THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB
NEWSLETTER
PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

September 2009:

5-6	All Asian DX Contest, SSB
8	**FRC Main Meeting 7:30 PM**
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

October 2009:

3-4	Oceania DX Contest, SSB
3-4	California QSO Party
10-11	Oceania DX Contest, CW
10-11	Pennsylvania QSO Party
13	**FRC Main Meeting**
15	**T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
17-18	Worked All Germany Contest
24-25	**CQWW DX Test, SSB**
27	**Rexy Meeting B, 8 PM**

November 2009:

7-8	ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
10	**FRC Main Meeting**
14-15	Worked All Europe, RTTY
14-15	OK/OM DX Contest
19	**T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
21-22	ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
21-22	LZ DX Contest
24	**Rexy Meeting B, 8 PM**
28-29	**CQWW DX Test, RTTY**

CHANGES

New Member

N1IBM
Morris Maze III
847 Dolan St
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734
N1IBM@arrl.net
609-489-6311

Deadline for October issue:
Sunday, September 27 , 2009

President's Column

Greetings!

Summer is almost over and the contest season is rapidly approaching. I hope everyone is either finished or almost finished with any outdoor projects they may have. There will still be some good weather, however, so if you haven't gotten started, get moving because you're running out of time.

The September meeting will be held at a new location - the Free Library in Richboro, PA. The street address is 25 Upper Holland Road, Richboro, PA 18954. We will be meeting in the Conference Room and the doors will open at 7 PM with the meeting beginning at 7:30 PM. We need to start a bit earlier than our usual 8 PM start time because we need to be done by 9 PM. Barring any last minute complications, Ray, **K9RS**, will have an antenna presentation for us concerning his 160M tower-mounted 4-Square and his new fixed 40M vertical array. I hope to see many of you on Tuesday, September 8th.

Go FRC! ***73, John, W8FJ***

2009 FRC Fund Drive

Donations as of August 23, 2009

AA2WN	**N2TK**	**W2LE**	**W3KB**
AA3B	**K3PH**	**N2VW**	**W2RD**
W3MF	**AB2IO**	**K3TEJ**	**N3KR**
W2UDT	**K2GN**	**KD2RE**	**N3YW**
W2YC	**W3SOH**	**K2UT**	**KD3TB**
N8NA	**W2YR**	**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	**K3SWZ**	**N3RW**	**W3BGN**
WA2VUN	**N3KN**	**W3KV**	**KC2TN**
K2SG	**K3ND**	**W3SQ**	**N3AD**
N3ED	**K3JGJ**	**W2MC**	**NA2U**
K3NL	**W4AA (FL)**	**K2CJ**	**K3FT**
W3BG	**K3MD/N3PVR**	**W3MM/W3RAT**	
WA3LRO (CA)	**K3OO/K3OOO**		

MEETINGS

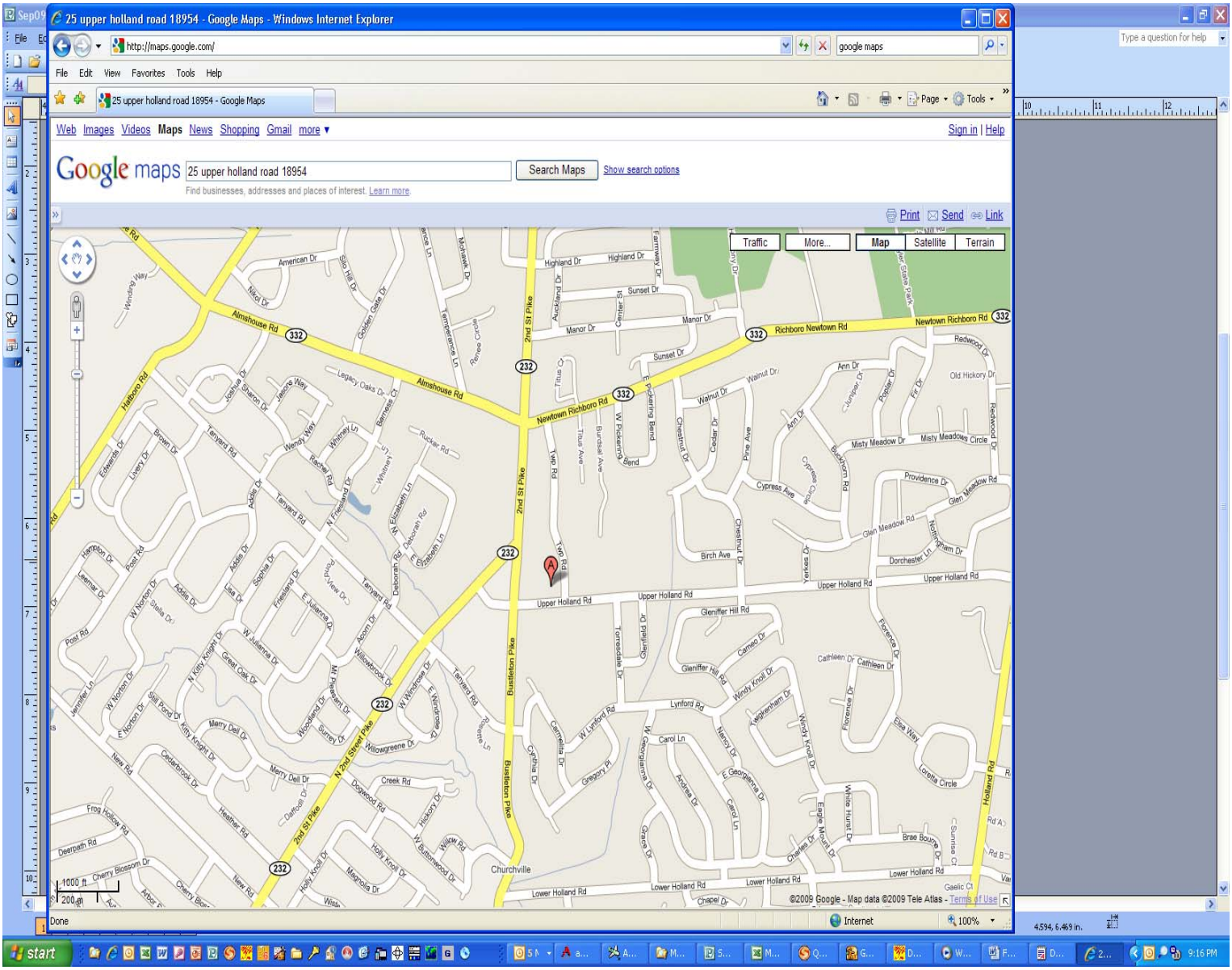
T.I.T.S. meeting—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, September 17 at 12:00 noon. Location is the Hometown Diner on Route 222 in Trexlertown..

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

September Main Meeting Location

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

The Free Library, 25 Upper Holland Road, Richboro, PA 18954.



Reprinted with permission from the August 5, 2009 ARRL Contest Update

Troubleshooting RFI to a piece of home equipment? Here's a handy step-by-step list by Jim K9YC that may help you find the point-of-entry for RF in short order:
1) Remove ALL the cables (except the power cable) and see if you still have the problem. If you do, proceed to step 2.
2) Put a toroidal choke on the power cord (hopefully resonant on the band for which RFI is observed). If that doesn't help, take the device back for a refund. It's a shielding problem, and you'll never fix it.
3) If the choke on the power cable fixes the problem with no other cables attached (or if there's no interference with only the power cord), start adding other cables one at a time. If the problem returns, that cable is acting as a receive antenna, so add a choke to it.

You can use inexpensive corrugated plastic drain pipe as a cable conduit, but fish wires or "snake" might snag on the corrugations. Craig K1QX solves that problem by adding "a plastic golf "whiffle" ball on the end of his metal snake and it now merrily bounces its way thru the corrugated pipe.

How can you tell if two antennas are interacting such that they might cause pattern distortion? I pondered the question and decided that if there is meaningful interaction, you can also detect it as impedance variations as the antennas in question are turned. As a first attempt, attach an antenna analyze to the antenna under test (be wary of signals from nearby transmitters) then rotate the antenna with which you suspect interaction. If there is a significant amount of interaction, you'll see swings in SWR as the interacting antenna is rotated. The test is symmetric in that either of the two antennas can be rotated. If both are fixed, you would have to try modeling to see if there's a chance of significant interaction. If you decide to try plotting an antenna pattern, Mark K6UFO found these software tools, S Meter Lite and PolarPlot.

Painting or sealing rods, pipes, and tubes is a pain, but Mark AA6DX suggests nearly filling PVC pipe closed on one end with the liquid to be applied, then adding the item to be coated, capping the tube, then shaking, tilting, and tipping the tube to slosh the coating around.

Reprinted with permission from the August 19, 2009 ARRL Contest Update

There's a silver lining in every dark cloud...in this case a copper lining. Steve K7AWB reports that wire prices are dropping at the hardware retail emporia. Copper prices have plummeted along with our investment portfolios and so that 80 meter Sterba Curtain may be affordable once again, even if not buildable. Time to stock up, perhaps?

Penalty - The penalties assessed during log checking for a busted call, miscopied exchange, or "not in the log" QSO are there to create an incentive for accurate copy. No, a penalty is NOT an accusation of cheating...it's just a "mistake fee" like the five yards assessed for an offsides infraction in football. There is a lot of confusion about what the penalty consists of: First, the bad QSO is removed, as should be expected. Then, a number of QSO points equivalent to the number of penalty QSOs are subtracted from your total - actual additional QSOs are not removed from the log. For example, should I bust an intercontinental QSO in CQ WW, that QSO will be deleted from my log and an additional nine points (three QSOs worth) will be subtracted from my total. This is sufficient penalty for me to slow down and get all the information right before logging the contact - and that's one of the reasons we have ham radio contests!

Here's a chance to get a sneak peak of what WRTC 2010 will look like! Another in the series of Potomac Valley Radio Club webinars will present a look at the Field Day style operation of the Russian Radiosport Team Championship held last month. Click on the "Webinar" link on the main page. You can also past webinars. At the bottom of the page is a link to the Webinar Quick Reference users guide. These are great for club meetings, too!

Reprinted with permission from the August 19, 2009 ARRL Contest Update

Know Your Categories! As all contest sponsors know, an occasional competitor is "surprised" to find out that his or her log turns up in a category or with some other attribute they didn't intend for their submission! How does this happen? Sometimes, there just ISN'T a category like you expected! For example, in ARRL contests, the Single-Band categories do not recognize power level and there is only one Assisted category, no matter what! Even if you are aware of the category structure, you can still be "hosed" by the logging software when a menu selection or check box is retained from a previous contest or the program defaults aren't reset and, voila! Where did your score go? You wouldn't have sent in your paper logs without making a quick review of the summary sheet, dupe sheet, and logs, would you? Of course not, so here's how to make a quick check of your Cabrillo-formatted log on a Windows-based PC:

Run the text-editor program *Notepad* (it's in the Accessories group)

Select **File**, then **Open**, then browse to and open your Cabrillo-formatted log file

Right at the top are all the Cabrillo "tags" containing your submission information

Make sure every bit of information is correct

If anything is incorrect, edit it or return to your logging software and correct it there

This simple process prevents those *very* unpleasant discoveries when the results are published! All of the Cabrillo tags and the options associated with each are described on the Cabrillo Standard Web site

When you are installing a new ac outlet in the shack, make sure the current rating of the outlet and the circuit match. Says Paul W9AC, "I've seen instances where a 20-amp 120VAC receptacle is used, but the conductors are sized at #14 AWG. Looking at the receptacle gives the incorrect impression that the branch is rated for 20 amps, when in fact it's only rated at 15 amps. The breaker rating, wire size, receptacle and plug should all match the intended current-carrying capacity."

What about international power connections if you are traveling outside the US? There are so many different power systems and connector standards that it's hard to figure out how to prepare. Here's a US Department of Commerce document that presents just about everything you need to know in one simple document. (Thanks, Mark K1RO)

Guy wires can be insulated with one piece of hardware called an "insulator clevis." Frank W3LPL recommends the Joslyn J732. Here's how he does it - "Attach the insulator clevis to your tower guy attachment hardware. You may need a 5/16- or 3/8-inch shackle to do this. Pass the clevis bolt through your guy wire insulator. Pass your guy wire (or preform) through the other hole in the guy wire insulator. The rated strength of the Joslyn J732 is 20,000 pounds." These can be ordered from your local electrical equipment distributor or from sources found on the Web.

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".

Keith W3KB achieved Five-Band DXCC. This culminates a quest to achieve the Triple Play Award, the Five-Band Worked All States and now 5BDXCC, all awarded in 2009. The 5BDXCC was awarded by ARRL on Keith's birthday, August 26.

Reprinted with permission from the August 19, 2009 ARRL Contest Update

Phased arrays of receiving antennas are starting to become more common on the low bands where they improve the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) by rejecting noise away from the "line of fire." Carlos N4IS relays an article by Dallas Lankford about the Quad Delta Flag, focusing on maximum front-to-back ratio. He also reminds us that interaction with nearby antennas (or any conductor a significant fraction of a wavelength long) and common mode noise can drastically compromise the performance of a receive antenna. That's no reason not to try one, though, even on a small lot.

I often cite Jim K9YC's tutorials on ferrite use, but he has published numerous other papers and presentations. This set of presentation sides on audio interfaces is something a digital operators should browse and consider. Understanding the source of noise often points the way to solutions, as well!

Whether or not you use the Honda EU-series of portable generators, Honda has published a lot of useful information on sizing and selecting home generators. Further, connecting a generator to your home wiring is also covered. (Thanks, Robert Morris)

Technical Web Site of the Week - There is a very good Height Above Average Terrain (HAAT) calculator available at the FCC Web site. Enter your coordinates and get the HAAT in all directions, with resolution selectable down to 1 degree radials. It only covers HAAT from 3 to 20 km, so you still need to avoid very local terrain features. (Thanks, Jim K8MR)

Conversation with N0AX

Jamie and Adam, of Mythbusters television show fame, have been getting a lot exposure lately. For example, they were consulting editors for an issue of Popular Science and they're also in the process of shooting new shows to keep us all entertained (and educated) this fall. Both have their own workshops, as you might imagine, but Adam's is not the large every-tool-known version. It's actually quite small - just 10' by 12'. In describing the shop, Adam used the term "first-order retrieveability," meaning accessing anything he needs without having to look for it.

I'm a long-time fan of "FOR", I discovered! My December 2004 *QST* "Hands-On Radio" column, "Open House In the NØAX Lab" shows some of the tricks and techniques I used to maintain FOR of materials, components, tools, and test instruments. The same inclination extends to the ham station and all the gadgets and gew-gaws that go with that.

(continued on page 6)

Reprinted with permission from the August 19, 2009 ARRL Contest Update

I don't have a lot of space for station or shop and I'm a pretty busy guy, so I don't have a lot of time to waste looking for that stash of #8 solder lugs or to go on a "tool hunt" when I'm looking for the 5/16" nutdriver. FOR is not so much about neatness as it is about organization. We all know folks whose shops or shacks are immaculate, but if it's not sitting out in plain sight, they can't find it. Conversely, we have all visited techno-lairs with bits and pieces scattered in violent disarray, yet the owners can instantly put their hands on whatever is needed at any time.

Not only does FOR save time, but there is a second-order effect that may be even more important and that is of keeping one's train of thought on the rails. I am very distractable, so replacing that image or concept in my mind with the process of looking for something often means that I have to start that mental buildup all over again. Tom DeMarco and Timothy Lister talk about this kind of disruption in their excellent book, *Peopleware*, in which they talk about the modern knowledge foundry and how to get the most out of employees hired for their brains rather than brawn.

Does this pertain to contesting? Oh, my, does it! When you're in the groove of running stations or tuning the bands for new multipliers, any extra hand motions, mouse clicking, button pushing, annunciator beeps, flashing graphics, and so on are competing for your attention and diluting your focus. For example, I like the "Enter Sends Mode" of N1MM (originated by TR-LOG) in which my hands never have to move from home position on the keyboard. Hear call, type call, hit Enter to send my exchange, type in their exchange, hit Enter to send thanks and QRZ. Repeat. In this instance, FOR stands for First-Order Runability.

So my point is (at last!) that as you build up your station and begin that long journey to the Top Ten, you need to spend a surprising amount of effort in its configuration; both of equipment and of the human interface to the software. Just as a competitive long-distance runner minimizes unnecessary motion, particularly energy-draining ups-and-downs, the competitive long-duration contester has to minimize unnecessary processes that divert and distract.

During the next contest, try to "watch yourself" as you go about the business of operating. Do you have to swivel your head to see all the necessary equipment? Do you have to move your hands away from the keyboard? Can you tune the radio conveniently? Can you change bands quickly and efficiently? I've seen some of the really top operators go about their business and it's eerie at how easy they make it look - no thrashing about, no momentary flurries, no panics, no drama. Just one QSO after another going into the log a little bit faster than you or me, every single time, for hours and hours and hours. No wonder, because they have achieved first-order runability!

73, Ward N0AX

FCC to Utilities: Don't Look to Hams to Pay for Your Testing

In a case that goes back more than 10 years, the FCC has told a Pennsylvania utility that the utility is responsible for paying for "efforts to locate and correct instances of [power line] noise" <http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/files/Duque09_08_07_5108.pdf>. At least one amateur has been complaining to the FCC since 2000 regarding harmful radio interference possibly caused by power line equipment maintained by Pittsburgh's Duquesne Light Company (DLC) <http://www.duquesnelight.com/>.

Bob Thacker, K3GT, of Allison Park, Pennsylvania -- a suburb just northeast of Pittsburgh -- first noticed harmful interference back in 1996. He told the ARRL that DLC would come out and fix things, but that he would soon hear noise again. After a few years of this, he complained to the FCC, and in 2005, the FCC notified DLC of the complaint.

A month later, DLC responded to the FCC, detailing their efforts to resolve the matter and indicated that the most recent complaint was the result of changed conditions, not the continuation of an old problem. According to the FCC, DLC again communicated with the FCC in a letter dated June 2, 2005, explaining the efforts they had taken to repair three lightning arrestors. During the latter half of 2005 and into 2006, Thacker continued to experience interference and continued to report these instances to DLC, requesting that DLC correct the problems.

In 2007, he located a specific pole as one source of noise and advised a Mr Luther of DLC of this fact; Mr Luther advised Thacker that he would submit a work order. In March 2008, DLC contacted Thacker, indicating that it had swept the area where the suspected pole was located and discovered no noise. DLC indicated that the noise source was a neon light. Finally, DLC stated that it had spent "significant amounts of time and money" attempting to address his concerns and that DLC would require him to pay for any additional efforts to locate and correct instances of noise.

Special Counsel for Amateur Enforcement Laura Smith responded to DLC in July of this year, saying "Such a response is not acceptable." She spelled out what she called "the most important rules relating to radio and television interference from incidental radiators," specifically:

47 CFR, Section 15.5: General Conditions of Operation <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr15.5.pdf>;

47 CFR, Section 15.13: Incidental Radiators <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr15.13.pdf>,

and 47 CFR Section 15.15: General Technical Requirements <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr15.15.pdf>.

"Given the fact this case has been ongoing for quite some time without resolution and DLC has had ample time to locate the instances of interference and make the necessary repairs," Smith told the utility, "you are directed to respond to [me] within 60 days of receipt of this letter, detailing what steps you have taken to resolve the remaining instances of interference that are reported as being caused by your equipment. Should the remaining interference problems not be resolved within those 60 days, DLC will be required to provide [me] with a status update every two weeks going forward as to what progress, if any, has been made to resolve the matter." ARRL Lab Engineer and power line noise expert Mike Gruber, W1MG, was pleased with Smith's decision, and said that amateurs should not be made to pay fees to the utilities to test for harmful interference by the same utilities. "It is not the responsibility of an Amateur Radio operator to track down and get rid of power line noise --

The Local Club Resource

FRCer Norm Fusaro, **W3IZ**, shares his views on how clubs play an important role in Amateur Radio. Fusaro is Assistant Manager of the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department. He is also the ARRL Affiliated Club/ Mentor Program Supervisor.

I am very fortunate to be in a position at ARRL which allows me significant interaction with our members. It is very fulfilling to be able to put a smile on someone's face by helping them find a solution to their problem, regardless of the complexity. Sometimes it is not possible to be as helpful over the telephone or with e-mail, so I will try to direct the individual to a local club where they may be able to get some side-by-side coaching.

The local radio club is without a doubt the place where most of us received our ham radio education. The club is where we learned the jargon and techno-speak used on the air and where we met folks to emulate and folks whom we swore we would never be like. Everything that we know about ham radio that didn't come from a book was probably learned at club meetings or late night Field Day chats over burnt coffee. Personally, I have made many longtime friendships from my involvement in local radio clubs and I am sure many others can say this as well.

Clubs, by definition, are groups of like-minded people who share a common interest. In reality a club is an eclectic assembly of individuals, each with a unique perspective of their activity. The dynamic of a club is no different than that of a large family. Think of your last family get-together and then take a look at your radio club. If everybody was the same, life would be very boring. In every club, there is the usual cast of characters who add their distinctive flavors to the stew and make things interesting. It is diversity that makes a club work well. I have seen that no matter how varied the personalities are in a club, most of these personalities are also eager to help.

Helping each other is characteristic of radio amateurs. How often have you experienced something like this? Two hams will be in QSO -- perhaps discussing an antenna installation or radio repair -- when another radio operator will break in with a helpful suggestion. This situation may have happened to you, or you may have even been the breaking station. The same thing happens (or should happen) at club meetings. If you need help with something, the closest resource is your local club. On the surface, the club may appear to be dysfunctional, but once you are involved, you will find that it is actually very productive.

The Pareto principle, commonly known as the 80-20 rule is a simple expression that 80 percent of the effects come from 20 percent of the causes. As applied in the business world, this would be 80 percent of the sales are driven by 20 percent of the customers. In a club, the percentages may be slightly different, but the fact remains that a small percentage of the membership is responsible for making things happen. This is not to suggest that 80 percent of the members do not participate, but without a "sparkplug," some things would never get started. These people are the doers. The doers don't take no for an answer and are always willing to take on more responsibility. But where is the fun in jump-starting a project without someone telling you it would never work?

Of course, it would be much more fun without the negative comments, but that goes against human nature. Ever since man tried to open a coconut with a rock, someone was right beside him offering a thousand excuses why it won't work: "You'll smash your thumb." "The rock will break." "You should invent a wheel and roll it over the coconut." "Let's just eat the bananas." The cynics of the world are an essential part of society -- and of our clubs. They challenge us and make us work harder to prove them wrong. Learn to accept these people but never let them distract you from moving forward.

You only get as much from a club as you put into it. A majority of the club bashers tend to be long time hams with a "been there, done that" attitude, asking what a club has to offer them for them. To borrow from President John F. Kennedy, "ask what you can do for your club." Of course, we took more than we had to offer when we were younger and inexperienced. But over the years, we have gathered knowledge that we can share with the newcomers. Based upon my countless interactions with hams of all levels of experience, the novice has much to offer the old-timer, even if it is just reliving the joy of discovery. The local radio club has something for everybody who is willing to get involved. Don't know where you local club is? Use the ARRL Affiliated Club search <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/clubsearch.phtml>. You can reach Fusaro by e-mail "<w3iz@arrl.org>;.

7O1YGF Now on Logbook of The World

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L reports that the logs for the 2000 DXpedition to Yemen, 7O1YGF, have been uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>. Last week, Moore announced that after more than an eight year delay, the DXCC Desk approved the operation after a review of "recently received information," as well as "additional dialogue" with the DXpedition leader <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/12/11022/?nc=1>. Moore outlined the process to receive credit via LoTW for 7O1YGF: * As with paper applications, if you submitted 7O1YGF in the past and had it rejected, we will accept an e-application via LoTW; you will not be charged a submission fee for the 7O1YGF submission only. * Make sure you have uploaded your QSOs. DXCC cannot open and search the logs for your QSO, since doing this will not show the match that is required for an LoTW confirmation. * Access your account and begin the application process. * If you select only 7O1YGF QSOs, you will not be assessed the fees that LoTW will report back to you. If you choose other QSOs, a regular submission fee will apply; * Complete the application (all four parts) and DXCC will place your e-application on the list for processing. * A special note for 7O1YGF applications only: On Part 4 of the LoTW application, click "Payment by mail." This step is very important to assure proper handling. If you clicked on Part 1 for any QSOs other than 7O1YGF you must make proper payment. This is only for 7O1YGF submissions. Applications with other QSOs will be handled and charged as a regular submission. * DXCC will not acknowledge completion of the application. When finished, your numbers in LoTW will reflect the completion of your e-application. * If you achieve Honor Roll or Top of the Honor Roll from this submission and you would like to order the wall plaque, send Moore an e-mail "<dxcc@arrl.org>;, or you can fax your order or send the order form by regular mail.

MFJ Acquires Cushcraft

On August 7, MFJ Enterprises <http://www.mfjenterprises.com/> announced they had purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line from Missouri-based Laird Technologies <http://www.lairdtech.com/> effective July 31. According to MFJ, Cushcraft -- makers of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and Yagi antennas for the Amateur Radio community -- will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire. "We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. "This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices. Customers will be able to choose from Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source." MFJ purchased Hy-gain in 2000 the company also owns Ameritron, Mirage and Vectronics. Jue said that the Cushcraft line will bring more than 50 new products to MFJ's Amateur Radio product line. "We will add more new products to this antenna line and will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas name long into the future. Cushcraft Amateur Radio antenna product customers will appreciate the continued and expected top-quality manufacturing of this product in New Hampshire and the MFJ commitment to superb after-the-sale service and tech support in Mississippi," said Jue. The 120 page 2010 MFJ catalog will include the entire Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line. MFJ has set up a special customer support line -- 662-323-5803 -- to handle Cushcraft antenna product technical support, parts requests and customer services.

Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 10

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase $1.10, from $12.30 to $13.40. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009. 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 10 year term. The notice in the August 11, 2009 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009," includes regulatory fees. These fees are expected to recover a total of $341,875,000 during FY2009, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates.

For more information, see the recent ARRLWeb article, "FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year" at,http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/18/10825/?nc=1

N2SS
FRC DX NEWS
Editor

SEPTEMBER 26th Year 2009

Notes From Your Editor

Fall is just about here and time for the start of another contest and DX season. But it sure is hard to generate any dxcitement! I am writing this on August 29th and below is today's sunspot image from spaceweather.com……nary a sunspot in sight.

Actually, this photo has not changed for more than a month and a half! Spaceweather.com further reports that: "According to NOAA sunspot counts, the longest string of blank suns during the current solar minimum was 52 days back in July, Aug. and Sept. of 2008. If the current trend continues for only four more days, the record will shift to 2009. It's likely to happen; the sun remains eerily quiet and there are no sunspots in the offing. Solar minimum is shaping up to be a big event indeed." So, by the time you are reading this it is likely that this period of 2009 will lay claim to the new record. The declared minimum of this current sunspot cycle has been and continues to be very much a moving target.

OFFICIAL ARRL DXCC STATS

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

3D2 FIJI

Starting October 1st SP5EAQ operating as **3D2MJ** and SP5DRH operating as**3D2KJ** will be on from OC-016. They will be active for four weeks on all bands but will be concentrating on the low frequency bands. QSL to their respective home calls.

FO/A AUSTRALS

G3BJ and G4JKS will be operating mainly CW as **FO/G3BJ** from September 4th to 16th. Look for them on 80 through 10 meters. Although, given the photo elsewhere on this page, I don't think I would spend a lot of time on 10 meters looking for them ☺.

Should you miss the above operation FO5QB, SP3CYY, SP3DOI and SP9PT will be there from September 28th to October 12th using the call sign **TX5SPA**. Their all band CW, SSB and digital mode operation will focus on the low bands. QSL to SP9PT.

FH MAYOTTE

DJ7RJ will be there for a month beginning September 22nd signing as **TO7RJ** on 160 through 10 meters SSB and CW. QSL to his home call.

FR/G GLORIOSO

Team leader F5OGL plus F4EGS, F5IRO, F5LPY and F8CRS will be conducting a major dxpedition for 3 weeks starting mid-September as **FT5GA**. Latest info can be found at http://glorieuses2008.free.fr (not a typo: "2008" is correct). On line log checking will be available from the same site once the operation begins. F5OGL will handle the QSLs either via the French bureau or direct to:
Didier Senmartin
PO Box 7
F-53320 LOIRON
FRANCE
No word on any LoTW plans.

ZK2 NIUE

Following their Australs' operation G3BJ and G4JKS will move to Niue signing as **ZK2BJ** from September 18th to 25th. Operation once again will be mainly CW on 80 through meters.

Providing them competition on Niue at about the same time will be JM1CAX who will be there from September 19th to 25th. His all band operation as **ZK2NX** will concentrate on the WARC bands. QSL to his home call.

ZL7 CHATHAM ISL

Look for N7OU as **ZL7/N7OU** on 80 through 10 meters from September 18th to 30th. This will be a CW only operation. QSL via the home call.

N 2 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

FRC HONOR ROLL

SEPTEMBER — conducted by N2SS — 2009

WARC BANDS

30 Meters		17 Meters		12 Meters	
K2FL	**337**	**K2FL**	**340**	**N2TK**	**331**
N2TK	335	N2TK	339	K2FL	327
N2LT	327	N2LT	337	N2LT	322
W3BGN	325	W3BGN	333	W3BGN	317
W2YC	315	N2SS	326	WØMHK	313
W8FJ	302	WØMHK	325	N2SS	303
N2SS	299	W2UP	322	W2YC	283
W2UP	296	W2YC	321	K2PS	270
K2PS	292	K2PS	312	W2UP	268
WØMHK	290	N2MM	300	W8FJ	235
N3RD	285	W8FJ	300	KQ3F	220
N2MM	260	W2IRT	270	N1RK	218
W2IRT	244	KQ3F	270	K3II	203
K3II	234	N1RK	266	W2LE	202
W2LE	223	W2LE	261	N2MM	194
KQ3F	217	K3II	256	W2YR	187
K2QPN	183	K2AX	236	W2IRT	137
N2VW	182	W2YR	213	W2IRT	105
AB2E	156	K2QPN	139	AB2E	92
N1RK	144	N2VW	133	K2AX	86
W2YR	144	K3ND	130	N2VW	43
K3ND	96	AB2E	127	N2WKS	37
K2AX	81	K2GN	99	K3GYS	30
K2GN	74	K3GYS	85	K2QPN	22
N2WKS	51	N2WKS	71	K2GN	12
W2CG	38	W2CG	17	W2CG	2
K3GYS	17				

Still no KING OF WARC

Islands On The Air

K2FL	**1029**	K2AX	298
N2SS	870	N2VW	282
W2YC	712	W2YR	271
W8FJ	623	W2IRT	232
N1RK	557	K3GYS	232
WØMHK	432	K2QPN	222
WA3RHW	313	AB2E	205

MOBILE DX

AA1K	**278**	K3GYS	143
W2YC	276	W2YR	28
N2SS	234		

Jon continues as our Big Wheel.

160 Meters

W3BGN	**306**	K3ND	137
AA1K	302	W2IRT	122
WT3Q	277	N2VW	121
N2LT	268	K2PS	116
N2TK	262	W2CG	116
NO2R	258	K2AX	106
K3SX	254	AB2E	100
W8FJ	236	K2GN	99
K3JJG	230	W2YR	92
W2UP	222	KQ3F	88
W2YC	222	N2SS	81
N2MM	195	W2LE	71
K3SWZ	180	K3NL	70
WØMHK	168	N1RK	65
K3II	160	N2WKS	30
N3RS	156	K2QPN	28
K2FL	154	K3GYS	12

W3BGN, our ultimate 160 Meter DXer, continues at the Top of Top Band!

RTTY DIGITAL

W2UP	**342**	W2YR	132
N2LT	339	K2QPN	130
K3SWZ	327	K2GN	117
W3KB	315	W2CG	91
K2PS	303	N2SS	67
W2YC	303	N2WKS	55
KQ3F	208	W3BGN	48
W2IRT	206	N1RK	39
N2TK	184	K3GYS	15
W2LE	171	W8FJ	12

Rules for FRC Honor Roll Listings. DXCC Challenge is CONFIRMED total ACTIVE (no deleted) on 160-6 excl 60 Meters 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	**1726**	**WØMHK**	**1509**
W3BGN	**1713**	**W2CG**	**1504**
N2TK	**1704**	**KQ3F**	**1501**
N2LT	**1703**	K3II	1449
W2UP	**1685**	N2VW	1334
N3RS	**1645**	N1RK	1312
W8FJ	**1619**	W2LE	1225
W2YC	**1616**	AB2E	1185
N3RD	**1581**	W2YR	1170
N2MM	**1559**	W2IRT	1163
NO2R	**1556**	K2AX	1101
N2SS	**1545**	K2GN	1085
K2PS	**1555**	N2WKS	817
K3ND	**1510**	K2QPN	774

ARRL DXCC Challenge

N2LT	**2984**	W2LE	1864
N2TK	2926	W2YR	1747
W2YC	2811	N2VW	1664
WØMHK	2683	K2AX	1631
K2PS	2394	W2CG	1187
KQ3F	2206	AB2E	1104
N2SS	1952	N2WKS	1007
N1RK	1941	K2GN	968
W2IRT	1870	W3KB	901
		K2QPN	798

Lew continues in the lead.

6 METER DXCC

WØMHK	**113**	W3BGN	48
N2LT	110	W2LE	46
K2PS	109	K2GN	43
AA1K	100	N2TK	31
K3OO	93	K2AX	21
K3SX	75	N2MM	21
W2YC	69	K2QPN	10
N1RK	57	K3GYS	10
N2SS	55	W2CG	5
W2YR	50	N2WKS	2
WT3Q	50		

Congrats to WØMHK on taking over the top spot.

THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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

Affiliated Club

The Frankford Radio Club

Club Officers

President, **W8FJ**, John Schrader…….....610-279-6097 Email: w8fj@aol.com
Vice Pres, **K2UT**, Bob Applegate...…....609-714-9359 Email: bob@applegate.org
Secretary, **N3ZA**, Moe Mosheim, Jr…...215-256-4004 Email: n3za@comcast.net
Treasurer, **KQ2M**, Bob Shohet……..…..203-270-8456 Email: kq2m@earthlink.net

Committee Chairman

Repeater, **K3NL**, Nick Leipold .....… 610-449-8910
Packet, **N3RD**, Dave Hawes .....…… 610-935-2684
Activities, **N3AD** ……610-581-7032
Awards, **K2QM**, Dan Marlow ….....… 609-683-5633
Membership

Newsletter & Roster

Editor, **KQ3F**, Joe Stepansky .....… 717-657-9792 Email: kq3f@comcast.net
Printing, **N3ZA**, Moe Mosheim, Jr… ..215-256-4004 Email: n3za@comcast.net

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 various locations in the Philadelphia area. The next meeting is at 7:30 PM on September 8 at the Free Library in Richboro, PA (see page 2). 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

k2ut.gofrc.org
k3ww.gofrc.org 7300
tuacluster.no-ip.org:23