



# THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

*PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION*

## CALENDAR

### March 2008:

- 1-2** ARRL DX Test, SSB
- 11** FRC Main Meeting, KofP
- 11** Rexy Meeting B
- 15-16 Russian DX Contest
- 20** T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon
- 25** Rexy Meeting B
- 29-30 CQWW WPX Contest, SSB

### April 2008:

- 8** FRC Main Meeting, KofP
- 8** Rexy Meeting B
- 12-13 Japan Int. DX Contest, CW
- 17** T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon
- 19-20 YU DX Contest, CW
- 22** Rexy Meeting B
- 26-27 Helvetia Contest
- 26-27 Florida QSO Party

### May 2008:

- 10-11 CQ-M DX Contest
- 13** FRC Main Meeting, KofP
- 13** Rexy Meeting B
- 15** T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon
- 17-18 Baltic Contest
- 24-25 CQWW WPX Contest, CW
- 27** Rexy Meeting B

## CHANGES

### New Call/Email

**AA4GT** (formerly N3ISH)  
George Tomlinson  
Email: aa4gt@comcast.net

**Deadline for April issue:**  
Monday, March 24, 2008

## President's Column

The preliminary results of the ARRL CW Contest are encouraging. There are a number of new or returning members contributing toward the club's combined effort. Most of the old guard was also out in force. As those of you who participated in the contest know, the propagation gods were less than cooperative at least as far as 15M and 10M were concerned. The low bands were good and so was 20M. Unfortunately, our competitors in New England enjoyed better 15M conditions toward Europe than we did, so we were at a geographic disadvantage to them on that band. No one had propagation on 10M. I won't mention any names or calls, but there were a few stations that were noticeably absent. I hope those individuals will make a concerted effort to join with the rest of us during the SSB weekend. This is a contest we can win, but only by getting on the air and making as many points as we possibly can. I look forward to rubbing elbows with everyone during the SSB weekend.

Please plan on attending the March meeting at the King of Prussia Firehouse on Tues, March 11th at 8 pm. We had some things planned for the snowed-out February meeting that will be presented in March. In addition we will be voting on the 2008-2009 slate of **FRC** officers and posting contest scores. Come early for a sandwich and a beer, both of which are available on site for a very reasonable fee. C U at the meeting!

**GO FRC !!!**

*73, John, W8FJ...*

## 2008-2009 FRC Officer Nominations

The **FRC** Nominating Committee has nominated the following for the 2008-2009 term:

**President: W8FJ**

**Vice President: K2UT**

**Secretary: N3ZA**

**Treasurer: KQ2M**

The floor will be open at the March meeting for additional nominations and then the vote will take place.

**MEETINGS**

**Main Meeting**

The main monthly meeting of the **Frankford Radio Club** will be held in King of Prussia on March 11 at 8 PM.

The firehouse address is 170 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Phone number is 610-265-5635.

**Program:** Elections for Officers, Regional Coordinator presentation, Posting of ARRL DX Test scores, Equipment presentation



**T.I.T.S. meeting**—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, March 20 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.

**Kosovo and DXCC**

Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia on February 17, setting off new speculations on what this means to Amateur Radio and specifically, to the DXCC program. ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, said he understands that there are many questions about the DXCC status of Kosovo, especially concerning whether or not the new state will be added to the DXCC list. Moore said the DXCC rules, modified in 2000 to better handle inclusion to DXCC, are clear on how additions can be made: "For inclusion in the DXCC List, certain conditions must be met. Gaining entry on the DXCC List is not contingent upon whether operation has occurred or will occur, but only upon the qualifications of the Entity."

According to Moore, adding Kosovo to the DXCC List would be considered under the "Political Entity" DXCC guidelines. The DXCC rules state that "Political Entities are those areas which are separated by reason of government or political division. They generally contain an indigenous population which is not predominantly composed of military or scientific personnel." Kosovo, according to the DXCC rules, would then be added to the DXCC List as a Political Entity if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

\* The entity is a UN Member State.

\* The entity has been assigned a call sign prefix block by the ITU. (The exceptions to this rule are international organizations, such as the UN and ICAO. These Entities are classified under Special Areas, 3.a; and Ineligible Areas, 4.b.) A provisional prefix bloc assignment may be made by the Secretary General of ITU. Should such provisional assignments not be ratified later by the full ITU, the Entity will be removed from the DXCC List.

\* The Entity contains a permanent population, is administered by a local government and is located at least 800 km from its parent. To satisfy the "permanent population" and "administered by a local government" criteria of this sub-section, an Entity must be listed on either (a) the US Department of State's list of "Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty" as having a local "Administrative Center," or (b) the United Nations list of "Non-Self-Governing Territories." "New Entities satisfying one or more of the conditions above will be added to the DXCC List by administrative action as of their 'Event Date.'

Kosovo will be added to the DXCC list if it becomes a member of the UN, or if it receives a prefix bloc from the ITU. The third condition does not apply," Moore said. "The 'Event Date' will be either the date Kosovo became a UN member or it receives its prefix from the ITU. Contacts made before the Event Date will be counted as Serbia."

# FRC SCORES— 2008 CQWW 160 METER CW

Station	QSOs	US/VE	DX	Score	Class
AA1K	1,280	57	66	599,625	SO HP
AA3B	731	57	39	211,392	M Packet
AB2E	221	38	5	22,231	SO HP
K2FL	140	43	16	26,196	M Packet
K2PS	190	36	17	29,362	SO HP
K2TTT	463	43	2	47,430	SO HP
K3PP	62	24	0	3,696	SO LP
K3WI	217	29	12	23,329	SO HP
K3WW	1,290	57	62	530,371	M Packet
KC2NB				8,460	SO HP
N2BA	775	54	41	204,630	M LP
N2MM	612	55	45	202,600	SO HP
N2NT	1,331	57	63	696,240	SO HP
N3ZA	229	43	31	60,384	M Packet
W2GD	1,522	59	72	819,667	M
<i>Ops. K2SG, K2TW, N2HM, N2OO, W1GD, W2CG, W2GD, W2NO, W2OB, W2RQ, W2USF</i>					
W2IRT	140	36	22	28,362	M Packet
W2NO	140	34	4	13,300	SO HP
W3BGN	1,094	57	63	504,600	SO
W3TUA	100	26	0	6,214	SO HP
W8FJ	773	56	57	324,762	M Packet
WE3C	1,401	58	73	753,512	M
<i>Ops. WE3C, W3FV, NN3Q, K3CT</i>					
WQ2N	90	28	2	6,390	SO HP

## Recent FRC \$\$\$ Contributors

The following have recently made contributions to FRC:

2007—AA1K/AB1P/N3TTT  
2008—K2UT, W0MHK, W2TV



## Spring is Coming!!!

### 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)**

## CONTESTING — TIPS, TECHNIQUES, RESOURCES

### Reprinted with permission from the February 6, 2008 Contest Rate Sheet

Pete N4ZR was an alpha/beta tester for VE3NEA's CWSkimmer software <<<http://www.dxatlas.com/CwSkimmer>>> and he's written an article that explains how it works (from an operator's perspective), as well as some potential applications. The article is at <<<http://www.pyrc.org/~n4zr/Articles/Skimmer.pdf>>> The CWSkimmer uses a wideband receiver and a computer sound card to decode many CW signals simultaneously.

Anthony VA7IRL has transferred his on-line contest calendar to Google Calendars where it can be maintained by more than one person for the benefit of all. The calendar is at <<<http://tinyurl.com/yud4rx>>> and an iCal version is at <<<http://tinyurl.com/26xktz>>> (Thanks, Mark K6UFO)

Metars <<<http://www.nirsoft.net/utills/mweather.html>>> is a downloadable applet that displays weather conditions at multiple locations throughout the world in spreadsheet format. (Thanks, Henry Freedenberg)

Having just answered 1300+ E51MMM cards, George K5KG offers the following DOs and DONTs of QSLing:

DO use envelopes with peel and stick flaps. They speed up sealing of envelopes.

DO put your call sign in bold, large print on the same side as the QSO information.

DO enclose enough postage or an IRC to cover the cost of return postage. If this isn't possible, send the card anyway with a self-addressed envelope.

DO not enclose small address labels instead of envelopes.

DO avoid extraneous enclosures. Personal notes, canceled stamps, etc. should be avoided unless critical.

DO NOT use envelopes without glue. They have to be taped shut, and that is a real pain!

DO NOT seal envelopes so tightly that they can't be quickly opened with a letter opener.

DO NOT mix cards to or from different call signs. They really slow down the processing of cards.

DO NOT fold or "hide" IRCs or Green Stamps so intricately that they are hard to unfold when opening.

As a personal evaluation of your QSLing technique, the editor suggests that you make up a test QSL and envelope, seal it up, then open it and fill out a response. Then ask yourself if you would like to do that 5000 times! More guidelines are available on the CQ-Contest email reflector archives <<<http://www.contesting.com>>> by reviewing the thread "DOs and DONTs of QSLing"

URL of the Week - VE5ZX and CT1BOH have written up their findings from a one year research project that examined two radio activities of World-Class CW entries in three classes (SOAB, SOAB/A and MS) of the 2006 CQWW contest. The project was possible because the CQWW Contest Committee decided to make logs from 2006 onwards publicly available. An article, "Two Radio Event Signatures" has been prepared after investigating the role that assistance from packet and a second operator has on the two radio signatures of the three classes. This makes for some very interesting reading and is available along with the supporting data at <<<http://www.radiosport.ca/rsrp/CQWW%20log%20analysis.php>>>.

Ian GM3SEK contributes a good way to track down common-mode current on cable shields that may be causing RFI trouble. "Beg, borrow, build or buy a clamp-on RF current meter. It will become the first thing you reach for when RFI rears its head. You can buy a commercial unit such as the MFJ-854 make your own as shown at <<<http://www.ifwtech.co.uk/g3sek/clip-on/clip-on.htm>>> or <<[http://www.k4ro.net/k4ro/current\\_meter/MVC-004F.JPG](http://www.k4ro.net/k4ro/current_meter/MVC-004F.JPG)>> (Thanks also, Kirk K4RO)

## CONTESTING — TIPS, TECHNIQUES, RESOURCES

### Reprinted with permission from the February 20, 2008 Contest Rate Sheet

Until the DXCC Desk rules on the matter, YU8/YT8 QSOs still count for Yugoslavia. Don't count YU8/YT8 QSOs as a multiplier in the ARRL DX contest until a ruling has been posted. If those QSOs will result in a new multiplier, it will be correctly noted by the log checking software.

Thomas KN4LF has founded a new radiowave propagation email reflector, "LF/MF/HF/VHF Frequency Radiowave Propagation". You can sign up at <<<http://montreal.kotalampi.com/mailman/listinfo/kn4lf>>>. It is hosted by Risto Kotalampi W6RK founder of the HC-DX website and more. This reflector is a vehicle for hams and SWL's to be able to ask questions about and become better educated concerning solar, space and geomagnetic weather, as well as radiowave propagation. Posts on any topic that involves Radiowave Propagation from DC to daylight are welcome. He will also be posting the free KN4LF Daily LF/MF/HF/6M Frequency Radiowave Propagation Forecast here.

Jeff K8ND reports, "I've cleaned up the SO2R Resources Web page <<[http://www.k8nd.com/Radio/SO2R/K8ND\\_SO2R.htm](http://www.k8nd.com/Radio/SO2R/K8ND_SO2R.htm)>> and made it quicker to load and more user friendly. Photos have been presented as thumbnails, and large photos and links to more information (where known) available by clicking. There are currently 73 station operating desks represented. Additional photos are welcomed, 800x600 sized images are preferred.

Many new testers, HF or VHF+, are looking for those elusive secrets of the Big Guns that will magically propel them into the Top Ten boxes. What is it that makes these stations stand out? George K5TR contributes a few simple observations:

- They stay in the chair.
- They tune the bands.
- They move or switch between antennas for different directions.
- They call a lot of CQs.
- They have better antennas and signals.
- They have operated many many contests and learned from their experiences and gained knowledge of callsigns and operating habits of the other stations.
- Much of what they have learned has become second nature to them.

Don't be seduced by the latest gadget or short-change the honing of your own skills in favor of relying on the Internet. If the magic of radio happens between the headphones, the achievement of that magic must be done there, too.

If you're confronted with an old tribander that needs some TLC, you should browse through this project of refurbishing a TA-33 that had been on the ground 15 years. The photos and text <<<http://www.mindspring.com/~vibroplex/FD/fd1.html>>> show one group's step-by-step restoration of the beam including cleaning the aluminum tubing/trap covers, etc. Nice job, including putting up the tower! (Thanks, Derek WB0TUA)

The long-out-of-print, highly-recommended, and hard-to-find "Radio Antenna Engineering Handbook" by Edmund Laport is now available from the print-on-demand publisher LuLu <<http://www.lulu.com>>. (Thanks, Warren KH6WM)

<http://www.lz1jz.com>



## CONTESTING — TIPS, TECHNIQUES, RESOURCES

### Reprinted with permission from the February 20, 2008 Contest Rate Sheet

I asked a leading question about methods of waterproofing coax pigtails for outdoors connections. I got many useful suggestions, for which the ham radio community is known. Mark K6UFO says "pigtails require barrier waterproofing to the open end and connector "after the fact" by sticky mastics like rubber tape or "coax seal" or liquid applications to flow in/on like liquid electrical tape, Scotchkote, non-conductive silicone sealant or dielectric grease as described at <<<http://tinyurl.com/yvf85v>>> or <<<http://www.paigewire.com/wireconnectors.htm>>>. More information is available from the experts at <<[http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en\\_US/3Melectrical](http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/3Melectrical)>>, an interesting article "WATERPROOFING 101" at <<<http://www.directive.com/waterproofing%20tips.htm>>>, and a nice set of pictures at <<<http://www.groundcontrol.com/galileo/ch3-waterproofing.htm>>>."

Nelson KU0A recommends another coax connector sealing option -- ComfortSeal Rope Caulk manufactured by Dennis & Company for coax connectors and coax pass-throughs. It's hydrophobic, easy to work at temperature ranges above 50 degrees F, won't stick to your fingers, is easy to remove after years of service. Nelson finds it at home supply stores.

While there are many excellent CAD (Computer-Aided Drafting) programs out there, many of us just need a convenient way to make a few straight line and shape drawings on a computer. Terry KK6T recommends Google Sketchup <<<http://sketchup.google.com/>>> as easy to learn and it's free.

By now you've heard an earful or more from the irascible operators that slogged through the solar-ly minimal conditions on the HF bands during the ARRL DX CW contest last weekend. Your editor was amongst those a-laboring, holding down one end of 15 meter duties at K3LR with N6MJ. As Dan and I struggled through the ennui of 200-and-change QSOs at one of radiosport's premier stations, I was tempted at times to question my sanity!

But why didn't we just pack it in and wait for the sunspots? Well, it's too much fun to go to Tim's and slug it out with the crew, that's why! As the 3830 post-contest report <<<http://tinyurl.com/2y7jbj>>> should indicate, the team pulled together. Led by station-master Tim's positive mien and drive, it was just too much fun not to have a good time. Even on a dead band, as 10 meter scouts N3GJ and N3SD can attest, every weekend has its moments!

You don't have to be operating at a huge multi-multi to have a good time, either. Just put together a crew, keep the filaments on, and enjoy operating for the sine qua non of radio; the thrill of the hunt in the magical land of radio. Listen to the world turning as only HF operators can. Somebody will do something amazing, you'll work something unexpected, at some point a joke will be made and take over the conversation for the weekend.

When confronted with aberrant conditions, there's no sense in caterwauling - extemporize! Just do the best you can with what you've got. Leave as little on the table as possible. Learn for yourself and congratulate others on their successes. Help the neophyte learn the ropes. Take a moment to just listen to the canorous tones of a particularly good signal or to the rhythmic excellence of a top operator. Consider why bean-less chili is preferred at team stations.

Like fishing is not always about fishing, team operating is not always just about operating. Wherever you finish in the results and whether the station is grand or modest, you will find it time well-spent, especially the next time you find yourself "in the chair" at home by yourself or with your compadres, spinning the dials and heating the antennas.



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73 Tim Brown NM3E 610-207-4865

### Field Day 2008 Rules and Forms Now Available

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for Field Day, ARRL's flagship operating event. Field Day, held the fourth full weekend in June, brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says there are several rule changes this year, mainly concerning "Get on the Air" (GOTA) stations and the elimination of the Demonstration Mode Bonus Category. The complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site <<<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>>. A full 2008 Field Day page on the ARRL Web site will be coming in the next few weeks.

GOTA (Get on the Air) stations are those stations set aside by Field Day teams designed to get non-hams or newly licensed hams on the air. Unlike in past years where GOTA stations were limited to only one band, the 2008 rules state that these stations may operate on any authorized HF or VHF Field Day band. Keep in mind that only one signal may be transmitted from the GOTA station at any time. Henderson said the eligibility for operating the GOTA station has changed slightly: Anyone who has been licensed since Field Day 2007 is eligible to operate the GOTA station, regardless of license class.

For 2008, the Demonstration Mode Bonus category has been eliminated and replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. "This bonus is intended to encourage clubs and groups to do some more formal educational activity during their Field Day operation," Henderson said. If you have any questions concerning what activities might be appropriate for this bonus, Henderson said you should submit them via e-mail <[fdinfo@arrl.org](mailto:fdinfo@arrl.org)>.

Be sure to read the Field Day rules and FAQs in the 2008 Field Day Packet for details of these changes. There are also numerous small changes in the FAQs and support materials in the packet that should help groups and individuals as they plan their Field Day activities, Henderson said.

The 2008 Field Day Packet also includes an expanded Press Kit, thanks to the work of ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. Included in this expanded portion of the packet is a sample "Field Day Proclamation" for those groups who work with local city or town officials toward getting a Field Day Week declared in their location.

"We are excited that historic station K6KPH will once again participate transmitting the W1AW special Field Day Bulletin on the West Coast," Henderson said. More details are available in the Field Day Packet. Information concerning the popular Field Day pins and T shirts will be announced in the next few weeks.

Henderson said that those wishing to obtain a complete Field Day Packet via US mail need to send a 9 x 12 inch self-addressed, stamped manila envelope with 5 units of postage to Field Day Packet Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

If people wish to order display kits for their tables at Field Day, please contact Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, ARRL Education Manager, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, tel 860-594-0296. The cost for the display kit ranges from \$8-\$12 depending on shipping. To ensure having the kits in time for Field Day, please order them no later than June 13.

### Pennsylvania Tower Legislation

Pennsylvania's tower legislation is still languishing in committee. It is imperative that legislative action be taken on this important legislation before it dies in committee. Please contact your state legislators and seek their support for this legislation. For State Senators its Senate Bill - SB-884. For State representatives its House Bill - HB-1777.

Please feel free to pass this information along to other hams who may not receive section wide e-mail. Also recruit other interested persons to contact their state legislators asking for support on this legislation. Thank you all for your efforts and your concern on this issue.

73, Eric D. Olena, WB3FPL (EPA Section Manager)

### **DXCC Pushes to Get Ahead**

Due to several factors, including greater activity from new and reactivated DXCC entities, the ARRL DXCC Desk has been experiencing QSL card processing delays. According to ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, there are approximately 2300 applications currently on the list of received applications, resulting in a processing backlog of more than 12 weeks. Sharon Taratula, Membership and Volunteer Programs Supervisor, said that approximately 500 DXCC applications are processed each month. Even with the low sunspot numbers of the now defunct Solar Cycle 23, there has been an increase in DXCC activity, Dave Patton, NN1N, Manager of the ARRL Membership and Volunteer Services Department, said; DXCC is a division of this department. "We've added or reactivated new entities like Scarborough Reef, Swains Island and Montenegro," he said. "ARRL membership is up, and more people out there have HF privileges." ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, said that a new full-time person has just been added to the DXCC staff. "We are actively looking for an additional full-time employee for DXCC. By adding more staff, we can definitely cut down on the time it takes to process applications. While we are not happy with the delayed turnaround time for DXCC applications, I can assure everyone that we are maintaining our high level of concern for accuracy in processing and care for our customers QSLs and awards," Patton said. "I'm pleased that interest in operating awards is so high, and indeed there is evidence that new and returning ops are participating in ever increasing numbers. In the near future, as we continue to refine and improve LoTW and our processes, turnaround time will improve, the quality of our awards will improve and we can hopefully offer new and expanded awards programs like the brand new Fred Fish Memorial Award for confirming QSOs with the 488 grid squares in the continental US on 6 meters." Kramer said, "We take great care with people's DXCC applications. The DXCC crew is very diligent in handling and checking each applicant's cards. We don't rush the process because we don't want to make mistakes -- we know how important this program is to DXCC participants."

### **European Reciprocal Licenses Now Limited to Advanced and Extra Class Licensees**

The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has revised its table of equivalence between FCC amateur licenses and the CEPT license. Effective February 4, 2008, Recommendation T/R 61-01 (as amended) now grants full CEPT privileges only to those US citizens who hold an FCC-issued Amateur Extra or Advanced class license. This means that those US licensees who hold an FCC-issued General or Technician license are no longer eligible for full operating privileges in countries where CEPT-reciprocal operation had previously been permitted. US Novice class licensees have had no reciprocal operating privileges under the CEPT provisions. These changes are the result of a re-evaluation of US and CEPT license classes equivalence by the CEPT's Radio Regulatory Working Group at its meeting January 29-February 1, 2008 in Basel, Switzerland. The Working Group deals with numerous areas of concern including Amateur Radio, and is responsible for applications from countries to participate in T/R 61-01, as well as other Amateur Radio related issues. "Changes in the US license structures and examinations often have ancillary implications beyond the immediate impact upon the US licensees," said Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager. "While this CEPT change affects several classes of US licensees when they visit Europe and other CEPT signatory countries, it has no effect on their operating privileges at home."

Notes for Amateurs Visiting Australia: According to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), Amateur Radio operators traveling to Australia who wish to operate in that country do not need to apply for an Australian Amateur Radio license. This new policy, effective February 15, 2008, allows amateurs who hold a non-Australian Amateur Radio license to operate up to 90 days under a Class Licence <<[http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC\\_1311](http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_1311)>>; licensees who will be in Australia for more than 90 days will need to apply for an Australian Amateur Radio license. -- Information provided by Roger Hickey, W6MSC

### **New ARRL Volunteer Examiner Manual Now Online**

The ninth edition of the ARRL VEC/VE Manual <<[http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vemannual/](http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vemmanual/)>> is now online on the ARRL Web site. The manual, the most complete source on the Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner Program, has everything you need to know in order to be an ARRL Volunteer Examiner.

"We're really excited about the new Manual," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "We've put a lot of work into it, taking suggestions from Volunteer Examiners all over the United States. It's very comprehensive, yet easy to understand." Somma said the manual is full of new and timely information, taking into account the licensing rule changes that went into effect last year.

"One of the biggest changes to the ninth edition is the deletion of all the procedures having to do with Morse code testing," Somma said. As of February 23, 2007, the FCC no longer requires those upgrading their license to be tested on Morse code. Somma said that more than 80 percent of the Manual's content has been revised.

The Manual, written to help guide amateurs through the VEC program, is also a guide for those aspiring to be Volunteer Examiners. "Any General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class license holder is eligible to be a Volunteer Examiner," Somma said. "It's a simple process to become a VE -- just complete the ARRL VE application form and pass a 40-question 'open book' test and you're set! If you're an active ham radio operator, you probably enjoy giving back to the Amateur Radio community, be it through public service or as a Volunteer Examiner. Many hams fondly remember their first license examination experience."

Information in the Manual includes how to become an accredited Volunteer Examiner and how to participate in the Amateur Radio examination process, as well as real-life experiences from current Volunteer Examiners. "It's really a reference manual with tons of details. The real-life experiences in the Manual will help current and future Volunteer Examiners know how to deal with those pesky situations that sometimes pop up," Somma said.

For more information on the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Program, please see the ARRL VE Web site <<<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/index.html>>>.

### **FCC Changes "Lockbox Bank" for Vanity Call Sign Payments**

As of February 14, 2008, U.S. Bank has replaced Mellon Bank as the lockbox bank for all FCC programs (with the exception of auction-related payments). Applicants who manually file FCC paper applications via mail -- usually for new vanity call signs or for renewal of vanity call signs -- will need to send payments to U.S. Bank. Amateurs filing paper applications for a new Vanity Call Sign Applications need to submit FCC Payment Form 159 and the FCC Regulatory Fee <<<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanityfee.html>>>, along with the FCC Form 605 and FCC Form 605 Schedule D. After completing all required forms, mail them along with the payment to the address of the Commission's new lockbox bank: Federal Communications Commission, PO Box 979097, St Louis, MO 63197-9000.

When submitting fees, payments or applications to the lockbox bank, filers should specifically reference the Government Lockbox number - 979097 -- on the 159 payment form. U.S. Bank will accept hand-delivered filings or courier deliveries at their office located at U.S. Bank, attn: FCC Government Lockbox Number 979097, SL-MO-C2-GL, 1005 Convention Plaza, St Louis, MO 63101.

According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, "The FCC has also established a 45-day transition period that began on February 14 to mitigate the transition's impact and to provide time to resolve any reconciliation and change-over discrepancies." The FCC strongly encourages the use of their electronic filing and payment options. Electronic payments can be submitted through their secure Web site <<<http://www.fcc.gov/fees/feefiler.html>>>. Electronic payments allow for faster processing of applications. Further info can be found on FCC Web Site <<<http://www.fcc.gov/fees/lockbox.html>>>.

**Notes From Your Editor**

Some housekeeping items this month regarding the FRC Honor Roll listings.

First, as mentioned last month I have gone through all the listings and deleted any call signs where there has been no activity for the prior year. If I have made any mistakes or if you notice your call sign no longer listed and want to be listed, then please simply email me with your current totals. Nothing done intentionally here, this annual cleanup is just my attempt at keeping the Honor Roll meaningful and active.

Next, DXCC Challenge listing. Reading the feedback in response to my request for input, here's what the majority of responders requested: do not drop the 1.5K Club listing; if space is a problem, then drop Mobile or 6 Meters. Space should not be a problem, at least for a while. If you would like your Challenge number listed, please provide it to me based on the existing ARRL program rules. Remember that the DXCC Challenge is an already defined program and we're abiding by the official program rules: grand total of ACTIVE countries CONFIRMED on all bands 160 through 6 meters with the exception of 60 meters.

**WPX Award**

CQ Magazine announced some changes to the WPX Award program. The changes add new bands and a new Digital WPX Award. Under the new rules, contacts on all bands between 160 and 6 meters will count for WPX award credit. In addition, new band endorsements will now be available for 5 MHz, 10 MHz, 18 MHz, 24 MHz and 50 MHz contacts. A separate Digital WPX Award has

also been added, for contacts made on RTTY, PSK and other keyboard modes, with 300 confirmed prefixes required for the basic level of the award. Digital-mode contacts will also count toward the existing Mixed award, as will those prefixes worked on the newly added bands. BTW, the WPX contest SSB weekend is at the last weekend in March.

**OFFICIAL ARRL DXCC STATS**

Active Count .....	338
Deleted Count .....	58
Last Addition.....	FJ
Last Deletion.....	STØ

**3W VIETNAM**

F6BUM will be conducting an IOTA dxpedition as **3W3M** from AS-185 Mar 20-23, AS-128 Mar 25-28 and AS-130 Mar29-Apr 2. Operation will be on 40-10 Meters SSB and CW.

**5Z4 KENYA**

DL7DF will be 'roughing' it as **5Z4HW** from Diani Beach, Kenya from Feb 27<sup>th</sup> Ma 11<sup>th</sup>. He plans to operate on all bands and modes – 160 through 10 Meters CW.SSB and RTTY. QSL to his home QTH.

**6W SENEGAL**

IK4ALM will be signing as **6W/IK4ALM** from 16<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> with operations limited to 10 through 40 Meters. QSL to his home QTH.

**9M SPRATLY**

N1UR and KB1PQN are scheduled to be active from Mar 22-30 on 160 through 10 CW and SSB. QSL via K2RET.

**9X RWANDA**

A 10 operator team will be putting on a major dxpedition from Mar 16<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> as **9XØR**. Operation will be on 160 through 10 Meters CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL info, online logs

and dxpedition updates can be found at: [www.9x0r.com](http://www.9x0r.com)

**BV CHINA**

BU2AI will be operating as **BU2AI/9** from the Matsu Islands, IOTA AS-113 until March 20<sup>th</sup>. Here's a trivia question: how many of you remember the historical significance of the Quemoy and Matsu Islands? Hint: if you were born after 1960, forget it! Latest info is available at:

<http://bu2ai.tripod.com/BU2AI-9-Matsu-2008.htm>ESH

**CEØZ JUAN FERNANDEZ**

Look for **CEØZ/DL2AH** from Mar 18<sup>th</sup>-Apr 7<sup>th</sup> on 40-10 Meters SSB and RTTY. QSL to his home call.

**FO/C CLIPPERTON ISLAND**

A large, international team of ops will be activating Clipperton from March 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> as **TX5C**. Operations will be on all bands and modes. All the details and latest info, online logs, etc can be found at:

<http://clipperton2008.org>

**DX ALERT LEGEND**

**160 METER ALERT**

**IOTA ALERT**

**Digital Mode ALERT**

**WARC BAND ALERT**

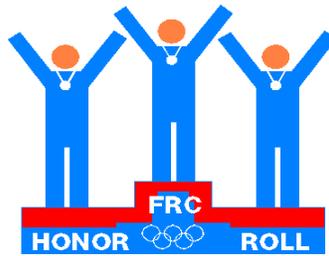
**N2 Special salute**

Have you made your contribution yet? Contribute to your Newsletter and get the "S" "S".

©

**73, Tony N2SS**

You can reach me as follows:  
H:856-227-4896 C:609-221-4899  
[n2ss@n2ss.com](mailto:n2ss@n2ss.com)



**MAR CH**

*conducted by N2SS*

**2008**

**WARC BANDS**

<u>30 Meters</u>	<u>17 Meters</u>	<u>12 Meters</u>
<b>K2FL.. 336</b>	<b>K2FL...340</b>	<b>N2TK ..330</b>
N2TK .....335	N2TK ..... 339	K2FL.....327
N2LT .....326	N2LT ..... 337	N2LT .....323
W3BGN .....323	W3BGN ... 333	W3BGN ...317
W2YC .....312	N2SS ..... 324	WØMHK ..310
N2SS .....295	WØMHK.. 322	N2SS .....303
W8FJ .....298	W2UP ..... 321	W2YC .....280
W2UP .....292	W2YC ..... 316	K2PS .....269
K2PS .....290	K2PS ..... 311	W2UP .....267
N3RD .....280	W8FJ ..... 298	W8FJ .....233
WØMHK ..279	W2IRT ..... 266	N1RK .....218
W2IRT .....239	N1RK ..... 259	K3II .....203
K3II .....234	K3II ..... 256	W2LE ..... 198
W2LE .....221	W2LE ..... 244	W2IRT ..... 131
N2VW .....165	K2AX ..... 224	W2IRT ..... 105
AB2E .....147	K3ND ..... 127	AB2E .....92
N1RK .....127	N2VW ..... 123	K2AX .....77
K3ND .....91	AB2E ..... 122	N2VW .....35
K2AX .....72	K3GYS ..... 85	K3GYS .....30
K3GYS .....17		

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



**ARRL DXCC Challenge**

<b>N2TK..... 2967</b>	N2SS ..... 1952
N2LT..... 2964	W2IRT ..... 1827
W2YC ..... 2721	AB2E..... 1104
K2PS ..... 2295	

Tony takes the early lead by a mere 0.1% over of Lew!

**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**

<b>W3BGN .....303</b>	WØMHK ..... 152
AA1K .....297	K2FL..... 147
WT3Q .....272	K3ND..... 137
N2LT .....264	W2IRT ..... 115
N2TK .....256	K2PS ..... 112
NO2R .....243	N2VW ..... 103
K3SX .....241	AB2E ..... 100
W8FJ .....231	K2AX..... 91
W2UP .....219	N2SS ..... 79
K3JJG .....215	K3NL ..... 70
W2YC .....208	W2LE..... 64
K3II .....160	N1RK ..... 51
N3RS .....156	K3GYS ..... 12

Awesome! Now with 303 countries W3BGN continues at the **Top of Top Band!**

**Digital**

<b>W2UP.....342</b>	KQ3F ..... 132
N2LT .....339	N2SS ..... 53
K2PS .....298	N1RK ..... 39
W2YC .....287	K3GYS ..... 15
W2IRT .....171	W8FJ ..... 12
W2LE ..... 141	



**MOBILE DX**

<b>AA1K .....277</b>	K3GYS ..... 143
W2YC .....276	N2SS ..... 234

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



**1.5K Club**

<b>K2FL..... 1724</b>	<b>N2SS..... 1543</b>
<b>W3BGN ..... 1711</b>	<b>K3ND ..... 1508</b>
<b>N2TK ..... 1703</b>	WØMHK ....1478
<b>N2LT..... 1703</b>	K3II ..... 1449
<b>W2UP ..... 1684</b>	N2VW ..... 1315
<b>N3RS..... 1632</b>	N1RK..... 1300
<b>W8FJ ..... 1612</b>	W2LE ..... 1193
<b>W2YC ..... 1598</b>	AB2E ..... 1185
<b>N3RD ..... 1577</b>	W2IRT ..... 1147
<b>NO2R..... 1556</b>	K2AX ..... 1063
<b>K2PS ..... 1544</b>	



**Islands On The Air**

<b>K2FL..... 1021</b>	N1RK.....555
N2SS ..... 846	N2VW.....275
W2YC ..... 674	W2IRT .....232
W8FJ ..... 623	K3GYS .....232
WØMHK..... 381	AB2E .....205



**6 METER DXCC**

<b>N2LT..... 110</b>	N1RK.....57
K2PS ..... 108	N2SS.....55
WØMHK..... 106	W2YC.....38
AA1K ..... 99	K2AX .....21
K3OO ..... 90	N2TK.....20
K3SX ..... 75	K3GYS .....10

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

### Club Officers

President

Acting Pres, **W8FJ**, John Schrader .. ... 610-279-6097

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Email: kq2m@earthlink.net

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DX Cluster, **N3RD**, Dave Hawes .. ... 610-935-2684

Activities, **N3AD**, Alan Donziger .....610-581-7032

Awards, **K2QM**, Dan Marlow ..... 609-683-5633

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Email: kq3f@comcast.net

Email: k3zv@inbox.com

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

**Home Page** - [www.gofrc.org](http://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

145.530 AA1K

145.530 K3WW

145.570 WT3Q

145.670 W3PP

### Telnet DX Cluster

[k2ut.gofrc.org](http://k2ut.gofrc.org)

[k3ww.gofrc.org](http://k3ww.gofrc.org) 7300