



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

October 2008:

- 4-5 Oceania DX Contest, SSB
- 4-5 California QSO Party
- 8 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**

November 2008:

- 1-3 ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
- 8-9 Worked All Europe, RTTY
- 8-9 OK/OM DX Contest
- 11 Remy Meeting B**
- 12 FRC Main Meeting, Phila.**
- 15-17 ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
- 20 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 22-22 LZ DX Contest
- 25 Remy Meeting B**
- 29-30 CQ WW DX Contest, CW**

December 2008:

- 5-7 ARRL 160 Meter Contest, CW
- 9 Remy Meeting B**
- 10 FRC Main Meeting, Phila.**
- 13-14 ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- 18 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 23 Remy Meeting B**

CHANGES

None this month

Deadline for November issue:
Tuesday, October 28, 2008

President's Column

Greetings **FRCers!**

Once again the Contest Season has arrived. I hope you're all set up, primed and ready to go. It looks like there will be no sun spots to help with propagation for the CQWW SSB Test. We just have to hope for a quiet sun to help us make the most out of what little we have. With no spots it becomes even more important that we make the commitment to sit in our operating chairs and grind out QSOs, Mults and Points. Be sure to arrange to be active when propagation supports maximum production on any given band. If you're still having station or antenna problems, get them solved as soon as possible since we're running out of time. If you need help, ask for some.

Remember that the October Meeting will be held at the King of Prussia Firehouse on the second Wed of the month, i.e. October 8 rather than our traditional second Tues. As usual, the meeting will begin at 8 pm, but come early for some food and camaraderie. C U there!

Go **FRC!**

73, John, W8FJ

NEW MEETING DAY!!



The main **FRC** meeting has been moved to the **second Wednesday** of each month, instead of the second Tuesday. See page 2 for details.

MEETINGS

Main Meeting

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

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



T.I.T.S. meeting—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, October 16 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.

FRC West Meeting—The **FRC West** group will meet at Arment's Restaurant on Tuesday, October 14 at 6:30 PM. Contact Dale, **N3BNA** for more info and directions.

2008 CQ WW DX Rules Changes

(from the August 20, 2008 ARRL Contest Update)

The rules for the 2008 CQ WW DX <<http://www.cqww.com/2008_rules_cqww.pdf>> contest have been released, including several noteworthy updates.

- ◆ The Single-Op rules now address use of CW Skimmer and Skimmer-like technologies.
- ◆ Self-spotting and requesting to be spotted are clearly banned in all categories.
- ◆ Multi-single stations are required to identify each QSO in the log as having been made by the run or multiplier station.
- ◆ Remote operation is briefly addressed.
- ◆ Disqualification (DQ) criteria have been expanded and elaborated.



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73 Tim Brown NM3E 610-207-4865

CONTESTING — TIPS, TECHNIQUES, RESOURCES

Reprinted with permission from the August 20, 2008 ARRL Contest Update

Due to split weekends at the beginning and end of February, the 2009 CQ WW SSB contest will run from Feb 27th through Mar 1st. Similarly, the NAQP RTTY contest also moves to Feb 28th. These moves avoid a collision with the ARRL DX CW contest on the third (and last) full weekend in February. Watch other contest Web sites for likely changes in scheduling as this oddly-weekended month rattles the contest calendar. (Thanks, Andy N2NT, Al K0AD, and Shelby K4WW)

[WinCAP Wizard 5 <http://www.taborsoft.com/>](http://www.taborsoft.com/) provides a "Contest-Log Manager" to import Cabrillo-formatted logs from 55 different HF contests; more contests can easily be added upon request. The logs can then be plotted to the "Coverage-Analysis View" with or without predictions. The logs can be filtered and plotted by day, band, hour and any combination of these. Once imported, the Coverage-Analysis-Animator Preview provides the ability to create animated pictures from any Coverage-Analysis View. You can select the frequency then create and save an animated picture. The resulting animated picture files are small enough to share via email. WinCAP Wizard's basic - and substantial - functionality is free, by the way. (Thanks, Jim KU5S)

Not being at the same computer all the time is no longer a reason not to use a CW training program. Point the up-and-coming CW operators at Fabian DJ1YFK's new [online CW trainer <http://www.lcwo.net/>](http://www.lcwo.net/) Web page. From the site, "You don't need to install a program on your computer, and you always have your personal settings available, from any computer on the globe with an internet connection. You can also easily track your progress by means of different statistical functions." (Thanks, Chris KL9A)

From the Montana section newsletter by SM Doug K7YD, "(if you) have an old Vibroplex laying around the shack, the [Vibroplex Company <http://www.vibroplex.com/>](http://www.vibroplex.com/) has a program to refurbish that old bug, clean it up and make it as much like new as they can. I sent in one of my older bugs and just got it back in super condition. It runs like a dream. If you are interested, just send it in (very well packed) to them and mark the package for "Betsy". She'll take it apart, shine it up and replace any worn or damaged parts." You might want to call first, of course. (Relayed by Ken K0PP)

Fans of the contest and CW training program RUFZXP can now upload their scoreboard file and receive a graphical analysis of how they did. Felipe PY1NP developed the [analyzer <http://www.dxwatch.com/rufzxp/>](http://www.dxwatch.com/rufzxp/) and notes that it is a beta-test version.

The [National Radio Club's <http://www.nrcdxas.org/>](http://www.nrcdxas.org/) Web site is full of interesting articles and reports, particularly for low-band operators. For example, the original paper on Beverage antennas resides in the Articles section. They have an extensive array of publications for sale, as well. Until the sunspots awaken, we all need those low-band tips and tricks. (Thanks, Larry N6NC)

Glenn K6NA found a new Google mashup toy for finding out what IS that [mystery tower <http://www.antennasearch.com/>](http://www.antennasearch.com/) you drive by every day? I entered my street address and a search within the default 4-mile radius found 68 towers and 235 antennas. Who knew?

In a hot-and-heavy CW contest, the temptation can be strong to use [cut numbers <http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting_faqs.html>](http://www.qsl.net/zs1an/contesting_faqs.html), reducing transmit time. The most common cut numbers (N for 9, A for 1, and O for zero) actually do work pretty well. After all '5NN' is pretty much universal. The trouble begins when the less common examples, such as U for 2, are employed. These often take the receiving operator by surprise, leading to a request for repeats and erasing the miniscule time gained by eliminating a few dashes here and there. For optimum efficiency on both ends, give the receiving operator what he or she expects.

Reprinted with permission from the August 20, 2008 ARRL Contest Update

Here's a link to a very good talk on [ground radial systems](http://www.antennasbyn6lf.com/) <<http://www.antennasbyn6lf.com/>> by Rudy Severn N6LF. Rudy tackled some of the topics that have bounced around vertical antenna forums for a long time - elevated radials and the length and number of ground surface radials. Rudy's conclusions were drawn from experiment guided by modeling - a very nice exercise in verifying theory through practice. There is a lot more material from Rudy on the site, as well, including his design of an effective ground radial system for 40 - 10 meters (see experiment #6).

If your arm is aching after cranking up the crankup or untilting tilt-over towers, take a look at Rick N6RK's [photos](http://www.n6rk.com/drill_adapter_for_winch/drill_adapter_for_winch.html) <http://www.n6rk.com/drill_adapter_for_winch/drill_adapter_for_winch.html> showing his adaptation of a drill to do the job. Dave K6XYZ found that a larger ac-powered drill could be slowed with a Variac and still provide plenty of torque.

Before you crank, listen to Frank (W3LPL) on the subject of dead weight limitations of tilt-over towers. "Don't forget that you must comply with the dead weight capacity of your tilt-over tower. This is important - a nearby ham failed to comply with the dead weight specification and his fold-over tower collapsed as he tilted it up. His mistake? He forgot to count the weight of his Heliac feed lines! Everything you add to your tower must be counted against the dead weight specification, including all cables, masts, rotators and other accessories. Give serious consideration to using an aluminum mast and light weight antennas, feed lines and control cables. It's especially important to minimize every pound of weight above the top of the tower (i.e., mast and antennas and feed lines). Every pound above the top of the tower adds very significantly to the moment on the lower tower sections and the tilting base."

On the subject of keeping water out of connections, Roger K8RI relates that, "Flooding connectors is not always desirable, but if deemed necessary...the original [flooding compound] is Dow-Corning's DC-4. DC-5 also works. It's messy, but impervious to water, doesn't shrink, and is good well up into UHF." Flooding a connector means filling all internal voids with material to prevent water entry - an ironic use of the word "flood".

Here's a neat idea from the Instructables Web site about using inexpensive mouse pads as a [covering for work surfaces](http://www.instructables.com/id/The-ultimate-workbench-top/) <<http://www.instructables.com/id/The-ultimate-workbench-top/>>. This idea may resonate around the home, shop, and shack in other ways, too!

Sooner or later those rotator control box dial-illuminator bulbs will burn out and you'll find that replacements are hard to find. [Idiom Press](http://www.idiompress.com/) <<http://www.idiompress.com/>> has a new kit to replace the bulbs with a nice array of LEDs that improves dial illumination, but if you just want to put in a new bulb-like object, Joe W4TV suggests [LED bulb replacements](http://www.superbrightleds.com/BA9S6_specs.htm) <http://www.superbrightleds.com/BA9S6_specs.htm> that can be had in white and other colors at voltages from 6 to 48 volts. These bulbs are probably available in electronics emporia everywhere.

If you need a Molex connector in a pinch and can't wait for mail order, you might be surprised to find out that your local RadioShack store could supply just the part you need. Ken K4XL found the [online catalog reference](http://tinyurl.com/yr8kf6) <<http://tinyurl.com/yr8kf6>> to help the local staff find out whether the connectors are in stock.

Grounding hardware hard to find? Well, it's probably available at [Storm Copper Components](http://store.electrical-insulators-and-copper-ground-bars.com/ismyragrpr.html) <<http://store.electrical-insulators-and-copper-ground-bars.com/ismyragrpr.html>>, as Julius N2WN found out. The company has an excellent selection of various electrical components, including standoff insulators.

<http://www.lz1jz.com>



Reprinted with permission from the September 17, 2008 ARRL Contest Update

Tom K1KI clarifies the process and availability of ARRL contest results online: "What is posted on the ARRL [Contest Branch Web site](http://www.arrl.org/contest) <<http://www.arrl.org/contest>> for anyone to view is the full *QST* article plus a listing of all scores. The article is sometimes posted in two phases - the initial one available is only for members and may not include the score details. After *QST* is available to members, sometimes a couple of weeks later, the full article and score listings are posted. The database of scores is only available to members. Log Checking Reports (LCR) are available to DX stations who are not ARRL members. There is currently no automated way to get them as there is for ARRL members. DX stations that want a copy of their LCR report can send an e-mail message to Contest Manager Sean Kutzko KX9X (kx9x@arrl.org <<mailto:kx9x@arrl.org>>) and request them. He has to handle these requests manually, so give him a little time to handle your request."

A new service for ARRL members was announced recently--all issues of *QST* from the beginning to 2004 are now available online! The full story can be found in this [ARRL News](http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/09/09/10322/) <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/09/09/10322/>> item. Some articles that were continued to pages in the back of the magazine may not have been completely scanned in, but those will eventually be noted, scanned, and added to the collection.

Online reprints seem to be popping up all over. The "Carl And Jerry" stories from Popular Electronics can now be [downloaded](http://www.copperwood.com/carlandjerry.htm) <<http://www.copperwood.com/carlandjerry.htm>>, as well. Plenty of historic and nostalgic material is online and more is coming every day. (Thanks, Doug N6TQS)

Motivation is important, particularly at times of relatively poor conditions. Setting reasonable goals is part of staying motivated throughout the contest. Even hourly goals ("I can make sixty QSOs before 4 o'clock!") can keep the blood pumping and, more effectively, keeping your butt in the chair!

George K0FF has published an eham.net [article](http://www.eham.net/articles/19994) <<http://www.eham.net/articles/19994>> about his Beverage "hub" box that switches one feed line between several antennas. It's nicely built, and while there's no schematic with the article, the point is to illustrate the idea and get you started thinking about designing one for your unique receiving antenna system.



He's BAAAAAAAAACK!!!

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)

UPDATE ON THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

By Martti Laine, OH2BH

Many have been wondering what the status with regard to the Republic of Kosovo is as of today, both in general and in amateur radio terms specifically. Substantial progress has been made, and a new approach to get Kosovo totally on its own feet is well on its way. The United Nations (UNMIK) has scaled down its administrative role while the European Union (EULEX) has initiated its supporting role to help integrate the "interim administration" functions into the local institutions.

The United Nations Frequency Management Office (FMO) is one of those local institutions. This Office was responsible for authorizing Amateur Radio operations before and after the Kosovar declaration of independence, but as of today the FMO does not exist nor are licenses issued. You may still hear some stations operating as YU8 since those licenses issued in the past have not been specifically terminated.

Undoubtedly, Kosovo as a "country" has all required country requirements; (A) a defined territory, (B) a permanent population and (C) a government and (D) is capable of interacting with other countries with whom it has established diplomatic relations. As of today, the Republic of Kosovo is recognized by 46 countries representing many leading states and all geographical continents.

From an Amateur Radio and DXCC perspective, a great deal of confusing discussion has taken place; one side argues that the DXCC criteria needs to be honored at all times. Others see the criteria as not being engraved on a tablet of stone but that the rules facilitate "entities" dynamically in the context of an ever-changing world. Both views have some merit and should be appreciated.

Western Sahara (SO), another disputed DXCC country, is currently recognized by 48 countries and even today it is not a member of the United Nations nor does it have a dedicated ITU prefix. At the time Amateur Radio entered this desert country, no one had argued that it belonged to DXCC. When Swains Island was up for DXCC discussion it was decided that the DXCC criteria had to be changed and so Swains entered the scene. Swains was added not decades ago - but just recently.

Before Swains Island, DXCC used three "measuring sticks"; UN membership, ITU prefix or IARU society. In facilitating Swains, the ARRL Board of Directors decided to keep the UN and ITU parts but changed the IARU rule to recording of an event by the US Department of State, which again opened up another gate for more DXCC entities.

Now Kosovo meets the highest US Department of State criteria - Kosovo is an independent state recognized by the United States and easily passes the US State Department gate, if that gate is honored in the right spirit. With DXCC rules in place as they existed before Swains, Kosovo would enter through the IARU gate because of its permanent amateur radio population and its national society, SHRAK.

The above is just an illustration of the dynamics of the DXCC at any given time, following the dynamics of the world.

The world outside Kosovo abounds with many other examples that offer a slightly different perspective in the international arena. Another oft-mentioned entity - Northern Cyprus - is recognized only by Turkey, and the situation regarding Cyprus remains deadlocked. Two new cases - South Ossetia and Abkhazia - are recognized by the Russian Federation and probably soon by Belarus (EW) and Venezuela (YV). If they ever achieve wider recognition apart from the countries subject to the current conflict, they will become another set of DXCC candidates.

An immediate UN membership gate is pointed more in the direction of those that get themselves established with no gun fire. The UN's potential for resolving conflicts to its own satisfaction is seriously hampered by the Security Council veto structure that plays a major role in eliminating new countries at that gate.

So, the ARRL is left to define a workable recognition based country criteria - be it qualitative and/or quantitative. Kosovo with its almost 50 recognitions is the first one at the gate. Delaying action on the Republic of Kosovo so that it does not qualify for anything is not an option for the ARRL. Kosovo is a country with a permanent amateur radio population and therefore Kosovar amateurs should be welcomed to our community.

Back to the practical world; YU8/OH2R QSLs for the first amateur radio operation from the Republic of Kosovo were printed last week by Gennady, UX5UO and they will be in the mails in a few days. We thank Gennady for his efforts and support in making these full-color cards meet the spirit of the Kosovo case as they represent a special moment for those involved with the Kosovo project and those who follow world events as well as the development of the DXCC program.

You can view these cards at <http://www.dailydx.com/Kosovo.htm>

You may read more about YU8/OH2R and Kosovo at www.n4gn.com/yu8/

DXCC Yearbook

DXCC Yearbook Includes Corrected DXCC Honor Roll: According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the 2007 Honor Roll list published in the August 2008 issue of QST was inadvertently produced from a "corrupted report feature" in the DXCC software.

"Since the DXCC Honor Roll report is too large for a line-by-line review, random samplings [of the list] were checked and many [listings] were found to be okay," Moore said. "It was not until the complete report was published that we found the report had more errors than originally thought. Publishing a simple correction in an upcoming issue of QST is not possible. We have expanded the 2007 DXCC Yearbook to accommodate a complete reprint of the 2007 Honor Roll list. This is something many of you have suggested in previous years. The 2007 Honor Roll list will also be published on the DXCC Web site and this list will be separate from the current 'live' online Honor Roll list. We regret any inconvenience caused by this and we appreciate your patience and understanding."

The 2007 DXCC Yearbook is the largest ever, with an additional 16 pages, and features articles about the year's DXing activities, the Clinton B. DeSoto Cup and DXCC Challenge standings. The DXCC Yearbook is mailed free to all ARRL members who have submitted a DXCC application between January 1 and December 31 of the prior year or are current on the DXCC Honor Roll. Copies are also available for \$5 plus postage. To get your issue, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC desk <dxcc@arrl.org>.

ARRL Board Actions

The Board voted to create a Triple Play Award. This new award, set to be implemented by January 2009, will be given to those amateurs who achieve Worked All States (WAS) on voice, CW and digital modes. All 150 QSLs must be exclusively via Logbook of The World (LoTW). Only those contacts made after the awards start date will be eligible.

The Board also acted on the Programs and Services Committee report, voting to eliminate Rule 5 from Section III of the DXCC Rules. The Committee realized that while publishing log data can have a detrimental effect on operating awards, it was not possible to control such actions and the rule cannot be enforced. As part of an effort to maintain the integrity of operating awards programs, the Board called on staff to create resources and guidelines for QSLing and for QSL managers. These guidelines will help people who QSL to understand the "best practices" and help to support the work of the QSL manager so that access to log data won't degrade Amateur Radio's long tradition of the honor system.

ARRL Presents New Membership Benefit

With just a mouse click or two, ARRL members can now access the online QST magazine archive <<<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qqnsearch.html>>>. This new benefit -- a service of the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) <<<http://www.arrl.org/tis/>>> -- provides PDF copies of all QST articles from December 1915 through December 2004, enabling members to view and print their favorite article, project and more. For many years, the TIS has provided members with assistance researching ARRL periodicals and publications, as well as providing members and non-members with article reprints for a small fee. Access to the new online digital QST archive is free for ARRL members, and is for their personal use only -- material in the archive may not be freely distributed or copied.

"Having access to every issue of QST through 2004 is absolutely incredible!" said ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. "The best of the best of QST from every era is now at the fingertips of every ARRL member with a keyboard and an Internet connection. Members can research articles on any subject that interests them, or just browse the past issues. This will be a popular membership benefit that will be of special value to new and long-time hams alike. This valuable content will help radio amateurs who use QST as a technical resource -- for projects, equipment 'hints and kinks' -- and for other research contributing to the advancement of the radio art. We know many hams will simply enjoy perusing these pages of history, too."

The ARRL Periodicals Archive and Search lists every article for QST from 1915 to the present, QEX from 1981 to the present, Ham Radio from 1968 to 1990 and NCJ from 1973 to the present (please note that beginning in 1998, each issue of QEX covers two months). Only ARRL members will be able to download and print copies of the QST articles.

QST magazine is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. An interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership. ARRL membership is \$39 per year in the US. For a complete list of membership benefits and dues, please visit the ARRL Membership Web page <<<http://www.arrl.org/join>>>.

Third Annual ARRL On-Line Auction

The auction kicks off October 23, running until November 1 on the ARRL Web site <<<http://www.arrl.org/auction>>>. This is your chance to pick up one-of-a-kind Amateur Radio items. To see what the Auction will offer this year, be sure to check out the Auction preview that begins October 16. Last year, the Auction attracted more than 3000 registered bidders from more than 40 countries.

According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "Last year's on-line auction -- our second -- proved to be a successful and enjoyable event for both hams and ARRL staff members alike. When the bidding ended, we realized that we had sold 162 items and raised just over \$50,000." Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as creating instructional materials.

ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ, encouraged everyone to come and peruse the wide variety of offerings: "Browse through the Web site frequently, as items will be added on a daily basis. We also encourage you to look through the 'Help' and 'About Us' sections. You'll find useful information about bidding, FAQs and a host of other facts. To ensure an enjoyable experience, please be sure to read all policies under the 'About Us' section."

This year's auction will again include many transceivers and other items that have appeared in the QST Product Review column and have thus been thoroughly tested by the ARRL Lab. There will be many vintage items offered, as well. Also, returning by popular demand will be four ARRL Lab unique "junque" boxes. These boxes have a starting bid of \$50 and have almost anything you could ever possibly imagine in them. No one -- except the ARRL Lab staff -- knows what exactly is inside each box, but each is guaranteed to be full of things that the Lab staff consider valuable (but keep in mind that they collect just about anything). Jahnke said that due to many requests last year, "all product review items in the On-Line Auction include a link to a PDF file of the actual Product Review, as well as a reference to the QST issue that the review appeared in."

IARU Award Certificates Get New Look

On September 19, the ARRL Awards Branch unveiled a new design for two IARU award certificates: the Worked All Continents Award (WAC) and the 5 Band Worked All Continents Award (5BWAC) <<<http://www.arrl.org/awards/wac/>>>. WAC is awarded to amateurs who have confirmed contacts on any band with Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, North America and Oceania, while 5BWAC recognizes hams who have made confirmed contacts with those continents on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters.

The WAC/5BWAC rules state that all contacts must be made from the same country or separate territory within the same continental area of the world. Contacts made on 10/18/24 MHz or via satellites are void for the 5-band certificate and 6-band endorsement. All contacts for the QRP endorsement must be made on or after January 1, 1985 while running a maximum power of 5 W output or 10 W input. US amateurs must be ARRL members to receive these awards; foreign amateurs must be members of their IARU Member-Society and should apply through their Member-Society.

According to ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the WAC award -- originally announced in the April 1926 issue of QST -- continues to be a popular award around the world with more than 6000 participants since its inception. "Besides the certificate design change, the WAC certificate will also display the award holder's name alongside their call sign. We do this already on the 5BWAC certificate."

Moore said there are a couple of ways that hams interested in applying for WAC or 5BWAC can do so. "They can download the form from the WAC Web site <<<http://www.iaru.org/wac/wac.pdf>>> and send it via regular mail (along with QSL cards and payment) to ARRL, or DXCC recipients can send an e-mail <wac@arrl.org>, referring to their DXCC award. We can look into your account to verify the contacts; just include your payment information in your message," he said.

WAC is currently not supported in ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW), but Moore said that an upgrade to do so is currently in the planning stages. Any comments or questions regarding the WAC or 5BWAC program should be referred to the WAC Desk <wac@arrl.org>.

DX Engineering Acquires Comtek Systems:

On September 24, DX Engineering <<<http://www.dxengineering.com/>>> announced it had acquired North Carolina-based Comtek Systems <<<http://www.comteksystems.com/>>>. Comtek's manufacturing and customer service operations will move to DX Engineering's Akron, Ohio facility. "Comtek's products are highly regarded among Amateur Radio operators," said DX Engineering president Paul Sergi, NO8D. "The addition of these products to our popular line of antennas enhances our ability to supply complete, high quality, directional antenna systems. It's a win-win for DX Engineering and Comtek Systems customers." James Miller, K4SQR, principal of Comtek Systems concurred: "DX Engineering will continue the tradition of top quality products and customer satisfaction that we have provided for years. DX Engineering and Comtek Systems have complementary product lines and the synergy created by combining the two companies will bring many benefits to the Amateur Radio fraternity."

FRC Member Technical Article

Here is a link to the antenna forum presentations from the Dayton Hamfest.

<http://www.kkn.net/dayton2008/dayton-2008-antenna-forum.html>

Multi-element Lowband Vertical Arrays - Approaches for Small and other Lots

Which was presented by N9NB and **K9RS** about the **K9RS** 80 and 160 4-squares among other things.

Notes From Your Editor

It seems forecasting solar weather is about as accurate as forecasting the physical weather. A year or two ago some scientists were forecasting that the new sunspot cycle was going to potentially be the highest ever. That new cycle is now upon us. It was declared to have started in January but to date it is missing in action. As a result the forecasts have turned from record highs to now discussions of the Maunder Minimum (the name given to a period of extreme solar inactivity that occurred between 1645 and 1710). Just like the best way to check on the weather is to stick your head out the door, the best way to check DX conditions is to tune the bands! And, we have had some really good DX on. Another way to check on conditions is what I have described below in my 'Super Suggestions' section.

N2 "S"uper "S"uggestions

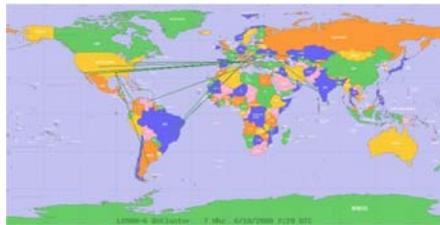
Put this web site in your browser's Favorites list.

<http://lu9da.dyndns.org/www/prop.html>

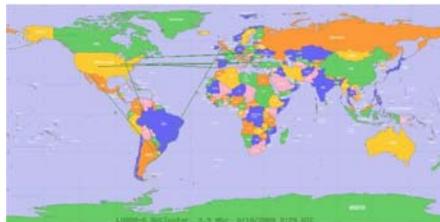
LU9DA had created a fantastically useful website. What he has done is to write a piece of software that takes the most recent one hour's callouts from the worldwide DX cluster and maps them on a world map. The site shows this information on individual maps for each of the HF bands (including the WARC bands) plus 6 meters. Thus, you can see at a glance what parts of the world are open to what other parts of the world. The software updates the data and the maps every 10 minutes.

To show you what this looks like, below are a couple of actual maps that I have copied from

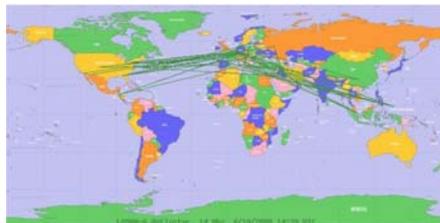
the web site. This is a terrific tool for DXers. I use it all the time.



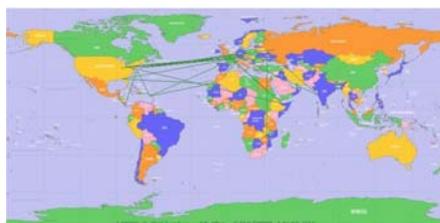
40M Band on 6 Oct 2008 at 0229Z



80M Band on 6 Oct 2008 at 0229Z



20M Band on 6 Oct 2008 at 1439Z



17M Band on 6 Oct 2008 at 1442Z

Another way to use this tool is with a portable internet enabled device. For example, I have an iPod Touch which has built in WiFi connectivity. I use the iPod mainly for listening to audio books and podcasts. But now from anywhere around the house I can bring up LU9DA's site and check on conditions on any band at a quick glance. Gotta love today's technology!

OFFICIAL ARRL DXCC STATS

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

3B7 AGALEGA & ST. BRANDON

3B8FQ is traveling to St. Brandon sometime this month and will operate as **3B7FQ** as his work schedule permits. QSL via K5XK.

C6 BAHAMAS

23-27 Oct: FRC contest Dxpedition as **C6AXD (C6APR)** during CQWW) by W2GJ, K3IXD, W3PP and W8ZA. CW, SSB and RTTY on 160 thru 10 Meters including WARC. QSL via K3IXD.

FO/M MARQUESAS

Now thru Oct 19 you will find DJ7RJ active as **FO/DJ7RJ** on all bands and modes. Despite the Maunder Minimum talk, we had a nice opening to that part of the world on 17 Meters last night and I worked him on both SSB and CW around 0100Z. Double check your logging program's country file. It will probably show this incorrectly as the more common French Polynesia instead of Marquesas. QSL via his home call.

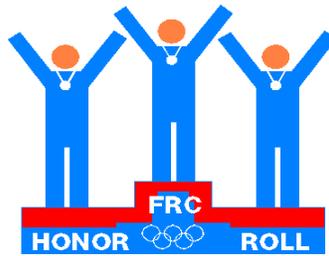
N2 Special salute

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



OCTOBER

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 236	W2IRT137
AB2E156	W2YR 203	W2IRT105
N1RK.....134	AB2E..... 127	AB2E92
W2YR.....134	K3ND 127	K2AX86
K3ND.....91	N2VW..... 123	N2VW.....35
K2AX.....81	K3GYS..... 85	K3GYS.....30
K3GYS17		

Still looking 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	K2AX 1631
.....	AB2E..... 1104

Low continues in the lead.



MOBILE DX

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

Well, he's done it! Jon is now our official B ig W heel.

160 Meters

W3BGN305	WØMHK 152
AA1K301	K2FL..... 151
WT3Q.....275	K3ND..... 137
N2LT264	W2IRT 122
N2TK.....258	K2PS 112
NO2R.....243	K2AX..... 106
K3SX241	N2VW 103
W8FJ231	AB2E 100
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	KQ3F 132
N2LT339	N2TK 74
K2PS.....298	N2SS 53
W2YC.....287	W3BGN 41
W2IRT.....206	N1RK..... 39
W2LE141	K3GYS 15
W2YR.....132	W8FJ..... 12

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.



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	K2AX1101



Islands On The Air

K2FL..... 1021	K2AX298
N2SS 851	N2VW.....275
W2YC 674	W2YR.....248
W8FJ 623	W2IRT.....232
N1RK555	K3GYS232
WØMHK..... 381	AB2E205



6 METER DXCC

N2LT..... 110	WT3Q.....50
K2PS 108	W2YR.....44
WØMHK..... 106	W2YC.....38
AA1K..... 100	N2TK.....29
K30090	K2AX21
K3SX..... 75	K3GYS 10
N1RK 57	W3BGN.....7
N2SS 55	

N2LT is right back at the top of 6 Meters!



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 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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tuacluster.no-ip.org:23