

FEEDLINE

MARCH 2010



Rod KE0A and John KA0SVY working net control during the Red River Sled Dog Derby. See details on page 3.
Photo by Jim KC0XW

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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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 23, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Karen N0TKP at 7:31 PM

There were 13 members present

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

Treasurer's Report - By Nancy K9DIG were accepted.

ARES/EC - Gerry N0NGW reported that Fargo is starting to fill sandbags in anticipation of the coming flood.

Activity's Report -by John KA0SVY for Donna KC0SKD - She says she is sure we will do an admirable and proficient job on the dog sled race.

VE Report - By Rod KE0A - Nothing to report as there have been no inquires.

Repeater Report -Paul KA0CAF said there is nothing to report

Sioux Club Report - The club will help with the dog race.

Old Business

A. Hamfest - Karen N0TKP said the Hamfest will be October 2, 2010. We have received approval from ARRL.



B. Dog Sled Race. - Nancy K9DIG reported that there will be hams at Frog Point, East Grand Forks, and Halstad which will be our headquarters. She also has a 2M rig and power supply ready for Halstad. Gerry N0NGW said that we still need bodies for the night/early morning shift at Halstad. We will operate on 147.39 repeater and 146.52 simplex. We will leave Grand Forks on Saturday from McDonalds on Gateway Dr. and go to Halstad for their pancake breakfast. Tactical call signs will be used. There will be parking space available for the hams. Hams should bring their yellow bibs if they have them. Also, there will be chili at Frog Point.

C. Manual for Accounting - Nancy K9DIG presented a list of manuals available for the accounting program. She and Karen N0TKP will look it over to see which one would be best.

D. Fargo Hamfest - Scheduled for April 17, 2010 depending on river levels.

New Business

A. Appoint Nominating Committee - Karen N0TKP appointed the following to the nominating committee: Dick KC0LUR, Gerry N0NGW,

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DATES OF INTEREST

(continued from page 1)

March 2010

- 22 SKYWARN
Training
Crookston
- 24 SKYWARN
Training Fertile
- 30 Club Meeting
- 30 SKYWARN
Training Fargo

Jeff KDOBTT. Nominations are to be submitted by the April meeting, voted on at the May meeting and the new officers take office June.

B. Larry KIOW reported that Tom Tezel, Director of Disaster Services for the American Red Cross Minn-Kota District, will be at breakfast March 6 to have an informal discussion on what we can do for the Red Cross.

April 2010

- 8 SKYWARN
Training
Thief River Falls
- 17 Fargo Hamfest
- 19-23 MN Severe
Weather
Awareness Week
- 26-30 ND Severe
Weather
Awareness Week
- 27 Club Meeting
- 29 SKYWARN
Training
Grand Forks

The next club meeting will be March 30, 2010 at 7:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM

SKYWARN TRAINING

May 2010

- 25 Club Meeting

Grand Forks, ND

June 2010

- 25-27 Field Day
- 29 Club Meeting

**Basement Classroom
Police Department**

6:30 – 9:30 PM

July 2010

- 9-11 Peace Garden
Hamfest
- 27 Club Meeting

**Thursday
April 29, 2010**

THIRD ANNUAL SLED DOG DERBY

There's ham and eggs, there's fish and chips, there's caramel-rolls and coffee (oh yeah!), and now once again there's Hams and dogs. Hams from the local area got together to provide communication support for the Third Annual Red River Sled Dog Derby on Saturday and Sunday, February 27-28, 2010. Over 190 person-hours were put in, in support of the event.

A group of Hams left Grand Forks in the early hours Saturday morning. They proceeded to Halstad, MN to begin setup of Net Control. The derby began and ended in Halstad. The first of the teams left the starting gate about 9:00AM and proceeded north along the Red River. The other 9 teams left one at a time at intervals thereafter. The next stop of the teams was Frog Point Park for the musher's choice of either continuing or taken a rest break. After leaving Frog Point the teams began the trek to East Grand Forks, MN where they had a mandatory minimum four hour rest stop. The first team arrived in East Grand Forks at about 6:00PM on Saturday; the 10th team arrived around 9:00PM.

Hams setup and operated a base 2-meter station in Halstad, MN, they operated out of 2 "fish houses" at Belmont/Frog Point Park, and out of a vehicle in East Grand Forks. Arrival times along with other

information from the timers at each waypoint were relayed by Ham radio back to the computer technician who maintained the official times at derby headquarters in Halstad and also kept a running blog on the internet. That site had over 20,000 hits on Saturday from all over the world from New Zealand to Russia.

Hams were at the stations, in shifts, Saturday morning until the last musher arrived at the finish line, mid-afternoon Sunday. The event organizers and racers expressed their thanks by presenting an event poster autographed by the racers and a medallion to Hams. The following Hams were involved: KA0SVY John, KE0A Rod, N0NGW Gerry, KI0LS Charles, KA0HDN Dick, KI0W Larry, K9DIG Nancy, KC0XW Jim, KD0BTT Jeff, KC0REN Neil, KZ0GEM Megan, KC0YWZ Lance, KC0SKE Noah, KC0TIZ Sarah.

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



Charles KI0LS, Larry KI0W, Rod KE0A, Gerry N0NGW setting up the antenna for the Halstad Net Control Station. Photo by John KA0SVY



Larry KI0W, Gerry N0NGW setting up the antenna at Frog Point. Photo by Jim KC0XW

**2010 FIELD DAY
PACKETS NOW
AVAILABLE**

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 26-27, 2010! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now available for download <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2010-packet.pdf>> and include the complete rules (including changes for 2010), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more.

The ARRL Letter
February 4, 2010

The ARRL Letter
Published by the American Radio
Relay League

**Editor's Side Note:
ARRL is accepting orders for
Field Day 2010 T-shirts and Pins.**

**ARRL SEEKS INPUT
FOR NEW IARU REGION
2 BAND PLAN**

The International Amateur Radio Region 2 conference -- to be held later this year in El Salvador -- brings together delegations from the national Amateur Radio Societies in the Western Hemisphere. One of the topics on the agenda will be the Region 2 HF band plan. This band plan is "harmonized with" -- spectrum management-speak for "very similar to" -- the IARU Region 1 and Region 3 band plans. At this year's conference, the IARU Member-Societies will consider possible changes to the Region 2 band plan. The ARRL is cooperating with this procedure by inviting input to be sent to the ARRL Board of Directors' Band Planning Committee. The committee will review the existing Region 2 band plan, consider input from the amateur community and make recommendations to the ARRL Board for submission to IARU Region 2. Read more here <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/04/11374/?nc=1>>.

The ARRL Letter
March 18, 2010

Published by the American Radio
Relay League

Monthly North Dakota Section News Summary

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Welcome to the North Dakota ARRL Section News for February 2010.

The spring temperatures are finally here and the water is starting to flow with the possibility of flooding in many areas of North Dakota. The year looks to a busy one with hamfests, our 2nd Annual ND QSO Party, and Field Day and the possibility of flooding in many areas of North Dakota. Go to www.w0cq.com to see the ARRL information and the upcoming events.

**** Upcoming Events **** The North Dakota QSO Party will be held on March 20th & 21st, 2010 and it will be a full 24 hour contest this year. Go to www.w0cq.com for the ND QSO party rules and much more.

The Red River Radio Amateurs will host the West Fargo Hamfest on April 17th 2010 with details go to www.rrra.org. There will be a ARRL Forum at the West Fargo Hamfest with Richard Budd; (W0TF) discussing the ARRL Official Observer Program, Melissa Sheppard; (KD0AAK) the ARES plan for North Dakota and Ken Muggli; (K0HL) speaking on "Ham Radio for the Youth". Also, Dave Heintzleman; (K8BBM) will have a North Dakota Net Control meeting at the hamfest.

ARRL Field Day with the "TOP GUN" Award for the North Dakota Radio Club with the most points is scheduled for June 26th & 27th.

The annual International Peace Garden Hamfest will be July 9th thru July 11th.

****Section Emergency Coordinator Notes **** I enjoyed a full house of attendees at the recent Bismarck hamfest! I thank everyone who attended and gave comments. Without you all our desire to build an ARES statewide network cannot happen! As I sought to explain, given our vast prairie and a limited number of active ham radio operators, I seek to build regional ARES networks. Those of us interested in public service must perhaps sometimes think "outside the box" and develop relationships and connections with served agencies where and as we can. As a sidebar, we all perhaps need to recall that the FCC gives us many bands and these are sought after by others. This may a reason ARRL leadership is promoting our role in public service. Apart or maybe not from that, FEMA is promoting amateurs as an auxiliary component of emergency communications. If we show ourselves as only self-interested, we may not be able to defend our generous bands. 73, Melissa Sheppard, KD0AAK

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**** February Net Report ****

The Goose River Net on 160 Meters- 1.895 MHz, Sundays at 8:30 AM CST reported 4 Sessions, 52 Check-ins & 1 Message passed. The ND WX Road Net on 75 Meters- 3.935 MHz, 8:30 AM CST & 12:30 PM CST, Monday thru Sat reported 48 Sessions, 1051 Check-ins & 5 Messages passed, and the DataNet on 75 Meters- 3.395 MHz, 6:30 PM CDST, daily reported 28 Sessions, 641 Check-ins & 11 Messages passed. Also, we have added another net report this month and that is the "Boat Anchor Net" on 80 Meters- 3.935 on Saturdays after the 12:30 PM CST ND WX Net. Net controls for February were: W0CQ, KA0ETO, W0FC, W0HS, K0HDA, W0KRC, K0MAD, W0OSP, AI0Q, W0TF, K0TLW, KD0YX, WB0VHW, KR0W, and K8BBM

As many of you have noticed, we have been overlapping our 6:30 CDST ND Net with the Wolverine Net on 3935 kHz due to the band conditions. We have asked our Net Controls to use our alternate frequency of 3937 KHz instead of calling the ND Net right on top of the Wolverine Net. Common courtesy and good operating practices should prevail during these band conditions.

**** Section Managers Notes ****

Thanks to all North Dakota Amateurs for increasing the check-

in activity on all of our nets. It's nice to hear stations in all areas of the state. We have also announced that the "Fertilizer Net" (an informal net) has been moved to 3935 KHz. All stations wishing to ragchew or call another station can use 3935 KHz as the place to call. This will also be the frequency we can use for bad weather, trying to reach someone in ND or just a place for the mobiles to monitor.

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

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

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Editor's Note:

There was no February 2010 issue of the *FEEDLINE*.

Where are the Ham Radio Hackers?

**By Dan Romanchik,
KB6NU**

On the Ten-Tec Omni VII Yahoo Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ten-Tec-Omni-VII/>), one ham wrote:

"If I was 17 years-old I would be hacking I-phones and other items like George Hotz, the 17 year-old from New Jersey who was able to unlock the Apple I-phone so that it could be used on other cell service networks.

"When I was his age, I was hacking dial telephones. Then one day the phone company showed up at my house. My parents were not impressed with my technical abilities.

"This morning there is a story that George has just hacked the 'un-hackable' Sony 3 Play Station. He says the hack was 95% software and 5% hardware.

"A quick check of the modifications site run by that guy over in Denmark, shows that there are NO MODS for the O7...interesting. I just wonder how many strange and wonderful things can be done with those 36 buttons/switches on the front panel. Can the O7 be made even better?"

In my reply, I asked, "Why stop at pressing some buttons on the front panel? Why doesn't someone really

hack the Omni VII and develop a completely new software package for it?" Rigs like the Omni VII and the Elecraft K3 would seem to be perfect candidates for this kind of hacking.

Sure, there is an order of magnitude difference between a \$300 iPod and a \$3,000 radio, but we're big boys, aren't we? Besides, aside from overdriving the finals, what real damage can you do to the radio? It seems to me that even if you manage to screw up the software in the rig, you can get back to square one by simply re-loading the manufacturer's software.

Ham radio operators have a long history of modifying their radios. Page through any stack of QSTs or CQ Magazines from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, and you'll find many articles describing modifications to the popular radios of the day. About the only thing hams do to their rigs today is to clip a diode to allow it to operate out-of-band.

What does it say about the technical capabilities of today's hams that we haven't yet done with our gear what some 17-year-old kid has done with the iPhone and the PlayStation? Why don't we have any third-party software for Omni VII or the K3? I think if a

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manufacturer actually encouraged third-party software development, they'd quickly gain a following and make their brand even stronger, don't you?

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches the infamous One-Day Tech Class, and operates a lot of 40m CW. E-mail him your comments and questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

use automatic power control (APC) to reduce transmitter power when the station transmits a spread spectrum (SS) emission and reducing the maximum transmitter power output when transmitting a SS emission. Through an Order attached to the NPRM, the Commission also made "certain non-substantive revisions" to the Amateur Service rules. Read more here
<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/03/18/11396/?nc=1>>.

The ARRL Letter
March 18, 2010

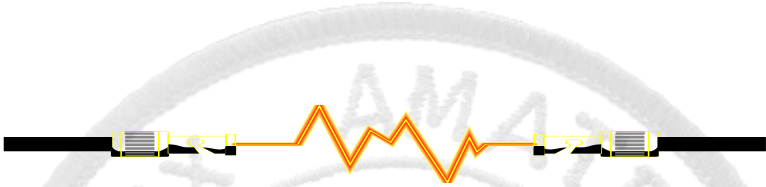
Published by the American
Radio Relay League

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**FCC NEWS: FCC
PROPOSES TO
ELIMINATE SPREAD
SPECTRUM APC
REQUIREMENT,
REDUCE SPREAD
SPECTRUM POWER
LIMIT; CLEANS UP
PORTIONS OF PART 97**

In response to a 2006 ARRL Petition regarding spread spectrum issues, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on March 16 (WT Docket No 10-62), proposing to amend Part 97 to facilitate the use of spread spectrum communications technologies by eliminating the requirement that amateur stations

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

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TRIVIA

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

FOR A TRIODE 572B WHAT DOES A SERVICE CLASS OF 'CT' MEAN?

January's trivia question was:

WHAT IS PIV FOR A SEMICONDUCTOR?

And the answer is:

Peak Inverse Voltage

This may be found on page 7.18 of *The ARRL Handbook 2006*