



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

June 2008:

- 10** **Rexy Meeting B**
- 19** **T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 21-22 All Asian DX Contest, CW
- 24** **Rexy Meeting B**
- 28-29 ARRL Field Day

July 2008:

- 1 RAC Canada Day Contest
- 8** **Rexy Meeting B**
- 12-13 IARU World Championship
- 13** **FRC Summer Mtg, N3RD**
- 17** **T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 19-20 North Am. QSO Party, RTTY
- 22** **Rexy Meeting B**

August 2008:

- 2-3 North Am. QSO Party, CW
- 5** **Rexy Meeting B**
- 10** **FRC Summer Mtg, K2AX**
- 9-10 Worked All Europe Test, CW
- 16-17 North Am. QSO Party, SSB
- 16-17 New Jersey QSO Party
- 19** **Rexy Meeting B**
- 21** **T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 30-31 YO (Romania) DX Contest

CHANGES

None this month

Deadline for July issue:

Sunday, June 22, 2008

President's Column

Unfortunately, I was not at Dayton this year, but I understand that **FRC** was well represented and that a great time was had by all. Now that I have an associate at my veterinary practice, I hope to finally make the trip to Dayton. I have not been since 1968 (40 years is a very long time).

I want to thank everyone for their contest participation in the past year and to wish everyone a great summer! Get started on those antenna projects early so you have plenty of time to have them completed before the start of the fall contest season. If you need help, ask and ask early. If you are asked to help, please say "yes."

Don't forget the two currently scheduled summer meetings at N3RD (Sunday, July 13) and **K2AX** (Sunday, August 10). If you have not attended either of these fine meetings in the past, you've missed out on two great events! The attendance has been high and the food/drink have been outstanding. Dave may have a newly renovated ham shack to show off and Mark has the largest air-conditioned shack in New Jersey. YLs/XYLs are invited, of course. Plan early and car pool to the meeting sites to save on gas. CU there! **Go FRC!**

73, John, W8FJ...

Summer Meetings



Sunday, July 13—Dave, N3RD, Sponsored by Team N3RS. Starts at 1 PM.

Sunday, August 10 = Hosted by Mark, K2AX. Starts at 1 PM.

Maps for both meetings will be in the July newsletter

MEETINGS

T.I.T.S. meeting—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, June 19 at 12:00 noon. Location is the Hometown Diner on Route 222 in Trexlertown..

Rexy Meeting B—The Rexy's **FRC Meeting B** meets about 8 PM on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

2008 FRC Fund Drive

The 2008 **FRC** Annual Fund Drive is now officially underway. This issue should contain a stamped envelope for your contribution.

Here a few reminders when getting ready to make your annual contribution to help keep our club running...

- 1) **PLEASE** make **ALL** checks payable to **FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB, and NOT KQ2M.**
- 2) **PLEASE** write your return address and callsign on the envelope.
- 3) **PLEASE** write your callsign/callsigns on the check.
- 4) **PLEASE** seal the envelope.



Each year quite a few people forget to do at least one of the above and we lose some contribution checks. Also, some people make a much-needed contribution but then do not receive credit for making it. Clearly no one wants that, so **PLEASE** take a few extra seconds to make sure that you follow #1 - 4 before you mail the envelope.

If for some reason you don't get an envelope, or you misplace it, you can send your contribution to:

Robert L. Shohet, KQ2M
51 Scudder Road
Newtown, CT 06470

As you know, these are contributions and not "dues" so there is no fixed rate. To set the scale, however, it may help you to know that the cost of operating the club last year was about \$50.00 per member

AA3B	K3PH	N3ED	W2LE	W3EA
AB2IO	K3ZV	N3GNW	W2RD	W3FVT
K2UT	KC2NB	N3RW	W2REH	W3GNQ
K3ATO	KQ2M	N3YW	W2TV	W3MF
K3CP/5	N2CQ	N3ZA	W2UDT	W3SQ
K3FMQ	N2LT	N9GG	W2YC	
K3GYS	N2VW	W0MHK	W3BGN	

Field Day Plans by FRC Members

A number of **FRC**ers like to participate in Field Day, either with a local club or by themselves. While Field Day is not a contest (although **FRC**ers treat ANY operating event like a contest!), it's a nice way to show some of the local groups how to operate better, more efficient, and possibly groom them for contesting. Here are the current plans I'll publish scores, stories, pictures, etc in the August issue of the newsletter.

K2SMD, K2WB, N1RK, N3RG, K2PS, N2SR, and other **FRC**ers will be at K2AA, the South Jersey Radio Association Field Day at Savich Field in Marlton, operating 6A.

Bud, **AA3B**, will be operating 1E, Low Power from home. He just put in a backup generator and Field Day will be a good chance to ring it out!

K2QPN, K2SQS and **N2VW** from the **FRC** will be operating Field Day with the Burlington County Radio Club. They will operate class 3A in Buddtown, NJ. The call is K2TD. All are welcome. Talk in on 146.550. Map is on the ARRL locator - <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>.

The West Jersey DX Group will be at the Somerset County Fire Academy in Hillsborough NJ (402 Roycefield Rd) as W2EN. They'll be running 3F plus a GOTA station. **FRC**'ers will be **W2EN, W2CG, KC2NB, W2LE, W2GD** and others. All are invited to stop by.

Norm, **W3IZ**, reports that the Southington ARA will be operating 3F from the Southington Grange. The call will be W1ECV. Bands will be 80m, 40m & 20m SSB & CW. Everyone is welcome and the emphasis is on fun and food. They breakdown at noon on Sunday and eat a great barbeque.

Bob, **NQ3X**, will be with the Delaware-Lehigh ARC, using the club call W3OK. **K3OO** and **K3YD** usually put in an appearance also; and other **FRC**ers show up. If you're in their neck of the woods, stop by! Visit <http://www.dlarc.org/> for details. Bob is in charge of our VHF station, so listen for W3OK on 6m and 2m!

W3CF will be leading a rag tag bunch of VHF/UHF operators and anyone else who wants to show up at the Montgomery County EOC in Eagleville Pa. They will have one tribander fixed west at 100' and inverted V for 40 and 80. They need CW ops badly. **AA3DF** is going to come help out on the night shift. The second station will be combo GOTA station and 2nd run radio when not in use by GOTA. They will have a 2nd tribander at about 30' but the hill is 467' ASL with steep drops so it still plays well. They will be 2F EPA, 100% emergency power. The call sign will be AA3E. They would love for ANY **FRC**ers who might want to play to come have some fun.

Pictures of last year's set up at <http://picasaweb.google.com/douglas.priest/RacesFieldDay2007> pictures of this years set up at <http://picasaweb.google.com/douglas.priest/RACESTower>. They didn't have their own tower last year so they improvised. :). The site is air conditioned with running water and clean potties. They would REALLY love Montgomery County operators so Doug can pull them into emergency communications. The county is really supporting the group and needs them to be there.

George, **AA4GT**, will use the club call W4F for Field Day. He'll be in Naples Fl and hopes to hear everyone.

Joe, **KQ3F**, will be operating with the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club, class 2A, using special event call sign W3W. The location will be the Gerald H Vanatta Park, 50th and Derry Streets in Harrisburg, PA. If you work W3W on CW you will almost certainly be working Joe.

CONTESTING — TIPS, TECHNIQUES, RESOURCES

Reprinted with permission from the April 30, 2008 Contest Rate Sheet

A procedure for determining your soil conductivity was posted recently on the Elecraft reflector <<<http://www.elecraft.com/elist.html>>> by Steve NU7T. Search for "Your Farm's Soil Electric Conductivity" and follow the discussion from there. (Thanks, Rich NU6T)

Jim K5LAD has updated his Web site on rebuilding rotators to feature a set of pages on the popular Hy-Gain Tailtwister. <<<http://www.hayseed.net/~jpk5lad/Rotors/Tail-Twister.htm>>> There are lots of pictures, several questions answered, and hopefully, some help for anyone who wants to attempt the same operation.

Jim K9YC has put together a nice white paper titled "Power and Grounding For Audio and Audio/Video Systems -- A White Paper for the Real World" that is certainly applicable to the ham shack. He gives this course on this topic at conferences and trade shows. You can find both the tutorial and slides from the lectures at his Web site <<<http://audiosystemsgroup.com/publish>>>.

Reprinted with permission from the May 14, 2008 Contest Rate Sheet

Paul K2DB/K2NNY has set up a new email reflector for those that are interested in remote stations, operating, contesting, etc. Paul is able to do remote operating now and the mission of the reflector is to share technical and troubleshooting expertise. The discussion will be both for those getting started with a remote station and those trying to keep one running. General information and subscription info can be found at <<<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/remoteposting>>>

WAE DX Contest Manager, Joerg DL8WPX, reports that preparations for the 54th Worked All Europe DX Contest <<<http://waedc.de/>>> are under way. He also reports that several rules have been updated and that there is a new and comprehensive 40+ page booklet available for download, featuring the 2007 WAEDC and WAG contests and rules for 2008.

The Japanese amateur allocations are somewhat fragmented on a couple of the bands, particularly 160 and 80 meters. Brett VR2BG points us to an English-language version of the JA band-by-band allocations: <<http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/6_Band_Plan/JAbandplan.pdf>> A reminder -- JA amateurs still do not have a phone allocation on 160 meters.

URL of the Week -- Contesters that would like to announce their planned operations from DX locations this fall can do so now at Bill NG3K's Web site <<<http://www.ng3k.com/Contest/consub.html>>>. Read the submission guidelines before filling out the form.

Responding to a question about dampening wind-induced guy rope vibrations of a roof-mounted vertical, Dave K1TTT related some tricks used by utilities to reduce that kind of noise: Try a couple things like utilities do to dampen vibrations...

- Tie a fishing weight or a big nut, a couple ounces should do, on a short rope, just a couple inches, a few feet up the guy from the anchor point.
- Wrap another rope in a spiral around the guy rope.
- Tie multiple guys together with a rope or bungee cord them a few feet above the anchor
- Slip a piece of pipe (plastic would be OK) a few feet long over the bottom of each guy.

Reprinted with permission from the May 14, 2008 Contest Rate Sheet

Jeff K1ZM/VY2ZM has a new toy for us -- it's a Web site <<<http://www.k1zm.com/>>> about his bellwether station and activity from Prince Edward Island. Take a look at this site to see why Jeff is a regular at the top of the Top Tanners.

Tom W7WHY solved the problem of a tree-mounted vertical wire pulling out of a ground-mounted insulator due to maelstroms moving the tree around. His problem was with the bottom of an 160 meter inverted-L pulling loose from the insulator at the bottom of the antenna. By hooking a flexible, black tie-down strap between the insulator to the ground anchor, tie-down strap takes all the abuse, not the antenna. This technique can be adapted to cushion many types of antenna-feed line connections.

Two helpful hints on rotator repair works surfaced this week courtesy of a discussion on Towertalk initiated by Scott W4PA. First, to securely hold the heavy units without using a vise, a cinder block with wood shims as needed works quite well for the Ham-IV/Tailtwister-size rotators. Second, place a large pan, such as an automotive oil-change pan, under the workpiece to catch any bearings or pieces that fall out when the housing is opened.

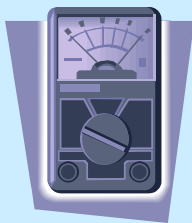
Rick O'Keefe recently posted the URL for a Yahoo group focused on lighting protection <<<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/LightningProtection>>> questions about grounding and surge protection.

Steve K7LXC posted a reminder that wire rope -- such as that used in crank-up towers -- needs periodic lubrication. He also notes that using a heavy grease lubricant traps moisture, dirt, and contaminants in the cable that will accelerate wear and deterioration. Light, spray-on lubricants are preferred. David KC0LL contributed a link to this authoritative document on cable maintenance <<<http://tinyurl.com/5gnzdt>>>. Descriptions of which lubricants to use are on page 7-38.

Another tip from the voluble tower-man Steve K7LXC explains what to do when tramping a 2-element beam with no center element or mounting plate. "In that case I use a yoke. Loop the tagline around one element, down the boom and then down the other element - with both sides tied together forming a sort of triangle. I'd suggest using polypropylene rope since it's relatively stiff and won't tend to get hung up somewhere as you're unrigging it up on the tower. Or use two taglines that go up the elements and are then tied to the center of the boom so you can reach it to unrig. One person can handle both taglines without much problem which is better than having two persons manning the taglines. One of them will invariably want to pull too hard."

Making your own "staples" for laying and holding down radial wire is fairly straightforward. If you are looking for pre-formed staples, however, they may be available as "lawn staples" or "sod staples" at your local lawn and garden emporium. (Thanks, Jim K8MK and Rick W0RIC)

In contests on which multipliers count on each band or mode worked be sure to keep the "needed multiplier" window open and make it a habit to check the window during each QSO. It never hurts to attempt to inveigle a station with "Can you move to fifteen?" to pick up a quick multiplier. Over the course of a contest, those extra multipliers can make a big difference in the final score!



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73 Tim Brown NM3E 610-207-4865

FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 8 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$11.70 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$12.30 for 10 years, an increase of \$.60.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site at, <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.html>. The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50; the current fee of \$11.70 is the lowest the fee has been since the inception of the vanity call sign program. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$184,500 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal two years ago. Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS site at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>, and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

National Weather Service Announces Outage Web Site

The National Weather Service has announced a Web page for hams and others to report outages of the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters (NWR). The Web page <<<http://www.weather.gov/nwr/outages.html>>> explains how to report a transmitter that may be off air in a listener's area.

<http://www.lz1jz.com>



ARRL Introduces "Fifth Pillar" at Dayton Hamvention

On Saturday, May 17 at the Dayton Hamvention, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, plans to announce that the League will expand its identity program to include greater emphasis on technology. Harrison explained that "Ham radio operators, and particularly ARRL members, closely identify with current and emerging radio technology. Today, we are naming 'technology' as ARRL's new fifth pillar." ARRL's other four pillars, the underpinnings of the organization, are Public Service, Advocacy, Education and Membership. "For hams, expanding the four pillars to include technology will reinforce one of the organization's guiding principles -- that ham radio is state-of-the-art, innovative and relevant," he said.

"Radio amateurs have entered a new era. More than a dozen Amateur Radio satellites are presently in orbit with more to come. Software is expanding the capabilities of their radio hardware and communication by digital voice and data is expanding rapidly among hams," Harrison said.

In addition to the new fifth pillar, the ARRL has launched a year-long ham radio recruitment campaign emphasizing the Amateur Radio Service as a scientific national resource. The campaign invites newcomers to discover ham radio in the 21st Century -- where hams are using science, technology and experimentation to explore the radio spectrum. "For more than 90 years, the ARRL has been at the forefront of technology, encouraging experimentation and education through its license training resources, publications and periodicals. ARRL provides its members with top-notch technical information services, trusted product reviews and radio spectrum advocacy," Harrison said. "The ARRL Laboratory is a centerpiece of ham radio technology, contributing to radio electronics experimentation, spectrum development and advocacy, and radio frequency engineering."

Harrison also noted that many hams attribute their affinity to "Amateur" Radio as launching their professional careers in radio engineering, satellite communications, computer science and wireless communications.

"This is less about defining a new course for Amateur Radio, but simply recognizing a course that has always been a precept of radio amateurs and the ARRL," he said. Referring to the federal rules and regulations for Amateur Radio, Harrison explained that one of the defining principles of the Service's very creation by the government is the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. Harrison remarked, "Today's technology is nothing new to ham radio!"



Spring is Here!!!

Work Wanted:

Experienced tower climber immediately available to perform antenna and tower maintenance.

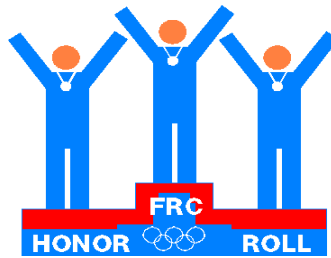
Install/repair/remove antennas, replace feedlines and cabling, rotator servicing, guy wire renewal, new tower installations (guyed and self-supporting), and tower removal.

Reasonable hourly rates and scheduling that meets your needs.

Contact: John Crovelli W2GD

w2gd@hotmail.com

New Reach Number: 908 391 5611 (Mobile)



JUNE *conducted by N2SS* **2008**

🌐 **WARC BANDS** 🌐

<u>30 Meters</u>	<u>17 Meters</u>	<u>12 Meters</u>
K2FL .. 337	K2FL...340	N2TK ..331
N2TK335	N2TK 339	K2FL.....327
N2LT326	N2LT 337	N2LT.....323
W3BGN....324	W3BGN ... 333	W3BGN...317
W2YC.....312	N2SS 325	WØMHK..310
N2SS297	WØMHK.. 322	N2SS.....303
W8FJ.....298	W2UP..... 321	W2YC.....280
W2UP292	W2YC 316	K2PS.....269
K2PS290	K2PS 311	W2UP267
N3RD.....284	W8FJ 298	W8FJ.....233
WØMHK ..279	W2IRT..... 270	N1RK.....218
W2IRT244	N1RK..... 261	K3II.....203
K3II.....234	K3II 256	W2LE 198
W2LE.....221	W2LE 244	W2YR.....187
N2VW.....165	K2AX 224	W2IRT137
AB2E156	W2YR 203	W2IRT105
N1RK.....134	AB2E..... 127	AB2E92
W2YR.....134	K3ND 127	K2AX77
K3ND.....91	N2VW..... 123	N2VW.....35
K2AX.....72	K3GYS..... 85	K3GYS.....30
K3GYS17		

K2FL and N2TK still duking it out for that elusive, undisputed **KING OF WARC**



ARRL DXCC Challenge

N2LT 2964	N2SS 1952
N2TK 2925	N1RK 1908
W2YC 2721	W2IRT 1870
WØMHK ... 2628	W2YR 1712
K2PS 2295	AB2E..... 1104

Lew takes over the lead as Tony corrects his totals to eliminate deleted!

Rules for FRC Honor Roll Listings.

DXCC Challenge is CONFIRMED total ACTIVE (no deleted) per ARRL rules. For all others provide me with your total IOTA's worked, or countries (including deleted) worked for: WARC Bands, 160 Meters, Digital modes, Mobile, 6 Meters or your total for 80,40,20, 15 and 10 for 1.5K Club.



160 Meters



W3BGN304	WØMHK 152
AA1K301	K2FL..... 151
WT3Q.....272	K3ND..... 137
N2LT264	W2IRT 122
N2TK.....258	K2PS 112
NO2R.....243	N2VW..... 103
K3SX241	AB2E 100
W8FJ231	K2AX..... 91
K3JIG230	W2YR..... 83
W2UP219	N2SS 79
W2YC.....208	K3NL 70
K3II160	W2LE..... 64
N3RS156	N1RK..... 56
.....	K3GYS 12

Another FRC'er Top Bander attains the magical 300 mark. Congratulations Jon. W3BGN, the ultimate 160 Meter DXer however, continues at the **Top of Top Band!**



RTTY Digital

W2UP.....342	W2YR..... 132
N2LT339	KQ3F 132
K2PS.....298	N2SS 53
W2YC.....287	N2TK 48
W2IRT.....206	N1RK..... 39
W2LE141	K3GYS 15
.....	W8FJ..... 12



MOBILE DX

AA1K.....277	K3GYS 143
W2YC.....276	W2YR..... 28
N2SS.....234	

Well, he's done it! Jon is now our official **Big Wheel**.



1.5K Club

K2FL..... 1725	N2SS.....1543
W3BGN 1711	K3ND1508
N2TK..... 1703	WØMHK1478
N2LT..... 1703	K3II1449
W2UP 1684	N2VW1315
N3RS..... 1638	N1RK.....1309
W8FJ 1612	W2LE1193
W2YC 1598	AB2E1185
N3RD..... 1578	W2IRT.....1163
NO2R..... 1556	W2YR.....1157
K2PS..... 1544	K2AX1063



Islands On The Air

K2FL..... 1021	N1RK.....555
N2SS 846	N2VW.....275
W2YC 674	W2YR.....248
W8FJ 623	W2IRT.....232
WØMHK..... 381	K3GYS232
.....	AB2E205



6 METER DXCC

N2LT..... 110	N1RK.....57
K2PS 108	N2SS.....55
WØMHK..... 106	W2YR.....44
AA1K.....99	W2YC.....38
K30090	K2AX21
K3SX..... 75	N2TK.....20
.....	K3GYS10

N2LT is right back at the top of 6 Meters!



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 431 Albury, PA 18011-0431



Affiliated Club

The Frankford Radio Club

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Email: k3zv@inbox.com

Repeater - 2 meters, 147.27/147.87 Input and Output PL tone, 114.8

Home Page - www.gofrc.org

Meetings

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (Sep through May) at 8 PM at the University of the Sciences, Philadelphia. Summer meetings are held at member homes (one Saturday/ Sunday per month).

Packet Cluster Contest/DX System

144.950 K3ZV
145.050 W3TUA
145.530 AA1K
145.530 K3WW
145.570 WT3Q
145.670 W3PP

Telnet DX Cluster

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