

FEEDLINE

JUNE 2011



FIELD DAY 2011 – JUNE 25-26

(see page 3 for more)

CHECK OUT THE [FIELD DAY LOCATOR](http://WWW.ARRL.ORG) AT WWW.ARRL.ORG
FOR A MAP TO K9DIG's QTH

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MEETING MINUTES

May 31, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Jeff KD0BTT at 7:30 PM. There were 14 members and one guest present.

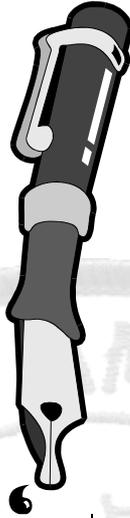
Secretary's Report - The minutes from April 2011 were distributed by John KA0SVY and were approved.

Treasurer's Report - From Truman KD0MTD was accepted.

ARES/EC - Gerry N0NGW said the .700 repeater should be up and running for a while. Work is being done on the call out procedure for NWS. Citywatch Notifications will be doing the call outs. If you are called, monitor .94.

Jeff KD0BTT said that he and Tony KD0MJW are working on Polk County relaying information to NWS and needs information on Hams in the county. A few names suggested were Dan Morlan KC0AGC, Jim Normandin NT0J, Steve Dufault KB0QQE, and Tony Wagoner KD0MJW. Gerry N0NGW stated that we don't need reports of nothing happening to NWS. David W0CIA said that the antenna at Lengby is higher and we should be able to hit it from Grand Forks. The Bemidji folks would like to hear calls from Grand Forks to see how it is working.

Activity's Report - No report



VE Report - Rod KE0A reported that there are no sessions scheduled at this time.

Repeaters - Paul KA0CAF had nothing to report.

Old Business

A. Hamfest - Will be October 1, 2011

B. Youth radio group - Nancy K9DIG reported that the group had its last meeting of the school year. They had one student test successfully and there are two others wanting to test. They have a group of about 4 to 6 and will try to have some meetings this summer. They will be at Field Day.

C. Field Day committee report - Nancy K9DIG passed around a sign-up sheet for the phone station. Evan K0LWT will run the GOTA station.

D. Election of officers - Jeff KD0BTT asked three times for nominations from the floor. There being none a motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for the list previously presented by the nomination committee. The motion was passed. The following officers were elected. President - Jeff KD0BTT, Vice President - Mark KF4ME, Secretary - John KA0SVY, Activities Director - Donna KC0SKD.

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DATES OF INTEREST

June 2011

25-26 Field Day
28 Club Meeting

July 2011

8-10 Peace Garden
Hamfest
9 IARU HF World
Championship
9 Brainerd, MN
Hamfest
16 North American
QSO Party –
Digital
26 Club Meeting

August 2011

20 Fargo Hamfest
30 Club Meeting

September 2011

27 Club Meeting

October 2011

1 Grand Forks
Hamfest
25 Club Meeting

November 2011

29 Club Meeting

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New Business

A. Club Insurance – Truman KDOMTD explained what we have for insurance now and its cost compared to what we could have with ARRL. A handout was passed around with the information. John KB0BSJ discussed replacement costs for repeaters. Nancy K9DIG moved and Evan seconded a motion to go with ARRL for insurance. The motion passed.

B. Club website – Jeff KD0BTT said he has been working on a new club website and is about 95% done. The address is <farc.dyns.net> for those who wish to see it. He will contact Rod Stoa to see about free hosting for the site. He would also like to have ideas for a domain name.

C. Nancy K9DIG moved and Rod KE0A seconded to donate \$50.00 to the benefit for the girlfriend of Tony KDOMJW who was involved in a severe car accident.

D. Nancy K9DIG discussed operating a vhf station at Field Day. It was decided it was probably not worth it.

E. Jerry KCOGWK asked what happens if there is no power for the repeater or it is destroyed. Answer: We have several options available other than .94. If .94 isn't working, try other repeaters in the area. Also in Minnesota there is ham radio capability in all hospitals.

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**FEMA Admin
Praises Hams
By Dan Romanchik,
KB6NU**

At the Earthquake Communications Preparedness Forum, held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 in Washington, DC, FEMA Administrator, Craig Fugate, had some kind words to say about ham radio. He noted that ham radio really is valuable “when all else fails.”

The Web page describing the conference

<<http://www.fcc.gov/event/earthquake-communications-preparedness-forum>> has a video of all the talks given at the conference. Fugate’s remarks begin at the 18:45 mark . His remarks about amateur radio start at about 29:20.

I think it's great that the head of FEMA thinks so highly of hams. Before you get all excited about this, though, listen to all of Fugate’s comments. He has some interesting comments about all of the different ways that responders gather information and provide information to the public in an emergency. I think listening to all of the remarks will help give those of you who are involved with emergency communications more of an overall perspective, and may even help you evolve our role into something that’s more useful in the future.

At one point, for example, Fugate held up a cell phone and told the audience to think of this device as both a data point and a sensor. Folks with cell phones can help emergency responders by sending video and audio of the situation, preparing the responders for what to expect when they do arrive. I don't know how many ARES/RACES groups have incorporated video into their emcomm plans, but it sounds like it should be.

Also important, says Fugate, is a solid knowledge of communities, local geography, and place names. I'm not sure if that's normally a part of emcomm training, but it sounds like it should be.

I'll be the first to admit that I'm not an emergency communications geek, so perhaps I'm talking through my hat. It seems to me, however, that it's important to listen to what guys like Fugate are saying and work with them to make amateur radio even more relevant and useful in emergency situations.

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When he's not pondering the state of ham radio, you'll find KB6NU teaching classes; working on WA2HOM, the ham radio station at Ann Arbor's Hands-On Museum (www.wa2hom.org), or operating CW on the HF bands. You'll find his blog at www.kb6nu.com, or you can e-mail him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

NEW RUSSIAN PREFIX SYSTEM IN USE

If you have been on the HF bands lately, you may have noticed that a number of new prefixes are in use by stations in the Russian Federation. Here is a summary of the changes recently adopted by the Russian telecommunication authorities. Thanks to SRR President Roman Thomas, R5AA (ex-RZ3AA) for the information.

- Russian prefixes with the numeral 2 are no longer limited to Kaliningradsk. Stations with RA2 and UA2-UI2 (with F and K as the first letter in the suffix) are in Kaliningradsk; otherwise, these prefixes will be used in European Russia.

- Stations with the following prefixes are in European Russia: R1, RA1-RZ1 (except RI1 as noted below), R2, RB2-RZ2, R3-R7, RA3-RZ7, UA1 and UA3-UI7. Also, stations with the prefixes R8, R9, RA8-RZ9 and UA8-UI9 (with F, S, T, W or X as the first letter in the suffix) are in European Russia.

- Except for those listed above, all stations with 8, 9 and 0 as the numeral are in Asiatic Russia.

- Russian Antarctic stations use temporary call signs in the series RI1ANA-RI1ANZ and RI00ANT to RI99ANT.

- Franz Jozef Land stations use temporary call signs RI1F, RI1FJ and RI1FJA-RI1FJZ.

- Mal'j Visotskij island stations use temporary call signs RI1M, RI1MV and RI1MVA-RI1MVZ.

The ARRL Letter

June 9, 2011

Published by the American Radio

Relay League

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RUSSIA NOW PERMITS RECIPROCAL LICENSING THROUGH CEPT

On May 18, the European Communications Office (ECO) in Copenhagen added the Russian Federation to the list of countries that accept the CEPT reciprocal operating arrangements. This means that US hams who hold an FCC-issued General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license may operate in Russia, as well as the other countries covered by the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), subject to the regulations in force in the country visited. Read more here <<http://www.arrl.org/news/russia-now-permits-reciprocal-licensing-through-cept>>.

The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio

Relay League

May 26, 2011

N5FDL'S SEVEN TIPS: HOW TO BE A VOLUNTEER THAT LEADERS LOVE

Having spent two months talking about how to build and kill EMCOMM groups, this month I'll touch on what it takes to be the volunteer every leader wants on his or her team. Here are seven tips:

Sign-up and show-up - This is really simple, but can't be overstated. Leaders need dependable volunteers and need them to commit early. We need to be able to plan based on the number of volunteers we can expect. So sign-up early, let your leader know if your plans are "tentative," and cancel as soon as you know you cannot attend. That makes the planning job much, much easier. Ten people who become available the "day of" aren't very helpful, unless I have ten unexpected no-shows. People respect our group because they know if we commit to something, we will deliver. This group reliability depends on volunteers who are equally reliable.

Dress like an emergency communications professional -- I feel stupid saying this, but what we wear impacts the image of all Amateurs. Now that we wear orange or green safety vests much of the time, individual fashion expression is not so apparent to served agencies or the public. However, as unpaid professionals

we need to look like the paid professionals we work alongside.

In general, dress in office work/casual office attire when on an assignment, unless you have a special reason (cleared with your leaders) for dressing differently. If you don't wear an official government-issued patch, I am not wild about uniforms. I have a Sheriff's SAR uniform - silver badge and all - and I try very hard not to wear it. Polo shirts (with your group's logo) are almost always the best thing to wear. Try not to have too many logos or call signs (even your own) visible at the same time.

Smile, Darn Ya, Smile! - We all have better and worse days, but great volunteers develop a "game face" and "game attitude" they bring to public events. Whiners are not allowed. Egos get checked at the door. No, it really isn't about you, it's just what net control said or did, probably without thinking, and usually in the heat of the moment.

Seek Feedback (And Offer It) - We all need to talk about what we do well as well as where we could improve. Volunteers need to understand that the people who provide feedback (volunteer bosses) are sometimes insensitive louts. Please forgive us. We didn't mean to hurt your feelings and it really isn't personal. Nor is it

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personal when you tell leaders how we might improve. We are here to serve the public and our communities and we win or lose as a team.

The key to this is being a decent human being and treating others the way you'd want to be treated yourself. Sound familiar?

Build Your Skills - Newcomer mistakes must be forgiven. And some people - like me - make the same silly mistakes over and over. But, we need to constantly "sharpen the saw," as the book *7 Habits of Highly Successful People* calls it. Great volunteers sharpen the saw on a regular basis. The reason we provide support for all these bike rides, community fairs, rodeos and other non-emergency events is two-fold. Sometimes these events become real emergencies. Mostly, though, we're training for when "the big one" (whatever that is where you live) happens. Use these events to train yourself while having fun. Then read, take classes, do free online training, anything to improve your skills. Reading this newsletter is a good use of your time.

Help solve problems - I was really pleased at a recent event when our volunteers at a remote site solved problems that occurred at their location without help from anyone. It was an issue related to signals and geography and these were new hams - all KJ6 call signs - who took

initiative and made things better on the spot. And some people say HamCram hams are know-nothings! In the process, they improved our ability to serve the organization we were working for. Great volunteers give great customer service.

Observe Lines of Authority - Not long ago, I came unglued (it had been a bad day) when a fairly inexperienced volunteer tried to do something that went against the goals of the organization. It was not ill-intended, just inexperience. But, it was the second or third problem. This was a hugely promising volunteer, who just needed to understand why certain things are done the way they are. Even insensitive louts sometimes have good reasons behind their logic.

Good volunteers have ideas and want something to do. They want to contribute but can be overly enthusiastic and cause problems without meaning to. Long story short, the volunteer and I decided to give each other the benefit of the doubt, and at his first event he performed marvelously. He wants to become a leader and at the rate he is going, he will. But, he will need to work within the rules of the organization and ask questions before just "doing."

This is another way of saying, "Respect your elders." But if you feel your local leaders are killing

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the group don't just sit and watch it happen. That is a topic for another column, based on some of the letters I've been getting from E-Letter readers.

"What did you do at the bike race, dear?" That is what my wife, K6SWE, asked Saturday after I got home from working all day at a bicycle race. As leader of the group, I delegated much of the organizing to Matt, KI6ZTY, who served as net control. I purposely arrived late so Matt and his assistant NCS, Conrad, KJ6CNV, would get started without me. They did just fine, though I was ready to jump in if needed (I can delegate tasks but not responsibility).

What did I do from 0730 until 1530? Mostly drive around to make sure things were going OK. I occasionally cut in on the radio to ask a question, offer a clarification, and help handle emergencies –four riders were injured during the day.

The most critical thing I did was help get our operators moved around and instructed as to how to assist Highway Patrol, fire and race organizers when a racer had to be airlifted from the scene after a crash. I also took the injured woman's friends and their bikes back to the start line and later hauled in another rider with a minor injury and her bike. I also filled in at various locations when operators needed a break, etc.

What was the most important thing I did? I made sure our operators all got the lunches and t-shirts the race organizers provided for them. I made deliveries when necessary and made sure everyone was taken care of. My operators, hopefully, felt supported, fed, happy, and got a nice souvenir for their efforts.

Making the troops as happy as possible is key for any manager's success--especially when the workers are not getting paid. Leaders exist to support their volunteers, not vice versa. - ARES E-Letter Contributing Editor David Coursey, N5FDL <<http://www.qrz.com/db/n5fdl>>, is an emcomm leader in San Joaquin County, California and author of the N5FDL.com blog.

The ARES E-Letter
Published by the American Radio
Relay League
May 25, 2011

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

**2011 ARRL/TAPR
DIGITAL
COMMUNICATIONS
CONFERENCE CALL
FOR PAPERS**

Technical papers are solicited for presentation at the 30th Annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference, to be held September 16-18 in Baltimore, Maryland. Papers will also be published in the Conference Proceedings. Authors do not need

to attend the conference to have their papers included in the Proceedings. The submission deadline is July 31, 2011. Read more [here](http://www.arrl.org/news/2011-arrl-tapr-digital-communications-conference-call-for-papers)

The ARRL Letter
Published by the American Radio
Relay League
May 19, 2011



TRIVIA

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

WHAT DID PETER MARTINEZ G3PLX DEVELOP?

May's trivia question was:

WHAT IS ASCII?

And the answer is:

American National Standard Code for Information Interchange

This may be found on page 9.9 of *THE ARRL HANDBOOK 2006*