

FEEDLINE

OCTOBER 2010



Hamfest October 2, 2010

Photo by Jim KC0XW

More photos inside

The **FEEDLINE** is the official journal of the *Forx Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*, PO Box 14773, Grand Forks, ND 58202-4773. 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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

Editor's Note: There was no September Issue of the FEEDLINE

**MEETING MINUTES
September 28, 2010**

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

There were 14 members and 2 guests present

Secretary's Report - The minutes from August were distributed by Jeff KD0BTT and were approved.

Treasurer's Report - From Truman KD0MTD - There was no report available as no bank statements had been received.

ARES/EC - Gerry N0NGW received an invitation to participate in a webinar on the National Incident Command System from ARRL. Jeff KD0BTT and Anthony KD0MJW have turned in a proposal to Nancy Schafer in Polk County to set up and get funding for amateur radio in fire stations and hospitals in Polk County. The next step is to determine what equipment may already be available.

Activity's Report - All forums are ready to go except for Pat Collins who had to cancel due to a funeral.



VE Report - Rod KE0A reported that the next test session will be at the Hamfest on October 2, 2010 at 11:00 AM. There will be two versions of the exam for those who do not pass the first time and wish to try again.

Repeaters Rod KE0A has a 440 repeater. It has been turned off. He will turn it on again if there is an interest in using it.

Old Business

A. Potato bowl parade - Gerry N0NGW said that if it wasn't for the hams there would not have been a parade as there were only three JC's present. However, it did go well.

B. Hamfest - Karen has been buying supplies and will need help. John KA0SVY and Donna KC0SKD will supply the registration forms and breakfast tickets. They will also bring the cooler and ice and the warming pans. John KA0SVY will set up the talk-in radio with the cookie sheet ground plain. Rod KE0A will bring doughnuts. Dick KC0LUR will bring a case of pop. Evan KD0LWT will take care of the Sioux Club people. Setup is at 4PM Friday.

C. Sled Dog Race - The race will be the 19th and 20th of February 2011 and will start at 9AM.

D. Youth Club - There was no report.

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DATES OF INTEREST

October 2010

26 Club Meeting

November 2010

6 ARRL November Sweepstakes – CW

20 ARRL November Sweepstakes – Phone

27 CQ WW CW Contest

30 Club Meeting

December 2010

4 Skywarn Recognition Day

11 ARRL 10-meter Contest

January 2011

25 Club Meeting

February 2011

19-20 Sled Dog Derby

22 Club Meeting

March 2011

29 Club Meeting

April 2011

26 Club Meeting

DUES FORM INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE YET TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2011

**SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY
DECEMBER 4, 2010**

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

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New Business

A. Boy Scout Jubilee - There has been no contact from BSA.

B. Upcoming events - Sweepstakes are coming up in November.

C. Quarterly drawing - John KA0SVY said the drawing will be held at the next meeting.

The next club meeting will be October 26, 2010 at 7:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM

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One of the Dumbest Things I've Ever Done in Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Mark, W8MP, and I often argue about what's dumber—his county hunting or my collecting QSL cards from stations whose call signs spell words. It's one of those arguments that will never be won. When you get right down to it, they're both pretty dumb.

Well, one Wednesday morning, I got a call from Mark. He asked, "Hey, want to do something really dumb tonight?" When I asked what he had in mind, he replied, "Well, one of my county hunter friends, Tim, W8JJ (he's the guy looking nervous in the black cap below), claims to have confirmed all 3,077 counties. He needs at least two

General Class (or higher) hams to check his QSL cards and sign off on his application for the USA-CA award sponsored by CQ magazine. I guarantee that this will be one of the dumbest things that you ever do in ham radio. I also guarantee that it will be a lot of fun."

After a fine salmon dinner with some very chewy noodles (that Mark claims his son, KD8EEH insisted that he make), we cleared the table, and Tim got out his box of cards. Mark then explained how we should proceed. I was kind of curious about this, as it's clearly impossible to check all 3,077 QSOs in a single evening.

Basically, what the two checkers are supposed to do is to check random contacts until they are satisfied that the applicant does indeed have a QSL from all 3,077 counties. To select the contacts, you might choose counties where you lived, or counties that you have visited. I hit on the idea of having Tim produced the confirmations of all 16 counties in Massachusetts. Clark, who is more familiar with which counties are the most difficult to confirm, asked Tim to produce cards from some rare counties in Colorado and Hawaii.

Above all, though, the idea is to give the applicant as much grief as possible during the process.

Mark came up with the idea of calling several county hunters that
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he had phone numbers for and asking them to verify in their logs some of the QSOs that Tim was claiming. He first phoned Jim, N9JF, and we asked him about a 44 report that he'd given Tim seven years ago. He wasn't near his logbook, but he said that he did remember that contact and even rattled off the county (Wahkiakum, WA)!

Next, Mark phoned Guff, KS5A, who confirmed a contact, but was off by almost seven minutes. A long discussion ensued regarding the details of how a mobile logs contacts while out driving. In the end, we accepted the seven-minute discrepancy.

Finally, Mark phoned Larry, WOQE, to confirm a few of the MRCs that Tim had from him. (MRCs are records of multiple contacts. Using them instead of QSL cards makes the process of managing all these QSLs a lot easier.) Mark joked that it looked like one of the MRCs had a forged signature. Larry replied that all of his MRCs are stamped.

"Aha," Clark exclaimed, "this MRC doesn't have a stamp!"

I don't know what was going through Tim's mind at this point, but it probably wasn't good. Larry then explained that he probably

sent out that MRC before he got the stamp. When we confirmed those dates, I think Tim breathed a little easier.

In the end, Clark and I signed off on Tim's application. And, even though Mark and I joke about how dumb this activity is, it's really only a joke. In my mind, it's quite an achievement. It takes a lot of persistence, too. It took Tim nearly ten years to do it.

Another cool thing about the county hunting sub-culture is the camaraderie amongst the county hunters. It's the nature of the beast that you'll be contacting many of them multiple times, and it's inevitable that you'll make friends with many of them.

As we were leaving, Tim said, "My wife asked me the other day if I could get now get rid of all my radios since I've talked to everybody." She obviously doesn't understand this ham radio sub-culture. Tim's only just begun.

You can keep up with all of Dan's dumb ham radio activities by reading his blog at www.kb6nu.com. When Dan's not doing dumb ham radio things, he programs websites and does community-service type stuff as a member of the Ann Arbor (MI, USA) Rotary Club. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



Sarah KD5OWQ and Truman KD0MTD collecting registrations
Photo by Jim KC0XW



Hamfest 2010
Photo by Jim KC0XW



Rod KE0A presented Nancy K9DIG with the Headbolt Award
Photo by John KA0SVY



Hamfest Banquet at the Eagles Crest
Photo by John KA0SVY

FOR SALE

Cushcraft A3S - TriBand Beam.

3-element for 20, 15 & 10 meters

8 dB gain - 2000 watt capacity

Tuned to SSB band ranges

New: 2005. Current New Price: \$ 599.

Selling Price: \$325. or offer

Glenn Martin 8 ft Roof Tower.

Sturdy & Light-weight aluminum

With Rotator Plate & Thrust Bearing

Base width: 32 inches

Max Mast Length: 9 ft

New: 2005. Current New Price: \$ 344.

Selling Price: \$175. or offer

Contact: K0VDP John Jarman

701-746-9781 or 218-779-4520

John T. Jarman, LPCC

1015 Reeves Drive

Grand Forks, ND 58201

FOR SALE

Yeasu VX-170
2-meter Handheld
\$75

Astron Model S-3L
Power Supply
\$20

Mirage B-34
2-meter Amplifier
\$40

MFJ 1728B
Magnetic Mount Antenna
\$15

Merle Mathison K0JMM
2650 26th Ave S Apt 305
Grand Forks, ND 58201-6426
701-746-6558

ANNUAL DUES FORM

January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

| |
|---------------------|
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY |
| CHK# _____ |
| DATE _____ |

As stated in the bylaws of the Forx Amateur Radio Club dues expire on the last day of December (December 31, 2010 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 2011, thank you. You will continue to receive the *FEEDLINE* published monthly. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2011, 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