



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

October 2009:

- 3-4 Oceania DX Contest, SSB
- 3-4 California QSO Party
- 10-11 Oceania DX Contest, CW
- 10-11 Pennsylvania QSO Party
- 15 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 17 FRC Main Meeting**
- 17-18 Worked All Germany Contest
- 24-25 CQWW DX Test, SSB**
- 27 Remy 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 Remy Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 28-29 CQWW DX Test, RTTY**

December 2009:

- 4-6 ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- 8 FRC Main Meeting**
- 12-13 ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- 17 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 19 OK DX RTTY Contest
- 19-20 Croatian CW Contest
- 22 Remy Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 26 RAC Winter Contest

CHANGES

New Member

W0BR

Robert G Raker
695 Mount Rock Rd.
Carlisle, PA 17015-7423
W0BR@ARRL.NET

Deadline for November issue:

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

President's Column

Greetings!

October has arrived and so has the beginning of the 2009 contesting season. I hope everyone is ready to go. There's still time for a few last minute improvements, but don't delay as the SBB weekend of the CQWW Contest will be upon us in no time (October 24-25). Mark your calendars, get you ducks in order, tell your family you'll be busy over the contest weekend, and plan to sit in the chair making points. Our numbers are smaller than those of YCCC, so we must make points - lots of points. Make a commitment to contribute your share!

This month's meeting will once again be held at the Free Library Conference Room in Richboro, PA. This is a Class-A venue as those of you who attended last month's meeting already know. There is one BIG change, however. In deference to many requests, **the meeting will be on Saturday, October 17th at 1 pm.** There will be a program presented by our VE2, Zone 2 contesting contingent detailing their Canadian operation and their 2002-03 V26DX operation. To those of you who requested a Saturday meeting, the ball's in your court. You have one less excuse for missing another meeting. Of course, anytime an actual meeting date is set, there are bound to be some casualties, and this month I'm "it." I'm hopeful that our VP, Bob K2UT will be available to preside over the meeting.

We've had some recent sun spot activity. Hopefully, we'll have more of the illusive guys during the contest weekend. See you in the pileups.

GO FRC!

73, John, W8FJ

2009 FRC Fund Drive

New Contributors

NC1A	AA1K/AB1P	WE3E
N3GNW	N2LT	W3BG
K3YD		

MEETINGS

October Main Meeting Location

SATURDAY, October 17, 2009

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

T.I.T.S. meeting—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, October 15 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.

FRC West—**FRC**-West will hold a meeting on Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Old Country Buffet, 5083 Jonestown Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17112-2922. That's on Route 22 East which can be reached off of either Interstate 83 or 81. We will consider Mike, W3TS for membership. It also allows us to talk contest strategy for the season. Hope that you can make it.
73, and GO FRC! Dale, N3BNA

WT3Q Now Accepting Telnet Connects

Sam, **WT3Q**, has been hosting a DX Spider node for several years, primarily to supplement 2 meter packet connections to his very fine hilltop location. (The solid coverage area provided for 2 meter connects is nothing short of amazing!) We are happy to announce that Sam now accepts incoming telnet connections, as well. This rounds out the **FRC** network with a third access point for spots during both contest and non-contest periods as well. The **WT3Q** node has very good internet bandwidth.

As we all know from personal experience, any particular packet node is not 100% reliable, so everybody should have data for all three **FRC** nodes in your DXing and contesting logging programs. You do need to set the filters up properly on all three before the contest.

Here are the details of all three nodes:

k2ut.gofrc.org

k3ww.gofrc.org:7300

wt3q.gofrc.org:7300

Drop an email to n3rd@arrl.net if you have any questions on this.

73 - Dave N3RD

Reprinted with permission from the September 2, 2009 ARRL Contest Update

Here's a product designed to *un-do* all that hard work you put in on waterproofing your connectors. Made by 3M, it's called "caulk remover" and it's designed to soften up even silicone sealants so they can be removed. It's available from home improvement stores and on-line. (Thanks, Bob N6TV)

Ed K1EP has improved the K1DG boom mike modification for Bose noise-canceling headphones. The new procedure uses a mini-gooseneck Heil Pro-Set mike boom, making the assembly much more robust. (Thanks, Doug K1DG)

Dino KX6D relayed some good information on anchor bolts and the applicable standards. "The ASTM F1554 specification was introduced in 1994 and covers anchor bolts designed to anchor structural supports to concrete foundations. F1554 anchor bolts can take the form of either headed bolts, straight rods, or bent anchor bolts. The three grades 36, 55, and 105 designate the minimum yield strength (ksi) of the anchor bolt. The bolts can be either cut or roll threaded and a weldable grade 55 can be substituted for grade 36 at the supplier's option. Color coding on the end - 36 blue, 55 yellow, and 105 red -- helps facilitate easy identification in the field. Permanent manufacturer and grade marking is allowed under the S2 supplementary requirements." Portland Bolt's Web site provides full information on the specification.

Trying to get rid of a concrete base, instead? Kevin Normoyle contributed links to the following products; Betonamit, Dexpan, and Sylentmite. These are poured into holes or cracks and break the concrete apart by expanding as they set or cure. Similar products are Crack Dexpan, Crack Ag, Crackamite, Split Ag, Bristar, Bustar by Cras, Da-Mite, Nonex, S-mite, Fract Ag, and Rockfrac. I guess this is a common problem!

If you are experiencing QRM from leaking cable TV systems, watch out for folks that have an antenna connected to the cable system with a T-connector and not a switch. That connection re-radiates the cable system signals over the air. Adding the switch reduces leakage considerably. (Thanks, Roger K8RI)

As you get busy completing that new low-band vertical, this classic National Contest Journal article by K3LC will help you figure out how to get the most signal bang for your radial buck. (Thanks, Ed N5DG)

Reprinted with permission from the September 16, 2009 ARRL Contest Update

In more good news for 40 meter fans, the IARU Region 1 Web site is reporting that Radio China is planning to stop broadcasting between 7.1 and 7.2 MHz in accordance with the updated international treaty. This will free up several channels for the West Coast operators that haven't reaped the benefits experienced in the Midwest and on the East Coast. If the "big dog" is moving, we can hope that perhaps other East Asian SW BC stations will follow that audience to new frequencies, too!

Pete N4ZR reports that "While nobody was looking, the World HF Contest Station Database passed the 3500-station mark and stands today at 3581. Have you updated your record to reflect changes in your station? It's amazing how many K3s are turning up in the last few months. You can find out how many by using one of the specialized search options."

Here's a great new scores database put together by brothers SP9LJD and SP9UON. Enter your (or anyone's) call sign into ContestRank and up pops your results in contests going back to 2000 plus data about how your score compares with the average contest score in each contest. It currently covers 70 different contests. (Thanks also, Jerry KA8Q)

If your eyeglasses and headphones are working together to push your temples into your frontal lobes during long contests, take a look at the new ear buds for music players. The fidelity and comfort of these small earpieces has improved dramatically over the past few years. You can also wear noise-canceling headphones over them while hardly noticing. (Thanks, Paul W8AEF)

Removing flux from PC boards and other soldered connections is important for low-power and sensitive applications, as well as those exposed to moisture that might be absorbed by the organic residue. Mike WEØH uses ISO-Heat[®], a gasoline anti-freeze. It's 100% isopropyl alcohol and as an automotive product, costs less than the same compound packaged as a specialty flux remover. ISO-Heat (in the red bottle) should not be confused with Heat[®], (in the yellow bottle) - that's methyl (wood) alcohol and unsuitable as a flux remover.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL RESPONDS TO ARRL: NO EVIDENCE OF "SIGNIFICANT CRASH RISKS" WHILE OPERATING MOBILE

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, wrote a letter to National Safety Council (NSC) President Janet Froetscher in July expressing the ARRL's concerns that Amateur Radio not become an unintended victim of the growing public debate over what to do about distracted drivers <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC_Letter7-30-09.pdf>. Froetscher has now replied, saying the NSC does not support bans or prohibitions on the use of Amateur Radios while driving <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC_Response_to_ARRL.pdf>.

Noting that there is significant evidence that talking on cell phones while driving poses crash risk four times that of other drivers, Froetscher observed that the NSC position calling for bans on the use of cell phones while driving is grounded in science. "We are not aware of evidence that using Amateur Radios while driving has significant crash risks," Froetscher wrote in her August 24 letter. "We also have no evidence that using two-way radios while driving poses significant crash risks. Until such time as compelling, peer-reviewed scientific research is presented that denotes significant risks associated with the use of Amateur Radios, two-way radios or other communication devices, the NSC does not support legislative bans or prohibition on their use."

Froetscher said that while "the specific risk of radio use while driving is unmeasured and likely does not approach that of cell phones, there indeed is some elevated risk to the drivers, their passengers and the public associated with 650,000 Amateur Radio operators who may not, at one time or another, not concentrate fully on their driving." She points out that the "best safety practice is to have one's full attention on their driving, their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road. Drivers who engage in any activity that impairs any of these constitutes an increased risk."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the ARRL "appreciates NSC President and CEO Janet Froetscher's clear statement that the NSC does not support legislative bans or prohibitions on the use of Amateur Radio while driving. We applaud the NSC for taking positions that are grounded in science. At the same time, all radio amateurs should heed her call to concentrate fully on driving while behind the wheel. It is possible to operate a motor vehicle safely while using Amateur Radio, but if it becomes a distraction we owe it those with whom we share the road, as well as to our passengers, to put safety first."

On January 30, 2009, the ARRL Executive Committee adopted the ARRL's Policy Statement on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf>> that states "Amateur Radio mobile operation is ubiquitous, and Amateur Radio emergency and public service communications, and other organized Amateur Radio communications activities and networks necessitate operation of equipment while some licensees are driving motor vehicles. Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than, listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile radio, private land mobile radio or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect. Nevertheless, ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times."

In his letter, Harrison explained to Froetscher that Amateur Radio operators provide essential emergency communications when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster: "Through formal agreements with federal agencies, such as the National Weather Service, FEMA and private relief organizations, the Amateur Radio volunteers protect lives using their own equipment without compensation. The ability of hams to communicate and help protect the lives of those in danger would be strictly hindered if the federal, state and local governments to not ensure that Amateur Radio operators can continue the use of their mobile radios while on the road."

Froetscher replied that she "appreciate[s] your focus of Amateur Radio for emergency communications during disasters. I encourage ARRL to adopt best practices for the safe operation of vehicles that confines use of Amateur Radios while driving only to disaster emergencies."

Alpha Radio Products Now RF Concepts

On September 15, Michael Seedman, AA6DY, announced that his company, RF Concepts <<http://www.rfconcepts.com/>>, had purchased Boulder, Colorado-based Alpha Radio Products <<http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/>>. Seedman explained in a press release <http://www.rfconcepts.com/dear_alpha_customers.asp> that when he contacted Alpha to purchase a new amplifier, he was "disappointed to learn that I would not receive it for months." He was told that as each amplifier is made by hand, there was not enough shelf inventory to send a new one right away. Working with Alpha Products president Molly Hardman, W0MOM, "we created a way to capitalize the company in order to put amplifiers in inventory for immediate availability. Customers will no longer have to wait weeks or months to add an Alpha product to their station." Seedman said that RF Concepts "will focus on shipping our backlog of Alpha amplifiers and building sufficient product to ship from stock. We will honor our existing customer commitments -- including warranties, customer and technical support and repairs -- and keep our extensive parts inventories to support the more than 10,000 Alpha amplifiers in the market." Hardman will be staying on as Vice President of Sales for RF Concepts.



Watt Meters

Fill ALL your Thruline® wattmeter needs at <<http://www.nm3e.com>>

Featuring new and used meters, elements, loads and more by BIRD® and Coaxial Dynamics.

73 Tim Brown NM3E 610-207-4865

<http://www.lz1jz.com>



Contest Season is Here!!!

Work Wanted:

Experienced tower climber immediately available to perform antenna and tower maintenance.

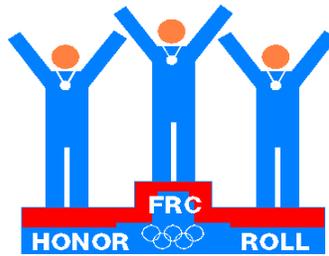
Install/repair/remove antennas, replace feedlines and cabling, rotator servicing, guy wire renewal, new tower installations (guyed and self-supporting), and tower removal.

Reasonable hourly rates and scheduling that meets your needs.

Contact: John Crovelli W2GD

w2gd@hotmail.com

Phone: 908 391 5611 (Mobile)



OCTOBER

conducted by N2SS

2009

WARC BANDS

<u>30 Meters</u>	<u>17 Meters</u>	<u>12 Meters</u>
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.....327	WØMHK...313
N2SS.....302	WØMHK...325	N2SS.....303
W8FJ.....302	W2UP.....322	W2YC.....283
W2UP.....296	W2YC.....321	K2PS.....270
K2PS.....292	K2PS.....312	W2UP.....268
WØMHK...290	N2MM.....300	W8FJ.....235
N3RD.....286	W8FJ.....300	N1IBM.....233
N2MM.....260	N1IBM...275	KQ3F.....220
W2IRT.....244	W2IRT.....270	N1RK.....218
K3II.....234	KQ3F.....270	K3II.....203
W2LE.....223	N1RK.....266	W2LE.....202
N1IBM.....219	W2LE.....261	N2MM.....194
KQ3F.....217	K3II.....256	W2YR.....187
K2QPN...185	K2AX.....236	W2IRT...137
N2VW.....182	W2YR...213	W2IRT...105
AB2E.....156	K2QPN...140	AB2E.....92
N1RK.....144	N2VW...133	K2AX.....86
W2YR.....144	K3ND...130	N2VW.....43
K3ND.....96	AB2E.....127	N2WKS...37
K2GN.....85	K2GN.....111	K3GYS...30
K2AX.....81	K3GYS...85	K2QPN...23
N2WKS...51	N2WKS...71	K2GN...13
W2CG...38	W2CG...17	W2CG...2
K3GYS...17		

Still no **KING OF WARC**



Islands On The Air

K2FL..... 1029	K2AX..... 298
N2SS..... 874	N2VW..... 282
W2YC..... 712	W2YR..... 271
W8FJ..... 623	W2IRT... 232
N1RK..... 557	K3GYS... 232
WØMHK... 432	K2QPN... 227
WA3RHW ... 313	AB2E..... 205



MOBILE DX

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

Jon continues as our B ig W heel.

160 Meters

W3BGN306	K3ND..... 137
AA1K304	W2IRT 122
WT3Q.....277	N2VW..... 121
N2LT268	N1IBM..... 119
N2TK.....262	K2PS 116
NO2R.....258	W2CG..... 116
K3SX254	K2AX..... 106
W8FJ236	AB2E 100
K3JIG230	K2GN..... 100
W2UP222	W2YR..... 92
W2YC.....222	KQ3F 88
N2MM195	N2SS 82
K3SWZ.....180	W2LE..... 71
WØMHK168	K3NL 70
K3II160	N1RK 65
N3RS156	N2WKS 30
K2FL154	K2QPN 28
	K3GYS 12

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



RTTY DIGITAL

W2UP.....342	K2QPN 134
N2LT339	W2YR..... 132
K3SWZ.....328	K2GN..... 117
W3KB.....315	W2CG..... 91
K2PS.....303	N2SS..... 84
W2YC.....303	N2WKS... 55
KQ3F.....208	W3BGN... 48
W2IRT.....206	N1RK..... 39
N2TK.....197	K3GYS... 15
W2LE.....171	W8FJ..... 12
N1IBM.....139	

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	W2CG1504
N2TK..... 1705	KQ3F1501
N2LT..... 1703	K3II1449
W2UP 1685	N2VW1334
N3RS..... 1645	N1IBM.....1246
W8FJ 1619	N1RK.....1312
W2YC 1616	W2LE1225
N3RD..... 1583	AB2E1185
N2MM 1559	W2YR.....1170
NO2R..... 1556	W2IRT.....1163
N2SS 1546	K2AX1101
K2PS 1555	K2GN1091
K3ND 1510	N2WKS817
	K2QPN779



ARRL DXCC Challenge

N2LT.....2984	W2LE1864
N2TK..... 2932	W2YR.....1747
W2YC 2811	N2VW1664
WØMHK... 2683	K2AX1631
K2PS 2394	W2CG.....1187
KQ3F..... 2206	AB2E1104
N2SS 1952	N2WKS1007
N1RK 1941	K2GN997
N1IBM 1925	W3KB.....901
W2IRT..... 1870	K2QPN800

Lew continues in the lead.



6 METER DXCC

WØMHK.... 113	WT3Q.....50
N2LT 110	W3BGN.....48
K2PS 109	W2LE46
AA1K 100	K2GN43
K3OO 93	N1IBM.....34
K3SX..... 75	K2AX21
W2YC 69	N2MM21
N1RK 57	K2QPN10
N2SS 55	K3GYS10
N2TK..... 54	W2CG.....5
W2YR 50	N2WKS2



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

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



Affiliated Club

The Frankford Radio Club

Club Officers

President, **W8FJ**, John Schrader.....610-279-6097
Vice Pres, **K2UT**, Bob Applegate.....609-714-9359
Secretary, **N3ZA**, Moe Mosheim, Jr.....215-256-4004
Treasurer, **KQ2M**, Bob Shohet.....203-270-8456

Email: w8fj@aol.com
Email: bob@applegate.org
Email: n3za@comcast.net
Email: kq2m@earthlink.net

Committee Chairman

Repeater, **K3NL**, Nick Leipold 610-449-8910
Packet, **N3RD**, Dave Hawes 610-935-2684
Activities, **N3AD**, Alan Donziger610-581-7032
Awards, **K2QM**, Dan Marlow 609-683-5633
Membership

Newsletter & Roster

Editor, **KQ3F**, Joe Stepansky 717-657-9792
Printing, **N3ZA**, Moe Mosheim, Jr... ..215-256-4004

Email: kq3f@comcast.net
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
wt3q.gofrc.org 7300
tuacluster.no-ip.org:23