



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

August 2008:

- 16-17 North Am. QSO Party, SSB
- 16-17 New Jersey QSO Party
- 21 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 26 Remy Meeting B**
- 30-31 YO (Romania) DX Contest

September 2008:

- 6-7 All Asian DX Contest, SSB
- 7 North American Sprint, CW
- 9 FRC Main Meeting, Phila.**
- 9 Remy Meeting B**
- 13-14 Worked All Europe, SSB
- 14 North American Sprint, SSB
- 18 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 20-21 Scandinavian Contest, CW
- 23 Remy Meeting B**
- 27-28 CQ WW RTTY Contest
- 27-28 Scandinavian Contest, SSB

October 2008:

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

CHANGES

None this month

Deadline for September issue:
Sunday, August 24, 2008

Proposed Pennsylvania PRB-1 Legislation Call for Action!

The "model antenna bill, "PRB-1" is languishing in the PA state legislature despite passage by 26 other states. Time for us to get off the sidelines and take action before it dies with this session.

The Senate voted SB 884 out of committee on June 25 and laid on the table the same day. The House Bill, 1777 remains in committee and has not moved from the Local Government Committee since August 2007. The Legislature is in summer recess until Sept 15 when it reconvenes for a short pre-election session, then a brief "lame duck" session. If it does not pass this session the process must begin anew.

Time to contact your Senators and urge the bill be moved to the floor for a vote. Remember, the House must do the same so there is a long way to go.

Be a squeaky wheel and write, phone visit your State Reps. You can find them easily by going to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/> go to the house and senate tabs and enter you zip code. (Note, you can also find the bill(s) from this webpage.) Be sure to ask them to contact their colleagues to move these bills forward before they die with the session.

NEW MEMBERS

W2DLT

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MEETINGS

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

2008 FRC Fund Drive



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

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

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

If for some reason you don't get an envelope, or you misplace it, you can send your contribution to:
Robert L. Shohet, KQ2M, 51 Scudder Road, Newtown, CT 06470

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

List of 2008 FRC Contributors as of June 21, 2008						
AA3B	K3PH	N3ED	W2LE	W3EA	W3CC	W3MM/W3RAT
AB2IO	K3ZV	N3GNW	W2RD	W3FVT	K3YD	N2RM
K2UT	KC2NB	N3RW	W2REH	W3GNQ	WT3Q	K2DM
K3ATO	KQ2M	N3YW	W2TV	W3MF	W3KV	K2GN
K3CP/5	N2CQ	N3ZA	W2UDT	W3SQ	W2OF	W2MC
K3FMQ	N2LT	N9GG	W2YC	K2QPN	W3GK	W2GD
K3GYS	N2VW	W0MHK	W3BGN	W8FJ	K2PS	AA2WN
KV2M	K3WW	NY3L	K2FL	N8NA	W3SOH	W2CG
N2SS	KD3TB	KQ3F	WE3C	WA2VYA	N2BA	N3KR
W3CF	W2YR	K3ND	N3BNA	N2TK	K3TEJ	W3FVT
K9RS	K3II	N3RD	K300/K3000			

FRC MEETING INFO

2008 FRC Open

The 2008 FRC Open golf outing was held on August 12th at the Southmoore Golf Course in Bath, PA. Ten FRC members participated. After ripping his tee shot straight down the middle on the first hole, W3BGN (Steve) went on to post an 89, which narrowly edged out WB3FIZ (Pat), who shot 90. K2DM (George) rounded out the top three with a score of 92.

W3BGN also won the closest-to-the-pin contest on the 110-yard third hole (8'6"), while K2DM won the longest-drive contest with a 249-yard bomb on the eighth hole.

The other golfers who enjoyed the beautiful weather were W3FV (Barry), W2CG (Marty), W2NO (Dan), K2TW (Tom), W2VQ (Gary), WQ2N (Paul) and K3JG (Daryl).

After the round we adjourned to Doughboys for food, drink and the inevitable trash talking that takes place when FRCers gather. There is always room for more golfers. We hope you can join us next year.



Clockwise from bottom left: **W2VQ, WB2FIZ, K2TW, W2NO, W2CG, W3FV, W3BGN and WQ2N.**

CONTESTING — TIPS, TECHNIQUES, RESOURCES

Reprinted with permission from the May 28, 2007 ARRL Contest Update

ARRL Contest Branch Manager, Sean Kutzko KX9X has started a [Contest Branch blog <http://www.arrl.org/blog/>](http://www.arrl.org/blog/) "Notes From the Contest Branch" for all things Contest Branch related. Sean will post updates on results, awards, problems, and anything contesters need to know about, both HF and VHF+.

[Yaesu <http://www.yaesu.com/>](http://www.yaesu.com/) is now a sponsor of the ARRL's [Logbook Of the World <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>](http://www.arrl.org/lotw) (LOTW). Sponsorship of LOTW will help maintain the system as it continues to expand with over 150 million QSOs. More and more DX stations are uploading logs to LOTW and with postage costs increasing regularly, electronic confirmation can provide a significant cost savings.

Your distracted editor inadvertently omitted noting that Randy Thompson K5ZD has been named the Director of the [CQ WPX Contest <http://www.cqwpw.com/>](http://www.cqwpw.com/) program, replacing Steve Merchant K6AW. Randy's is a familiar call in many contests and as noted below, is the newest member of the CQ Hall of Fame. Randy has started a CQ WPX blog on the Web site. Thanks to K6AW for his excellent stewardship of this popular contest program - and welcome, Randy!

Launched in 1998, the OH2AQ DX Summit has been a reliable tool for DX and contest spotting for a decade. It was based on a concept and the computing power of those bygone days and changed radio forever. Activated on May 23, the new [DX Summit <http://www.dxsummit.fi/>](http://www.dxsummit.fi/) (please update those browser bookmarks with the new URL), operated by the ham group Arcala Extremes (OH8X) and supported by Yasme Foundation Inc, boasts a 1000-fold increase in computing power with easy access to configure a Microsoft Server 2003 platform with dedicated servers for information handling and data storage. A huge amount of data will be collected for potential future applications. The system has been developed by [Admino Technologies Ltd <http://www.adminotech.com/>](http://www.adminotech.com/), located in Oulu, Northern Finland. (Thanks, Martti OH2BH)

If you are building up your code speed and the Big Stations running lickety-split are just a bit too much to handle, slide up high in the band and call CQ TEST at a comfortable speed. You may attract the attention of other callers looking for a slow-speed QSO.

If a caller asks the station you're calling to QSY to another band for a multiplier, follow them! For sure, the pileup on the new band will be much smaller and you might pick up a multiplier yourself before the station returns to the original band. If you don't call on the new band, listen for the station to return to the original band. Drop in your call a couple of times and see if you don't pick up a quick QSO while everyone else is waiting for a CQ. The practice of moving stations can be aggravating, but it can be turned to your advantage if you are alert and can QSY quickly.

Reprinted with permission from the June 11, 2007 ARRL Contest Update

Fred Hopengarten K1VR's popular and useful book, "[Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=8217>](http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=8217)", now has a 72-page [downloadable errata and addenda <http://www.arrl.org/notes/8217/Errata_Addenda_2nd_Edition.pdf>](http://www.arrl.org/notes/8217/Errata_Addenda_2nd_Edition.pdf) in PDF format. You might also want to read Fred's May 2007 QST article, "[PRB-1 and CC&Rs -- What Should I Do Now? <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/hender.pdf>](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/hender.pdf)".

[Bencher <http://www.bencher.com/>](http://www.bencher.com/) has announced a new version of the Skylark Yagi antenna for 17 and 12 meters. Free-space forward gain is nearly 8 dBi and front-to-back ratio is between 21 and 24 dB. The compact antenna weighs 38 pounds and has a 16-foot boom, so it will fit on most any tower-rotator combination. Complete information has yet to be posted on the Web site, but the antenna is available. (Thanks, Bob W9KNI)

Jim AD1C's set of [Country \(CTY\) files <http://www.country-files.com/cty/>](http://www.country-files.com/cty/) were updated on 2 June. This is a particularly important release as it is the first with a new file format. Starting with this release, a '=' character will prefix full call signs in CTY.DAT, CTY_WT.DAT, CTY_WT_MOD.DAT and WL_CTY.DAT. This change was necessary to differentiate a full callsign like K7A in Alaska from the prefix K7A (i.e. K7ABC should still be counted as the United States, not Alaska).

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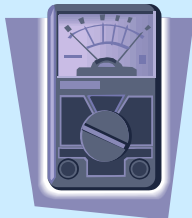
Recent Towertalk reflector traffic contained a good question - how does one move a heavy crank-up or tilt-up tower when it's horizontal on the ground without using a crane or boom truck? Advice was soon forthcoming. Rich K2XT recalled that he moved a similar tower by using a number of 3-4" diameter pipes as rollers. Placing sections of lattice tower under the tower to be moved as skids also works, according to Pete K4OM, although this might scuff up their galvanizing. Add a couple of friends to either of these methods and your tower will soon be in its new home!

Karl-Arne SM0AOM posted links to two very good Mini-Circuits application notes; "[How RF Transformers Work](http://www.minicircuits.com/pages/pdfs/howxfmerwork.pdf)" and "[Balun Transformers](http://www.minicircuits.com/pages/BalunApplicationNote.htm)". The former goes into detail about the fundamentals of RF transformers. The latter presents three types of balun and discusses their limitations and construction considerations. You might want to bookmark the Mini-Circuits [Application Notes](http://www.minicircuits.com/pages/app_notes.html) Web page for general reference.

When using a double-line tram to raise a big antenna, you can keep tension equal on both lines by using an "evener" - a bar with one tram line connected on each end and a pivot point in the middle hooked to the anchor point with a come-along and clevis. The attach points for the tram lines must be equal distances from the pivot point. The tension on the come-along will be twice the tension of either tram line or rephrased, the tension of each tram line will be half the tension on the come along. This was originally developed to equalize the load on two horses pulling a wagon! (Thanks, Roger K8RI)

SK

Tony Musero, K3UKW



Watt Meters

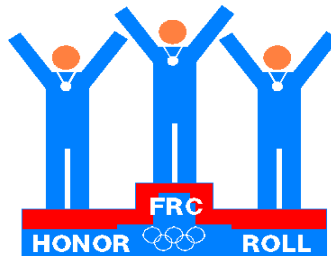
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AUGUST

conducted by N2SS

2008

WARC BANDS

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

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



ARRL DXCC Challenge

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

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

Rules for FRC Honor Roll Listings.

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



160 Meters



W3BGN304	WØMHK 152
AA1K301	K2FL..... 151
WT3Q.....275	K3ND..... 137
N2LT264	W2IRT 122
N2TK.....258	K2PS 112
NO2R.....243	N2VW..... 103
K3SX241	AB2E 100
W8FJ231	K2AX..... 91
K3JIG230	W2YR..... 83
W2UP219	N2SS 79
W2YC.....208	K3NL 70
K3II160	W2LE..... 64
N3RS156	N1RK..... 56
.....	K3GYS 12

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



Digital

W2UP.....342	W2YR..... 132
N2LT339	KQ3F 132
K2PS.....298	N2TK 74
W2YC.....287	N2SS 53
W2IRT.....206	N1RK..... 39
W2LE141	K3GYS 15
.....	W8FJ..... 12



MOBILE DX

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

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



1.5K Club

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



Islands On The Air

K2FL..... 1021	N1RK.....555
N2SS 849	N2VW.....275
W2YC 674	W2YR.....248
W8FJ 623	W2IRT.....232
WØMHK..... 381	K3GYS232
.....	AB2E205



6 METER DXCC

N2LT..... 110	N2SS.....55
K2PS 108	WT3Q.....50
WØMHK..... 106	W2YR.....44
AA1K.....99	W2YC.....38
K30090	N2TK.....29
K3SX.....75	K2AX21
N1RK57	K3GYS10

N2LT is right back at the top of 6 Meters!



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

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



Affiliated Club

The Frankford Radio Club

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

Home Page - www.gofrc.org

Meetings

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

Packet Cluster Contest/DX System

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

Telnet DX Cluster

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k3ww.gofrc.org 7300
w3tua.no-ip.org