

# FEEDLINE

JULY 2012



## **Forx Amateur Radio Club Picnic**

**Sunday, August 5, 2012 (11:00AM to 5:00PM)**

**Lincoln Park**

**Shelter #2 near horseshoe pits**

**Room to put up an antenna - Horseshoes will be available!**

**More details to come via Nets and July Club Meeting**

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 Articles that will not be published are those of a personal nature or that constitute an attack against an individual.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

# MEETING MINUTES

## June 26, 2012



The meeting was called to order by Jeff KDOBTT at 7:30 PM. There were 16 members present.

Secretary's Report - The minutes from May 2012 were distributed by John KA0SVY and were approved.

Treasurer's Report - By Truman KDOMTD was approved as they were the same as May.

ARES/EC - Gerry N0NGW reported that there were 4 callouts for severe weather. 7 people participated for a total of 12 hrs. and 30 minutes. Also there are some hams that need to fill out the NWS forms saying they will comply with the NWS policy.

Activities Report - John KA0SVY asked for Donna KC0SKD if the club wanted to have a picnic. Forwarded to new business.

VE Report - There has been some interest shown in obtaining an amateur radio license but the people are not ready to test at this time.

Repeaters - Nothing to report.

N0GFK School Club Report - The club does not meet in the summertime.

### Old Business

A. Field Day - Rod KE0A reported that the CW station had around 750 contacts, the phone station about 500 and the digital station about 146.

B. Hinge for Field Day Beam - Gerry N0NGW moved to spend up to \$200 for a hinge system to make it easier to put up and take down the beam at Field Day. 2ND by Rod KE0A the motion passed. Paul KA0CAF said that Jim Campbell would like the Field Day bills so he can reimburse us.

### New Business

A. Quarterly Drawing - The quarterly drawing for the second quarter was won by Rod KE0A.

B. Club Picnic - It was decided to have the club picnic on July 29th at Riverside Park from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It will be pot luck. Donna KC0SKD will reserve the pavilion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM

The next club meeting will be July 31, 2012 at 7:30 PM

## DATES OF INTEREST

July 2012

- 13-15 Peace Garden  
Hamfest  
14 IARU HF  
Championship  
21 North American  
QSO Party –  
RTTY  
21 CQ WW VHF  
Contest – All  
Modes  
28 St Paul, MN  
Hamfest  
31 Club Meeting

August 2012

- 4 ARRL UHF  
Contest  
5 Picnic  
28 Club Meeting

September 2012

- 25 Club Meeting  
29 Fargo Hamfest

October 2012

- 30 Club Meeting

November 2012

- 27 Club Meeting

### **Editor's Notes:**

(1) The picnic has been changed to Sunday August 5, 2012 contrary to what is in the official club minutes.

(2) There was no June 2012 issue of the *FEEDLINE*

## FOR SALE

**A4 CUSHCRAFT 20-15-10  
METER ANTENNA  
WORKS GREAT  
HAD TO DISMANTLE  
WHEN WE MOVED**

ASKING \$135

Contact: Jack WB0BMD

(701) 775-4250

(218) 779-4826 CEL

**Check Into the Net**

**And win a Prize!**

**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 Mondays you check in the better your odds are to get selected.**

## Field Day 2012

Field Day 2012 saw us once again increasing the number of contacts, and the fun. Four stations operated this year, CW, SSB, and Digital, with a GOTA station as well. The GOTA station, under the mentorship of Evan KOLWT, had 3 operators, 2 licensed hams and 1 ham to be. They racked up 61 contacts that day. The digital station soared ahead of last year, making 142 QSO's. Jeff KD0BTT had brought most of the digital equipment. The phone station made 595 contacts on 4 different bands; they even picked up a couple of contacts on 80 meters. The CW shack was very busy also! They racked up 754 QSO's despite John KA0SVY and Rod KE0A taking a few hours off to sleep.

18 hams participated this year from set up to tear down. Things went smoothly this year, all antennas tuned up and no radios quit. We ran

3A, and landed many bonus points including the field day messages, information booth, educational activities and youth element. There were 4 visitors who stopped by, all who were very interested in radio. We hope to see them again soon, maybe next year they'll have their ticket and operate too! Participants included: Larry KI0W, Cameron KD0OSK, Gerry N0NGW, John KA0SVY, Nancy K9DIG, Neil KC0REN, Jim KC0XW, Isaac Terry, Rod KE0A, John W0DTN, Scott K0PBA, Charles KI0LS, John KB0BSJ, Jeff KD0BTT, Mark KF4ME, Evan KOLWT, Sarah KD5OWQ, and Dick KC0LUR.

A thank you goes to Patsy Nies for the very delicious sloppy-joes available for meals throughout the weekend.

See you next year; mark your calendars now for the next Field Day weekend of June 22-23, 2013.



Field Day 2011 "Top Gun" Award  
(photo by Jim KC0XW)



Field Day 2012 Participants  
(photo by Jim KC0XW)



Phone Beam and Mast with Di-pole Antennas  
(photo by Mark KF4ME)



Scott K0PBA working the Digital Station  
(photo by Mark KF4ME)



Evan K0LWT and Sarah KD5OWQ working the GOTA Station  
(photo by Mark KF4ME)





Nancy K9DIG working the Phone Station with Isaac observing  
(photo by Jim KC0XW)



Rod KE0A and John KA0SVY working the CW Station  
(photo by Jim KC0XW)

**FORX AMATEUR RADIO**  
**CLUB MEETINGS**

**Last Tuesday**  
**Every Month**  
**7:30 PM**

**Basement of**  
**Altru Hospital**  
**Meeting Room E**  
**(next to cafeteria)**

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

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**GRAND FORKS**  
**HF NET**  
**3.937 MHZ (±QRM)**  
**7:00 PM**  
**MONDAY**

**Dayton Hamvention 2012:**  
**Another great**  
**ham radio experience**  
**By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU**

My Dayton experience started at 3:45 am Thursday morning. That's when I had to get up so that I could make it to the Fairborn Holiday Inn in time for the first session of this year's Four Days in May (FDIM) conference. FDIM is a one-day conference put on by the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (<http://qrparci.org/>) and is a great way to start the "Dayton experience."

This year, we were treated to six very fine presentations. They included talks on using microcontrollers for various projects, software-defined radio, VHF and UHF for QRPers, homebrewing with "hollow state" devices (more commonly known as tubes), using open-source electronic design tools, and operating pedestrian mobile. The two talks that I enjoyed the most were "Hollow State (Thermatron) Homebrewing" by Grayson, TA2ZGE/KJ7UM and "Leveraging Free and Open Source Tools in Homebrewing" by Jason, NT7S.

Friday morning, I got up early again, so that I could make the 7:30am bus to the Hamvention. We arrived about 8:00 am, just as the

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gates were opening. The first thing that I did was to head to the FAR Circuits tent, which is—as the name implies—at the far end of the flea market. There, I made my first purchases, a board to make a regenerative receiver and one to make an audio breakout box.

The rest of the day was a combination of wandering the aisles of the outdoor flea market, fighting the crowds inside the arena, attending seminars, and meeting people that I know. By the time, 4:30 pm rolled around, I was pretty hot and tired. Temperatures topped 80 degrees, and on the blacktop surface of the flea market, temperatures were undoubtedly higher. I was happy to get on the bus and head back to the hotel.

Saturday, was pretty much the same story, except it was even hotter. The temperature almost hit 90 degrees. I didn't bring any sunscreen, either, so I got a little rosy.

I ran into some people that I knew that had just come down for the day, or perhaps that I'd missed the day before. One guy I ran into at the Ohio Repeater Council booth, pulled out his new Elecraft KX-3 and gave me a quick demo. It's actually quite a cool, little radio. I'm still saving up for a K-3, though.

Around noon, I went to the food court for a slice of pizza and a glass of beer. Seating is catch as catch can, so I shared a table with several other hams. This is great because you get to meet all kinds of different people.

This year, an older gentleman sat down next to me with his beer. We got to chatting, and as it turned out, this was his 55th straight year attending the Dayton Hamvention! He started going before it was even held at Hara Arena, and even after they moved to Hara, they didn't use the entire facility as they do now. I'm really glad that I got to speak with him.

So, what did you buy?

I didn't really go down to Dayton with much of a shopping list. In addition to the PC boards, I did pick up a bunch of other little stuff including some strain reliefs, more clamp-on ferrite cores, a paddle pad from Vibroplex (\$1) to keep the paddle down at the club station from sliding around, and some tube sockets! One of the vendors there had a box of tube sockets that they were selling for a quarter apiece or five for a dollar. I picked out five and paid the lady, and as I was walking away, I decided that they were such a good deal that I went back and bought five more.

My biggest purchase was NT7S's OpenBeacon QRSS transmitter

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(www.etherkit.com). It cost me \$40. It looks like a very nice kit, and I'm hoping to be on 30m QRSS shortly with it. The nice thing about this transmitter is that it has a microcontroller that lets it transmit DFCW and Hellschreiber, in addition to CW. It should be fun to both build and operate.

Too rich for my blood

In other news, both Kenwood and FlexRadio both introduced new radios at Dayton. Perhaps the most buzz was around the Kenwood TS-990. All they were showing was a prototype under a Plexiglass cover. In addition to being incredibly expensive, the radio is huge! I heard someone joke that to produce this radio, Kenwood is going to have to corner the market on buttons and knobs. If you've seen the photo in QST (which was allegedly produced with Photoshop), you'll know what I mean.

The other radio with a bit of buzz is the new FlexRadio FLEX-6000. For the past couple of weeks, the FlexRadio website was proclaiming that this radio was going to be a game changer. Perhaps it is, but at \$6,000+, this radio is out of my league, and too expensive for the majority of radio amateurs. That being the case, I really don't know what all the buzz is about.

I'm sure that the TS-990 and the FLEX-6000 are both great radios, but I think that the law of diminishing returns applies here. At some point, are you really getting \$6,000 or \$12,000 of fun out of the radio? I don't think that I would.

Well, that's it. Another Dayton Hamvention is in the bag. It was a lot of fun, and I'm already looking forward to next year. I've already contacted one of the forum organizers about adding an adult education forum. I think that's something that's both needed and would be popular. I'll just have to make sure to leave enough time to hit the flea market and grab some more tube sockets or coax or whatever.

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When he's not tromping around flea markets, or attending conferences, Dan, KB6NU, writes books about ham radio. His latest, 21 Things to Do After You Get Your Amateur Radio License, is available as an e-book from Amazon, Barnes&Noble, or from his website, <http://www.kb6nu.com/>. You can e-mail him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

# 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 a DBM?

May's trivia question was:

WHAT IS A MIXER?

And the answer is:

A circuit that shifts one signal's frequency up or down by combining it with another signal

This may be found on page 11.1 of *THE ARRL HANDBOOK 2006*