

FEEDLINE

APRIL 2012

ARE YOU PREPARED
FOR THE UPCOMING SKYWARN SEASON?
**ARE YOU PREPARED
FOR THE UPCOMING SKYWARN SEASON?
ARE YOU PREPARED
FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS?
ATTEND
YOUR LOCAL SKYWARN TRAINING
PARTICIPATE
IN YOUR LOCAL NETS
JOIN THE FUN
AT FIELD DAY**
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ARES EC
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

March 27, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Jeff, KD0BTT mainly to silence the loud pre-meeting rag chew.

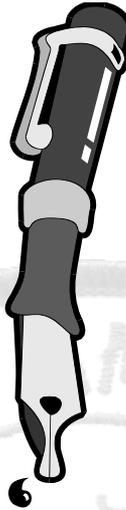
There were some members present while there were some members not present; adding up both groups there was enough to form a quorum to conduct the routine business.

Secretary's Report – The minutes from February were distributed by John KA0SVY and those present had a fun time making paper airplanes and firing them at each other; most of the designs were approved and the meeting progressed

Treasurer's Report – Truman, KD0MTD passed around copies of the current state of the club's financial affairs; these were quickly used to fabricate more planes, but they weren't as aerodynamically sound as the minutes were, so approval was limited at best.

ARES/EC – Gerry N0NGW and Jeff KD0BTT provided information on upcoming SKYWARN training and there was some discussion on why all the acronyms and what they actually meant

Activities Report – Donna KC0SKD was supposed to provide an extensive and exhaustive list of activities past present and future,



but tonight's activities were of the best paper airplane design using the minutes of the February meeting.

VE Report – OK not another acronym, enough with the acronyms, what's with all these acronyms anyway?

Repeaters – Never is, never has been, and most likely never will be but it is nice to have something other to discuss than paper airplane design and more acronyms.

Old Business

A. One would think old business was conducted in detail at the previous meeting and thus should require no more thought about it. Besides isn't 'Old Business' just a jab at the ages of some of the members of the club? Isn't it enough that we must endure the creaking joints, poor eyesight and other thingies?

New Business

A. At last a refreshing look at something other than acronyms and OLD stuff.

B. A committee was formed to present a discussion at the next meeting on stealth radio controlled paper airplane design.

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DATES OF INTEREST

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE/BREAKFAST

April 2012

- 18 SKYWARN
Training –
Grand Forks
- 24 Club Meeting

**NOW MEETING AT
NORTHSIDE CAFÉ
3450 GATEWAY DRIVE**

May 2012

- 5 10-10 Spring CW
Contest
- 18-20 Dayton
Hamvention
- 26 CQ WW WPX
Contest – CW
- 29 Club Meeting

**SHOW UP ANYTIME
BETWEEN
6:00 AM
AND
9:00 AM
IN
THE
MEETING ROOM**

June 2012

- 9 ARRL VHF QSO
Party
- 23-24 Field Day
- 26 Club Meeting

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**GRAND FORKS
MONDAY
NIGHT
NET**

July 2012

- 13-15 Peace Garden
Hamfest
- 31 Club Meeting

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

August 2012

- 28 Club Meeting

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**GRAND FORKS
HF NET**

September 2012

- 25 Club Meeting

**3.937 MHZ (±QRM)
7:00 PM
MONDAY**

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SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB007
ARLB007 FCC Seeks Public
Comments on Emergency
Communications by
Amateur Radio and Impediments to
Amateur Radio Communications

ZCZC AG07
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 7 ARLB007
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT April 5, 2012
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB007
ARLB007 FCC Seeks Public
Comments on Emergency
Communications by Amateur
Radio and Impediments to Amateur
Radio Communications

In response to the Congressional directive to prepare a study to assess Amateur Radio's role in emergency and disaster communications and the impact of private land use regulations on the amateur community's ability to provide such communications, the FCC issued DA 12-523 soliciting comments from the public. The period for public comment runs until May 17, 2012.

"As part of the study contained in Public Law No. 112-96, the Commission has opened a 45 day period for comments to be filed on the issue," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Because of the short deadline for the study to be

completed and presented to Congress -- before the end of August -- the ARRL and the amateur community must quickly mobilize their response."

The FCC Public Notice focuses on two specific areas for comments. The first is the role that Amateur Radio has played and continues to play to support emergency and disaster relief organizations, such as FEMA and local/state emergency management agencies. The second is to determine impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications. This would include the impact that private land-use regulations -- such as deed restrictions and homeowner association covenants -- have on the ability of licensed amateurs to fully participate in providing support communications to the served agencies.

"This study is not about zoning ordinances or regulations adopted by the local or state governments," Henderson explained. "Amateurs already have the limited protection of PRB-1 to assist them with those situations. The areas of concern here are the limitations that are placed on a property when it is purchased, either as part of the deed of sale or by restrictions imposed by the neighborhood/homeowner's

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association. Those restrictions -- sometimes referred to as CC&Rs -- are not currently covered by the FCC's PRB-1 decision from 1985."

To allow the ARRL to quickly collect and collate relevant information from the amateur community to help support the filing it will make with the FCC on this issue, a website has been setup. The site -- www.arrl.org/ccr-study-information -- provides details about what kind of information is needed by the ARRL.

Also on the site, you will find links to two online data collection forms. The first form allows you to provide information about specific emergency communications in which Amateur Radio has played a role since January 2000. The second form asks for specific information on the CC&Rs/deed restrictions that control your property. It also asks you to provide information on how those restrictions have impacted your ability to fully support emergency communications.

"Whether you are an ARRL member or not, your information and situation are important to helping us make the case for all amateurs," Henderson said. "Whether your support communications are with ARES, RACES, SKYWARN, CERT or other emergency and disaster groups, your voice should be heard.

If you cannot operate effectively from home during an emergency because CC&Rs prohibit adequate antennas on your property, that is important to document and quantify. This issue affects all of Amateur Radio, not just ARRL members."

Henderson said that due to the short timeframe that the FCC has allotted for public comment, time is of the essence. In order to allow the ARRL to develop its comments, the ARRL asks that all information sent by the amateur community be received at the ARRL no later than April 25, 2012: "We realize this is a very short turnaround asking for your response, but this is based on the time provided by the Commission for the comment window."

It is important that when you provide specifics of your CC&R, you also provide the ARRL with a copy of its actual wording. If you have the CC&R in a digital format (or you can scan the document into a file), it can either be uploaded through the website above or it can be sent via an e-mail to CCRinfo@arrl.org. If you do not have an electronic format, a hard copy may be sent via US mail to: CCR Study Information, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

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"We need factual, specific details," Henderson said. "The more accurate information we have -- including copies of the CC&R language -- the stronger case we can make. Having copies of the exact CC&Rs is important. It allows us to demonstrate the wide variation of restrictions. Including the specific text is as important as any other piece of information you provide."

If you have questions about what is being requested, you may contact the ARRL Regulatory Information Office via e-mail at reginfo@arrl.org. "Again, time is of the essence in this matter," Henderson said. "This is the best opportunity that amateurs have had to address the impact of overly burdensome private land use restrictions. If Amateur Radio is to succeed in this effort, it is going to take all of us working together."

ARRL Dakota Division
Director: Gregory P Widin, K0GW
k0gw@arrl.org

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**Free Circuit Design Tools
for Ham Radio
By Dan Romanchik,
KB6NU**

About a week ago, I started looking for a schematic capture program so

that I could easily generate some simple schematics for my upcoming Extra Class study guide. Since I use a Mac as my main computer, I first asked on the Ham-Mac mailing list if anyone knew of a good one. I got several recommendations, including:

- Diptrace (<http://www.diptrace.com/>),
- Eagle (<http://www.cadsoftusa.com/downloads/freeware/?language=en>), and
- McCad (<http://mccad.com/>)

Eagle looked like a good choice, although several people mentioned that the user interface "left much to be desired."

Then, I remembered that I had OmniGraffle, which is a general-purpose diagramming tool. Googling around, I found several sets of electronic symbol libraries that could be used with OmniGraffle. I installed them, and generated a couple of figures for the study guide section that discusses T-network and pi-network filters. It was a reasonably good solution to my problem.

A Web solution

A couple of days ago, though, someone on the local Maker mailing list, pointed me towards CircuitLab (<https://www.circuitlab.com/>), an online schematic capture tool and circuit simulator. I haven't tried the circuit simulation yet, but the

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schematic capture tool is really easy to use. It's much easier to use for drawing circuit diagrams than OmniGraffle.

Another benefit is that it doesn't matter what computer you're using. Because it runs in a Web browser, it doesn't matter whether that browser is running on a Mac or a PC or even a Linux box.

If you set up an account, you can save circuits to your "workbench." To get you started, there are some sample circuits, such as the 555 timer circuit shown in Figure 1. There's also some decent documentation and a forum where you can discuss circuits and get some help.

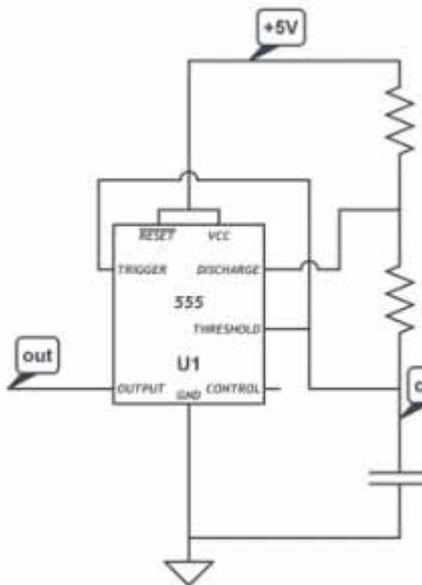


Figure 1

Finally, the price is right, too. It looks like using CircuitLab is completely free. I couldn't find any pages that required payment.

When not searching the Web for circuit design tools, you'll find KB6NU working 30m CW and twittering away about his contacts. His Twitter id is @kb6nu. He would love for you to follow him there. If you don't tweet, you can still read his blog at www.kb6nu.com.7

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FOR SALE

- FLDX-2000 Amplifier
\$250-300
- FTDX-401 Transceiver
\$200-300
- FV-401 VFO
\$50-75
- Landliner Speaker
\$40
- FT101-B Transceiver
\$200

Contact: Bonnie Sprague
218-773-1066

**NPCSS Information
Provided by
Kevin KB9WOB**

We invite you to attend the Northern Plains Convective Storm Symposium (NPCSS) in Grand Forks, North Dakota from 8 am until 5 pm on Friday, May 4, 2012. The intent of this symposium is to provide an opportunity for individuals with an interest in convective weather to exchange ideas, case studies, preliminary or finalized research findings, new forecasting techniques and technologies, communication tools and methods, and meteorological decision support. Meteorologists, students, researchers, broadcast media, storm chasers, Skywarn volunteers, emergency management, and members of the public with an interest in convective weather are encouraged to attend. Our focus is the Northern Plains of the United States and Canadian Prairies. Presentations focusing on topics outside this region are also welcome.

Note: This is an abbreviated conference this year, 2012, in lieu of the previously planned conference in Aberdeen, SD, which has been canceled due to budgetary considerations.

Symposium registration and abstract submission are open until April 27, 2012. The registration fee is \$10 for students and \$20 for everyone else. Lodging is available at the Hilton Garden Inn on the

UND campus. When you call, mention that you are attending the Northern Plains Convective Storm Symposium and would like the UND rate of \$89 per night. Lunch will be at Speedway restaurant and is not included in the symposium registration fee.

Specific information including symposium location, hotel details, how to submit an abstract, registration, and agenda will be available at the symposium website (<http://atmos.und.edu/stormconf/>). The page will be updated frequently as details are confirmed.

If you have any questions regarding this workshop you may contact Fred Remer (remer@atmos.und.edu) or Greg Gust (gregory.gust@noaa.gov). Everyone is welcome so please send this to friends or colleagues who may be interested in attending.

We look forward to seeing you in Grand Forks on May 4, 2012.

-- NPCSS Organizing Committee

What: Northern Plains Convective Storm Symposium

Where: University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND

When: 8 am to 5 pm Friday May 4, 2012

Who: Anyone with an interest in convective storms and summer season weather including meteorologists, researchers, scientists, Skywarn volunteers,

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www.wa0jxt.org

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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*.

What is AM?

March's trivia question was:

WHAT IS A VCO?

And the answer is:

Voltage-Controlled Oscillator

This may be found on page 10.34 of *THE ARRL HANDBOOK 2006*