

FEEDLINE

JUNE 2009



FIELD DAY
2009



JUNE
27-28
2009



**CHECK OUT THE [FIELD DAY LOCATOR](http://www.arrrl.org) AT
[WWW.ARRL.ORG](http://www.arrrl.org)
FOR A MAP TO K9DIG's QTH**

The **FEEDLINE** is the official journal of the *Forx Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*, P.O. 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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

May 26, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Larry KI0W at 7:34PM

There were 13 members and 0 guests present

Secretary's Report - The minutes from April were distributed by John KA0SVY. The minutes were approved with a correction

Treasurer's Report - By Karen N0TKP were approved

ARES/EC - by Gerry N0NGW - Thanks to all who attended Skywarn training. There were 19 attendees of which 10 were hams. Also, there will be training at NWS Thursday May 28, 2009 at 7:00PM. The digipeter on the State Mill has been taken down. Dave Poppe WA0VY is looking into this. Jeff KD0BTT offered to run APRS from his home temporarily

Activity's Report - by John KA0SVY - Donna KC0SKD says there will be a club picnic this summer in Riverside Park. Time to be scheduled later.

VE Report by Rod KE0A - Prepared to test when there is interest.

Repeater Report - Paul KA0CAF - Nothing to report. Everything working OK.



Sioux Club Report - No report

Old Business

A. Hamfest - Karen N0TKP reported that the banquet will be at the Speedway at 5:30PM. All else is the same.

B. Field Day - Rod KE0A - The first meeting was held at Nancy K9DIG with the next one to be held when she gets back from Hawaii. The idea for field day is to run off commercial power this year so we will be #D. The red trailer will be parked under the tower at Nancy K9DIG's and use her beam, Digital will use a dipole and CW will use a vertical. Jim KC0XW said that to find where we will be located to go to the ARRL website. Click on Field Day Locator, and then FORX ARC and it will show the location. We are looking for linoleum for the CW trailer to replace the torn up stuff. Rod KE0A said he will measure and purchase what is needed.

C. - Audit Committee - It was suggested that the Field Day committee do the audit after its next meeting.

New Business

A. Webinar - John KA0SVY gave a rundown of the ARRL Webinar presentation on Amateur Radio Clubs.

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DATES OF INTEREST

June 2009	
27-28	Field Day
30	Club Meeting
July 2009	
10-12	Peace Garden Hamfest
11	IARU HF World Championship – SSB
18	NA RTTY QSO Party
18	Brainerd, MN Hamfest
25	St Paul, MN Hamfest
28	Club Meeting
August 2009	
1	Fargo Hamfest
1	ARRL UHF Contest
25	Club Meeting
September 2009	
29	Club Meeting
October 2009	
3	Grand Forks Hamfest
10	Potato Bowl Parade
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)
Come early for
informal discussions
prior to the meeting**

**[Please Note: Use of radios
within Altru Hospital is
prohibited]**

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7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."

8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.

9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.

10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 21
May 29, 2009

FIELD DAY

JUNE 27-28, 2009

LOCATION

**Nancy K9DIG's QTH
1079 Harvest Lane NE
Thompson, ND**

Talk-In:

146.940 (-)

SEE

YOU

THERE!!

A TALE OF TWO TUBES

By Dan Romnanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago, I worked N4QR on 40m CW. I could tell by the tone of his signal that he was operating a homebrew transmitter. There wasn't any 60 Hz on his signal, and it didn't chirp exactly, but I could tell it wasn't the pure tone you get out of today's radios.

I asked him about his rig, and he told me that it was a one-tube transmitter made with a 6L6. I forgot to ask him where he got the schematic, but a quick Internet search turned up the following:

* The May 2005 issue of the K9YA Telegraph (<http://www.k9ya.org>) has an article written by N4QR titled, "The Wonderful One-Tuber," that contains the schematic for the transmitter. The K9YA folks don't make issues of The Telegraph available on their website, but I was able to get a copy of the issue by e-mailing them.

* A 6L6 Classic (<http://www.io.com/~nielw/6l6/6L6.htm>)

* WB2MIC 6L6 Transmitter Project (http://www.metaphoria.us/hamradio/6L6_transmitter_schematic.htm)

The 6L6 is a pentode that, according to Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6L6>), was introduced by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in July 1936. Apparently, it was used

quite a bit in public address systems.

After the tube became successful, tube manufacturers introduced a number of variations, including the venerable 807. The original 6L6 was capable of delivering 19 W; the latest variation, the 6L6GC is rated for 30 W. The 6L6GC is still used in guitar amps, and is still manufactured in Russia, China, and by Groove Tubes (www.groovetubes.com) in the U.S. They sell a number of different 6L6 variants; the cheapest is \$16, the most expensive \$180!!

Tube #2

One of the reasons I was interested in the 6L6 is because about a year ago I came across a schematic for a transmitter using 6A6 dual triode. I had just come into possession of a couple hundred tubes, and while I didn't have a 6A6 (at least I haven't found one yet), I do have a couple of 6J6 dual triodes. They're not quite as high power as the 6A6, but I'm still thinking about building a little transmitter with one.

As you might expect, there's a bunch of information on the Internet about this tube:

* The Jones Push-Pull Transmitter (http://wv7g.home.mindspring.com/jones_6j6.html) was built with a 6J6 instead of a 6A6.

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* Another schematic can be found on the AK0B website (<http://www.qsl.net/ak0b/>).

* 6J6 data sheet (http://www.gargnas.net:3000/tube_data/6J6.pdf) from the GE data book.

One interesting fact about the 6J6 is that IBM used it in the 604 computer. Unfortunately, they found it to be not as reliable as they wanted it to be, but at first none of the tube manufacturers were interested in making a more robust version. This led IBM to set up a tube-making laboratory where they could experiment with designs. They developed a more reliable version of the 6J6 and finally convinced RCA to manufacture the tube. According to the author of the history of the 604 (<http://ed-thelen.org/comp-hist/IBM-604.html#new>), part of the concern is that IBM would decide to get into the tube business.

So, the next time you hear a signal that doesn't sound so perfect, remember that there just might be a story behind it. Ask the op about his transmitter, and listen to what he or she has to say.

When not pondering the mysteries of vacuum tube part numbers, KB6NU teaches ham classes, works CW on the HF bands, and blogs about ham radio at <http://www.kb6nu.com>.

North Dakota Section News Summary June 17, 2009

Welcome to the North Dakota ARRL Section News for May 2009. Summer is finally here and we are starting to use our Skywarn training for real life thunderstorm activity.

The ND QSO Party final results were posted with Plaques being awarded. The North Dakota Fixed Station Winner was KE0A, Rod Klug, from Grand Forks, ND, the North Dakota Mobile Station Winner was W0AA, Mark Endorf, from Ham Lake, MN and the ND QSO Party (Out Of State) Winner was NT2A, Gennady Moshkov from New York. The ND Fixed Station certificates will be awarded to K0ALV, K0DLW, K0JIM, K0ND, KA0SVY, KE0A, KI0QS, W0TF, and WB0VHW. Go to w0cq.com to see the results of the ND QSO Party and a list of net participants for the ND Nets.

*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***
Field Day 2009 is scheduled for June 27th & 28th and again there is a contest to see which club in North Dakota can make the most contacts. We will use the total score that is submitted to ARRL to award the winning club for the coveted "Top Gun of 2009".

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The Field Day locations as I received the information: Central Dakota ARC will be at the Tom O'Leary Sledding Hill Warming House in Bismarck. The Red River Radio Association will be at the Inter Community Telephone Company building in Wheatland, ND and is an old military Autovon location. The FORX ARC using the call N0GF will be at Nancy Yoshida's (K9DIG) location at 1079 Harvest Lane NE, Thompson, ND. The Souris Valley ARC will be operating just south of the Dakota Square Mall in south Minot. The Teddy Roosevelt ARC from will be operating from the Dickinson Trap Club.

The Peace Garden Hamfest is on July 11th & 12th in the beautiful Peace Gardens of North Dakota. The lodge was previously booked so this year the Hamfest will be on the Soccer Field or as we know it, the Hamfest main camping area. The Peace Garden Staff will be providing a large tent that will be the hub for all activities. A little different setting but the same ham radio friends and family.

The Red River Radio Association Hamfest is scheduled for August 1st, 2009. Go to www.rrra.org for more information. The TRARC from Dickinson will be having their Annual Picnic on August 7th and 8th, and 9th, 2009. The Grand Forks Hamfest is October 3rd, 2009.

The "Radio for the Sake of Radio" group will meet on August 15th at 9:00 AM CDT at the Wilderness Cafe, Glen Ullin, and ND. For information contact KOHL Ken Muggli 701-348-9133 dakclock@beu.midco.net. Guest speakers Chip Unruh & Ken Muggli. This is not a club, no dues, no work assignments. All are welcome. Come and talk radio. Lots of fellowship and good conversation but it is not a Hamfest or swapmeet.

May Net Report from Dave-K8BBM, ARRL ND Net Manager: Goose River Net on 160 Meters- 5 Sessions, 52 Check-ins & 1 Message passed, ND CDO/WX Road Info- 26 Sessions, 653 Check-ins & 7 messages passed, DataNet- 31 Sessions, 678 Check-ins & 12 Messages passed. Thanks to our loyal Net Control Operators for running the nets!

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE NORTH DAKOTA SECTION NEWS FOR THE LATEST NORTH DAKOTA BULLETINS AT www.arrl.org Also, If you have any special announcements, feel free to email me w0cq@arrl.org 73's Lynn - W0CQ

ARRL North Dakota Section
Section Manager: Lynn A. Nelson,
W0CQ
w0cq@arrl.org

FCC LOOKS TO RAISE VANITY CALL SIGN FEES FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 14 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-126A1.pdf>. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$12.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$13.40 for 10 years, an increase of \$1.10. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.html>>.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/08/31/105/>> to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order). In 2007, the Commission lowered the fee from \$20.80 to \$11.70. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign

"payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$201,000 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal three years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

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The ARRL VEC <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/> will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the "ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page

<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>, while the "Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers

<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html> >. There is additional information on the ARRL VEC's "FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/renewals.html>.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ Web page <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/application-filing-faq.htm> >. The FCC's forms page

also offers the required forms <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.htm> >.

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May 22, 2009

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

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



TRIVIA

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

WHAT DOES THE CODE “R10” INDICATE
ON A SURFACE MOUNT RESISTOR?

May’s trivia question was:

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

And the answer is:

220,000 OHMS (22 PLUS 4 ZEROS)

This may be found on page 7.4 of *THE ARRL HANDBOOK 2006*