

FEEDLINE

JUNE 2010



FIELD DAY
2010



JUNE
26-27
2010



CHECK OUT THE [FIELD DAY LOCATOR](http://WWW.ARRL.ORG) AT WWW.ARRL.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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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 25, 2010



The meeting was called to order by Karen N0TKP at 7:30 PM

There were 13 members and 1 guest present

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

Treasurer's Report - From Nancy K9DIG who was not present were passed around and accepted.

ARES/EC - Gerry N0NGW reported that we put in 17 hours in two days at NWS. The weather pattern may continue this way throughout the summer. We will meet at NWS on Thursday June 3rd at 7:00 PM for a look around and orientation. All are welcome to attend. Larry KI0W received a copy of a MOU with the Red Cross from Melissa, ND SEC for us to look at and sign.

Activity's Report - Donna KC0SKD would like to have a club picnic this summer. Tabled till next meeting. Gerry N0NGW reported that the Peace Garden Hamfest will be July 9, 10, and 11

VE Report - By Rod KE0A - There has been some interest in testing so a test session will be scheduled

right after the Extra Class is done. May be around the end of June

Repeaters - Nothing to report.

Sioux Club Report No report

Old Business

A. Hamfest - Nothing new to report. Looking for ideas for forums. Ron N0UCV offered to give a forum on ballooning.

B. Extra class group & youth radio club - The Extra Class is still meeting. Gerry N0NGW said that Nancy K9DIG has met with some kids to set up a school ham club.

C. Field Day Committee - Rod KE0A said the committee has had preliminary discussions. It will be held at Nancy K9DIG's place. We will have three stations. Most of the equipment has been lined up. We will have a formal meeting when Nancy K9DIG gets back.

D. Nominations and election of officers - There being no nominations from the floor the following were elected by unanimous consent. President - Karen N0TKP, Vice President - Jeff KD0BTT, Secretary - John KA0SVY, Treasurer - Truman KD0MTD, and Activities Director - Donna KC0SKD.

E. Crank-up tower - Rod KE0A reported that nothing was found at Dayton.

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DATES OF INTEREST

June 2010

25-27 Field Day
29 Club Meeting

July 2010

?? Club Picnic
9-11 Peace Garden
Hamfest
10 IARU
International
World
Championships
17 NA RTTY
QSO Party
24 Brainerd
Hamfest
24 St Paul Hamfest
27 Club Meeting

August 2010

31 Club Meeting

September 2010

18 Potato Bowl
Parade
28 Club Meeting

October 2010

2 Grand Forks
Hamfest
26 Club Meeting

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]**

Editor's Note:

There were no *FEEDLINE* issues for the months of April or May.

The primary reason for this was a lack of articles to justify the time of putting them together and publishing the e-mail and the snail-mail versions of each issue. I have routinely used articles from the ARRL Letter, ARRL ARES E-letter, ARRL Club News and a few other sources. I review each of these publications monthly including the ND Section News and publish articles that are of local interest. Lately there has not been much to choose from.

The second reason was my personal calendar for these two months took priority.

On average it takes 12-15 hours to assemble, edit, organize and print the master for each newsletter. This time does not include writing articles nor reviewing the above publications and formatting them for inclusion in an issue. Then, finally, there is the folding, sealing, addressing, and mailing of the snail-mail issues (unless I get the rare opportunity to use a booklet finisher on the copier used to print the issue).

The *FEEDLINE* is the official publication of the Forx Amateur Radio Club. National news is fine for filler, but it should contain articles associated with the local Ham community. I give high

priority to all local news over national news for inclusion in each issue. Sometimes when I attend an event sponsored by the club I will provide pictures and a brief article covering the event. However, I cannot attend them all. I request from the membership:

- If you are chairperson or member of a committee which sets up a special event like Field Day, Hamfest, License Classes, etc; please provide a few words to describe special needs in the planning stages, progress of planning, and results after the event is concluded; for the next issue.

- If you reach that elusive or rare DX contact and want the world to know that you accomplished it; just drop me a note to include the news in the next issue.

- If you reach a milestone: Worked All States (WAS), 5-Band WAS, DXCC, Sweepstakes Awards, Contest Awards, Chatted with the International Space Station, or whatever; drop me a note for the next issue.

- If you have set up a new mode of operating to explore one or more of the many facets of Ham Radio; drop me a note for the next issue.

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Submissions do not have to be wordy. You do not need to provide lengthy articles that fill one or more pages of the issue. All I need is a brief statement of the topic or an outline with enough detail so I can form a paragraph or two from it. For example: "I just completed WAS, finally was able to get Wyoming" is enough for inclusion. If you have a picture of the award or event, each one is "worth a 1,000 words" in itself.

I reserve the right to edit all submissions for content, spelling, etc to fit in available space.

I want to thank all those who have on occasion provided me with articles and or pictures for publication.

Jim Watt KCØXW
Editor

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The AMP Rod KE0A

I took my yearly pilgrimage to Dayton OH for the world's largest Hamfest with my usual expectations, forums offered on everything from DX'ing to DF'ing, hot sun and cool rain, meeting up with hams from across the world (and Gerry NONGW from Grand Forks), and sore feet from walking

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past every table in a flea market the size of two football fields. But this year I exceeded my highest Hamfest expectations.

As usual I went to the DX banquet on Friday night. My friend and former UND law student, Pete N0FW, who lives nearby always gets tickets for his friends. This year Pete went to the 160M banquet instead of going to the DX banquet with us. Little did he know that one of the tickets was a winner.

At the banquet, they draw a ticket for the grand prize, set the ticket aside, then draw tickets and award the other prizes. I sat waiting patiently as all the other prizes were given away. Then I heard the announcer say "The grand prize goes to Rod Klug". I still sat there, unaware that my name had been called. The announcer continued "KE0A" and I finally realized I had won the grand prize! I was now the proud owner of an ALPHA 8410 amplifier.

I had to find a way to ship it to Grand Forks, but I didn't mind. I was looking forward to the thought of using an amp with two 4CX1000A tubes that can limp along all day at 1500 Watts and loaded with enough safety features that even Ryan N00J would have a hard time blowing it up.

This was one of the most memorable Dayton Hamventions for me. It's no wonder I was nearly able to cash in my plane ticket and fly home on my own power!



(l-r) Alpha 8410 Amp, Rod KE0A at Dayton Hamvention



The Alpha 8410 Amp fits nicely in Rod's shack

Tech Test Gets a Little More Technical

**By Dan Romanchik,
KB6NU**

Ever since the FCC dropped the code requirement and the Novice license exam, the Technician Class license has really been misnamed. Being the first license that most hams obtain, it really should have been called the Novice license. The question pool was arguably at the appropriate level for newcomers to amateur radio, being heavy on rules and operating practices, and perhaps a little light on technical topics.

That's about to change. On July 1, 2010, the question pool for the Tech test changes, and this version has noticeably more technical questions than the previous test. You could say that the Tech test is getting, errrr, a little more technical.

For example, the new question pool contains more questions about electronics components and their functions. In addition to that, examinees must also be able to identify the symbols for these components on a schematic diagram. This is a big change from the previous test, which had no diagrams at all. There are also more detailed questions about transistors and how they work.

There are also questions on how to make basic measurements with a multimeter how to troubleshoot

basic problems that Technicians are likely to encounter. One question asks, "What two measurements are commonly made using a multimeter"? Answer: voltage and resistance. A follow up question asks, "What is the correct way to connect a voltmeter to a circuit"? Answer: in parallel with the circuit.

To make room for these questions, the committee dropped questions on operating practices and rules and regulations. In general, these are not big losses, but two questions that I was sorry to see go are the questions on the "basis and purpose" of amateur radio. I think these are very important for new amateurs to learn and keep in mind. (If you don't recall them, go to <http://www.arrl.org/part-97-amateur-radio> and review them.)

By the time you read this--or shortly thereafter--the new version of my No-Nonsense, Technician Class License Study Guide should be available. You can download it free of charge from my website, www.kb6nu.com. Look for the link in the right-hand column. It's currently in the hands of more than two dozen reviewers, who are proofreading it right now.

While it may not be in the initial release, I plan to include a section that contains links to websites that cover topics included in the study guide. That way, students can find more information on a topic, if they

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**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 2010 issue of the *FEEDLINE*.

WHAT IS RST?

March's trivia question was:

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

And the answer is:

CLASS-C TELEGRAPH

This may be found on page 7.33 of *THE ARRL HANDBOOK 2006*