



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

July 2005:

- 1 RAC Canada Day Contest
- 9-10 IARU HF World Championship
- 10 FRC Summer Mtg, N3RD**
- 12 Remy Meeting B**
- 21 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 26 Remy Meeting B**

August 2005:

- 6-7 North Amer. QSO Party, CW
- 9 Remy Meeting B**
- 13-14 Worked All Europe Test, CW
- 13-14 MD-DC QSO Party
- 18 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 20 FRC Summer Mtg, K3ZV**
- 20-21 North Amer. QSO Party, SSB
- 20-21 New Jersey QSO Party
- 23 Remy Meeting B**
- 27-28 YO HF DX Contest

September 2005:

- 3-4 All Asian DX Contest, SSB
- 10-11 Worked All Europe Test, SSB
- 11 NA Sprint, CW
- 13 FRC Main Meeting, Phila**
- 13 Remy Meeting B**
- 15 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 17-18 Scandinavian Contest, CW
- 18 NA Sprint, SSB
- 24-25 CQWW DX Contest, RTTY
- 24-25 Scandinavian Contest, SSB
- 27 Remy Meeting B**

CHANGES

None this month

Deadline for August issue:

Sunday, July 24, 2005

President's Column

We did not have a club meeting this month but we did have a policy meeting. At this meeting, we discussed several issues that are of interest to the club. We went over the club's finances and what we spend money on. The newsletter continues to be the club's largest expense followed by the repeater. The newsletter will continue to be distributed as always.

Plans were discussed to connect IRLP to the repeater and installing a new controller with some additional features that we currently do not have, such as voice announcements. The IRLP will allow hams to access the repeater through the Internet. This could be a help to our DXpeditions and allow for contesters from around the world to talk to **FRCers**. We will discuss this in more detail at the summer meetings.

I know that everyone has not sent in their donation yet. Please do so as soon as possible so we can finish the budget for this year.

We also discussed the idea of the club "adopting" another contest that we will try and win. The one we choose is the ARRL 160 contest. This is a CW only contest the weekend of December 2nd. I hope as many members as possible will be on.

There are two summer meetings planned. The first is Sunday, July 10th at **N3RD**'s in Phoenixville, Pa. and the second is at my home in West Berlin, NJ. On Saturday, August 20th. We will be holding raffles of **W3BEN**'s estate items and I hope to see many members at these meetings.

The fall meetings will continue at the college. **N3RS** and **N3RD** will be doing a program on station automation. This is a great subject to be discussing with the fall contesting season approaching. Let's get out to the meetings and support each other.

73 - John - K3ZV

Call for Authors

Some good stuff submitted this month, but I know there's more. Do you have a tip, technique, procedure, etc., that can help other **FRC** members improve their scores? Just want to expound on some ham radio topic or other? Your editor encourages any and all **FRCers** to come forward. No prior experience necessary. Editor is kind and gentle, especially with new authors. You come up with the idea, I'll worry about "pretty". *73, Joe KQ3F*

MEETINGS

Main Meeting in Philadelphia

RETURNS ON SEPTEMBER 13

Program: Station Automation by Sig, N3RS and Dave, N3RD



T.I.T.S. meeting—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, July 21 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.

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Summer Meetings



Sunday, July 10—Dave Hawes, N3RD 1PM

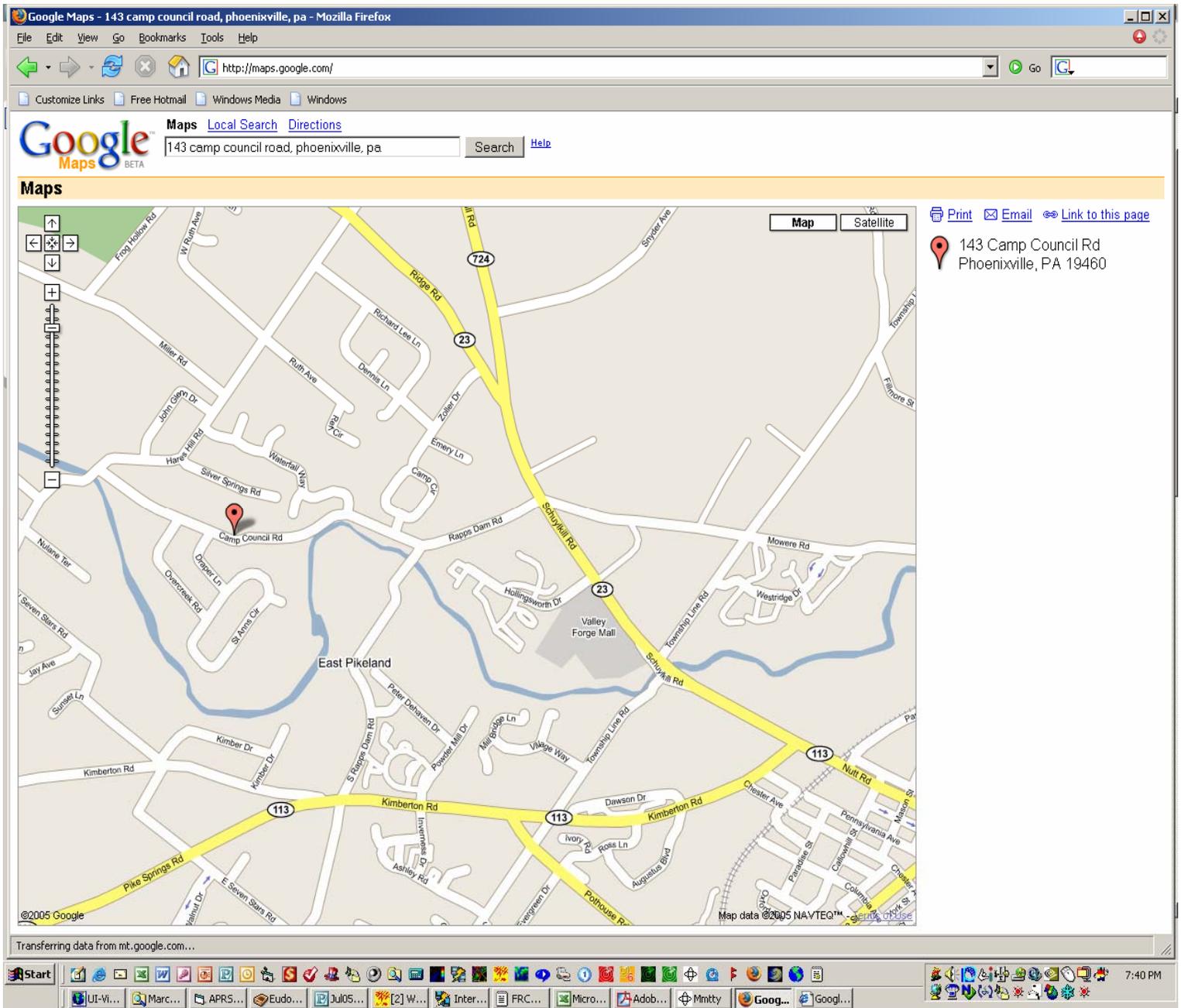
Saturday, August 20—John Lindmeier, K3ZV 1PM (Directions in the August newsletter)

Dave, N3RD, is graciously hosting an FRC meeting on Sunday, July 10 at 1 PM. He asks that you bring a chair for your seating comfort. Dave's address is **143 Camp Council Rd, Phoenixville, PA (See map on page 3)**..

From the East: Take your favorite route (Schuylkill Expressway or PA Turnpike) to Valley Forge, and then proceed on Rt. 23 West toward Phoenixville. Stay on Rt. 23, all the way through Phoenixville, making sure that you stay right and continue straight at the spot where Rt. 113 veers off to the left. After Rt. 113 veers off, turn left at the third traffic light. This will be just after a Burger King on the right. This road is Rapps Dam Road, and in about a third mile, turn right onto Camp Council Road. The driveway is about half a mile on the right, just after a stone retaining wall on the right. Parking will be on the lawn in the back of the house.

From the South: Take Rt. 113 north toward Phoenixville. After passing the traffic light at Cold Stream Road, proceed about half a mile and turn left onto Rapps Dam Road. Continue on Rapps Dam until you go through the covered bridge, and then turn right onto Camp Council Road. The driveway is about half a mile on the right, just after a stone retaining wall on the right. Parking will be on the lawn in the back of the house.

From the West: Take either Rt. 23 or Rt. 724 east toward Phoenixville. After Rt. 724 ends at the junction of Rt. 23, proceed less than a quarter mile to the traffic light at Rapps Dam Road, and turn right. Follow directions above "From East."



This year, as a hedge against bad WX, we will have a 20' by 30' tent available, so the event will go off, RAIN OR SHINE. Also, our family room has an air conditioner, so if you need a break from the heat, there will some cooler WX available.

Please bring a favorite lawn chair, and follow any signs you may see for parking.

In past years, we have had great attendance from the tri-state area. I'm hoping for lots of people to come from PA, NJ, and DE (and elsewhere, too!) to eat the food and consume the beverages that will be available, commune with your FRC brethren, plot the defeat of YCCC, tell lies about the DX you worked (or didn't), and generally have a good time.

See you all on SUNDAY (NOT Saturday) July 10th.

2005 FRC Fund Drive

This is probably a good time for a few reminders when getting ready to make your annual contribution to help keep our club running...

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

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.

Thanks for listening and for your contributions!

Contributors as of June 29, 2005				
AA1K/AB1P/KB3FEE	K3AT0	K3ZV	N3KR	W2RD
AA2WN	K3BU	KB3MM	N3NR	W2RDS
AA3B	K3CP	KC3WX	N3RD	W2REH
AD3Z	K3CT	KD2RE	N3RW	W2TV
K2DM	K3FMQ	KQ2M	N3ZA	W2UDT
K2FL	K3II	KQ3F	N9GG	W2UP
K2GN	K3JGJ	N1RK	NO2R	W2YC
K2JF	K3ND	N2LT	NQ3N	W2YR
K2NG	K3NL	N2MR	NW3Y	W3AP
K2OWE	K3NZ	N2TK	NY3C	W3BGN
K2PS	K3OO/K3OOO		N2VW	NZ3O
K2QM	K3PH	N3DXX	W1GD	W3CF
K2SB	K3TEJ	N3ED	W2CG	W3EA
K2TW	K3WW	N3GNW	W2GD	W3FV
K2UT	K3YD	N3KN	W2LE	W3FVT

2005 CQ WPX CW FRC Claimed Scores				
Call	QSOs	Prefixes	Score	Class
AA1K	159	134	51,590	SOHP
AA3B	2,394	775	5,484,125	SOHP
K3BU	33	24	1,152	SOQ160
K3MD	1,126	546	1,767,008	SOABA(TS)
K3ND			114,000	SO20
K3WW	513	315	535,185	SOQ
KD2HE	2,678	866	6,573,806	MM
<i>Ops. N3AD, N3DXX, KD2HE</i>				
N2NC	2,151	855	4,583,655	SO20
NO2R	1,022	527	1,630,538	SOA
W2YC	1,255	638	2,589,642	MM
W3BGN	384	247	318,000	SO80
EI/AB2E	1,522	625	2,159,375	SOAHP
P40W	3,417	885	11,900,000	SOHP

2005 FRC Golf Open Results

The 2005 **FRC GOLF OPEN** was held on June 21st at Southmoore Golf Club in Bath, PA. This was the 22nd consecutive year for this prestigious event. It was also the 22nd consecutive event with **PERFECT** weather. It is just amazing the string of good luck we have had with weather for the open. This year's event was attended by 11 **FRC** members.

Results:

1st **K3OO** 80

2nd **N2NT** 85

3rd **K3JG** 94

4th **K2TW & N2TK** @95

plus: **W3FV, K2PS, N3ED, N2NC, W3BGN, K2DM.**

After golf the entire gang went out to dinner. A great time was had by all.

If you're an **FRC** member and golfer please consider joining us for **FRC OPEN 2006**. **FRC OPEN 2006** will be held the Tuesday before Field Day 2006. Guaranteed to have fun and great weather.

Have a great Summer!!

73 & Fore, Rick **K3OO**

— . . . —

Picture below is of Sara **K3OOO** doing an interview for Icom Radio News with **VU2RBI** at the 2005 Dayton Hamfest. **VU2RBI** was on **VU4** during the tsunami disaster last December. She handled emergency traffic via ham radio after the disaster. This interview will be part of a new Icom Radio News video to be presented on the Icom web page in July.



CONTESTING — TIPS, TECHNIQUES, RESOURCES

Reprinted with permission from the June 1, 2005 ARRL Contest Rate Sheet

At Dayton, the Potomac Valley Radio Club introduced their 12-hour contesting seminar - a six-disc set of DVDs available for \$50. Well-known presenters include K3EST, K3ZO, W3LPL, W3ZZ, W3IY, and others. The full gamut of important topics is covered. More information and samples are available at <http://n3oc.dyndns.org/dvd.htm>.

Ian GM3SEK recommends using thread-locking compound on stainless steel threads rather than a pure anti-sieze because (a) it lubricates the sliding thread surfaces enough to prevent galling (b) it locks the threads (within 24 hours) so you don't need locking hardware or you don't need to tighten the nuts up so much, and (c) it seals inside the nut against corrosion. The Loctite "blue" grade gives firm enough locking but can still be undone with hand tools. A small dropper bottle lasts a very long time - just put a few drops on the bolt, where the nut is going to be, and run the nut on over it.

Reprinted with permission from the June 29, 2005 ARRL Contest Rate Sheet

Is the move to electronic log handling and checking having the desired effects? ARRL Contest Administrator Dan N1ND sees definite improvement. "Because of the success of the Cabrillo project, the ARRL Contest Robot, and the log checking teams, I would like to note that the results for all ARRL Contests are available at least a full month earlier than just 5 years ago... And in some cases, such as this year's DX CW Contests (and phone results next month), the results are a full 2 months earlier." Now if he could just do something to improve my personal performance!

The final version of the competitor evaluation criteria and selection process has been released by the WRTC2006 committee. You can download it as a PDF file at <http://www.wrtc2006.com/>. The allocation of Team Leaders has been revised in consideration of propagation variations and the process of computing an applicant's rating has been modified, as well.

As long as we're on the subject of WRTC - to get an idea of what the competition is actually like, try entering the IARU HF Championship with a friend in the WRTC-Style Team Challenge! If your station has a tribander and a wire antenna, you can enter. The complete rules are available at <http://www.wwdxc.org/wrtcrule.htm>. This year, there's a family category, just right for sharing a contest with a son, daughter, or a sibling! I think it's the perfect opportunity or a summer beer-bet with your cross-town rivals.

ARRL Members may now access the on-line results for the 2005 ARRL International DX CW Contest at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/results>. Once again, a tip of the cap to author Scott W4PA. Non-members will be able to download the PDF version of the QST article with line scores sometime in mid-July. There has been a change in the log-checking team for the ARRL DX Contests so individual LCRs are not yet available but are expected in the future. Awards for a number of ARRL contests are also hitting the mails including 2005 ARRL DX pins, 2004 Sweepstakes plaques, 2004 10-Meter certificates, and 2005 RTTY Roundup certificates. (Thanks, Dan N1ND)

<http://www.qsl.net/lz1jz>



CONTESTING — TIPS, TECHNIQUES, RESOURCE

Reprinted with permission from the June 29, 2005 ARRL Contest Rate Sheet

There is a product called AmpKeyer (<http://www.theheathkitshop.com/ampkeyer.html>) that will key virtually any amplifier with any transceiver. Jim K1PX uses it with all of his amps, "including the 120 Vdc for my SB-221 and it will handle currents up to 2 amps at 125V with its relay or 6 amps at 250V with its MOSFET."

Recently, the Rate Sheet included some tips on dealing with fatigue during contesting. An authoritative paper on the phenomenon is available for downloading at: <http://members.cox.net/bmw-ldrider/Fatigue.pdf> (Thanks, Bob N5NJ)

Tower maven Steve K7LXC reminds us that one of the most important books to have in your library is the legendary Rohn catalog. It's chock full of products, specs, and drawings for their popular guyed and self-supporting towers. Even if you don't put up a Rohn, you can make some educated inferences. You can get your own copy on CD from the Rohn website <http://www.rohn.net> Go to 'Register' on the top toolbar and sign up for one. They're free and Steve got his in a little more than a week. This is, of course, in addition to their online catalog - both excellent resources.

Kurt K7NV has written a detailed paper on the behavior of guyed towers that is available on-line at <http://k7nv.com/notebook/towerstudy/towerstudy1.html>. If you're really interested in the behavior of real-world towers and associated hardware, this is good reading. (Thanks, Pete N4ZR)



Top Ten devices band decoder for ICOM. \$85 plus shipping. Or trade for decoder for Yaesu. E-mail AA1K at jz73@verizon.net



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.

Make your tower look "like new" this year with a fresh coat of paint.

Reasonable hourly rates and scheduling that meets your needs.

Contact: John Crovelli W2GD

w2gd@hotmail.com

(908) 996 3043

US Senate Version of Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005 Introduced

A US Senate version of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005 has been introduced in the 109th Congress with bipartisan support. Sen Michael Crapo of Idaho sponsored the measure, S 1236, on June 14. The wording of the bill is identical to the House version, HR 691, introduced earlier this year by Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida. Joining Crapo as cosponsors of the Senate bill were Senators Christopher Bond of Missouri, Max Baucus and Conrad Burns of Montana, and Daniel Akaka of Hawaii. The bill has been referred to the US Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee of which Burns is a member. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League is pleased that Crapo has agreed to once again sponsor this legislation at ARRL's urging.

"We are grateful for Sen Crapo's demonstration of support by introducing the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 2005," Sumner said. "His sponsorship of this bill shows his appreciation for the value and utility of Amateur Radio to the US public, especially in times of emergency."

Like previous versions of the proposal, the House and Senate measures would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to the Amateur Radio and Amateur-Satellite services in the event of reallocation to other services of primary amateur spectrum or the diminution of secondary amateur spectrum. The bill also would cover additional allocations within Amateur Radio bands that "would substantially reduce" their utility to Amateur Service licensees.

In a letter this week, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, also thanked Crapo for his continued support of the Spectrum Protection Act. "As you know, this legislation is vital for ensuring that the Amateur Radio Service, the only 100 percent fail-safe emergency communication capability, remains a viable public safety option," Haynie said, adding that the League also appreciates the work of Crapo's staff in getting the bill into play in the new Congress. "The ARRL looks forward to working with you on successfully passing this legislation during the 109th Congress," he said.

The legislation references Amateur Radio's role in providing "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and it points out that hams have "consistently and reliably" provided communication support in the event of emergencies and disasters including tornadoes and hurricanes, chemical spills, forest fires and rail accidents. As the measure notes, FCC actions already have led to the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs.

Efforts will continue-now in both chambers of Congress-to attract additional cosponsors for S 1236 and HR 691. The League encourages its members to urge their congressional representatives and senators to sign aboard. A sample letter for HR 691 <<<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr-691-sample-letter.html>>> and a sample letter for S 1236 <<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/s-1236/>>>--are available on the ARRL Web site for members to use as guides in writing their members of Congress to seek their support.

To expedite delivery, send all correspondence bound for Members of Congress-preferably as an attachment-to-research.assistant@chwatco.com or fax it to 703-684-7594. The ARRL will bundle correspondence addressed to each Member of Congress for hand delivery.

JULY



Riley Hollingsworth: "Get Involved in the Good Things in Amateur Radio!"

FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth told the Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum May 21 "all you need to know to enhance your radio service-in one simple lesson." Drawing upon his nearly seven years experience as the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement point man, Hollingsworth told his audience "what I personally think you need to do to make the Amateur Radio Service thrive and to enjoy the incredible opportunity" to have fun and engage in public service activities.

"Overall, amateur compliance, I think, is very, very good-I'm really happy with it," although, he said, "we still have a good distance to go" in certain areas. Complaints also have continued to decline steadily over the past year. "I think that's a good sign," he said, predicting the trend would continue. He advised hams to avoid ugly on-the-air situations and confrontations. "Just use the VFO and go somewhere else," he said.

On the other hand, enthusiasm and happiness on ham radio are contagious, Hollingsworth asserted, and amateur licensees themselves are responsible for creating and maintaining a hospitable operating environment. Among the good things going on in ham radio, Hollingsworth elicited a round of applause by singling out Pennsylvania teacher Sean Barnes, N3JQ, whose classes have helped 60 youngsters to obtain Amateur Radio licenses over the past three years.

The most high-profile recent enforcement case-involving former amateur licensee Jack Gerritsen in the Los Angeles-"is not technically an amateur case," Hollingsworth explained. He pointed out, however, that the FCC is looking to determine who supplied Gerritsen with Amateur Radio equipment and "encouraged him."

His final admonishment: Good amateur practice means "not operating so that whoever hears you becomes sorry they ever got interested in Amateur Radio in the first place." He urged hams to look to the future and "get involved in the good things in Amateur Radio" and spread the word among to acquaint the public and even legislators, lawmakers and government officials.

"It's not about enforcement. It's about your obligation," he said. Enforcement can't cure all Amateur Radio's ills. "It's all about you and what you're doing with [Amateur Radio]," he concluded. "Look beyond enforcement."

NWS Meteorologist Praises ARES, SKYWARN: ARRL Minnesota Section Emergency

Editor's note: The following has absolutely nothing to do with contesting, but I have room to fill and it's a personal interest of mine (and got me promoting ham radio on local TV to boot). If you're so inclined, think about participating

Coordinator Don Franck, AD0F, says he was grateful that Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and SKYWARN teams were on the job this week when severe weather struck his area. Franck, who's also an ARRL Emergency Communications Course instructor and mentor, says it got personal for him after a severe storm dropped a wall cloud right into the field next to his home and later spawned a tornado. "Through it all, local ARES members gave freely of their time and vehicles," he said, "driving many miles across three counties to get the best spotting of the super cell thunderstorms."

Observers endured one-inch diameter hail, 70 MPH winds and 7 inches of rain. Franck was at the Olmsted County emergency operations center for the occasion. The work of ARES and SKYWARN also drew praise from National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist Todd Shea in La Crosse, Wisconsin, who offered another example of how storm spotters made a difference during the severe weather June 4. "A storm spotter in Clark County, Wisconsin, correctly reported to us a rotating wall cloud from a cluster of storms moving across central Wisconsin," he said. Shea says the report enabled NWS radar to focus on that storm, leading directly to the issuance of tornado warnings. "We were able to warn the rest of the downstream communities and neighboring county during the approximately 20-mile intermittent tornado path," he said. "A spotter can make a difference. Be proactive, organized, correct, and timely. I can't tell you how much it does make a difference and how much we appreciate the information."



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

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



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The Frankford Radio Club

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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

144.930 W3FRC
144.930 W2JT
144.950 K3ZV
145.010 N3ED
145.530 K3WW
145.530 AA1K
145.570 WT3Q
145.570 K2TW
145.590 N2NT
145.650 K2TD
145.670 W3PP
145.730 N2BIM
147.495 W3MM

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