

FEEDLINE

MARCH 2011

**SPRING
IS
UPON US
MARK YOUR
CALENDARS:**

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

**SKYWARN TRAINING
CHECK OUT**

**<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/fgf/>
FOR TRAINING IN YOUR AREA**

**FARGO HAMFEST
SEE FLYER INSIDE**

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.

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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

February, 22, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Jeff KD0BTT at 7:30 PM. There were 13 members present.

Secretary's Report - The minutes from January 2011 were distributed by John KA0SVY and were approved.

Treasurer's Report - From Truman KD0MTD was accepted. The only changes were from dues submitted and a gift certificate purchased.

ARES/EC - Gerry N0NGW said that East Grand Forks is gearing up for the flood. Jeff KD0BTT said Fargo is filling sandbags.

Activity's Report - Donna KC0SKD had nothing at this time. Gerry N0NGW said that the Bismarck Hamfest is this weekend. Also coming up is the North Dakota QSO Party.

VE Report - Rod KE0A had nothing to report.

Repeaters - Paul KA0CAF said there is nothing new to report.

Old Business

A. Hamfest review - John KA0SVY for Karen N0TKP asked if there were any comments about the Hamfest especially about the



hours. Most agreed the hours were just fine.

B. Jerry KC0GWK asked about the special event station at Heritage Days. Information will be forthcoming later.

C. Website - The website was discussed. John WA0LPV can make changes within hours if he has the new IP. This will give us more local control. We also discussed making the site more user friendly. Nancy K9DIG will get information about designing a website for the next meeting.

New Business

A. Rod KE0A asked about the 700 repeater. We will need it up and working soon as the flood/weather season is getting closer. Nancy K9DIG said the Crookston repeater is up and working. That is 147.12+. Evin K0LWT reported that the Fargo Hamfest is April 16. Nancy K9DIG reported that the school club participated in the school roundup and did well.

The next club meeting will be March 29, 2011 at 7:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

DATES OF INTEREST

March 2011

13 North American
RTTY Sprint
14 SKYWARN
Training EGF

SKYWARN TRAINING

19-20 ND QSO Party
21 SKYWARN

Grand Forks, ND

Training
Crookston
26 CQ WPX SSB
Contest

**Basement Classroom
Police Department**

29 Club Meeting

6:30 – 9:15 PM

April 2011

16 Fargo Hamfest
17 ARRL Rookie
Roundup
19 SKYWARN
Training

**Tuesday
April 19, 2011**

Grand Forks
23 10-10 Spring
Digital Contest
26 Club Meeting

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May 2011

7 Zeroland QSO
Party
31 Club Meeting

**GRAND FORKS
MONDAY
NIGHT**

June 2011

25-26 Field Day
28 Club Meeting

**NET
9:00PM
146.940(-)**

July 2011

8-10 Peace Garden
Hamfest
26 Club Meeting

**ARRL FIELD DAY: 2011
FIELD DAY PACKET
AVAILABLE**

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 25-26, 2011! 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/files/file/Field-Day/2011/2011_FD_Packet.pdf>

and include the complete rules (including a change for 2011), 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 and a kit to publicize your event with the local press.

There is one rule change for 2011. Starting this year, all stations operating in Class A may use a free VHF station without increasing their operating category. This is designed to encourage more activity on the VHF bands, especially 6 and 2 meters, during the best sporadic-E season of the year.

We have also included in the FD packet a brief one-page flier with

basic "What is Field Day" information that may be reproduced as a handout for your information table.

The ARRL Letter
Published by the American Radio
Relay League
February 3, 2011

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**THE VIEW FROM THE
WORLD
IARU, ITU, AND
EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATION**

If you were to ask most Amateur Radio operators what entity is responsible for granting privileges to use portions of the radio spectrum the answer would likely be their own national telecommunication authority. Here in the US, that would be the FCC, of course. However, that's only partially true. The ultimate authority for the use of the radio spectrum is the International Telecommunication Union <<http://www.itu.int/en/pages/default.aspx>> (ITU). Every radio amateur should understand what the ITU is and why its work and decisions are important.

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There are three sectors in the ITU: Radio-communication (ITU-R), Development (ITU-D) and Standardization (ITU-T). The International Amateur Radio Union <<http://www.iaru.org/>> (IARU) is a Sector Member of both the ITU-R Sector and the ITU-D Sector. The IARU participates in both sectors by attending meetings that involve issues that may impact the amateur or the amateur-satellite services.

The ITU-R Sector is important for radiocommunication services, including the amateur and amateur-satellite services. Every four or five years the ITU holds a World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) to revise the international Radio Regulations.

ITU-D is where much of the ITU's work on disaster response takes place. The development arm of the ITU considers emergency telecommunications an integral part of its projects integrating telecommunications/information and communication technology in disaster predication, detection, and alerting. Emergency telecommunications play a critical role in the immediate aftermath of disasters by ensuring timely flow of vital information, which is much needed by government agencies and other humanitarian actors that are involved in rescue operations and providing medical assistance to the

injured. IARU's task in the ITU-D Sector is to ensure that Amateur Radio's role in disaster communications is understood and appreciated by the ITU members. The ITU-D Sector also conducts a worldwide conference.

The ITU also sponsors regional and global exhibitions called TELECOMS. An ITU Telecom offers a global Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) community platform that gathers stakeholders from across the telecommunications/ICT sector to connect, collaborate and create the future ICT landscape. Forums and seminars are conducted at the Telecoms and IARU has participated in such forums, usually on topics related to emergency communications. - IARU E-Letter, January 2011 issue, International Amateur Radio Union (IARU <<http://www.iaru.org/>>) Secretary Rod Stafford, W6ROD [Here <<http://www.itu.int/emergencytelecoms/index.html>> is a good site for information on ITU activities relating to disaster response, mitigation, and the Tampere Convention - K1CE]

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February 16, 2011

THE LOST ART OF CABLE LACING

By Dan Romanchik,
KB6NU

The Make: magazine blog is a wealth of information for amateur radio operators. Recently, they ran a post on what they consider to be on the "lost technology" of cable lacing
<<http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2009/07/lost-knowledge-cable-lacing.html>>.

The blog post does a great job of explaining the technique and includes several illustrations. One of them
<http://cdn.makezine.com/make/blogs/blog.makezine.com/upload/2009/10/lost_knowledge_cable_lacing/cableLacing6b.gif> is a drawing from an old ARRL handbook. There is also a link to the Wikipedia page on cable lacing
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cable_lacing>.

Nowadays, we mostly use zip ties to bundle cables, but there are disadvantages to using them. For one thing, to apply them properly, you should have a tool that controls how tightly the zip tie holds the wires. This is to prevent crushing the insulation.

Also, I've found that zip ties don't do so well when the cable has only two or three wires. They're just not designed to hold so few wires. I

think that cable lacing would do a much better job of keeping a small bundle of wires together, say wires that connect front panel components to a PC board.

Cable lacing certainly looks much cooler than zip ties. This is the perfect technique for those homebrewers that want to make their projects look great as well as work great.

I asked on my blog, "Now, where can I find the 'wax-impregnated cotton or twine?'" and my readers came through. Hamilton said, "Apparently you find wax string here:

<http://www.kitkraft.biz/product.php?productid=1496>. I remember using it for something as a kid, but I can't place it." Ron McKenz wrote, "I notice that a number of telco vendor sell waxed lacing cord. Here are a few URLs: <http://www.sourcetelsupply.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=27>, <http://www.tessco.com/yts/resourcecenter/pdfs/clablelacing-FAQ.pdf>, and <http://www.oelsales.com/product.cfm/267/>.

Ned, WB4KBO, said, "I would suggest a large roll of dental tape and a large-diameter curves sewing needle for fabricating harnesses. I was told that this was the material of choice for lacing harnesses when

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I worked at Heath Company many years ago. Makes sense to me. Buy it at Meijer for an occasional harness, or a dental wholesale supply house if you are going into production. Also great stuff for kite rigging, vine lacing and many other things."

Mike, WA6ARA wrote, "What you want is Mil-T-43435. It is better than a cord, it is a flat weave tape, nylon, and waxed. It is made for cable lacing but is use now in the parachute industry as "super tack". Item T1050 at <http://www.paragear.com>"

So, there you have it. Links to show you how to do it, and a couple more links for where to find the lacing material. I now expect all of our homebrew to look a lot neater.

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When not worrying about how to lace cable instead of using zip ties, Dan, KB6NU, blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches ham radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him around 7.030 MHz or e-mail him pictures of your beautifully-laced cables at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA AND ARRL TEAM UP TO HELP SCOUTS LEARN COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS

After working together for nearly a century to provide Scouts with the ability to learn radio communication skills, Boy Scouts of America and the ARRL have officially teamed up by signing a memorandum of understanding. This MOU designates the ARRL as a key resource for K2BSA and Radio Merit Badge training at the BSA National Scout Jamboree and establishes the ARRL as the go-to source for Scouts interested in learning about and becoming involved in radio communication.

BSA Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, launched the partnership January 31 by holding a unique communications meeting. Mazzuca joined Craigie virtually during an Internet video conference and document-signing ceremony. From separate locations, the pair took the opportunity to talk about the importance of each organization to the ongoing development of the other.

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"Throughout the years, going all the way back to the Wireless Merit Badge in 1918, the ARRL has worked hand-in-hand with Boy Scouts of America to help teach Scouts the skills and joys of radio communication," said Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca. "Today, we are making official a relationship that has been beneficial for both of our organizations for nearly a century." [Read more here <<http://www.arrl.org/news/boy-scouts-of-america-and-arrl-team-up-to-help-scouts-learn-communications-skills>>]

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February 3, 2011

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CONGRATULATIONS

Mark Koponen KF4ME

**was recently appointed to
North Dakota Board of
Clinical Laboratory
Practice**

WRC-12: AMATEUR MF ALLOCATION MOVES A STEP CLOSER

Amateur Radio has moved a step closer to a medium frequency (MF) allocation below the AM broadcast band. During the first week of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) of the International Telecommunication Union, held in Geneva February 14-25, delegates completed the drafting of nine pages of analysis of the technical and regulatory issues related to WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.23: consideration of a possible secondary allocation to the Amateur Service of about 15 kHz somewhere between 415 and 526.5 kHz. Two possible methods of satisfying the agenda item, along with the possibility of there being no change (and therefore no allocation), are set out in the CPM Report, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each. Read more here <<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-mf-allocation-moves-a-step-closer>>.

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February 24, 2011

**FCC ADOPTS SPREAD
SPECTRUM RULES
CHANGES**

In a Report and Order adopted February 22 and released March 4, 2011, the FCC eliminated the requirement that amateur stations transmitting Spread Spectrum use Automatic Power Control (APC) to reduce transmitter power. At the same time, the Commission has reduced the maximum power of a Spread Spectrum emission from 100 to 10 W PEP. In March 2006, the ARRL filed a Petition for Rulemaking, asking that the APC requirement be eliminated.

The R&O explains the Commission's actions this way: "We believe that these rules changes will (1) encourage individuals who can contribute to the advancement of the radio art to more fully utilize SS technologies in experimentation, and (2) balance the interests of all users in mixed-mode and mixed-service frequency bands until sharing protocols are sufficiently developed to avoid interference." Read more here <<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-adopts-spread-spectrum-rules-changes>>.

The ARRL Letter
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March 10, 2011

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

Contact:

K0VDP John Jarman

701-746-9781

or

218-779-4520

John T. Jarman, LPCC
1015 Reeves Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Red River Radio Amateurs



Amateur Radio Hamfest 2011

April 16th 8 A.M. -- 2 P.M.
Red River Valley Fair Grounds -- West Fargo, North Dakota

Directions:

From I-94

Exit 343 East on Main 1/2 mile,
Right on Cass 28
(by the white church),
South 1/4 mile, Right onto
fair grounds entrance road.

From I-29

Exit 65 west on Main 4 miles,
Left on Cass 28
(by the white church),
South 1/4 mile, Right onto
fair grounds entrance road

From 13th Ave. S. (West Acres)

13th Ave. west 3 1/2 miles
(13th Ave. will curve north),
1 mile then left onto fair grounds
entrance road

Accommodations:

Sunset Motel
701-282-3266
Days Inn
701-281-0000
C'mon Inn
701-277-9944
Sleep Inn
701-281-8240

Talk - In

145.350- 146.760- 147.255+ or
444.875+ PL 123 Hz

VE Testing

Registration begins promptly at 12:30 P.M.

1. Bring cash or check for \$15.00 made out to:

ARRL-VEC

2. The ORIGINAL & A COPY of current license & credits earned
3. Your FRN # and/or SSN

Good Luck to all that are testing!!

Remember your picture ID, FRN# & original license

HAMFEST 2011 Ticket Pricing

Admission Tickets \$7.00 ea.
12 yrs. and under admitted free with parent

Flea Market Tables \$15.00 ea
8 ft. table (limited) electricity available

For more information call 701-893-6785
or visit www.rrra.org

Admission tickets required to display items in the Flea Market Area

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TRIVIA

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

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING
TMDA, FMDA, AND CMDA
IS THE OLDEST FORM OF FREQUENCY ACCESS?

February's trivia question was:

WHAT IS CDMA?

And the answer is:

Code Division Multiple Access

This may be found on page 9.5 of *The ARRL Handbook 2006*