

FEEDLINE

OCTOBER 2011



Hamfest October 1, 2011

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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

DATES OF INTEREST

October 2011

25 Club Meeting

November 2011

5 ARRL
Sweepstakes –
CW
12 10-10 Fall Digital
QSO Party
19 ARRL
Sweepstakes –
Phone
26 CQ WW CW
Contest
29 Club Meeting

December 2011

3 ARRL 160 Meter
Contest
3 SKYWARN
Recognition Day
10 ARRL 10 Meter
Contest
?? Christmas Party

January 2012

31 Club Meeting

February 2012

28 Club Meeting

March 2012

27 Club Meeting

**DUES FORM
INCLUDED
IN THIS ISSUE
TO RENEW
MEMBERSHIP
FOR 2012**

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**SKYWARN
RECOGNITION
DAY**

DECEMBER 3, 2011

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

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New Business

A. Quarterly Drawing - Dick KCOLUR won the drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

The next club meeting will be October 25, 2011 at 7:30 PM

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It's Back to School Time...for Ham Radio, too! By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

As I write this, it's about 85 degrees, and I'm sitting on the patio of a cottage overlooking Elk Lake in northern Michigan. This idyllic spot is about as far away from school as you can get. And yet, in less than a month, kids will be back in school, and if kids are going to be back in school, why not ham radio operators?

The fall is a good time to begin teaching a new group of Technicians. I favor the "Tech in a Day" or "Ham Cram" type of class. This type of class focuses on teaching students the answers to questions on the test rather than the material itself.

There's a lot of controversy about this, and many decry this method of teaching, but I think the best way to

learn about ham radio is by actually doing it, and you can't do if you don't have a license. Besides, how much more instruction will students actually get in a more traditional eight-week or ten-week course, maybe 16 hours? Will those 16 hours make that much of a difference?

For the sake of argument, let's say that you've decided to offer a one-day Tech class. Now what? Well, the first thing you have to do is to find a place to teach it. Possible sites include your local public library, a township hall, a community college, perhaps even your church.

Now that you have the place, you need to find some students. Your local emergency-management group would be a good place to start. Also, make sure a notice gets published in your amateur radio club's newsletter. Chances are most of the subscribers already have licenses, but they may have friends or relatives who would be interested. Also, make sure the class gets listed in the upcoming events section of local newspapers or magazines.

Once people start signing up, you should suggest that they either purchase a study guide or download my free study guide (www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual).

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Because I use my study guide when teaching the class, I always advise them to get a copy, but if you'll be using other materials, then your advice may differ.

I counsel the students to read through my study guide a few times and take some online practice tests before coming to class. That will make them familiar with the material, especially areas they may be weak in or have questions about. By bringing those questions to class, we can address those areas in a little more depth, which will, hopefully, give them the help they need to pass the test.

The class itself is six hours long, running from 9am to 3pm, at which time we give them the test. This is not a lot of time for the amount of material I have to cover, so I move along at a pretty brisk pace. I concentrate on giving them the answers, but with enough context to that it all makes sense.

OK, let's say your class was wildly successful, and you now have a group of newly-minted Techs. What do you do now?

Well, you might consider offering some short sessions on what ham radio operators do--Ham Radio 101, so to speak. The topics could include how to choose your first radio, the basics of FM repeater and net operation, and building your first antenna (say a 2m ground

plane). They'll be more enthusiastic about these classes now that they actually have a license.

It might also be a good idea to schedule a General Class license course for sometime shortly after the Tech class. This will encourage them to upgrade while they are enthusiastic about the hobby.

I hope that this has encouraged you to offer some ham radio courses of your own. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com or phone me at 734-930-6564. Good luck, and let me know how your classes turn out.

When not preparing for his next ham radio class, Dan publishes the "No-Nonsense" study guides for the Technician and General Class license exams. Free versions and print version are available from his website at www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual. E-book versions are available for the Kindle and devices that run the Kindle app on Amazon.Com and for the Nook on BarnesandNoble.Com.

Photos from the Heritage Days Special Event -



Powerpoint Presentation



Literature



Trailer



Radio



Antenna



KD0BTT Operating

Bitten by the Bug By Craig Miller, W8CR

Ahhhhh, just put the kid on the bus, and the wife is on her way to the salt mine. Now, I have 45 minutes to see if I can scare up a quick QSO.

40 meters sounds pretty quiet this morning--no ear splitting static crashes. The usual morning CW junkies must have already headed off to work or out mowing the grass. I spin the dial down to 7.023 to see if any speedsters are still on. Some days, I can even keep up with them at 30-35 wpm. It must be later than I thought, though. Those guys are gone too.

Tuning back up to 7.030, I hear a couple of guys wrapping up a chat at about 20 wpm: "FB FRED MUST QRT TO WALK THE DOG 73 ES CUL..." (translation: "Good copy, Fred, but I really gotta go to the bathroom! Best regards and see you later.").

I spin the dial up to 7.032, and don't hear any beeps or boops. I guess here is where I'll cast my line. "QRL?" (translation: "Anybody out there working that last rare DX station for your DXCC that I can't hear?"). Nuttin' heard. I'll QRL one more time before "CQ CQ CQ DE W8CR W8CR K". Silence. Again "CQ CQ...". Just the hiss out of the speaker. Well maybe this ain't gonna happen today. One more time...

Bam – I got one! He's got a nice strong signal too. But, wait. What the ...? What is he sending me? "DAAAAHHHHHHH DIT DIT DIT DIT DAAAAAHHHHHHH DAAAAAHHHHHHH DAAAAAHHHHH DIT DITDITDIT DIT DIT DITDITDITDAAAAAHHHHHHH ." NUTS! He's using a bug, a mechanical key dating back to the old railroad days. It's an ingenious mechanism for sending high speed code, but it takes a lot of practice to send clear, copyable code. I can barely make out my callsign let alone his – this isn't gonna be fun.

I have two options:

1. Don't reply and pretend I didn't hear him. He's really strong, though, and most likely I am, too. He knows I can hear him. Plus, that's the coward's way out.
2. Answer him and tough it out.

I answer him. We exchange the usual stuff. My RST is 579, his name is Bill, and he lives in Niassa Fihls, errrrr, Niagara Falls, NY. "Niagara Falls, eh?" We've been wanting to visit there before our kid gets too old to even want to be seen with his parents, let alone ride in a car for 6 hours to look at water flowing over rocks. Plus, that's where Nikola Tesla built his hydro

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power station that illuminated Buffalo over a hundred years ago. I'm hooked now – lotsa questions for him.

As our conversation progresses, his dot-to-dash ratio varies all over the map, but I slowly get used his style of CW. It's like listening to British shows on PBS. At first, they're totally unintelligible, but over time, your brain figures it out.

I have to give him credit, he's using something that is a passing skill. I have a bug I bought years ago, but could never master it well enough for me to feel comfortable subjecting others to the noise.

Well, that 45 minutes passed fast. Time to get to work. I promised I would look him up whenever we get to Niagara. I guess it wasn't a total nightmare working him and his bug, after all. Kinda like talking to somebody with a thick accent.

After all, he is a New Yorker.

Craig Miller, W8CR, began his ham career in 1974 as WN8TLC. He lives in Ostrander, Ohio. He enjoys HF CW ragchewing with a little bit of DXing and contesting tossed in. He is an active officer in the Delaware County (Ohio) ARES and a member of the DELARA (www.k8es.org) radio club

North Dakota ARRL Quarterly Section News Saturday, October 08, 2011

Welcome to the North Dakota ARRL Section News for 3rd Quarter 2011.

The North Dakota Section News has changed to a quarterly report instead of a monthly report starting with this report. Field Day in June, the Peace Garden Hamfest and the Dickinson Picnic in July and the Fargo Hamfest in August were the main activities for North Dakota this quarter. The word is out that 6 and 10 Meters are open so get those rig's fired up! The "TOP GUN AWARD" for the club who has the most points for Field Day will be announced in October. Stay tuned!

**** Upcoming Events ****

October 29th, 2011 is the Annual Totten Trail Hamfest in Garrison, N.D. This is one of our annual hamfests which typically has a pretty good flea market.

**** Quarterly Net Reports ****

THANKS TO NCS OPS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THE HELP THIS QUARTER.

NET CONTROL ARE NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE UPCOMING 12:30 PM WX NET AND TO HELP FILL IN AS SUBSTITUTES. If you have interest, please contact - Dave-ND0CW

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The ND WX Road Net is on 75 Meters- 3.935 MHz, 8:30 AM CST, Monday thru Saturday, the DatNet is on 75 Meters- 3.937 MHz, 6:30 PM CDST. After Daylight Savings Time changes to CST, there is an additional 12:30 PM WX net on 3937 MHz. and a change of the DATA Net from 6:30 PM CDST to 5:00 PM CST. Please note the changes.

73, Dave nd0cw

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE
NORTH DAKOTA SECTION

NEWS FOR THE LATEST
NORTH

DAKOTA ACTIVITIES AT
www.arrl.org. If you have any
special announcements, feel free to
email me w0nd@arrl.org. Check
www.w0nd.com for the latest list
of ND stations and activities. Until
next Quarter -
73's Lynn - W0ND

ARRL North Dakota Section
Section Manager: Mr Lynn A
Nelson, W0ND
w0nd@arrl.org



TRIVIA

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

A "YIG SPHERE" IS AN AMPLIFIER. (TRUE OR FALSE)

July's trivia question was:

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FSTV AND ATV?

And the answer is:

Nothing, both refer to Fast Scan Amateur Television

This may be found on page 9.38 of *THE ARRL HANDBOOK 2006*

ANNUAL DUES FORM

January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012

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, 2011 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 2012, thank you. You will continue to receive the *FEEDLINE* published monthly. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2012, 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