



# THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

*PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION*

## CALENDAR

### May 2010:

- 8-9 Volta RTTY DX Contest
- 8-9 CQ-M DX Contest
- 20 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 22-23 Baltic Contest
- 29-30 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW
- 25 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**

### June 2010:

- 17 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 19-20 All Asian DX Contest, CW
- 22 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 26-27 ARRL Field Day

### July 2010:

- 1 RAC Canada Day Contest
- 10-11 IARU HF World Champion.
- 15 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 17-18 No. Amer. QSO Party, RTTY
- 24-25 RSGB IOTA Contest
- 27 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**

## CHANGES

**None this month**

### Deadline for July/August issue:

Sunday, June 27, 2010

## President's Column

What a great presentation on the History and Status of Skimmer by Wes, WZ7I, at the April meeting. I think those of us who were there all learned something, even those of us who have been using skimmer technology for a while. I know I really enjoyed it. The story about W3LPL finding the late night/early morning 15 meter opening to Asia was enlightening. As we plan to continue to provide interesting presentations at each meeting I hope we will see additional attendance and increased scores and fun in contests as a result. This stuff can really help your scores. We have had a few volunteers but I am still open for future speakers and topics. Let us know what you would like to see at the meetings (within reason).

Now it's off to the Dayton Hamvention in a few weeks. I have heard of a new rig being brought out by Kenwood, a nice small amplifier from Elecraft and some new antennas from Optibeam. I plan to take a closer look at the Green Heron GH Everywhere wireless cable stuff as well. Should be an interesting time as always and I will look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the hospitality suites. For those of you interested in what is going on contest wise at Dayton go to this link for the 'Dayton Contest Dinner': <http://contestdinner.com/> and check out the link in the lower left corner to "Contest Activities at Dayton 2010" by Tim K3LR that should give you a good idea of how to spend some of your time.

This month you will find a return envelope for making your voluntary contribution to help keep **FRC** solvent. As you know, the club has no annual dues per se. Instead we rely on the generosity of our members to contribute what they feel they can. Please write your checks and return your envelopes quickly.

*73, Ray K9RS*

## 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 are 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

## MEETINGS

**T.I.T.S. meeting**—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, May 20 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, April 25.



## FRC badges

Anyone who would like a **FRC** badge just send your name and callsign plus a check for \$7.00 to; Bruce Eichmann, W2BE P.O. Box 12 New Germantown, PA 17071-0012



## Ten Tec Orion

Ten Tec Orion 565AT, includes built-in antenna tuner. With optional 1.8 kHz and 500 hz roofing filters, Model 302 remote encoder/keypad, TenTec Model 963 power supply and cable, accessory cables. Upgraded tuning knob grips (old ones also included). Latest v2 firmware upgrade. Spare RF switching board (R-6930). Original printed manual (.pdf also available).

Non-smoking environment. Radio just back from Ten Tec tuneup. \$2200 OBO.  
E-mail AA1K at [jz73@verizon.net](mailto:jz73@verizon.net).

## Minutes from FRC Meeting 13 April 2010

Discussed methods to disseminate meeting and contest information.

- Postcard mailing
- Phone chain
- Newsletter

Discussed petitioning the ARRL to allow portable operation for ARRL DX contests.

Wes WZ7L will be presenting how Skimmer can be used to provide spots in a contest environment.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Kempisty - AA3K  
FRC Secretary



**Fold over tower**

60 foot fold over tower with bearing and rotor plate this Is rhon 25  
65 ft fold over tower with bearing Rhon 45 --Nice to work on  
Both need paint and removal . I will help with the take down---ground crew  
Make offer , towers are located in Pottsville , Pa contact NE3F@verizon.net  
I hate to see these go to the junk yard

Thanks, Steve NE3F

**SK**

**Stephen F. Baron, KB3MM**

**A note from the editor**

A reminder that there will be no June issue of the **FRC** newsletter, as we're moving to a bimonthly schedule. The next issue will be for the months of July/August and the deadline is June 27.

I would appreciate any and all articles you can submit. Don't worry about "pretty", that's my job. Content is far more important than looks. Will I hear from YOU?

**73, Joe KQ3F**



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73 Tim Brown NM3E 610-207-4865

### Reprinted from the April 14, 2010 ARRL Contest Update

Joe W4TV writes to announce [micro2R](#), the newest two-radio controller for SO2R operation from [microHAM](#). The controller is designed for any amateur with two transceivers and any control interface. It provides automatic or manual control of headphone audio and transmitter selection, and is compatible with the automatic modes of the most popular contest logging programs. micro2R uses either USB or LPT control, includes a proven WinKey 2 CW keyer, support for ether electret or dynamic microphones, a UART compatible FSK port for each radio, and built-in support for the voice keyer capabilities of the most popular contesting software.

Hams love a good map and a map-making tool attracts them (well, your editor, anyway) like flies to honey. Tom K5RC found a link to [NS6T's azimuth mapmaking Web site](#) - it's easy to use and the price is right! Enter your location, tell it how far to extend the map's outer reaches and back comes a PDF map that will look great right above the rotator control box! The map's coverage can be all the way to the antipode (great for HF DXing) or a smaller radius for local or regional coverage.

[CW Skimmer v1.6](#) has been released! The upgrade improves the management of call signs and the ability to distinguish between stations calling CQ and those responding. (Thanks, Alex VE3NEA)

Bruce WA7BNM has performed a major upgrade to his [online Contest Calendar](#). There are more ways of viewing contests, such as the very useful 8-day contest chart and graphic of when the contests run. Clicking the '+' to the left of a contest listing displays the rules for each contest! You can also customize the site for the contests you want to follow and there is historical information as well as RSS feeds and an iCal format output for your personal calendars. A tip of the Contest Update cap to 'BNM for another useful contesting tool.

Late spring - early summer contests open a window of 20 meter propagation (and 30 and 17 meters, too, on occasion) in the evenings across northern polar paths. (Similar southern path enhancement occurs in late fall for our Southern Hemisphere friends.) Later in the season, increased absorption reduces signal levels on this path. With the rapidly improving solar flux levels, don't assume the higher bands are dead after dark as they have been over the past couple of years.

Let's say you have some scraps of surplus CATV hardline - not long enough for antenna feed lines, but what ham could throw them away? David K1TTT suggests making [stub filters](#) out of them. Assume a velocity factor of 0.81 to 0.83 (or measure it with an antenna analyzer) and create your own set of high-Q RF filters. The lower loss of hardline, compared to flexible coax, will result in better cancellation of the undesired signal.

If you have a preferred or favorite graphic showing the state of the ionosphere, it is surely somewhere on this new and exhaustive compilation thereof, [EA4FSI-28T1 HF Panel](#). Enjoy! (Thanks, Diane NH6HE)

Why buy the fancy "lawn staples" to hold down radials (or sod or hose or anything else, for that matter)? Armed with a stout wire cutter, you can make hundreds from roll of galvanized or aluminum fence wire at a fraction of a cent per staple. Or use the even more inexpensive iron rebar tie wire that will rust quickly away without a trace. Regular hair bobby pins can also work in firm soil. (Thanks to the denizens of the [Towertalk](#) email reflector)

<http://www.lz1jz.com>



### Reprinted from the April 28, 2010 ARRL Contest Update

The new ARRL Web site has a lot of features, but the new organization may have rendered your old Web site bookmarks obsolete. From the latest ARRL Propagation Bulletin, here's a list that may help you reconnect with old friends or add some new ones:

[Information concerning radio propagation](#)

[Explanation of the numbers used in the Propagation Bulletin](#)

[Monthly propagation charts](#) between four regions of the USA and twelve overseas locations. (Thanks, Tad K7RA)

Here's a tip from Randy K5ZD - "Is your log in ADIF format? Use [LM by DL8WAA](#) to convert it to Cabrillo." This is a handy utility if you are using a general-purpose logging program to record your contest QSOs. Remember that submitting contest logs in Cabrillo format greatly reduces the workload for the volunteers that make contesting work!

Skew - a propagation path not along a great-circle bearing between two stations. Skew path contacts often precede a band opening or follow a band closing over a direct path. For example, as 15 or 10 meters closes between the US and Japan or Europe, try pointing your beam somewhat south of the direct path. Signals will be weaker than direct path and exhibit deep fades. The opening will also cover a smaller area than a direct opening.

A couple of reasonable questions about contests beginning and ending are answered in this week's tip. Question 1 - "Can I call CQ before the start of the contest or do I have to wait until 0000Z?" You can call CQ all you want at any time, but if you call CQ TEST, meaning that you are soliciting contest QSOs, that has to take place after the contest starts. Question 2 - "Can I log a QSO that started during the contest but finished after the contest's ending time?" Assuming your PC clock is perfectly synchronized, the time at which you complete the QSO's over-the-air transmissions must be within the contest period. Summarizing - your over-the-air contest activity (including receiving) can only take place from the starting whistle to the ending whistle.

If your tower uses galvanized hardware, DON'T drill out the holes to make it easier to insert the bolts or screw them in. Use a [taper or drift pin punch](#) to open the hole until the bolt just fits, preserving the galvanizing on the hole. Drilling out the hole or using the screw threads to open the hole removes or damages the galvanizing, leading to rust problems. A taper pin punch can also be used to line up the holes when connecting section, so be sure to keep one in your tower tool kit! (Thanks, Roger K8RI)



### 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.

Reasonable hourly rates and scheduling that meets your needs.

Contact: John Crovelli W2GD

w2gd@hotmail.com

Phone: 908 391 5611 (Mobile)



# THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

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



Affiliated Club

## The Frankford Radio Club

### Club Officers

President, <b>K9RS</b> , Ray Sokola .....	215-257-2866	Email: k9rs@yahoo.com
Vice Pres, <b>N3BNA</b> , Dale Long .....		Email: dale.long@prodigy.net
Secretary, <b>AA3K</b> , Mark Kempisty .....		Email: mkempisty@verizon.net
Treasurer, <b>K2QM</b> , Bob Shohet.....	203-270-8456	Email: kq2m@earthlink.net

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Packet, <b>N3RD</b> , Dave Hawes .....	610-935-2684
Activities, <b>N3AD</b> , Alan Donziger .....	610-581-7032
Awards, <b>K2QM</b> , Dan Marlow .....	609-683-5633
Membership	

### Newsletter & Roster

Editor, <b>KQ3F</b> , Joe Stepansky .....	717-657-9792	Email: kq3f@comcast.net
Printing, <b>AA3K</b> , Mark Kempisty.....		Email: mkempisty@verizon.net

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

**Home Page** - [www.gofrc.org](http://www.gofrc.org)

### Meetings

The main meeting will be held at the Free Library in Richboro between 7-9 pm on Tuesday, March 23rd. 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