



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

February 2010:

- 7 North American Sprint, CW
- 13-14 CQWW RTTY WPX
- 14 North American Sprint, SSB
- 17 FRC West Meeting, 6:30 PM**
- 18 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 20-21 ARRL DX Contest, CW**
- 23 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 26-28 CQ 160 Meter Contest, SSB
- 27-28 No. Amer. QSO Party, RTTY

March 2010:

- 6-7 ARRL DX Contest, SSB**
- 14 North American Sprint, RTTY
- 18 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 20-21 Russian DX Contest
- 20-22 BARTG HF RTTY Contest
- 23 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 27-28 CQWW WPX Contest, SSB

CHANGES

None this Month

Deadline for March issue:

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

President's Column

Greetings to All!

February marks the start of the ARRL Contest Season. If you have not already done so, please mark your calendars for the weekends of February 20-21 (CW) and March 6-7 (SSB), and make plans to maximize the time you spend in the operating chair. The sun is finally showing signs of waking up from its long slumber which bodes well for conditions on the higher bands. I hope everyone is ready and eager to go. There's not much time for last-minute changes or maintenance, but there is some time. If you need to do a few things to be ready for the two ARRL Contest Weekends, get going. I fixed my broken south beverage and put up a flag over the last two weeks. If you need a place to operate, see Doug's operator listing or check with one of the club's multi-op stations. Stations like **K2AX** need operators. Find yourself a home!

There will be no meeting in February because we have no program. I'm still looking for a Program Chairman (any volunteers?), and if anyone has program suggestions, please contact me. With all the splinter social gatherings, it seems silly to go to all the effort to set up another one that's poorly attended. Sorry gents, but that's a fact of life these days. We're having problems getting people to attend meetings even when we have a good program in place.

Best wishes to you all. See you in the pileups. **GO FRC!!**

73 de John, W8FJ

MEETINGS

T.I.T.S. meeting—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, February 18 at 12:00 noon. Location is the Hometown Diner on Route 222 in Trexlertown..

REXY Meeting B—The REXY Meeting B will meet at 8 PM on Tuesday, February 23.

FRC West Meeting—The next **FRC** West meeting will be Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30 pm, at the Quentin Haus Restaurant in Quentin, PA. It's located three miles North of the Lebanon Exit of the Turnpike (Exit 266). After the Turnpike exit, turn left and go North on Route 72 to the first traffic light. The restaurant is at the intersection of Routes 72 and 419 in Quentin.

Reprinted from the ARRL Contest Update

Doug, KR2Q, did some data mining in the CQ WPX survey results and the results are surprising! Would you believe your preferences might be determined by how many years of contesting experience you have? (Thanks, CQ WPX Director, Randy K5ZD)

From the tunnels of a nearby data mine, the Contest Corral database for 2009, there were 328 different contests listed. Of those contests, 71% featured only HF activity, 9% only VHF+ activity, and 20% both HF and VHF+. 40% of contests allowed digital mode contacts, 56% phone, and 70% CW - not bad for a "dead" mode!

Here's an opportunity to listen in as an X-class (X4.0) solar flare collides with an HF contest in full swing - the 2000 CW WW Contest from P4ØE. Jose CT1BOH was recording the contest and has placed the audio online for us to listen-and-learn.

Pete N4ZR writes on the subject of USB-to-serial adapters, "Whether a given USB-to-serial adapter will "work" seems to be a fairly complex issue, with the operating system, the specific application, and the specific software all being significant variables. One aspect of it has been reported to be a bug in the Visual BASIC compiler, which seems to be widely used in the building of ham radio applications. The problem is complex enough that we've concluded that the best approach is to include in our new N1MM Logger wiki manual a table of adapters that have been reported to work for specific applications under N1MM Logger."

Why do solder joints exposed to the weather eventually fall apart? Dave AB7E has the answer -- "The lead in lead-tin solder will react with moisture to form a white crumbly oxide. Exposed to the elements, the entire joint will eventually become porous and brittle. That's why plumbing solder is lead-free, and that is what I use (otherwise unprotected) for all my outdoor solder connections."

If you have noise problems at your location - and who doesn't - Pete W2PM recommends the Zelscope software. You can download a 30-day free demo and the full license only costs \$10.00. The program's Oscilloscope and Spectrum Analyzer functions allow you to capture waveforms and save to files. Pete simultaneously records .WAV files of the noise to go along with the waveform snapshots, and you can Zelscope to watch the sound files in playback.

REPORT ALL ARRL DX CONTEST SCORES TO K3WW@fast.net!

Please submit your log to dxcw@arrl.org or dxphone@arrl.org. Please be sure the robot understands your entry (you'll receive an email in return)

List Frankford Radio Club under CLUB. If you need help getting a log in, contact k3ww@fast.net

New FRC web site feature!!

Send your QSL to K2GN at the qrz.com address. I'll digitize them and then use them on the web site in the near future.

*de K2GN/Larry
WebMaster FRC*

Reprinted from the ARRL Contest Update

The North Coast Contesters are proud to announce that tickets are on sale for the 18th Annual Dayton Contest Dinner in the downtown Dayton Crowne Plaza hotel on Saturday night, May 15, 2010 at 6:30 PM. MC'ed by John K1AR, 2010 CQ Contest Hall of Fame Inductions will be announced and there will be a keynote speaker to be announced later.

Bob KØRC reports that he has moved his Contest Visualizer utilities to a new Web host. Using previous URLs navigates to the disorganized remnants of the previous site.

Full Calls - Every so often, it's important to remind folks, particularly beginning contesters, to give your full call in pile-ups. I know, with everybody else giving out those four-character short calls, a king-sized six-character call seems slow, but that's fifty-percent more characters for the station you're calling to have a chance at recognizing and your suffix just might be the one heard after the faster calls are done. Giving a full call is more effective for everyone in the pileup.

The WRTC-2010 technical team has updated and added rules regarding Station Setup (paragraph 16) and Radio Operating Rules (paragraph 17). In addition, a compilation of questions and answers discussed on the WRTC-2010 email reflector has been published on the "Rules FAQ" page. Having been associated with the WRTC events since the beginning, it is always fascinating to watch the definition of the events evolve along with the technology that top operators now employ. (Thanks, Dmitri RW3FO)

What IS that noise, anyway? Well, now that he is retired from being ARRL President, Joel W5ZN relaxes by listening to these recordings of various common noise sources! Seriously, perhaps one of these MP3 files will clue you in to the QRN bedeviling your operation. Knowing the nature of the noise source is an important clue in isolating and fixing the problem.

If you are the recipient of a new computer, you are probably still looking for the RS-232 serial ports! Never fear, Rick WW3DE has used Prolific and Belden serial to USB adapters without problems for RTTY and rig control. Don Hill, AA5AU, has information about this on his excellent RTTY contesting Web site.

Safety first - before starting work on that amplifier, make SURE that all high-voltages are completely discharged. The usual technique is to use an insulated grounding stick to short all HV points to ground. The 2010 *ARRL Handbook* has a design for one you can make yourself. Commercial sources include Salisbury and Ross Engineering. (Thanks, John K5PRO)

Ian GM3SEK posted a link to a Web site with lots of information on capacitor testing, replacement, and selection. If you repair equipment or rebuild older radios, this might be a good Web site to bookmark.

K9RS Antenna Presentation Available

Lots of people have asked for a copy of the antenna presentation that I made at a meeting last year. It is a large file and I have not made a pdf of exactly the same presentation but a very similar one was done at the Dayton antenna forum in 2008. K3LR has it in his web site at the link below. It's the third presentation.

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

73, Ray K9RS

This has nothing to do with contesting, but I received few submissions this month and this interests your editor.

Hurricane Names

By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

For several hundred years, many hurricanes in the West Indies were named after the particular saint's day on which the hurricane occurred: In his 1938 book *Hurricanes*, Ivan R. Tannehill describes the major tropical storms of recorded history and mentions many hurricanes that were named after saints. On July 26, 1825, Hurricane Santa Ana struck Puerto Rico with exceptional violence. Hurricane San Felipe (the first) and Hurricane San Felipe (the second) also hit Puerto Rico on September 13 in both 1876 and 1928.

During World War II, the practice of giving hurricanes women's names became widespread in weather map discussions among forecasters, especially Air Force and Navy meteorologists who plotted the movements of storms over the wide expanses of the Pacific Ocean. In 1953, the United States abandoned a confusing two year old plan to name storms by the phonetic alphabet in use at the time (Able, Baker, Charlie and so on) when a new, international phonetic alphabet was introduced. That year, the United States began using female names for storms. The practice of naming hurricanes solely after women came to an end in 1978 when men's and women's names were included in the Eastern North Pacific storm lists. In 1979, male and female names were included in lists for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

Since 1953, Atlantic tropical storms have been named from lists originated by the National Hurricane Center (NHC). They are now maintained and updated by an international committee of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). There are six lists of hurricane names and they are used in rotation. This means that the 2010 list will be used again in 2016. According to the NHC, the only time that there is a change in the list is if a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of its name on a different storm would be inappropriate for reasons of sensitivity such as 2005's Hurricane Katrina). If that occurs, the offending name is stricken from the list and another name is selected to replace it at the WMO annual meeting. Check out the list of retired names on the NHC Web site.

Several names have been changed since the lists were created. For example, on the 2007 list (which will be used again in 2013), Dorian has replaced Dean, Fernand has replaced Felix and Nestor has replaced Noel. For 2010, Colin replaced Charley, Fiona replaced by Frances, Igor replaced by Ivan and Julia replaced by Jeanne. Before 1979 -- when the first permanent six-year storm name list began -- some storm names were simply not used anymore. For example, in 1966, "Fern" was substituted for "Frieda," and no reason was cited. There are only 22 names on each list since the WMO does not use names that begin with Q, U, Y or Z. The names for 2010 are Alex, Bonnie, Colin, Danielle, Earl, Fiona, Gaston, Hermine, Igor, Julia, Karl, Lisa, Matthew, Nicole, Otto, Paula, Richard, Shary, Thomas, Virginie and Walter.

In the event that more than 21 named tropical cyclones occur in the Atlantic basin in a season, additional storms will take names from the Greek alphabet: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and so on. If a storm forms in the off-season, it will take the next name in the list based on the current calendar date. For example, if a tropical cyclone formed on December 28, it would take the name from the previous season's list of names. If a storm formed in February, it would be named from the subsequent season's list of names.

You can find lists of names for storms on the NHC Web site for every region of the globe, including the Eastern North, Central North and Western North regions of the Pacific Ocean, Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the Northern and Southwest portions of the Indian Ocean.

<http://www.lz1jz.com>



2009 Sees Surge of New Amateur Radio Licensees

This past year was a banner year for new Amateur Radio licensees. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, the FCC issued more than 30,000 new ham radio licenses. "In 2009, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions remained elevated and is still running at a higher rate than before the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007," Somma said. "This high level of exam session activity has produced an elevated influx of new applications, far outpacing recent years." A total of 30,144 new licenses were granted in 2009 -- an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. In 2005, 16,368 new hams joined Amateur Radio's ranks; just five years later, that number had increased by almost 14,000 -- a whopping 84 percent! Read more here.<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/01/06/11278/?nc=1>

NHC to Provide Greater Lead Time for Watches, Warnings

Beginning with the 2010 hurricane season, NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami will issue watches and warnings for tropical storms and hurricanes along threatened coastal areas 12 hours earlier than in previous years. According to NHC experts, advancements in track forecasts are making it possible for forecasters to provide greater lead time. Tropical storm watches will be issued when tropical storm conditions are possible along the coast within 48 hours. Tropical storm warnings will be issued when those conditions are expected within 36 hours. This is an increase of 12 hours from those issued in previous years. Hurricane season runs from May 15-November 30 in the Eastern Pacific and on June 1-November 30 for the Atlantic Basin. Read more here.



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73 Tim Brown NM3E 610-207-4865



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)

Reprinted from the ARRL Contest Update

The New ARRL Web Site - Almost Here!

Over the past year or so, you've heard bits and pieces about the "new ARRL Web site" that is being assembled. Now that it's almost here, I'm sure you're wondering what to expect! First, I think it's reasonable to ask, "What's wrong with the current site?" The simplest response is that like a once-small library whose collection is larger than its shelf space, we've simply outgrown the structure of the current site.

The ARRL site in its current form is very, very large - more than 40,000 individual pages of information. I'm sure you've noticed that navigating around those many pages can be difficult when you leave familiar territory. Trying to maintain that many pages is time-consuming, as well, to the point of overload for the ARRL's team of Webmeisters. Recognizing that problem, the ARRL initiated a project two years ago to develop a new architecture for the Web site. That process re-organized the material, made it easier to navigate and maintain, and gives the ARRL staff more direct abilities to generate and publish material. It's been re-done from the ground up!

When the new site "goes live", what you'll find is an attractive graphic layout that lets you quickly zoom in on your interests. The new organization is based on feedback from users of the current site and staff alike so that it more accurately represents the way you want to see and access to ARRL material.

Is the new site just a repackaged version of the old site? Not at all - nearly every page has been reworked and updated. Outdated and obsolete material has been eliminated. As the introduction approaches, the number of individual pages has been cut approximately in half. You should be able to get what you want easier and faster.

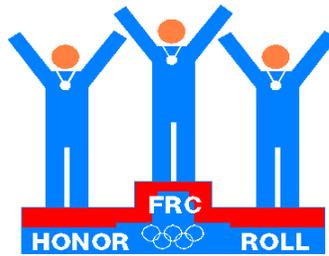
After you get used to the new site, you'll really begin to appreciate its capabilities over time. There will be more material coming directly from the authors and staff with less delay for manual formatting. The "machinery" making the Web site operate will enable more material to be presented "live" and not just as unchanging or "static" text.

How about contest information? Located in the "On The Air" section of the site, it will be easier for you to find information about ARRL contests, records, rules, calendars, and results. We're just beginning to take advantage of the new "machinery" and will be developing "one-button" contest packages to streamline how you retrieve information. The same can be said for every other part of the site - licensing, technology, awards.

While the new site is activated, the ARRL Webmeister team is busy making sure all the links link and the controls control what they are supposed to. That means updates to the current site won't be as frequent as they usually are, including contest results and other updates. The normal publication schedules will resume after the new site has taken flight.

So don't miss out on the big changes coming to ARRL on the Web very soon. Keep an eye on ARRL Web stories, your bulletins, and your newsletters for news, guidelines, and instructions to make your transition to the new site an easy one.

73, Ward NØAX



FEBRUARY

conducted by N2SS

2010

WARC BANDS

<u>30 Meters</u>	<u>17 Meters</u>	<u>12 Meters</u>
K2FL .. 337	K2FL...340	N2TK ..331
N2TK336	N2TK ..340	K2FL.....327
N2LT329	N2LT 339	N2LT.....324
W3BGN.....327	W3BGN ... 334	W3BGN ...318
W2YC.....315	N2SS 327	WØMHK..313
W8FJ.....311	WØMHK.. 325	N2SS.....303
N2SS303	W2UP.....322	W2YC.....283
W2UP296	W2YC321	K2PS.....270
WA2VYA..295	K2PS 312	WA2VYA..269
K2PS292	WA2VYA .303	W2UP268
WØMHK ..290	N2MM..... 300	W8FJ.....235
N3RD.....290	W8FJ 300	N1IBM.....234
N2MM260	N1IBM279	KQ3F220
W2IRT.....244	W2IRT.....270	N1RK.....218
K3II.....234	KQ3F.....270	K3II.....203
N1IBM.....225	N1RK.....266	W2LE202
W2LE.....223	W2LE..... 261	N2MM194
KQ3F217	K3II.....256	W2YR.....187
K2QPN185	K2AX236	W2IRT.....137
N2VW.....182	W2YR213	N2CQ.....128
N2CQ.....181	N2CQ 191	AB2E.....92
AB2E156	K2GN 142	K2AX86
N1RK.....144	K2QPN.... 141	N2WKS51
W2YR.....144	N2VW 133	N2VW.....43
K2GN.....103	K3ND.....130	K2GN30
K3ND.....96	AB2E.....127	K3GYS20
N2WKS86	N2WKS 116	K2QPN33
K2AX.....81	K3GYS..... 85	W2CG.....2
W2CG.....38	W2CG 17	
K3GYS17		

Still no **KING OF WARC**



Islands On The Air

K2FL 1029	K2AX 298
N2SS 876	N2VW 282
W2YC 712	W2YR 271
W8FJ 623	W2IRT 232
N1RK 557	K3GYS 232
WØMHK 432	K2QPN 229
WA3RHW ... 313	AB2E..... 205



MOBILE DX

AA1K 278	K3GYS 143
W2YC 276	WM3L 109
N2SS 234	W2YR 28

Jon continues as our B ig W heel.

160 Meters

W3BGN308	K3ND..... 137
AA1K306	N1IBM.....122
WT3Q.....280	W2IRT122
N2LT270	N2VW..... 121
N2TK.....262	K2PS 116
NO2R.....258	W2CG 116
K3SX254	K2GN..... 109
W8FJ241	K2AX..... 106
K3JIG230	AB2E 100
W2UP222	N3RD 100
W2YC.....222	W2YR 92
N2MM195	KQ3F 88
N3RS192	N2WKS 83
K3SWZ.....186	N2SS 82
WØMHK168	W2LE..... 71
WA2VYA....162	K3NL 70
K3II160	N1RK 65
K2FL154	K2QPN 28
	K3GYS 12

W3BGN is the Top of Top Band!



RTTY DIGITAL

W2UP.....342	K2QPN 136
N2LT340	W2YR..... 132
K3SWZ.....329	K2GN..... 123
W3KB315	W2CG 91
K2PS.....303	N2SS 88
W2YC.....303	WA2VYA 84
KQ3F.....208	N2WKS..... 55
N2TK.....208	W3BGN 48
W2IRT206	N1RK..... 39
N2CQ.....188	K3GYS 15
W2LE171	W8FJ..... 12
N1IBM.....152	

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	W2CG1504
W3BGN 1715	KQ3F1501
N2LT..... 1707	WA2VYA...1499
N2TK..... 1706	K3II1449
W2UP 1685	N2VW1334
N3RS..... 1648	N1IBM.....1264
W8FJ 1619	N1RK.....1312
W2YC 1616	W2LE1225
N3RD..... 1593	AB2E1185
N2MM 1559	W2YR.....1170
NO2R..... 1556	W2IRT.....1163
N2SS 1547	K2GN1111
K2PS 1555	K2AX1101
K3ND..... 1510	N2WKS965
WØMHK... 1509	K2QPN781



ARRL DXCC Challenge

N2LT.....2994	W2LE1864
N2TK..... 2946	W2YR.....1747
W2YC 2811	N2VW1664
WØMHK... 2683	K2AX1631
WA2VYA .. 2602	W2CG.....1187
K2PS 2394	K2GN1121
KQ3F..... 2206	N2WKS1118
N1IBM 1972	AB2E.....1104
N2SS 1952	W3KB.....1005
N1RK 1941	K2QPN809
W2IRT..... 1870	

Low continues in the lead.



6 METER DXCC

WØMHK.... 113	W2YR.....50
N2LT 112	W3BGN48
K2PS 109	W2LE46
AA1K 100	K2GN43
K300 95	N1IBM.....34
WA2VYA 88	K2AX21
K3SX.....75	N2MM21
W2YC69	K2QPN10
N1RK57	K3GYS10
WT3Q.....56	W2CG.....5
N2SS55	N2WKS3
N2TK.....54	



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

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



Affiliated Club

The Frankford Radio Club

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

Home Page - www.gofrc.org

Meetings

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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