



# THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

## CALENDAR

### September:

- 4-5 All Asian SSB Test
- 11-12 Worked All Europe SSB Test
- 14 FRC Meeting, Phila 8 PM**
- 18-19 Scandinavian (SAC) CW Test
- 25-26 Scandinavian (SAC) SSB Test
- 25-26 CQ WW RTTY DX Test

### October:

- 2-3 VK/ZL SSB DX Test
- 2-3 California QSO Party
- 9-10 PA QSO Party
- 9-10 VK/ZL CW DX Test
- 12 FRC Meeting, Phila 8 PM**
- 30-31 CQWW SSB DX Test**

### November:

- 6-7 ARRL SS CW Test
- 9 FRC Meeting, Phila 8 PM**
- 13-14 Worked All Europe RTTY Test
- 20-21 ARRL SS SSB Test
- 27-28 CQWW CW DX Test**

### December:

- 3-5 ARRL 160 meter CW Test
- 11-12 ARRL 10 meter Test
- 14 FRC Meeting, Phila 8 PM**

## CHANGES

### ARRL CAC Atlantic Division Representative

Rus Healy, **K2UA**  
5960 Canadice Hill Road  
Springwater, NY 14560-9643  
rhealy@adaptivebroadband.com

## President's Column

It's September  
a l r e a d y - -  
DARN--Where  
did the summer  
go?? I know  
one place it  
went--SUMMER MEETINGS!!  
**W2OX, W3PP, N3RD**, and regional  
meetings. It was a real treat to see  
FRC members who rarely get to meet-  
ings. That leads me to subject No1:  
Meetings!



FRC has become so large and spread  
out we need to follow suit with official  
meetings. Look at this Newsletter cal-  
endar section and you will see meet-  
ings schedules for FRC West, FRC  
North, FRC NJ, FRC SOUTH. This  
schedule should go a long way towards  
facilitating our member attendance but  
it makes it more difficult to have  
GOOD MEETINGS at each location.  
That is problem we will solve! But  
remember--when I ask YOU to help  
with the programs HELP US! Most of  
us are small pistols not big guns, but  
little pistols are deadly too!! Let me  
know what program topics you want,  
by email, snail mail, telephone, what-  
ever. Now, subject No. 2: Help!

Many FRC members need help to get  
their stations up and running. Towers,  
beams, packet nodes, computers what-  
ever! Now is the time to get and give  
help!! I know tower climbers are hard  
to come by, but ground help is essen-  
tial. Be there when you are needed.  
What goes around comes around.

Your efforts are necessary and ap-  
preciated. That brings up topic No.  
3: FRC Fraternity!

**K3WW** and others have repeatedly  
said that **they have never asked  
questions and help from FRC  
members and had their requests  
refused.** FRC is not just a contest  
club! It has always been an associa-  
tion of members with a strong com-  
mon interest, a powerful competi-  
tive spirit, and strong personal  
bonds, fraternal bonds. Why win  
without anyone else to share the  
thrill, the joy, the exaltation of vic-  
tory!! Big guns, little pistols all of  
us can appreciate one another's vic-  
tory. We know, really know, what  
we experience to get the scores we  
submit. It ain't the score as much as  
the effort we cheer! That is why  
**EVERY POINT COUNTS! TO  
ALL OF US! SO MAKE THE  
POINTS!**

Two last notes: We are starting a  
"Members Happenings Column" to  
report FRC goings on. This will  
work ONLY if you send reports to  
Joe, **KQ3F**, the editor, or any FRC  
officer. We will get it in the news-  
letter. There is also a "Letter to the  
Editor" column. Again this will  
only work if you submit your com-  
plaints and compliments. If you do  
not want your name in print, OK,  
but send the letter to me first and  
tell me so.

Final Note: **BE THERE!! BE  
LOUD!!!**

73, Alex, **W2OX**

**MEETING CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 1999**

NOTE: WE WILL VIDEOTAPE PRESENTATIONS FOR ALL OUR OTHER MEETINGS.

**Sept 6 FRC CENTRAL @W2OX,** Welcome party DLIAO, 1 PM

**Sept 14 First Fall Meeting, 8 PM, College of Pharmacy,** "HOW TO MAKE MORE POINTS" panel discussion + UBN - what it is and how it affects your score.

**Sept 17 FRC NNJ: WNJA West Jersey meeting,** UBN Discussion

**Sept 24 FRC NORTH:** Trexler Town Intl Transmitting Society, 12 Noon, Pied Piper Diner, Trexler Town

**Sep 28 FRC SNJ:** Meeting B Raxy's Place 8 PM

**FRC West** to be announced

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT  
NEW JERSEY DX ASSOCIATION**

**Friday, September 17, 1999 at 8:00 PM**

This meeting is delayed one week because of the Jewish Holidays

**Morris County Police and Firefighters Academy  
West Hanover Avenue  
Parsippany, NJ**

**PROGRAM**

Jeff Friedman, K3JF  
NNJ Section Manager

**Directions**

**From the North & East**

Take Garden State Parkway South to Route 80 West to Exit 42B -watch signs for Rt. 202 South to Morris Plains. Once you are on Rt. 202 South, stay on that road. You will cross over Rt. 10. Continue approximately 1 mile to underpass. Bear left on far side of underpass. Continue to second traffic light. Turn Right onto West Hanover Avenue. Stay on this road for about 2 or 3 miles to the

Morristown. Take this exit and stay to the right. At traffic light, turn right onto Ridgedale Avenue. Continue on Ridgedale past the automobile dealerships. At the top of the hill, Agway Garden Center on left, at traffic light, is Hanover Avenue. Turn left onto Hanover Ave. Stay on Hanover Ave., passing the Mennen Plant on your left. Go through a small area of construction to the traffic light at Speedwell Ave. (Rt. 202). Cross over Speedwell and Hanover becomes West Hanover at this point. Then follow the directions given above.

**From the East and/or South**

Take the Garden State Parkway North to Rt. 78 East. There is no exit from the GSP to Rt. 78 West. Go East and make a U-turn at the first exit so you will be on Rt. 78 West. From the Holland Tunnel and Newark Airport, take Rt. 78 West to Rt. 24 West to Exit 1A (Rt. 511 South). At the first traffic light, turn Right onto Hanover Avenue. Follow the directions above.

**From the South**

Take Rt. 287 North to the first Morristown Exit which will be South Street. At the top of the exit ramp at the traffic light, turn left onto South Street. Continue past King's Supermarket on the Left. Go past the next traffic light (James St.) to the first possible right turn onto Elm Street. Continue to the bottom of the hill where you will see the Con rail station straight ahead of you. At the traffic light, turn right onto Morris Ave. At the next traffic light, turn left turn onto Ridgedale Avenue and then see the instructions above from that point.

**From the West**

Take Rt. 80 East to Rt. 287 South and follow the directions above.

This meeting is an open meeting. Guests are welcome

## FRC SOUTH JERSEY MEETING RECAP

The FRC Special South Jersey meeting on 10 July 1999 went off as scheduled in Medford, NJ at 1 PM most stayed for a few hours. The last dog was hung at about 7 PM!! Obviously it went very well.

The host was Rich, **KD2KS**. His charming wife, Kathy, was a great hostess and made everyone feel at ease. There were 10 hams present, including our illustrious President Alex, **W2OX**. Eight FRC and two prospects from SJRA, both of whom are already contesting in VHF or VHF/HF (a CW op, too).

Discussed Summer preparations and organization for this year's contest season. The perennial repeater and Packetcluster topics took their usual place on the agenda. The club and its method of operation were reviewed for the those present.

Present from FRC were: **KD2KS**, Rich; **N2VW**, Jack; **K2UT**, Bob; **W2BE**, Bruce, **K2PS**, Pete; **K2SB**, Steve; **WA3RHW**, Bruce; **W2OX**, Alex.

Guests were:

**KD2P**, Pat, primarily a CW op. Only shortcoming is that he actually prefers CW!

**N2SCJ**, Bob (Advanced Class). As I work Bob in VHF/UHF contests, he reminds me of Alan, **N3AD**. Persistent, loud, brash and effective. He even convinced me to move to six meters from 2 in a recent VHF contest.

All the problems and dilemmas that have or ever will plague FRC were resolved at the meeting. ;-}

A great meeting. Accomplished its intended purpose. May have picked us up a couple of good prospects. Alex, the Prez, showing up was a real plus for the meeting and the recognition of the primarily SJRA group that they also were members of FRC. Good team-building. That was a long ride for you, Alex. Thanks.

## WAE CW SCORE RUMORS

Call	QSO	QTC	Ctys	Mult	Score	Cat
<b>KQ3F</b>	716	715	102	230	328,900	SO
<b>AA3B</b>	1325	1325	154	362	959,300	SO
<b>K3WW</b>	1029	1013	140	335	684,070	SO
<b>W2YC</b>	706	704	128	271	381,568	SO
<b>W2YR</b>	258	257	99	230	118,450	SO
<b>N3RD</b>	1926	1921	181	445	1,711,915	M
					Ops: <b>N3RD, N3RS, W8FJ</b>	
<b>K3PP</b>	48	45	30	61	5,673	SO
<b>WK2G</b>	757	752	102	232	350,088	SO
<b>W2EN</b>	483	481	93	218	210,154	SO
<b>N3BNA</b>	828	825	126		472,186	SO
<b>KQ2M</b>	297	292	79	179	105,431	SO

## FRC DUDS FOR CONTEST STUDS (or not)

I am looking to see what interest there is in another FRC shirt order. I put out a packet request and only got 8 responses. The problem I have is that I must have the FRC Keystone artwork set up again. The Chinese guy I used in Philadelphia flew the coup. In order to keep the cost per shirt down to a reasonable level I need more than 20 shirts. Spreading the cost of artwork over 20 shirts is better than spreading it among 8. If you are interested in ordering shirts, hats, and/or jackets contact me. If things work out I will also have other goodies available like Aprons, flight bags, duffel bags, laptop bags, etc. with the FRC logo and your call on them. Estimated costs of shirts are in the \$35.00 range depending on how many we order. I can be reached at **w3cf@msn.com**, on packet, or (215) 361-9989 before 9 PM please or I'll \*69 you at 4am when I awake.

*73 Doug W3CF*

## The Challenge Ahead

By John Crovelli, W2GD

What happened last contest season was inevitable, and the inevitable finally happened, the Yankee Clippers got themselves organized and executed a winning strategy to beat the FRC in both the CQWW and ARRL DX events. It shouldn't have come as a surprise to any of us. For years the YCCC has been aggressively recruiting new members and holding "contest college" training sessions. Their active membership roster is huge, and still growing. Last year they even added a new twist by organizing into contest "teams" within the club. The strategy worked almost perfectly! They put more operators and stations on the air, put more effort into overall organization, and probably most importantly, **they had the desire and determination to win**. We didn't let them win, they didn't steal the victory from us, they **EARNED** the victory through a lot of hard work and effort.

Did the FRC become complacent last year? I think so. And why not, for years we really haven't been forced to put much effort into organizing, we've had the talent to simply get on and win. And we did, almost effortlessly, for a very, very long time.

So it's now a new ballgame folks. The YCCC has unequivocally proven they can get their act together and beat us. And don't look now but our traditional rivals (the PVRC) are sneaking up on us too! We need to take the steps necessary to reverse this trend, and the time to do so is NOW.

To return to the level of competitiveness that we're accustomed to will require each and every one of us to work a little harder this year, and even do some of the same things our rivals have been doing. Let's capitalize on what we've proven successful in the past and improve upon that formula for success by implementing a few of the things our rivals have shown to be effective as well.

First, I would like to see each and every FRC member do his or her best to recruit at least one new club member this year. We are looking for anyone who has an interest in contesting, period. These recruits need not be particularly experienced or expert, they need only want to learn and we need to be willing to teach them what they need to know. It's time to invest some real time and effort into training and mentoring our operators of the future.

Second, each of us should begin planning right now how we will spend as much time as possible in the four big con-

tests this year. Time is literally equivalent to points. The more hours you operate the more points you will contribute. Token efforts to maintain FRC membership are really not enough! Set some aggressive goals for yourself. Operate during the times your station will be most productive, and then some. Use packet to maximize your score. But most importantly, get on the air! Ask for help, or volunteer your assistance to others who need it.

Finally, let's be sure our station and operator resources are used as efficiently as possible. Have you returned your questionnaire? If you have a good station that will be idle by your absence, invite someone over to use it. Or if you have a multi-op station, and need operators, say the word. Let's match up operators without stations to stations with empty seats. Winning isn't everything, but it sure beats losing!

73, John, W2GD

### FROM THE EDITOR

I almost hate to say this, but I'm truly enjoying this editor's job. Part of what makes it so exciting are the ideas conjured up by Alex, W2OX. As he mentions in his column, we have two new features this month: Member Happenings and Letters to the Editor.

Starting with the October issue, I'll put the Letters to the Editor, Member Notes and any ramblings I may have on the last page of the newsletter, similar to what many "real" newspapers do. The President's column and calendar will continue to appear on page 1, with meeting information and contest results appearing on page 2 and for as many pages after that as necessary. Member articles will appear after meeting/contest info. There may be a time or two when I'll have to violate that, due to spacing considerations, but that's what I'll try. I'd like to set up the newsletter so readers can know where to find various articles on a consistent basis.

I promised more graphics this month, and I haven't come through. I do promise more "pizazz", but keep in mind that I'm a guy who got "C"s in junior high school art class when getting an "A" seemingly required little more than laughing at the teacher's jokes. It'll get better as time goes on. Honest!

73, Joe KQ3F



## MEMBER HAPPENINGS

SEND NOTES ABOUT MEMBERS TO THE EDITOR PLEASE!!!

**KQ3M** Bob and Barbara celebrated arrival of daughter last month. Congratulations Bob and Barbara!

**N2SR** is affianced to Carol Ann. The wedding is planned for next April, after the contest season!! Good Planning Thomas!

**K2SG**, Tony has recovered from all his back problems of last year, sends regards to all, c u in the pileups!

**N2MM**, Howard is slowly getting back into shape after a serious bacterial infection. He says IV meds do not taste good!

**W2OX**, Alex has a first grandson, Benjamin Thomas Ragan. All are doing well. Grandchildren are great!

**W1GD**, Gerry has (ugh!!) back problems, may need surgery, send him some get well cards!

**K2GN**, Larry has had lung problems for last two years, slowly getting better, but a hard pull.

**W3BGN**, Steve has retired to the golf course, somewhere near the 8th green. Has had difficulty in getting grounds keeper to let him put towers up near course. Says he is in the propagation sand pit!!

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The following is a letter to the editor from an FRC member:

When I come to meetings, I always feel like an outsider. Try and make the newer, younger, members feel welcome. When I was sick for a long while not once was it mentioned in the newsletter. I sure would have felt better if I had gotten at least one card from my radio friends.

The only time small stations get attention is prior to the contests. Everyone tells you that points are important, some of us really bust our humps and are ignored. One year I had TVI and equipment problems and still ran CQWW SSB #2 in the USA. The only thing I heard from the FRC was that I could have done a better job with more power. No one asked why I was low power and nobody said, "good Job."

I asked for help to get some coax changed and even though I was sick I could have made some points. No one helped me. I had RFI problems and could not climb at all. I still do not know if I have TVI problems, I'll be doing some testing soon.

Basically this has turned me off contesting and as a matter of fact ham radio in general. I really enjoyed contesting, that's why I joined the club to begin with.

One comment: Recognition!! Do it when it is deserved! Do it in a timely manner! Do it publicly!! Do it often!!!

*Name withheld by W2OX*

PRESIDENT'S NOTE: Enough said, these shortcomings we have to be corrected!!!

## 1999 CQ WORLDWIDE CONTESTS

**SSB: 0000Z OCTOBER 30 TO  
2359Z OCTOBER 31**

**CW: 0000Z NOVEMBER 27 TO  
2359z NOVEMBER 28**

## 2000 ARRL DX CONTESTS

**CW: 0000Z FEBRUARY 19 TO  
2359Z FEBRUARY 20**

**SSB: 0000Z MARCH 4 TO  
2359Z MARCH 5**

## The Frankford Radio Club

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MEMBER HAPPENINGS

DX NEWS

AND MORE!

### Club Officers

President, **W2OX**, Alex Aimette ..... 215-721-1453  
 Vice Pres, **N3MKZ**, Joe Brue ..... 570-992-6890  
 Secretary, **K3NZ**, Norm Zoltack ..... 610-799-4044  
 Treasurer, **K2TW**, Tom Wall ..... 908-782-9512

### Committee Chairman

Repeater, **K3NL**, Nick Leipold ..... 610-449-8910  
 Packet, **N3RD**, Dave Hawes ..... 610-935-2684  
 Activities, **WT3Q**, Sam Harner ..... 717-355-2925  
 Awards, **K3CP**, “Van” Van Horn ..... 610-691-5979  
 Membership, **W2OX**, Alex Aimette ..... 215-721-1453

### Newsletter & Roster

Editor, **KQ3F**, Joe Stepansky ..... 717-657-9792  
 Printing, **K3NZ**, Norm Zoltack ..... 610-799-4044

### Repeater

2 meters, 147.27/147.87  
 Output PL tone, 118.8

### Home Page

[www.frc-contest.org](http://www.frc-contest.org)

### Meetings

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (Sep through May) at 8 PM at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, 43rd and Kingsessing Street, Philadelphia. Summer meetings are held at member homes (one Saturday/ Sunday per month).

### Packet Cluster Contest/DX System

144.910 N2MT  
 144.930 W3FRC  
 145.610 K2TD  
 144.950 KD3CN  
 145.530 K3WW  
 145.530 AA1K  
 145.530 K2SG  
 145.570 WT3Q  
 145.570 K2TW  
 145.590 N2NT  
 144.950 K3GYS  
 145.710 W3EA  
 145.730 N2BIM  
 147.495 W3MM  
 441.050 W3MM  
 445.525 K3GYS  
 445.525 W3EA  
 445.850 KD3CN  
 ..TBA N3ED