



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

July 2009:

- 4 FRC West Meeting (see p. 4)**
- 11-12 IARU HF DX Test
- 12 FRC Summer Mtg, N3RD**
- 14 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 16 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 18-19 NA QSO Party, RTTY
- 28 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**

August 2009:

- 1-2 NA QSO Party, CW
- 8-9 Worked All Europe, CW
- 11 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 16 FRC Summer Mtg, K2AX**
- 15-16 NA QSO Party, SSB
- 15-16 New Jersey QSO Party
- 20 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 25 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 29-30 YO (Romania) DX Test

September 2009:

- 5-6 All Asian DX Contest, SSB
- 8 FRC Main Meeting ???**
- 12 North American Sprint, CW
- 12-13 Worked All Europe, SSB
- 19 North American Sprint, SSB
- 17 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 18-19 NA QSO Party, RTTY
- 22 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 26-27 CQWW DX Test, RTTY

CHANGES

Email

W2UP—w2up.zero@gmail.com

N2VW—ratione@verizon.net

Deadline for August issue:

Sunday, July 26, 2009

President's Column

Greetings to you all. I hope your outdoor projects are planned and underway so that everything will be "ship shape" for the upcoming contest season.

We are looking for meeting venue suggestions for this coming fall. If you have some ideas please sound off. In the meantime please mark your calendars for the two summer meetings the first of which comes up on Sunday, July 12 at N3RD's QTH in Phoenixville, PA. Dave and Suda are planning another outstanding picnic this year. There will be plenty of camaraderie as well as good food and drink. The big tent will be there again this year, so this event will happen regardless of the weather. Let's make it a well-attended event. Also mark save Sunday, August 16 the the **K2AX** meeting.

Early congrats to John, **WE3C** for his crew's phenomenal showing in the recent CQ WPX CW Contest with what looks like the top multi-multi score world wide. Nice going gents!

Go FRC!

73, John, W8FJ

Summer Meetings



Sunday, July 12—Dave, N3RD, Sponsored by Team N3RS

Starts at 1 PM. Map and directions on page 3.

Sunday, August 16—Mark, K2AX.

Starts at 1 PM. Map and directions in the August newsletter

MEETINGS

T.I.T.S. meeting—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, July 16 at 12:00 noon. Location is the Hometown Diner on Route 222 in Trexlertown..

Rexy Meeting B—The Rexy's **FRC Meeting B** will meet about 8 PM on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

2009 FRC Fund Drive

The 2009 **FRC** Annual Fund Drive is now officially underway. This issue should contain a stamped envelope for your contribution. 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.

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

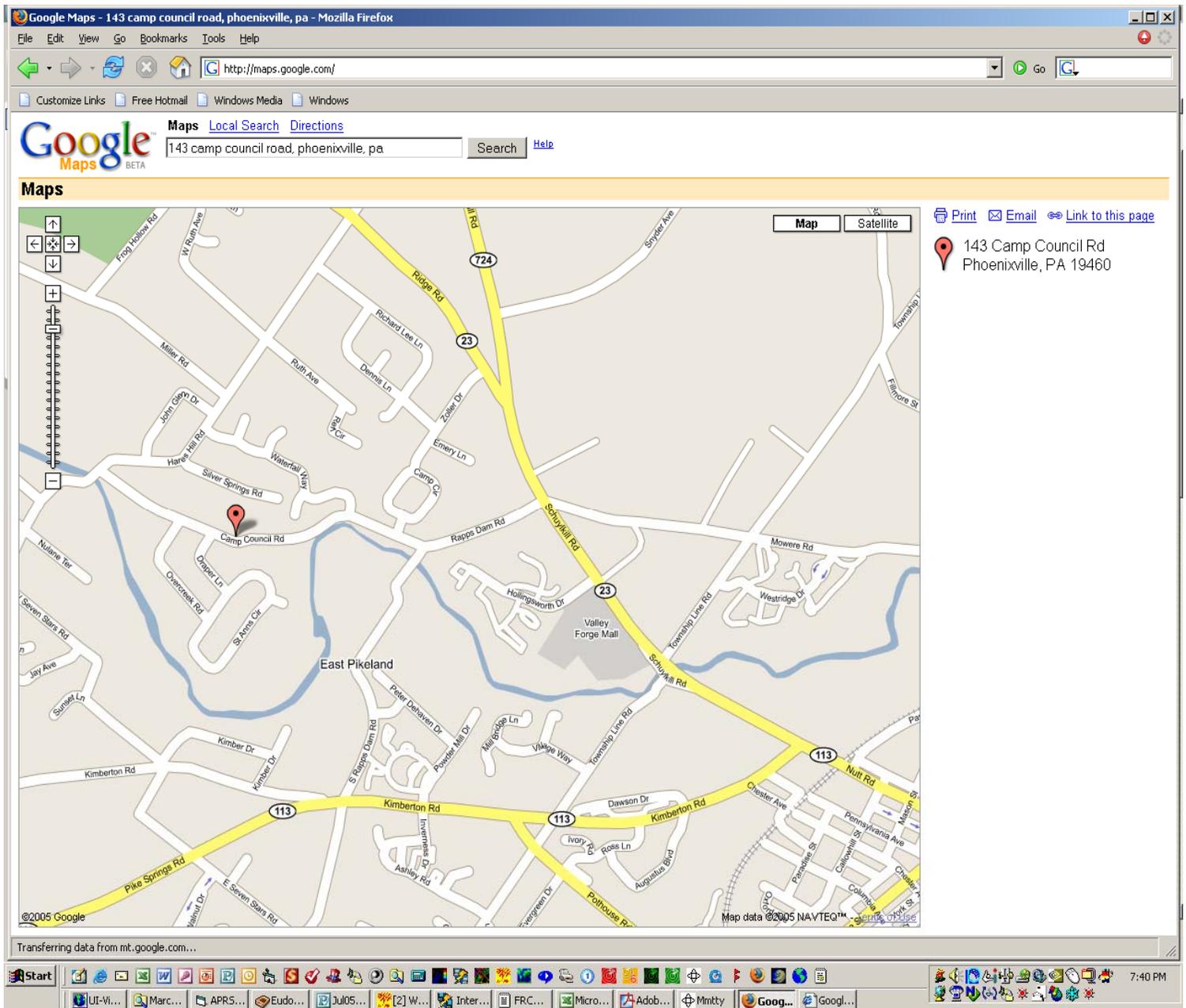
Donations as of June 25, 2009

AA2WN	K3MD/N3PVR	N2TK	W2LE	W3KB
AA3B	K3PH	N2VW	W2RD	W3MF
AB2IO	K3TEJ	N3KR	W2UDT	W3MM/W3RAT
K2GN	KD2RE	N3YW	W2YC	W3SOH
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K3ATO	KQ2M	W0MHK	W3BGN	WA3RHW
K3FMQ	KQ3F	W2CG	W3CF	WB3FIZ
K3GYS	KV2M	W2GD	W3EA	WB4FDT
K3II	N2CQ	W2GJ/C6APR	W3FV	WE3C
WQ3E	W8FJ	NQ3N	WA2FYA	NW3Y
K2PS	N3VV	K3WW	WB3FIZ	K9RS
K2FL	K3OO/K3OOO	K3SWZ	N3RW	W3BGN
WA2VUN	N3KN	W3KV	KC2TN	K2SG
K3ND	W3SQ	N3AD	N3ED	K3JGJ
W2MC				

Profound statement.....

"All antennas work! Their success or failure is measured in dB's" Dr. Tim Hulick, W9QQ (SK)

(Thanks to Glenn, K3SWZ, for the submission)



Dave, N3RD, is graciously hosting an **FRC** meeting on Sunday, July 12 at 1 PM. He asks that you bring a chair for your seating comfort. Dave's address is **143 Camp Council Rd, Phoenixville, PA.**

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

Tower Available

60 ft crank up commercial grade tower with hinged base. The lower section is slightly more than 12 inches between legs and diameter of the legs to be 1 1/2 inches. There's some surface rust, but nothing serious.

This tower is still being used by **FRC** member, John **W3KV**, and is located in Blue Bell, PA. The tower is available free of charge to any club member who will take it down and remove it from the property. Anyone with interest, please contact me for more information.

Barry Gardner **W3FV**
Tel: 215 679 8605
e-mail: gardner1@ptd.net

**FRC-West Meeting
Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club Hamfest
July 4, 2009
Bressler, PA**

The **FRC-West** meeting will be at the Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club Hamfest, Saturday, July 4 at 10:30 AM at the Emerick Cibort Park in Bressler, PA.

This is the 37th Annual "Firecracker" Hamfest event that is well attended by hams from throughout the **Frankford Radio Club** membership area. It is a great opportunity for current and prospective **FRC** members to meet.

More information about the hamfest and directions can be found by visiting the HRAC website at <http://hrac.tripod.com>

FRC Contest Operating Achievements



Our club takes pride in the operating accomplishments of its members and we would like to publicly recognize current special contest achievements. Please email the editor with anything you feel is particularly noteworthy (for yourself or anyone else in the club), for possible inclusion in the operating achievements "box".

2009 CQ WPX CW

Bob, **KQ2M**—Claimed SB20 Unassisted US record score of 5.6M (before log checking).

W3KB Achieves Five-Band Worked All States Award via Logbook of the World

Keith Beebe, **W3KB**, has confirmed all 50 states, per each band, for the ARRL's Five-Band Worked All States award. All contacts were logged and confirmed via ARRL's Logbook of the World digital confirmation program. .

Reprinted with permission from the May 27, 2009 ARRL Contest Update

As announced at the Dayton Contest Forum, CQ's World Wide Contest program is taking a big new step into the Technology Zone with the Xtreme Category in which contesters are encouraged to make the most of the new gadgets, software, and remote station links flooding into the radio world. A special normalized scoring algorithm will be applied, plus there will be an opportunity for recognition of meritorious efforts. Restrictions include a limit of one signal per band, a single transmitting location, and a power limit of 1500 watts or whatever the local rule may be remain, but if you've been anxious to jump into the deep end of the technology pool - is your year! Plaques for the Xtreme category will be donated by K3LR in memory of K3TUP. Take a look at page 32 of the June 2009 CQ magazine for the complete rules, including the requirement for advance notification

Jim K9YC describes an old, but obviously not forgotten, technique for increasing the bandwidth of antennas. As activity starts to spread out on 160 meters, this may be a useful technique to use more of the band. "My antenna is a simple top-loaded Tee vertical, with the top flat section tuned a bit longer than resonance, and a series capacitance added at the feed point to bring it back to resonance. That was giving me 1.2:1 below 1845 kHz, but reached 2:1 around 1880 kHz or so. I lowered the antenna and added a second vertical wire in parallel with the first one, spaced with a foot or so between them. There are parallel conductors ONLY in the vertical portion of the antenna -- they're tied together where they hit the center of the Tee." After adding additional capacitance to match the antenna, Jim can operate from 1800 to 1980 kHz with SWR of less than 2:1! "The same sort of technique can be used on most resonant or semi-resonant antennas, including inverted Ls and dipoles. It IS important to keep the parallel conductors spaced apart -- the principle is to simply make the conductor "fatter"."

John K2MM found a Science News article about the solar anemia keeping Cycle 24 from stepping on to the scene. We'll just have to polish up our technique and low-band know-how until we get some spot action.

Reprinted with permission from the May 27, 2009 ARRL Contest Update

Thanks to George, K5TR, Doug, K1DG and Tom K8CX the 2009 Dayton Hamvention Antenna and Contest Forum presentations are now available online. Click the 2009 button on the lower left-hand side. Presentations from past years back to 2004 are available as well. We tip our caps to the authors, too! (Thanks, Tim K3LR)

Recovery from the damaging ice storms of this winter is proceeding in various quarters. Looking at KC1XX's big 40-meter stack being renovated should be inspiring to all. We look forward to hearing Matt on the bands again this fall. (Thanks, Dave KM3T)

For those who are installing new guy anchors, a discussion on the Towertalk reflector recommended a protective coating of roofing tar or roofing cement prior to burying them. Dick WC1M tried this method and reports that all looks well after a couple of years of exposure.



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ARRL Sweepstakes Log Deadline - Now 15 Days!

By Ken Adams, K5KA, Contest Manager, ARRL November Sweepstakes

As part of our continuous improvement efforts for the November Sweepstakes Contest, it is our intention to dramatically reduce the timeframe for producing results that are available to all participants.

Sweepstakes results have historically been published six months after the contest has taken place. The contesting community at large has requested results be made available more quickly. To facilitate this request, we would like to make the 2009 ARRL Sweepstakes final results available on the Web in 60 days in the form of a PDF file. If this effort proves successful, we plan to shorten this window to 30 days in 2010. This PDF would simply be the scores in each category; full write-ups and detailed analysis of the Sweepstakes contest would still appear in QST and on the Web at a later time.

To meet this aggressive schedule, two major areas will need to be addressed:

First, the log submission deadline will be reduced from thirty days to fifteen days. For the 2009 Sweepstakes, the deadline for CW Sweepstakes logs will be 0300Z on Monday, November 23, 2009 and for Phone Sweepstakes, the deadline will be 0300Z on Monday, December 7, 2009.

Secondly, the number of non-Cabrillo logs received at ARRL HQ must be reduced. By receiving logs 15 days earlier we can begin the log checking process that much faster, but we will need your help on the paper log issue. In 2008, the ARRL Contest Branch received over 300 paper logs for the Sweepstakes contests. These paper logs were converted to Cabrillo format by a dedicated, yet small group of volunteers. This took several hundred person-hours of time.

We plan to contact as many paper log submitters as possible and point out resources they can use to generate Cabrillo logs. I am asking that every club have a special project and meeting this year to insure that 100% of their members submit Cabrillo logs for SS. If you have club members that don't have PCs, please form your own volunteer teams to convert their logs after the contest. This would be a great excuse for a big post-Sweepstakes club pizza party, combining data entry with club camaraderie.

While the ARRL will never turn away a paper log, the advantages of electronic log submission are critical to the success of the accelerated presentation of the Sweepstakes results. Numerous software contest loggers exist for Windows and DOS, including the free packages CT and N1MM. Entrants are also able to manually convert their own paper logs to a Cabrillo log at the WA7BNM Cabrillo Web site.

You, the members of the contesting community, have requested faster turnaround of contest results for some time. With every contester's help, we can achieve this goal of dramatically reducing the time between contest and results. We have identified several other areas we hope to improve in the future, such as simplified Web access for SS information, historical log search capability, easy access to FAQ's, records, etc. and will continue to work on those goals. Thank you for your continued participation and help with the ARRL November Sweepstakes, the greatest domestic contest out there.

Reprinted with permission from the June 24, 2009 ARRL Contest Update

WRTC-2010 Committee member, Harry RA3AUU writes about an upcoming Russian championship that will be very similar to the 2010 edition of WRTC. "The Russian Radiosport Team Championship (RRTC) is an annual head-to-head Field Day style competition organized by the Russian Amateur Radio Union (Soyuz Radiolyubitelei Rossii - SRR), originating in the USSR in 1980. On July 18, 2009 with rules very similar to WRTC-2010, twenty teams from many different Russian regions will participate in RRTC. Two-op teams with R33AA-R33FZ call signs will be competing in the fields near the city of Domodedovo which is about 30-50 km to the South of Moscow. The same flat rural area fields will be used for WRTC-2010 competition." This is a great opportunity to get a feel for summer propagation from UA3 from "the other side."

FCC LOOKS TO RAISE VANITY CALL SIGN FEES FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 14 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-126A1.pdf>. Currently, a vanity call sign costs \$12.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to \$13.40 for 10 years, an increase of \$1.10. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.html>>.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of \$11.70 in 2007 <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/08/31/105/>> to a high of \$70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order). In 2007, the Commission lowered the fee from \$20.80 to \$11.70. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$201,000 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal three years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

ARRL SEEKS COURT ACTION TO COMPEL FCC TO COMPLY WITH RULING

On June 24, 2009, the ARRL filed a petition with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit asking the Court to order the Federal Communications Commission to comply with the Court's 2008 decision that remanded the FCC's ruling on Access BPL for further action <<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>>>.

In its Petition for a Writ of Mandamus, the ARRL asks that the Court "order the Commission to comply with the terms of the Court's mandate by (1) soliciting comment on the unredacted studies placed in the rulemaking record, and (2) providing a reasoned explanation of its choice of an extrapolation factor for Access BPL (or issue a further notice of proposed rulemaking proposing a different extrapolation factor), within sixty days" <<<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/BPLCourtMandamusPetition06242009.pdf>>>.

"What's at issue is the fact that after over a year the FCC has not complied with the Court's order," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The FCC needs to ask the public to comment on the scientific studies conducted by the FCC and on which they relied in their BPL decision. It also must either offer a reasoned explanation, based on the scientific studies already in the FCC's record, for its determination of the rate at which radiation from medium voltage power lines carrying BPL decays with distance from the power line, or issue a new Notice of Proposed Rule Making and seek comment on an appropriate standard."

NASA, NOAA RELEASES NEW PREDICTIONS FOR SOLAR CYCLE 24

An international panel of experts -- led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and sponsored by NASA -- has released a new prediction for the next solar cycle: Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with a below-average number of sunspots <http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/29may_noaaprediction.htm?list1300638>. "If our prediction is correct, Solar Cycle 24 will have a peak sunspot number of 90, the lowest of any cycle since 1928 when Solar Cycle 16 peaked at 78," said panel chairman Doug Biesecker of NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center. This report clarifies a NOAA report from May 2009 that stated that Solar Cycle 24 would bring "90 sunspots per day on average" <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090508_solarstorm.html>.

The latest forecast revises a prediction issued in 2007 <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/01/07/100/>>. At that time, a sharply divided panel believed solar minimum would come in March 2008 followed by either a strong solar maximum in 2011, or a weak solar maximum in 2012. "It turns out that none of our models were totally correct," said Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center and NASA's lead representative on the panel. "The Sun is behaving in an unexpected and very interesting way."

In 2007, experts varied in their predictions on when the solar cycle would peak and how strong it would be. In April of that year, NOAA, in coordination with an international panel of solar experts, predicted that the next 11-year cycle of solar storms "would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months, and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012" <<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/>>. In the cycle forecast issued in April 2007, half of the panel predicted a "moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October 2011. The other half predicted a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August 2012. An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. The group is evenly split between a strong and a weak cycle."

At a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco in December 2007, David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, along with colleague Robert Wilson, said that Solar Cycle 24 "looks like it's going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago." They said they believe the next solar maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160, plus or minus 25. "This would make it one of the strongest solar cycles of the past 50 years -- which is to say, one of the strongest in recorded history." Four of the five biggest cycles on record have come in the past 50 years. "Cycle 24 should fit right into that pattern," Hathaway said.

Right now -- June 2009 -- the solar cycle is in a valley, the deepest of the past century. In 2008 and 2009, the Sun showed some of the lowest sunspot counts on record, as well as weak solar winds and a low solar irradiance, going more than two years without a significant solar flare. "In our professional careers, we've never seen anything quite like it," Pesnell said. "Solar minimum has lasted far beyond the date we predicted in 2007."

In recent months, however, Pesnell said that the Sun has begun to show some small signs of life: Small sunspots and "proto-sunspots" are popping up with increasing frequency. Enormous currents of plasma on the Sun's surface are gaining strength and slowly drifting toward its equator. Radio astronomers have detected a tiny but significant uptick in solar radio emissions. All these things are precursors of an awakening Solar Cycle 24 and form the basis for the panel's new, almost unanimous forecast.

Pesnell cautioned optimism, telling the ARRL that there is an "error bar of +/- 20." This means Solar Cycle 24's sunspot number could be as high as 110, or as low as 70. "Based upon my own personal research, I don't think we'll see 90 [sunspots in Solar Cycle 24]," he said.

When asked if such a low number foretold the beginnings of a Maunder Minimum <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maunder_minimum>, Pesnell said that a Maunder Minimum takes several cycles to appear: "Sunspots [in solar cycles] leading up to the Maunder Minimum took several cycles to disappear. I really can't predict what will happen in Solar Cycle 25."

Reprinted with permission from the June 24, 2009 ARRL Contest Update

You speed demons can copy "5NN" at 50 wpm, but how about something a little less predictable? The W1AW Qualifying Runs are a great way to find out and you can pick up a nice Code Proficiency Certificate, too. The July events are about one month away - put a bit of code copying on the calendar by checking the latest schedule.

OK - you won that online auction or you've found a great deal in the classified listing. But that material is a long way off - how do you get it if it's too big or heavy for one of the usual shipping services? Blake KD4RME recommends FreightQuote - a company that finds the best shipping rate from competing alternatives. So maybe you can snap up that big roll of surplus hardline after all!

Laura Smith to Speak in Harrisburg in September

The Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club invites you to a special evening with Laura Smith, Esquire, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Enforcement.

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 7:00 P.M.

Holiday Inn and Convention Center

148 Sheraton Drive

New Cumberland, PA

(Exit 40A, Route 83, Limekiln Road)

(This exit is located just north the junction of the PA Turnpike -- Harrisburg West exit (#242) and Route 83)

This meeting is open to all amateurs and we urge you to pass the word to others in your club or area. No reservations required!

Questions, contact:

Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ

717-774-1728

k3swz@arrl.net



Antenna Season is Here!!!

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.

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Contact: John Crovelli W2GD

w2gd@hotmail.com

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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 Remy's, 700 Black Horse Pike, Mt. Ephraim, NJ. Summer meetings are held at member homes (one Saturday/Sunday per month).

Packet Cluster Contest/DX System

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