

# FEEDLINE

FEBRUARY 2012

ONLY FOUR  
SHORT MONTHS

TO GO

FOR

FIELD DAY 2012

WILL YOU BE READY?

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 501I(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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

## January 31, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Jeff KD0BTT at 7:30 PM. There were 18 members present.

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

Treasurer's Report - By Truman KD0MTD was approved.

ARES/EC - Jeff KD0BTT and Gerry N0NGW had nothing to report except the Nancy K9DIG is the new SEC.

Activities Report - Donna KC0SKD said she received both positive and negative comments about the Christmas party but feels it was a success. She also reported for Karen N0TKP that Jim KB0LYD is in the hospital and she will be unable to do the Hamfest this year. She suggested that a new place be found as the elevator at the church isn't working. Also we might want to consider changing the time of the event so it isn't so close to the Fargo fest. There was a discussion as to what we should do. Gerry N0NGW asked who would chair the Hamfest. Jeff KD0BTT suggested not having one this year. Donna KC0SKD asked if we really want to have one. Nancy K9DIG moved to postpone the



Hamfest till next year. Seconded by Gerry N0NGW. The motion passed.

VE Report - Rod KE0A reported that we tested last Saturday. We had three candidates. One got his Tech, One got his General and one failed.

Repeaters - Paul KA0CAF had nothing to report

N0GFK school Club Report - Nancy K9DIG said that the crystal radios have been built. She bought Hamtest Online and this really helps teach ham radio to the students. There are two prospects that might test in the future.

### Old Business

A. **Skywarn recognition day** - John KA0SVY reported that he and Jeff KD0BTT were there Friday night and most of Saturday. We concentrated on other NWS Stations and got 26 QSOs which got us into the Wildfires category. Within those contacts were Norman, OK and Kansas City.

### New Business

A. **Monday Night HF Net 3.94± QRM** - Jeff KD0BTT said the net has been going for several weeks. It starts at 7:00 PM.

(continued on page 3)

## DATES OF INTEREST

February 2012

- 25 North American QSO Party – Digital
- 25 Bismarck, ND Hamfest
- 28 Club Meeting

March 2012

- 3 ARRL DX Contest – Phone
- 10 North American RTTY Sprint
- 17 ND QSO Party
- 24 CQ WPX SSB Contest
- 27 Club Meeting
- 31 Midwinter Madness Buffalo, MN

April 2012

- 23 SKYWARN Training – Thief River Falls
- 24 Club Meeting

May 2012

- 18-20 Dayton Hamvention
- 29 Club Meeting

June 2012

- 23-24 Field Day
- 26 Club Meeting

## GRAND FORKS MONDAY NIGHT NET

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

### Special Notice:

Every three months of the year names of all those who have checked into the net each Monday night during that time are put in a lottery and one name is drawn to receive an ARRL Gift Certificate. The more Monday you check in the better your odds are to get selected.

### ATTENTION

Please note that if there is a membership form attached to this newsletter, club records indicate your dues for 2012 are not paid.

## GRAND FORKS HF NET

**3.937 MHZ (±QRM)  
7:00 PM  
MONDAY**

(continued from page 1)

## **Have you paid your dues for 2012?**

**B. Monday Night 2m Net** - Net Control - Noah KC0SKE apologized for lack of contact and unning the net. He is still willing to be net control. Nancy K9DIG suggested a time change. Gerry N0NGW explained that historically the Activity Director ran the net and did it at 9:00 PM. There was a discussion about times for the net. Nancy K9DIG moved to start the net at 8:45 PM Seconded by Rod KE0A. There were 6 for, 6 against, and 5 abstaining. President Jeff KD0BTT cast a nay vote. The motion failed.

**C. Miscellaneous** - Jeff KD0BTT said the Minnesota QSO Party will be this weekend (FEB. 4) from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Go to [W0AA.ORG/MNQP](http://W0AA.ORG/MNQP). Donna KC0SKD said she put club info on the [WDAY/WDAZ](http://WDAY/WDAZ) calendar website.

Dave KDO0MH technician at NWS introduced himself. A sympathy card was passed around for SK Virgil WA5TLP

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

The next club meeting will be February 28, 2012 at 7:30 PM

Article VI, Section 1 of the *BYLAWS* of the Forx Amateur Radio Club states:

**“The club, by two-thirds vote of those voting members present at any regular meeting, may levy upon the general membership such dues as shall be deemed necessary for the business of the organization within its objects as set forth in the Articles. If dues are not received within 60 days, membership shall lapse.”**

The Forx Amateur Radio Club has essentially only two sources for operating funds. The primary source is dues. The secondary source is the annual Hamfest. However, there is no guarantee that the Hamfest will produce additional funds for the club.

Dues that you pay provide a source of funding for club activities, which include Field Day, the annual Hamfest, postage for mailing the club newsletter, club liability insurance, etc. These funds also help in the maintenance and repair of the club’s repeaters.

**February’s issue will be your last issue of the *FEEDLINE* if your dues remain unpaid on March 1, 2012.**

# **Amateur Radio Finally Jumps on the Maker Bandwagon by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU**

Over three years ago, I wrote that amateur radio should do more to associate itself with the Maker, or "do it yourself" (DIY) movement ([www.kb6nu.com/lets-get-on-the-maker-bandwagon/](http://www.kb6nu.com/lets-get-on-the-maker-bandwagon/)). Well, it finally looks like it is going to do just that.

Just before the first of the year, the ARRL unveiled its DIY campaign ([www.arrl.org/news/arrl-launches-new-diy-campaign](http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-launches-new-diy-campaign)). The most visible part of the campaign is a video ([www.youtube.com/ARRLHQ](http://www.youtube.com/ARRLHQ)), but there are also some other bits, including:

- a flier to be handed out to interested persons,
- buttons that say "Ask Why I DIY with Ham Radio," and
- a PowerPoint presentation and speaker's notes that you can use to give a presentation to an amateur radio club or other non-ham group.

These items are available from the ARRL website, [www.arrl.org/DIY](http://www.arrl.org/DIY).

CQ also on board  
CQ magazine is also jumping on the bandwagon. They recently announced that they will run a quarterly "Maker" column, written by Matt Stultz, KB3TAN. Stultz is the founder of HackPittsburgh, a

"hackerspace" or community workshop for makers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has been a ham since 2009 and has integrated amateur radio into many of HackPittsburgh's activities.

Stultz's first column, titled "We Are Makers," will appear in the March issue of CQ. It provides a general introduction to the maker/hacker community for hams, as well as a description of a high-altitude balloon project that brought the two groups together in Pittsburgh.

Hams at the Maker Faire  
In 2006, Make: magazine hosted the first Maker Faire ([www.makerfaire.com](http://www.makerfaire.com)) in San Mateo, CA. Since then, Maker Faires have also been held in Austin, TX, New York, NY; and Detroit, MI. Maker Faires are showcases for all kinds of crazy projects that people are working on.

Hams usually have a presence at these events. This year, the theme for one of the amateur radio groups participating in the California Maker Faire, which is the flagship event, is Arduino ([www.arduino.cc](http://www.arduino.cc)) applications in amateur radio. Michael, NE6RD, who is organizing this group has lined up several very cool projects. One of them is an Arduino-controlled satellite antenna system.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

A project I proposed is an Arduino-controlled keyer. On the face of it, this is not a real exciting project, but my twist on this is that instead of directly keying a transmitter, I plan to have the Arduino actuate a solenoid that will press a straight key. That should make the project a little more visual.

Hams sometimes like to claim that we were the original makers and hackers. We certainly have a long tradition of DIYing. Let's show these upstarts exactly what ham radio is capable of. Perhaps, in the process, we'll even entice a few of them to join us.

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When he's not "making" things, Dan, KB6NU, teaches ham radio classes and works a lot of CW. You can contact him about some of the things you're making by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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**ARRL FIELD DAY: 2012  
FIELD DAY PACKET  
NOW AVAILABLE**

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 23-24, 2012! ARRL's flagship operating event – always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and

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experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now available for download <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>> and include the complete rules, 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. A brief one-page flyer with basic "What is Field Day" information has also been included in this year's Field Day packet. Amateur Radio clubs and individuals are encouraged to reproduce this flyer as a handout for information tables.

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The ARRL Letter  
Published by the  
American Radio Relay League  
February 2, 2012

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**CLUB  
MEETINGS  
LAST  
TUESDAY  
EACH MONTH**

**7:30PM  
Meeting room 'E'  
Altru Hospital  
Basement**

## **AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE: NEW SATELLITES REACH ORBIT**

On February 13, a European Space Agency Vega rocket lifted off from Kourou, French Guiana on its inaugural flight. It carried the Laser Relativity Spacecraft to orbit along with eight student-built MicroSats and CubeSats. The student satellites will transmit telemetry in the VHF, UHF and microwave amateur bands, with one satellite also including a voice repeater. Read more here <<http://www.arrl.org/news/new-satellites-reach-orbit>>.

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The ARRL Letter  
Published by the  
American Radio Relay League  
February 16, 2012

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## **ARRL DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COURSE**

"This course is a great starting point for anyone interested in the public service applications of digital communications technology." -- Steve Ford, WB8IMY, course author and QST Editor/ARRL Publications Manager

In this course, the student will be introduced to all the ways Amateur Radio operators are using digital technology as a valuable emergency communications tool. The topics discussed during the course include: Packet radio; APRS; Winlink 2000; IRLP; EchoLink and WIRES-II; D-STAR; APCO25; HF sound card modes; Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). The course will help answer questions such as: Can you transfer supply lists or personnel assignments between emergency operations sites? Can you get critical e-mails to the Internet if a connection goes down? Can you relay digital images of damage at specific locations? Can you track the locations of emergency personnel and display them on computer maps?

Illustrations, screenshots, Internet links and audio files are used to demonstrate transmission modes and equipment configurations. Bite-sized learning units and interactive knowledge checks make learning interesting and fun.

See supplemental material and product support for The ARRL Digital Technology for Emergency Communications Course. <<http://www.arrl.org/notes/CD/DigEmComm08/>> Self-study. CD-ROM, version 1.1.

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The ARES E-Letter  
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February 15, 2012

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**QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 2 ARLB002  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT February 3, 2012  
To all radio amateurs**

**ARLB002 New Rules for 5 MHz  
(60 Meters) To Go Into Effect  
March 5**

On November 18, the FCC released a Report and Order (R&O), defining new rules for the 60 meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM) filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). In the February 3 edition of the Federal Register, the FCC announced that these new rules will go into effect on March 5, 2012.

Details can be found at, <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/02/03/2012-2477/amateur-radio-use-of-the-allocation-at-5-mhz>

In summarizing the new rules, the FCC explained that the new rules amend the current rules to facilitate more efficient and effective use by the Amateur Radio Service of five channels in the 5330.5-5406.4 kHz band (the 60 meter band): "Specifically, and consistent with our proposals in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding, the Commission replaces one of the channels with a less encumbered one, increases the maximum authorized power

amateur stations may transmit in this band and authorizes amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators. The Commission also adopts an additional operational rule that prohibits the use of automatically controlled digital stations and makes editorial revisions to the relevant portions of the Table of Frequency Allocations and our service rules."

The Amateur Radio Service in the United States has a secondary allocation on 60 meters. Only those amateurs who hold General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses may operate on this band. Amateur stations must not cause harmful interference to -- and must accept interference from -- stations authorized by any administration in the fixed service, as well as mobile (except aeronautical mobile) stations authorized by the administrations of other countries.

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**SKYWARN  
TRAINING  
WATCH  
FOR  
TIME/PLACE  
IN  
YOUR  
AREA**

## **LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD TO NOW SUPPORT CQ AWARDS**

The ARRL and CQ Communications, Inc have signed an agreement to begin providing support for CQ-sponsored operating awards by the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) electronic confirmation system. The agreement was announced jointly on January 24 by ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, and CQ Communications President Richard Ross, K2MGA.

CQ's awards will be the first non-ARRL awards supported by LoTW and will be phased in beginning with the CQ WPX award, with additional CQ awards to follow. The ARRL's LoTW system -- an interactive database recording contacts between radio amateurs -- was created in 2003 and has been adopted by 47,500 radio amateurs worldwide. It already has records of 400 million contacts and is growing weekly. The target date for beginning LoTW support for WPX is April 1, 2012. Amateurs will be able to use LoTW logs to generate lists of confirmed contacts to be submitted for WPX credit. Standard LoTW credit fees and CQ award fees will apply. Read more here

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/logbook-of-the-world-to-now-support-cq-awards>>.

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The ARRL Letter  
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January 26, 2012

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## **RAC TO SPLIT ONTARIO INTO FOUR SECTIONS**

On February 6, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) issued a statement on their website that the Ontario Section would be split into four new RAC Administrative Sections, effective September 1, 2012. The reason given for the restructure was "...to create a management model that better communicates with, and represents the interests of, the overall Ontario amateur population." The Ontario Section will be dissolved and be replaced with four new RAC Sections: Ontario North, Ontario South, Ontario East and the Greater Toronto Area. The new section abbreviations will be announced when final. Read more here <<http://www.arrl.org/news/rac-to-split-ontario-into-four-sections>>.

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# www.wa0jxt.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*.

WHAT IS PLL?

January's trivia question was:

WHAT IS THE FORMULA FOR LC RESONANCE FREQUENCY?

And the answer is:

$$f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{LC}}$$

This may be found on page 10.13 of *THE ARRL HANDBOOK 2006*

**IF  
THERE  
IS  
NO  
DUES  
RENEWAL  
FORM  
HERE  
THEN  
YOU  
WILL  
CONTINUE  
TO  
RECEIVE  
THE  
*FEEDLINE*  
FOR  
2012**

