

# FEEDLINE

JANUARY 2010



**2010 Red River Dog Sled Derby**

**February 27-28, 2010**

**See page 7 for more information.**

**(Photo by Jim KCØXW of the 2009 Derby)**

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 5011(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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

There was no business meeting in December for the Forx Amateur Radio Club. Instead a Christmas Party was held at the Italian Moon Restaurant on December 29, 2009.

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## CHRISTMAS PARTY December 29, 2009

Thank you Donna KC0SKD for organizing another great evening for the club. Even though our reserved section at the Italian Moon Restaurant was unavailable due to construction plenty of room was made available to the group. From the very beginning of the evening to the end there were continuous drawings for door prizes. Many club members and their families showed up and enjoyed good conversation, great food, and prizes.

Each year the December meeting is held as a Christmas party for members and their families. No formal meeting is held. The next regular business meeting will be held on January 26, 2010.



## Have you paid your dues for 2010?

Article VI, Section 1 of the *BYLAWS* of the Forx Amateur Radio Club states:

**“The club, by two-thirds vote of those voting members present at any regular meeting, may levy upon the general membership such dues as shall be deemed necessary for the business of the organization within its objects as set forth in the Articles. If dues are not received within 60 days, membership shall lapse.”**

The Forx Amateur Radio Club has essentially only two sources for operating funds. The primary source is dues. The secondary source is the annual Hamfest. However, there is no guarantee that the Hamfest will produce additional funds for the club.

Dues that you pay provide a source of funding for club activities, which include Field Day, the annual Hamfest, postage for mailing the club newsletter, club liability insurance, etc. These funds also help in the maintenance and repair of the club's repeaters.

**February's issue will be your last issue of the *FEEDLINE* if your dues remain unpaid on March 1, 2010.**

## DATES OF INTEREST

January 2010

26 Club Meeting

February 2010

6 North American  
Sprint – CW

6 MN QSO Party

13 CQ WW RTTY  
WPX

13 North American  
Sprint – Phone

20 ARRL DX  
Contest – CW

23 Club Meeting

27 North American  
QSO Party –  
Digital

27 Bismarck  
Hamfest

27-28 Red River Sled  
Dog Derby

March 2010

20-21 ND QSO Party

30 Club Meeting

April 2010

27 Club Meeting

May 2010

25 Club Meeting

## GRAND FORKS

**MONDAY**

**NIGHT**

**NET**

**9:00 PM**

**146.940 (-)**

## CROOKSTON

**THURSDAY**

**NIGHT**

**NET**

**9:00 PM**

**147.120(+)**

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## Dues Renewal Form

All recipients of this issue will be receiving a dues form. Those that have paid their dues for 2010 know it. If you have not renewed yet, please do. If you know someone who would like to be a member of the club feel free to give them a copy of the form. Dues are due on the last day of February 2010. If on March 1 your dues remain unpaid you will be dropped from the mailing list.

## FCC SEEKS PUBLIC'S HELP IN REFORM EFFORT

According to its chairman, the Federal Communications Commission wants to change the way it is seen by the American public. In order to further that effort, on January 7, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski announced that the Commission had launched a new Web site -- Reboot.FCC.gov-- saying it is the first-ever Web site dedicated to soliciting public input on ways to improve citizen interaction with the FCC, "creating a forum where the public can participate in improving the FCC." Read more here <<http://www.arll.org/news/stories/2010/01/08/11281/?nc=1>>.

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## NCVEC RELEASES NEW TECHNICIAN CLASS QUESTION POOL

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) <<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=333>> of the National

Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC <<http://www.ncvec.org/>>) released the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool <<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=356>> on Monday, January 4. This new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010; it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will expire June 30, 2010. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination; it will contain graphics and diagrams, something new for this element. The current General class question pool <<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=350>> was effective July 1, 2007 and is valid through June 30, 2011. The current Amateur Extra class pool <<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=351>> was effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012.

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## 4U1 CALL SIGNS

By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

This past weekend when I was working the ARRL RTTY Round-Up <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2010/rtty.html>>, I came across a call sign that I had never seen before. But that's not what confused me (as I become more active on the air, I run across all sorts of interesting call signs, such as 3V8ST). No, what confused me was that the supercheck database <<http://www.supercheckpartial.com/>> and my logging program <<http://www.n1mm.com/>> told me that the call sign was located in the US. We all know that AA-AL, K, N and W are all US prefixes. Then why was 4U1WB showing up as being located in the US, too?

Upon assurances I was not going crazy -- and more importantly that the supercheck database and my logger were not broken -- I found out that 4U1WB <<http://www.qrz.com/db/4U1WB>> is a United Nations call sign assigned to the World Bank Amateur Radio Club at the World Bank in Washington, DC. There are four 4U1 call signs around the globe: 4U1WB; 4U1UN <<http://www.qrz.com/db/4u1un>>, assigned to the United Nations; 4U1ITU <<http://life.itu.ch/radioclub/>>, assigned to the International Amateur Radio Club at the International Telecommunication Union, and 4U1VIC <<http://www.qsl.net/>

<http://www.qsl.net/>, assigned to the Vienna International Radio Club at the Vienna International Centre.

In the past, the United Nations has issued 4U call signs to various entities, allowing its use in areas where the UN has had peacekeeping forces. In 1995, an operation from Western Sahara used 4U/KC0PA, while Burundi used 4U9U in 1994.

While 4U1UN and 4U1ITU count for credit toward the ARRL's DXCC award, 4U1WB and 4U1VIC do not. The DXCC rules define 4U1WB and 4U1VIC as "ineligible areas." These areas are classified as "extraterritorial legal entit[ies] of any nature, including, but not limited to, embassies, consulates, monuments, offices of the United Nations agencies or related organizations, other inter-governmental organizations or diplomatic missions." This rule also clarifies that these two stations are considered part of their "host entity" for DXCC purposes. This makes 4U1WB part of the US and 4U1VIC part of Austria for DXCC purposes.

For more on 4U1UN, be sure to check out the February issue of QST. So now when you see or hear a call sign come across the ether to your radio with a 4U1 prefix, don't be alarmed when you find out that the call sign is based in the United States. Now you know!

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January 7, 201

## WHAT SHOULD EVERY HAM KNOW HOW TO DO?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list, there was recently a discussion about using modulated CW on 2m. One fellow pointed out that MFJ sold a unit that would do this. When I pointed out that this box cost \$100 and that they could do exactly the same thing with the \$18 PicoKeyer from HamGadgets.Com, I got some flack that the PicoKeyer was a kit, and that some people might not be able to build it.

I pointed out that a couple of years ago our club held a construction night, and that several people who had never soldered before successfully completed the kit. I also pointed out that even if the ham didn't have the proper tools, he or she could purchase a soldering iron, needle-nose pliers, and diagonal cutters, in addition to the kit, for less than \$100.

I don't know if that convinced him, but it got me thinking about what a ham should be able to do. This is the list I've come up with so far:

1. Solder. Every ham should know how to solder a connection, and by extension, build small kits and cables. Over the course of one's ham career, this skill will save you a ton of time and money.

2. Build a dipole antenna. The dipole is the simplest and most versatile antenna. Knowing how to

build one and use one is an essential skill.

3. Check into a net. Net operation is one of the most basic operating skills.

4. Use a multimeter to measure voltage, current, and resistance and know what those measurements mean. This is the most basic skill used in troubleshooting, and at some point or another, you're going to have to troubleshoot something.

This list does, of course, imply that a ham is physically capable of doing them. I would not expect hams that are physically disabled to be able to do everything on this list.

After I posted this to my blog ([www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)), I got several good responses. Jeff said, "I believe hams should know how to install RF connectors, particularly the three most used in our hobby, the PL-259, the BNC, and the N connector." Blair, WB3AWI, replied, "Another thing that hams should know how to do is to measure the SWR of an antenna."

So, now I ask you, what do you think every ham should know how to do? Feel free to post a comment to my blog or e-mail me at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

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When not analyzing the abilities of amateurs, KB6NU pounds brass on nearly all the HF bands and teaches various ham radio classes in Ann Arbor, MI. You can read his other musings on our fine hobby at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).

## 2009 SEES SURGE OF NEW AMATEUR RADIO LICENSEES

This past year was a banner year for new Amateur Radio licensees. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, the FCC issued more than 30,000 new ham radio licenses. "In 2009, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions remained elevated and is still running at a higher rate than before the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007," Somma said. "This high level of exam session activity has produced an elevated influx of new applications, far outpacing recent years." A total of 30,144 new licenses were granted in 2009 – an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. In 2005, 16,368 new hams joined Amateur Radio's ranks; just five years later, that number had increased by almost 14,000 -- a whopping 84 percent! Read more here

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/01/06/11278/?nc=1>

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## MARS GETS NEW NAME AS IT FINE TUNES MISSION

On Wednesday, December 23, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued an Instruction concerning MARS, effective immediately. This Instruction gives the three MARS services -- Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps -- a new focus on homeland security and a new name: Military Auxiliary Radio System. The Instruction is the first major revision to MARS since January 26, 1988 -- as such, the first revision since the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina, two major events that changed the way Amateur Radio dealt with emergency communications. In the past, MARS had focused primarily on emergency communications and health and welfare support. The DoD's Instruction now directs the three MARS services to provide "contingency radio communications" to support US government operations, DoD components and "civil authorities at all levels," providing for national security and emergency preparedness events. MARS units will still continue to provide health and welfare communications support "to military members, civilian employees and contractors of DoD Components, and civil agency employees and contractors, when in remote or isolated areas, in contingencies or whenever appropriate." MARS must also be

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capable of operation in "radio only" modes -- without landlines or the Internet -- and sustainable on emergency power (when public utility power has failed); some MARS stations must be transportable for timely deployment. Read more here <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/24/11267/?nc=1>>.

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January 7, 2010

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## HAM RADIO IS GOING TO THE DOGS

Well at least the Hams from the Grand Forks area are asked to help with the dogs. Sled dogs that is.

The Red River Sled Dog Derby needs our help again. As in years past we will provide communications for the race.

There will be up to 20 teams competing in the race that starts Saturday morning in Halstad, MN; stops include Belmont Park (Frog Point); a turnaround at LaFave Park in East Grand Forks; back to Belmont Park; and then the final stretch for the money back to Halstad.

How are Hams involved in this event? We communicate the times to computer operators who input the data that determine the race winners. We also provide safety on the route helping ensure that the competitors reach each check point.

Hams are needed at each of the stops to let the check points know that the teams are near. They then get all the timing info back to the computer operators.

We need your help. The good news is the Hams are a very critical part of the race. We have had very positive comments not only from the organizers but also from the competitors. But there are some challenges also. Hams are needed for the event that goes around the clock. We have to setup in some places that may not be the most hospitable but it is just a challenge to Hams.

This is our chance to test our skills that will help prepare for emergency situations.

The race is Saturday and Sunday February 27th and 28th. Help us make this event a success as we have in the past.

For more information contact Gerry NONGW

## MINNESOTA QSO PARTY

Jon Platt W0ZQ - MN SEC

The Minnesota QSO Party will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 8:00 AM CST (1400 UTC) through 6:00 PM CST (2400 UTC). The contest is sponsored by the Minnesota Wireless Association and full information about this fun event can be found at <<http://w0aa.org/mnqp.htm>>.

During this contest, Minnesota becomes the center of the World as everyone is working Minnesota stations while Minnesota stations work the World (including other Minnesota stations).

What does this mean for you as an Emergency Communications expert? What the Minnesota QSO Party provides to you is an opportunity for you and your team to practice the assembly of a multi-band HF communications station, to hone your HF communication skills, and to demonstrate the capability for both state and nationwide HF communications capability. In addition, as a part of the "fun" element, the contest exchange includes your Minnesota County and there are a lot of stations outside of Minnesota who will be looking for you and your county.

Here is a short overview of the Minnesota QSO Party.

\* Contest date is Saturday, February 6, 2010

\* The contest runs from 8:00 AM CST to 6:00 PM CST.

\* The contest exchange is as follows.

\* Minnesota stations send their first name and their MN County. For example, I would send "JON in HENNEPIN". On CW, use the three letter county descriptions found at <http://w0aa.org/PDF/MNQP-MN-Counties.pdf> - for this example it would be "JON HEN"

\* Stations outside of Minnesota send their first name and their state or province. For example, Paul in New York would send "PAUL NY".

\* You can operate SSB, CW, or both. You can work a station on each mode per band, so for example you can work W0ZQ on 40m SSB and then again on 40m CW - and we can then move to say 80m and do the same there.

\* The activity can be found at:

\* On Phone, 1.870, 3.850, 7.250, 14.270, 21.350, 28.450

\* On CW, 1.850, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050

\* Regardless of which mode you may wish to operate remember that the World is looking for Minnesota stations so call CQ. On phone, call "CQ Minnesota QSO Party" and on CW it's "CQ MNP". Do not be shy.

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The website referenced above provides full information and includes results from previous years, full rules, paper log forms and a downloadable logging program too. If you have any questions you can also contact me, Jon Platt, W0ZQ, at <mailto:w0zq@aol.com>

In summary, the Minnesota QSO Party represents a great opportunity to practice and to demonstrate emergency communications on HF while at the same time having some fun. Since Minnesota counties are used as a "multiplier" for the contest, you will be a sought after station - remember that the World is looking for stations from Minnesota so don't be shy, call "CQ Minnesota QSO Party".

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# www.wa0jxt.org



The following trivia question is taken from *The ARRL Handbook 2006*. The answer will be published in the February 2010 issue of the *FEEDLINE*.

WHAT IS PIV FOR A SEMICONDUCTOR?

December's trivia question was:

GIVEN A PIECE OF TEFLON COATED STRANDED WIRE,  
WHAT WOULD THE VALUE 7X34 REPRESENT?

And the answer is:

7 STRANDS OF 34 GAUGE EACH

This may be found on page 7.8 of *The ARRL Handbook 2006*

# ANNUAL DUES FORM

January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY CHK# _____ DATE _____
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As stated in the bylaws of the Forx Amateur Radio Club dues expire on the last day of December (December 31, 2009 in this case). Dues are payable as follows:

Regular Membership	\$20.00
Family Membership	\$27.00
Student/Youth Membership	\$10.00
Senior Membership (62+)	\$10.00

If you have paid your dues for the year 2010, thank you. You will continue to receive the *FEEDLINE* published monthly. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2010, please use the form below.

Please make your check payable to: FORX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 14773  
GRAND FORKS, ND 58208-4773

Please do not mail cash. Cash is acceptable if your dues are paid to the Treasurer directly.

**Please complete the following form to be included with your dues payment:**

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip+4: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type (circle one): Regular / Family / Student / Senior

**To receive the club newsletter *FEEDLINE* via E-mail, please provide your address below:**

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you an ARRL Member?** Yes / No    **ARES Member?** Yes / No