITUTES AN  
AMATEUR RADIO  
REPEATER**

In December 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, President of the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA), filed a Petition with the FCC, asking for the Commission to clarify the definition of a repeater. According to Part 97, Section 3(a) (39), a repeater in the amateur service is "[a]n amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur

station on a different channel or channels."

Mitchell sought clarification on the word "simultaneously," asking if it referred to the signal information being retransmitted, or to the fact that the receiver and transmitter must both be active at the same time while acting on the same signal information. On March 23, 2009, the Commission clarified that even if there is a slight delay between what is received and what it transmits (as in the case of D-STAR and other digital repeaters), it is considered simultaneous if the receiver and transmitter are both active at the same time.

Mitchell pointed out in his petition that while the Commission's Rules specify on which bands amateur repeaters may operate, "some amateur repeaters are operating on bands other than set forth in Section 97.205(b) with systems that are essentially voice repeater stations, but that digitize and retransmit the user's voice, on the theory that because there is a small delay in retransmitting the signal of another amateur station, the signal is not 'simultaneously' retransmitted and, therefore, the system is not a repeater."

In its reply, the Commission pointed out that prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as "[a]n amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other

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stations." This, the Commission told Mitchell, was revised to clarify "that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations." The Commission proposed to define a repeater as "[a]n amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels," but ultimately replaced "instantaneously" with "simultaneously" because commenters noted that there is always a small propagation delay through a repeater. As one commenter explained, "The word 'simultaneously' in this case means that the repeater is receiving and transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit."

To be able to repeat another station's transmission, the Commission said that a repeater "must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word 'simultaneously' in the definition is used to modify 'retransmit,' we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that 'simultaneously' as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the

receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time."

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March 27, 2009

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## **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]**

## **FCC PROPOSES NEW RULES FOR MEDICAL DEVICES OPERATING ON 70 CM BAND**

On March 20, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)

<[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf)>, proposing to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to the Commission, these devices, called implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

The FCC said that several proponents claim that this technology "could revolutionize medical treatment and therapy for millions of people living with brain and spinal cord injuries and neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, polio, cerebral palsy and ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often referred to as 'Lou Gehrig's Disease'), as well as numerous other neurological disorders. It could be used in conjunction with next-generation prosthetic limbs to provide wireless

sensation and control to the prostheses. Of particular note, this technology can provide an important tool in the medical treatment and care of numerous US soldiers who suffered spinal cord, brain and other serious injuries in Iraq, Afghanistan and other missions abroad."

Last month, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met with officials of the Alfred Mann Foundation, developers of the implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, to discuss ARRL concerns with the NPRM. Imlay and Price both came away satisfied that the project should have little, if any, impact on Amateur Radio operators. "There are redundant layers of interference rejection mechanisms built into the product that should protect its users from being impacted by strong Amateur Radio signals," Price said. "The very low power output of these devices should have no impact on the Amateur Radio Service. The ARRL Executive Committee will monitor this filing and take action as appropriate."

The FCC is seeking comments on the feasibility of allowing up to 20 MHz of spectrum in the 413-457 MHz band to be used under the Medical Device Radiocommunication Service (MedRadio Service, formerly the Medical Implant Communications

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Service [MICS]) in Part 95 of the Commission's rules, and seeks comments on the allocation of four specific segments for this purpose: 413-419 MHz, 426-432 MHz, 438-444 MHz and 451-457 MHz. The Commission also seeks comments on the prospective service and technical rules that would govern MMN operations, such as transmitter power, emission bandwidth, duty cycle, contention

protocols, and other operating specifications that generally comport with the framework of the existing MedRadio Service.

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## TRIVIA

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

WHAT DOES A SILVER BAND ON A CAPACITOR INDICATE?

March's trivia question was:

WHAT DOES THE SILVER BAND ON A RESISTOR INDICATE?

And the answer is:

$\pm 10\%$  TOLERANCE

This may be found on page 7.2 of *THE ARRL HANDBOOK 2006*