THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB
NEWSLETTER
PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

FRC Since 1927

CALENDAR

August 2003:
2-3   NA QSO Party, CW
9   **FRC Meeting, K3NM, 1PM**
9-10   WAE DX Contest, CW
9-10   Maryland/DC QSO Party
12   **Rexy Meeting B**
16-17   NA QSO Party, SSB
16-17   NJ QSO Party
21   **T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
26   **Rexy Meeting B**

September 2003:
6   **FRC Meeting, N3AD 1PM**
6   NA Sprint, CW
6-7   All Asian DX Contest, SSB
9   **FRC Main Meeting, Phila**
9   **Rexy Meeting B**
13   NA Sprint, SSB
13-14   WAE DX Contest, SSB
18   **T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
20-21   Scandinavian Contest, CW
23   **Rexy Meeting B**
27-28   CQ/RJ WW RTTY DX Test
27-28   Scandianvian Contest, SSB

October 2003:
4-5   Oceania DX Test, SSB
4-5   California QSO Party
11-12   Oceania DX Test, CW
11-12   Pennsylvania QSO Party
14   **FRC Main Meeting, Phila**
14   **Rexy Meeting B**
16   **T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
18-19   Worked All Germany Test
25-26   **CQ WW DX Test, SSB**
28   **Rexy Meeting B**

CHANGE

Email

K2SB
k2sb@comcast.net

President's Column

Well here it is the end of July. Only 3 more months until the CQWW Phone contest and I still have a lot of antenna work to do. I hope everyone has at least started on their projects so that they will be ready for both CQWW phone and CW contests. This way we can give the guys up north a good beating. The **FRC**/YCCC/PVRC picnic was this past weekend and if you did not make it you missed a good one. There were about 40 people there; two of them are future members and we also gained a new member. **W2RE** got his second meeting in and will be a big help with the scores he puts out. I will host a summer meeting and picnic on Aug. 9TH, which is a Saturday, at 1:00 PM. Come up to the Pocono's and enjoy the day.

On Sept. 6, also a Saturday, **N3AD** will host a summer meeting and picnic, which will start at 1:00 PM This will also be an enjoyable day out on the farm. Then it's back to Philadelphia for September meeting at the college, which is still the second Tuesday of the month at 8:00 PM. **N3RD** will have a presentation after we get the business out of the way. Hope to see lots of members at these meetings.

73, Joe K3NM

Summer Meetings

August 9 (Saturday) 1PM - Meeting at **K3NM** (Directions on page 2)

September 6 (Saturday) 1PM - Meeting at **N3AD** (Map on page 3)

Reminder

Now that the weather has turned civilized, it's time to complete (or start) those outdoor antenna projects. The dates of this year's CQWW tests are:

SSB: **October 25-26**   **CW:**   **November 29-30**

FRC Summer Meeting
At K3NM
Saturday, August 9, 2003, at 1PM

There will be a summer meeting and picnic at my place on Saturday, August 9th, starting at 1:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to attend and to bring your wives and children. There is a great community park adjacent to my home
which has playground equipment for toddlers on up and paved walking trails. If you can, please bring chairs and your favorite dessert would also be appreciated.

Directions will be included in the August news letter and I will also post them on the reflector later this week. For those who have not been to my home before and would like to use Map Quest, my address is simply:

Route 715 North (a half mile from Route 209)
Brodheadsville, PA 18322
T: 570-992-6890

I really hope everyone will try to come. Since this meeting is only two weeks away, I ask those who do plan to attend to let me know this week and advise a head count. This will greatly help Carollee with planning the food. And Ladies, Carollee says to bring your sneakers so you can all walk after the BBQ.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS and try to join us on August 9th. Look forward to seeing you then.

Joe K3NM
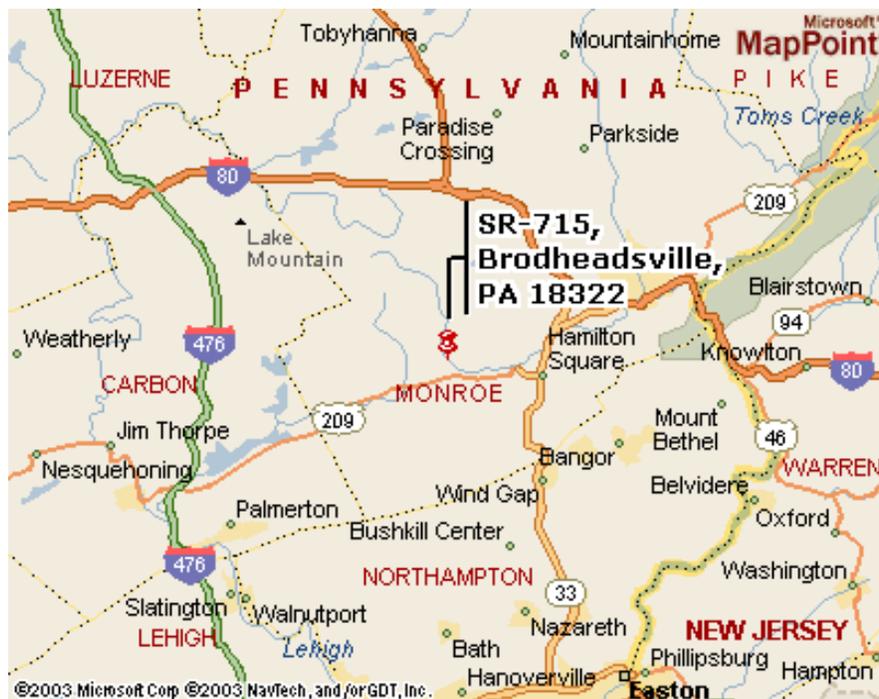
FRC Summer Meeting
At N3AD
Saturday, September 6, 2003, at 1PM

Written directions will be provided in the next newsletter, but here are two maps, one close in and the other a little farther out, that should help. The address is 2205 California Road, Morgantown, PA 19543.

Farther View
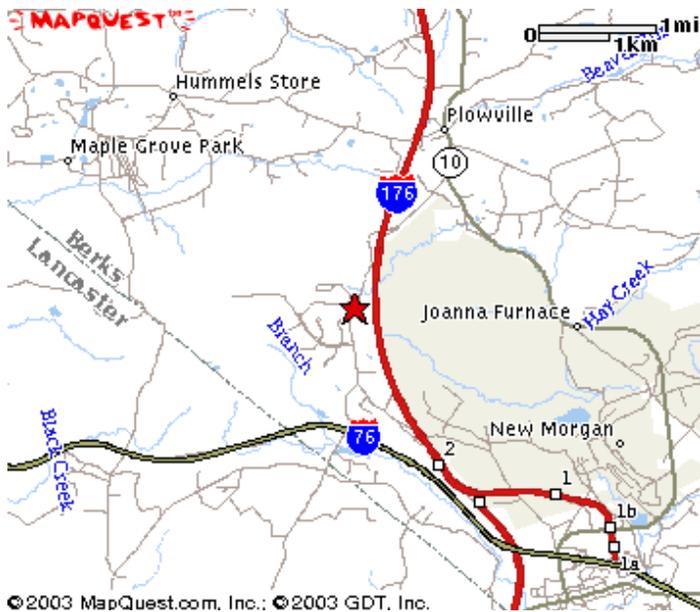
Closer View
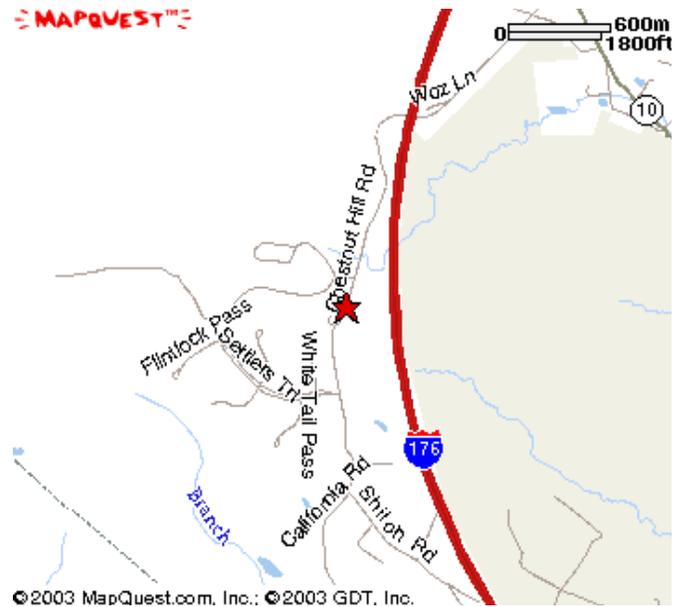
T.I.T.S. meeting

The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, August 21 at 12:00 noon. Location to be determined. Keep an eye on the **FRC** reflector for more info..

Rexy Meeting B

The Rexy's **FRC** Meeting B meets after the main **FRC** meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, and at about 8 PM on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

As this issue was literally being converted to PDF format, **K3OO** announced that Sara, **K3OOO**, earned her Extra Class ticket on August 2. There's no longer any place to hide from that pileup busting voice! Congratulations to Sara from all of **FRC**!!

FCC Upholds Vanity Fee Policy, Sets New Fee Start Date

The FCC says the new, higher Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of $16.30 for the 10-year license term will go into effect September 9. Until then, applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the current $14.50 fee per vanity application. The FCC expects to collect close to $160,000 from 9800 Amateur Radio vanity call sign applicants during Fiscal Year 2003. That's up by almost $30,000 and 800 applications from FY2002.

In releasing its annual Report and Order on the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY2003, the FCC responded at some length to comments filed from the amateur community. Some commenters had questioned the need for the fee, the requirement to pay it when renewing a vanity call sign and why refunds were not automatic.

Telecommunications Act provisions governing regulatory fee assessment cover applications for vanity call signs, which, the FCC said, "are voluntarily requested by licensees" and are "a value-added benefit not afforded to all licensees." Assessment of a regulatory fee to cover the FCC's processing and enforcement costs to make the vanity call sign service available is reasonable, the Commission concluded.

The FCC said its current policy of assessing "a nominal fee" at the time of initial application and at each renewal also allows greater access to vanity call signs. "A high one-time-only fee would be cost prohibitive for many entities wishing to obtain a vanity call sign," the Commission said. The Commission also said it incurs costs to manage each vanity call sign throughout its existence, not just in the first 10 years.

Regarding refunds due when the FCC denies an application, the FCC said its rules require a written request from applicants before it can process refunds of regulatory fees. "The written request serves as documentation when cross-referencing each unique file number that may be entitled to a refund," the FCC added.

The FCC said the documentation was particularly important in the case of Amateur Radio vanity applications, "because filing trends indicate that some applicants file several vanity call sign applications per day for several days on end." Requiring a written request makes it easier to certify "which fees are to be refunded for which dismissed applications," the Commission said. In addition, those processing applications in FCC bureaus and offices don't have the authority to issue refunds without proper documentation.

A copy of the Report and Order is available on the FCC Web site
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-184A1.doc>.

"BPL is a Pandora's Box of Unprecendented Proportions," ARRL Tells FCC

Citing the potential for interference to and from Amateur Radio, the ARRL has called on the FCC to "take no steps" to permit Broadband over Power Line (BPL)--a form of power line carrier (PLC) technology. In response to the FCC's BPL Notice of Inquiry (NOI) published May 23, the League this week filed a 120-page response--including studies. The NOI, which asked how the FCC should regulate the delivery of broadband services to homes and businesses using electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals, attracted some 1900 comments--many from the amateur community--by the July 7 comment deadline.

"ARRL is unwilling to have the Amateur Service gored with the double-edged sword of an incompatible service that will at once (1) cause widespread interference, and (2) preclude any future changes in the amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said. The League said that based on "diligent and exhaustive research," it's concluded that BPL must avoid any and all amateur MF, HF and VHF allocations without exception.

The League said that while it's aware that current Part 15 rules permit BPL, its interference potential remains untested and unrealized, since no access BPL systems are in operation. BPL proponents would prefer that the FCC authorize even higher power levels for such systems, however. "BPL is a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions," the ARRL declared. It asked the FCC to modify its Part 15 rules to prevent interference to users of the HF and low-VHF spectrum from the start and "to prevent consumers' reliance on BPL as an interference-free broadband delivery system."

Studies appended to the League's comments suggest received signal levels of BPL broadband noise at typical amateur stations would be anywhere from 34 dB to 65 dB higher than typical ambient noise levels in the worst-case situations. "BPL cannot be deployed using amateur allocations in the MF, HF and VHF bands without severely high interference potential," the ARRL reiterated.

Electric utility companies would operate many, if not most, BPL systems. ARRL pointed out that some power companies have demonstrated a less-than-stellar record of cooperation in resolving complaints of power line noise to hams. "It is a very substantial problem now for the Amateur Service, without the addition of BPL to the mix," the League said.

The ARRL concluded by urging the FCC to ensure that BPL "is not permitted to operate in or near any Amateur Radio allocations" and that any future changes in ham allocations would "trigger retroactive modifications to BPL facilities" to avoid amateur frequencies.

ARRL's comments and additional information are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-104/>.

Radio History is made at WRC-03 with 7-MHZ Realignment Compromise

In a historic move, delegates to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary--and ARRL CEO--David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the "carefully crafted compromise" calls for broadcasters to vacate 7100 to 7200 kHz by March 29, 2009. Amateurs in the US and the rest of Region 2 will continue to enjoy the 7000 to 7300 kHz band they now have, and eventually with greatly reduced broadcasting interference.

The compromise marked the first time in the history of internationally coordinated radio spectrum allocation that an HF broadcasting band was shifted to accommodate the needs of another service. It cuts in half the incompatibility between amateur and broadcasting use of the 7 MHz band and doubles the 40-meter spectrum available to amateurs in Regions 1 and 3.

While the result falls short of the IARU's goal of a 300-kHz worldwide exclusive band for amateurs, the cooperation of broadcasters, opposing delegates and many others was required to make a positive step for ham radio. Spectrum be-

tween 4 and 10 MHz is on the agenda for WRC-07, but the next conference will not consider further changes to 7000-7200 kHz.

As expected, WRC-03 also dropped the international Morse code requirement for HF access, leaving individual countries to decide if they want to retain a code proficiency requirement (Switzerland already has dropped the requirement). In addition, the conference adopted a number of improvements to other international regulations for the Amateur Service. Changes to Articles 19 and 25 took effect on July 5, 2003. In general, the other Final Acts take effect on January 1, 2005.

### ARRL Urges Improved RFI Immunity Standards for Consumer Electronics

The ARRL has told the FCC that improved interference standards for consumer electronic devices is the most pressing need as the Commission considers the interference immunity performance of receivers. The League this week filed comments in response to an FCC Notice of Inquiry (NOI), "Interference Immunity Performance Specifications for Radio Receivers" (ET-03-65), released last March to gather input on the issue. While recommending "either mandatory receiver immunity standards or at least guidelines" in most other services, the ARRL said no receiver immunity standards are necessary or practical in the "essentially experimental" Amateur Service.

"The real need for receiver immunity specifications is in the area of consumer electronics," the ARRL said. "With the current explosion of consumer electronics and unlicensed devices, the Commission must--concurrently with consideration of receiver immunity standards in licensed radio services--establish interference rejection standards for unlicensed home electronic equipment and systems as well." At the same time, the ARRL said, development of any receiver immunity standards or guidelines "should not be used as a means of justifying the overlay of otherwise fundamentally incompatible spectrum sharing partners."

The League said the FCC has had the authority to require improved RF interference immunity of consumer electronics and systems for many years "and has failed repeatedly to exercise it." The result has been "many thousands of instances of complaints against Amateur Radio operators and, in some cases, civil and criminal actions being filed," the League said. In its 21-page reply to the NOI, the ARRL recited the recent history of legislative and regulatory efforts to come to grips with interference from RF sources, including amateur stations, to receivers used in other services, such as TV and radio broadcasting, and to consumer electronics. "ARRL continues to believe that receiver immunity should be on the order of 3 V/m for receivers that might be in the near field of an Amateur Radio station," the League said. At that distance, a receiver would be immune to an approximately 100-W ham radio transmission into a 0 dBd antenna 100 feet away. The League conceded, however, that such a standard would not address the interference immunity of telephones, computers, alarm systems, audio systems and other consumer electronics that "constitute the bulk of the instances of interference involving Amateur Radio operators."

The ARRL suggested the FCC mandate a standard for all consumer electronics or adopt a labeling or grading system that allows consumers to make their own choices about the importance of interference immunity and its value in terms of increased product cost. The League also said software-defined radio (SDR) technology offered the best opportunity to deal with receiver immunity. The ARRL advised the FCC against relying exclusively on manufacturers to agree on how to deal with interference immunity.

The ARRL also urged the FCC not to make interference susceptibility of unlicensed devices a determining factor in whether a licensed radio service should be given an allocation in bands in where unlicensed--and unprotected--devices are deployed. As an example, the League cited the FCC's recent refusal to allocate a sliver band in the vicinity of 136 kHz "because of the ill-conceived prior deployment of unlicensed power line carrier [PLC] systems." The FCC, in effect, "refused to make an allocation based on interference susceptibility of unlicensed and unprotected RF devices and systems," the League said. "This is improper spectrum management and the policy should be revisited. "The ARRL's comments on the NOI are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et03-65/ARRL-ET-03-65-cmts.pdf>.
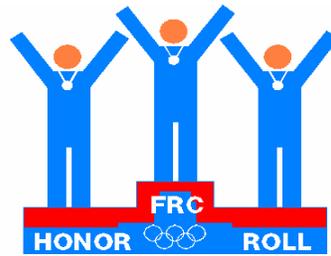
🌐 WARC BANDS 🌐

30 Meters	17 Meters	12 Meters
K2FL .. 327	K2FL....333	N2TK ..325
N2TK 324	N2TK ... 331	K2FL........ 324
N2LT 309	N2LT 329	N2LT 316
W3BGN 297	W3CF 329	W3BGN ... 305
K2RW 290	K2RW 320	K2RW 296
W8FJ.........284	W3BGN ... 320	N2SS........ 294
W2YC 281	N2SS 315	W3CF 282
K2PS 275	K2PS 294	K2PS 265
N2SS.........270	WA2VYA .292	W3SOH ... 265
WA2VYA..267	W2YC 289	W2YC......264
W3SOH 223	W8FJ 286	WA2VYA. 261
K3II..........222	W3SOH 266	WT3W 258
W2LE........205	WT3W 264	KS3F........232
W2UP 184	N1RK 247	W8FJ........222
KS3F 178	K3II 234	N1RK......217
K2BU........175	W3OV......234	K3II..........200
AA2WN....164	KQ3F.......232	W2UP 199
WT3W 162	KS3F 215	KQ3F 199
W3OV.......150	W2UP......202	W2YR......181
KQ3F 141	W2LE.......196	N3KN 174
N3RD........128	W2YR 194	K2NJ........162
NZ3O 125	NZ3O 190	W2LE 161
W2YR.......124	K2JF.........168	W3OV......160
K2JF.........112	K2NJ 145	NZ3O 151
AB2E 111	N3KN 143	K2JF 135
K2NJ.........97	K3ND 110	AB2E 82
N3KN.........75	AA2WN ...102	K3PP..........53
N2VW........71	N2VW 65	K3GYS 30
K3PP..........68	K3GYS......83	N2VW........27
W3CF.........55	AB2E..........82	AA2WN.... 19
N1RK........46	K3PP 60	K2WJ........ 17
K2WJ........28	K2WJ 40	KB3FEE 3
K3GYS 8		
KB3FEE........1		

Still looking for that undisputed
KING OF WARC

Rules for FRC Honor Roll Listings.
Provide me with your total IOTAs 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. Countries do not count until HQ Awards Committee takes action and announces a start date for a new country.

🎩 160 Meters 🎩

W3BGN 289	KS3F............ 129
AA1K 282	WT3W 127
K2BU............260	K2PS............ 102
WT3Q...........250	K2RW 92
N2LT 239	W2YR 80
N2TK 239	N2VW........... 77
K3NW 228	W3CF............ 77
K3SX 223	N2SS 75
W8FJ 192	K3NL 70
W2UP 178	K2NJ............. 59
NO2R...........176	K3PP............. 59
K3JJG 176	KQ3F 41
K3NZ............171	N1RK............ 40
W3OV 163	KB3FEE......... 38
W2YC...........156	K2JF 34
N3RS 156	W2LE............ 27
K3II 148	AA2WN........ 25
K3NM...........146	NZ3O 13
WA2VYA.....144	K3GYS 12
K2FL 140	W3SOH.......... 12
K3ND 133	K2WJ.............. 3

W3BGN continues as the undisputed
Top of Top Band.

💻 RTTY Digital

W2UP...........334	W2YR.......... 122
N2LT 326	K2JF............. 113
K2PS.............275	W2LE............ 81
W3SB 268	N2SS 51
K2RW...........231	WA2VYA 50
K2NJ.............221	N1RK............ 42
W2YC...........212	N2MR............ 28
AA2WN........162	KQ3F............ 23
N3KN 160	K3GYS 15
WT3W 155	K2WJ............. 12
K3PP.............123	W8FJ............. 12

🚗 MOBILE DX

W2YC 274	AA2WN....... 131
AA1K 260	WT3Q 107
N2SS............234	KB3FEE......... 48
N2MR...........196	K3PP.............. 46
K2JF 150	W2YR........... 21
K3GYS 143	

🏋 1.5K Club

K2FL...........1704	W3CF 1403
W3BGN 1691	WT3W 1395
N2TK 1685	K2NJ...........1383
N2LT..........1658	W3SOH 1378
W2UP 1646	K2JF 1350
K2RW........1591	AA2WN......1295
W8FJ 1577	N1RK.........1278
N3RS..........1564	N2VW 1258
K2BU 1550	WT3Q.........1162
W2YC 1511	K2WJ.........1161
K2PS..........1509	W3SB 1132
N2SS 1505	W2YR........1125
NO2R 1489	W2LE 1115
K3ND 1488	K3PP..........1110
N3RD 1462	K3NM.......1107
WA2VYA ..1435	N3KN 1060
KQ3F..........1412	NZ3O...........945
KS3F 1407	KB3FEE 231

🌴IOTA Islands On The Air

K2FL............959	W3CF 253
N2SS 764	NZ3O............244
W3SOH 762	W2YR..........226
W2YC 533	K2WJ............223
W8FJ 530	WT3W 218
N1RK 509	K3GYS 186
KS3F 319	KB3FEE 23
N2VW 259	

6 Meter DXCC

N2LT............102	N2SS...............55
K2NJ 95	K3OO 52
AA1K 94	N3KN 45
K2JF 94	W2YR............41
K2PS 81	K3PP..............30
WA2VYA 75	K2RW.............36
WT3W...........65	W2YC............14
N1RK 57	

Affiliated Club

The Frankford Radio Club

Club Officers
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Secretary, **K3ZV**, John Lindmeier …....…....…….215-632-2919
Treasurer, **K2QM**, Dan Marlow ....…….............…609-683-5633
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Repeater
2 meters, 147.27/147.87
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

144.910 N2MT
144.930 W3FRC
145.010 N3ED
145.650 K2TD
145.530 K3WW
145.530 AA1K
145.570 WT3Q
145.570 K2TW
145.590 N2NT
144.950 K3GYS
145.730 N2BIM
147.495 W3MM
145.670 W3PP
445.525 W3EA
445.850 N3BNA
TBA   W2JT

Telnet DX Cluster

k2ut.gofrc.org
k3ww.gofrc.org
w3frc.gofrc.org

In This Issue

MEETING AT K3NM

MEETING AT N3AD

ITEMS FOR SALE

NEWS FROM THE ARRL

AND MORE!

**Deadline for September issue:
Monday, August 25**