

FEEDLINE

MAY 2009

SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING

MAY 21, 2009
GRAND FORKS
BASEMENT
POLICE DEPARTMENT
6:30 – 9:30 PM

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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

April 28, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Larry KI0W at 7:30 PM

There were 15 members and 1 guests present

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

The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - By Karen N0TKP were approved

ARES/EC - by Gerry N0NGW - Skywarn training will be May 21, 2009 at 6:30 PM in Grand Forks EOC. It is time to start carrying the pagers (turned on). We will try to get training at NWS. Info will be given on the Monday night nets.

Activity's Report - by Donna KC0SKD -The ARRL will be sending stuff for field day. This year there will be a picnic.

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 Nancy K9DIG - Next year the race will be the last Saturday in



February. There will be a 20 team limit. The Ham coverage was terrific. Gerry N0NGW stated that he and Rod KE0A were at the race meeting and the organization is doing a good job.

B. Field Day - Rod KE0A suggested that the committee should have a meeting. it was decided to have the meeting at Nancy K9DIG on May 6 at 7 PM. Nancy K9DIG has contacted the people about the site and is awaiting word on that.

C. Hamfest - Karen N0TKP said the Hamfest will be October 3 from 8:30 till noon. There will be breakfast. Club members should be there at 8am. She also suggested that the new treasurer be on the Hamfest committee.

D. Nominating Committee - Gerry N0NGW and Dick KA0HDN came up with the following slate of nominations:

President - Karen N0TKP, Vice President - Jerry KC0GKW, Secretary - John KA0SVY, Treasurer - Nancy K9DIG and Activities Director - Donna KC0SKD; Elections will be held at the next meeting at which time nominations will be open.

New Business

A. Fargo Hamfest April 18, 2009 - Rescheduled August 1, 2009

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DATES OF INTEREST

May 2009	
21	SKYWARN Training – GF EOC
26	Club Meeting
30	CQ WPX CW Contest
June 2009	
6	Crystal, MN Hamfest
13	ARRL VHF QSO Party
20	Kid's Day
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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FORX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETINGS

**Last Tuesday
Every Month
7:30 PM**

**Basement of
Altru Hospital
Meeting Room E
(next to cafeteria)**

**[Please note that operation of
radios and cellular phones
anywhere within Altru Hospital
is prohibited]**

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B. Nancy K9DIG reported that the club website needs to be updated. Meeting times and places are wrong. Rod KE0A reported that a bogus contest had been entered. Discussion was held on how to correct the site.

C. Jerry KC0GWK suggested that we get a list of all the hams in the area and contact them with an invite to the meetings. Gerry N0NGW suggested we call those that have a phone and send a letter to the rest. Rod KE0A suggested we work it around our picnic. Gerry N0NGW will get the list of the Grand Forks area hams and Jeff KD0BTT will get a list of East Grand Forks and area hams. The lists will be screened by the executive committee.

D. Larry KI0W said the ARRL is having a Webinar this Saturday concerning ham radio clubs. Donna KC0SKD explained how to get the website.

E. Larry KI0W stated that we need to renew the callsign N0GF. Motion by Donna KC0SKD 2nd by Rod KE0A to pay \$17.50 for the renewal Passed Also the addresses will be updated on the renewal form.

F. Larry KI0W said we need a committee to audit the books before the new treasurer takes over. Gerry N0NGW moved 2nd by Donna KC0SKD to purchase a

copy of Quick Books for the club. Passed

G. John KA0SVY reported that we can get a free handbook from ARRL if we send in 5 new renewal memberships by May 2, 2009.

The next club meeting will be 1930L, May 26, 2009

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

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

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

SCIENTISTS PREDICT SOLAR CYCLE 24 TO PEAK IN 2013

At the annual Space Weather Workshop held in Boulder, Colorado last month <<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/sww/index.html>>, an international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) predicted that Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots per day on average. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since Solar Cycle 16, which peaked with 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began.

The panel predicted that the lowest sunspot number between cycles – the solar minimum -- occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Solar Cycle 23 and the start of Solar Cycle 24. If December's prediction holds up <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/01/07/100/>>, at 12 years and seven months Solar Cycle 23 will be the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum.

An unusually long, deep lull in sunspots led the panel to revise its 2007 prediction that the next cycle of solar storms would start in March 2008 and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. The persistence of a quiet sun also led the panel to a consensus that Solar Cycle 24 will

be what they called "moderately weak."

Although the peak is still four years away, a new active period of Earth-threatening solar storms will be the weakest since 1928. Despite the prediction, the scientists said that Earth is still vulnerable to a severe solar storm. Solar storms are eruptions of energy and matter that escape from the Sun and may head toward Earth, where even a weak storm can damage satellites and power grids, disrupting communications, the electric power supply and GPS. A single strong blast of "solar wind" can threaten national security, transportation, financial services and other essential functions.

The most common measure of a solar cycle's intensity is the number of sunspots -- Earth-sized blotches on the sun marking areas of heightened magnetic activity. The more sunspots there are, the more likely it is that solar storms will occur, but a major storm can occur at any time.

"As with hurricanes, whether a cycle is active or weak refers to the number of storms, but everyone needs to remember it only takes one powerful storm to cause huge problems," said NOAA scientist Doug Biesecker, who chaired the panel. "The strongest solar storm on record occurred in 1859 during

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another below-average cycle." The 1859 storm shorted out telegraph wires, causing fires in North America and Europe and sent readings of Earth's magnetic field soaring. It also produced northern lights so bright that people read newspapers by their light, he said.

Biesecker cited a recent report by the National Academy of Sciences that found if a storm that severe occurred today, it could cause \$1-2 trillion in damages the first year and require four to 10 years for recovery, compared to the \$80-125 billion of damage that resulted from Hurricane Katrina <http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12507&type=pdfxsum>.

The Space Weather Prediction Center is part of the National Weather Service and is one of the nine National Centers for Environmental Prediction. It is the nation's official source of space weather alerts, watches and warnings. SWPC provides real-time monitoring and forecasting of solar and geophysical events that impact satellites, power grids, communications, navigation and many other technological systems.

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Vol. 28, No. 19
May 15, 2009

ARRL DXCC DESK APPROVES TWO 2009 OPERATIONS

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that two 2009 operations have been approved for DXCC credit: Western Sahara (S04R) and North Cook Island (E51QQQ). "If you had cards that were recently rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org> and you will be placed on the list for update," Moore said.

The ARRL Letter
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May 1, 2009

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HOUSTON REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCES AMATEUR RADIO BILL IN CONGRESS

On Wednesday, April 29, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) introduced HR 2160 -- the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009" -- in the US House of Representatives. This bill, if passed, would "promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response." The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bill&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf>.

If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of

Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. The study shall:

- * Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.

- * Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.

- * Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications -- such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations -- and make recommendations regarding such impediments.

- * Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat 56 [1996]).

- * Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas.

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The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of the ARRL and shall seek information from private and public sectors for the study.

The bill currently has five co-sponsors: Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) and Bennie Thompson (D-MS). Representative Thompson currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. Representatives Jackson-Lee, Lofgren and Kilroy are members of that committee.

"We understand that Representative Jackson-Lee was very impressed with the radio amateurs she encountered on a visit to an Emergency Operations Center in Houston during Hurricane Ike last September," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We are grateful to her and to the five original co-sponsors for their support of Amateur Radio and the encouragement that their bill offers."

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, concurred: "We are excited to have Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee introduce HR 2160. It is extremely encouraging to have the support of a number of original co-sponsors -- including several members of the House Homeland Security Committee -- who

recognize the importance of Amateur Radio's long history of public service."

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Vol. 28, No. 17
May 1, 2009

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SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING

**MAY 26, 2009
FOSSTON, MN**

**MAY 27, 2009
FERTILE, MN**

FIELD DAY
JUNE 27-28, 2009

LOCATION:
Nancy K9DIG
QTH
1079 Harvest Lane NE
Thompson, ND

Talk-In:
146.940 (-)

**THE ARRL FIELD DAY LOCATOR SERVICE SHOWS A
MAP OF THE LOCATION**

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>

This page is reserved for your notes:



TRIVIA

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

WHAT DOES THE CODE “224” INDICATE ON A SURFACE MOUNT RESISTOR?

April’s trivia question was:

WHAT DOES A SILVER BAND ON A CAPACITOR INDICATE?

And the answer is:

2,000 Voltage Rating

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