



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

President's Column

Straight from the Radio Shack, K9 Radio Shack that is...

A very close win in CQWW 2009!

WOW, looks like a very, very narrow win in CQWW 2009!!! The numbers I saw were FRC 271,685,415 and YCCC 270,861,472. It is a difference of only 823K or less than 0.3 percent. Now that is close! However, a win is a win so we will take it.

CQWW 2010 just ahead

CQWW 2010 is approaching and the results from 2009 should show us that every score counts and maximizing each score is so important. Let's do our best to maximize both number and size.

So what can you do in CQWW this year? Here are a few things that can help:

- 1 – **Get on in both contests**
- 2 – Maximize time on, particularly when Europe is open
- 3 – Go assisted and add to your multiplier total using the cluster
- 4 – Put up a vertical, inverted 'L' or sloping wire for lower bands to add multipliers

All of these should help increase both your score and fun. Read Jon, AA1K's article in this newsletter and check out Alex, W2OX's Contest DXpedition Handbook. Send Alex an email and ask him for it if you don't already have it.

Come to the meeting in October. There will be plenty of experts to help answer questions and give hints while there is still time to do something to get your station ready and add to your score. If you don't have a station or can't operate from home now is the time to let W3CF know so we can match you up with a station.

Let's win again! It is always time for FRC to win again!

Giving Back

In addition to winning contests we also have a responsibility to support the hobby. We can and should do this in many ways.

One of those ways is with contributions to the club. We are planning to support both a scholarship and a station donation from the club but we are running behind previous years in contributions. To help push this forward, I am personally contributing a 100 watt station including dipole antenna, support and coax for a contester to get on the air. Several have talked with me about helping with this in the future and I think it would be a great tradition for the club.

This year we will plan to donate to a local amateur but maybe we will help get some new multipliers on the air in the future. Not everyone can afford to do that but even modest contributions will go to a good cause, so please consider carefully supporting the club in our various activities to support the hobby and contesting.

(continued on page 2)

CALENDAR

September 2010:

- 4-5 All Asian DX Contest, SSB
- 11 No. American Sprint, CW
- 11-12 Worked All Europe, SSB
- 12 North. NJ/NYC Mtg, 1 PM**
- 16 T .I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 18 No. American Sprint, SSB
- 18-19 Scan dinavian Contest, CW
- 21 FRC West Meeting, 6:30 PM**
- 25-26 CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY
- 28 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**

October 2010:

- 2-3 California QSO Party
- 2-3 Oceania DX Contest, SSB
- 9-10 Penn sylvania QSO Party
- 9-10 Oceania DX Contest, CW
- 12 Main Meeting, 7 PM**
- 16-17 Worked All Germany Contes
- 21 T .I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 26 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 30-31 CQ WW DX Contest, SSB**

November 2010:

- 6-7 Ukrainian DX Contest
- 6-7 ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
- 13-14 WAE DX Contest, RTTY
- 13-14 OK/OM DX Contest, CW
- 18 T .I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 20-21 LZ DX Contest
- 20-21 AR RL Sweepstakes, SSB
- 23 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 27-28 CQ WW DX Contest, CW**

CHANGES

New Member

W3SOX

Dave Smith
1367 Kiner Boulevard
Carlisle, PA 17013

Deadline for Nov/Dec issue:
Sunday, October 17, 2010

MEETINGS

Main meeting—October 12 at 7 PM, Inn at Towamencin, Lansdale (see details in president’s column).

FRC Northern NJ/NYC—W2IRT is hosting a casual **FRC** meeting on Sunday, September 12 beginning at 1 PM at his home in Caldwell, NJ. No meeting theme, just a meet-and-greet with some food.

FRC West meeting—A meeting of the **FRC West** will be held Tuesday, September 21 at 6:30 PM at the Quentin Haus Restaurant. The restaurant is located at the intersection of Routes 419 and 72 in Quentin, PA near Lebanon. That’s just a few miles north of the Lebanon exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike on Route 72.

T.I.T.S. meeting—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, September 16 and Thursday, October 21, 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, September 28, and Tuesday, October 26..

President’s Column (continued)

Another way to give back is with sharing info and in particular material for the newsletter. We are getting more newsletter input from members which I think makes it more interesting for everyone to get the newsletter. Many in the club do interesting things with antennas, station set up, operating practice etc. Please consider sharing. Stories, pictures, links, drawings, files...all are welcome. Remember we also are interested in speakers at each meeting so let me know and we will get you on the agenda if you would like to speak about something of interest to the club. Speaking of which...

October 12 Meeting 7 PM dinner and conversation followed by a meeting at 8 PM

Inn at Towamencin just off exit 31 (Lansdale) of the Northeast extension of the Pa Turnpike.

We will make use of the Wi-Fi capability to have **N3RD, Dave Hawes**, talk about **Reverse Beacon Network's "Signal Comparison Tool."** We will likely also have at least one other presentation so plan to be there.

Thanks again to **K2AX** and **N3RD** for two great summer meetings! I enjoyed seeing everyone at each.

73 de K9RS



Icom 781 HF Transceiver works great except for antenna tuner. All filters including Inrad 2.1 kHz SSB. Includes external fans mounted to rear PS and final areas. Original boxes and manual. \$1400 plus shipping.

- Hy-Gain 204BAS 4 ele 20m monobander \$150
- Hy-Gain 105BAS 5 ele 10m monobander \$100
- Cushcraft 154-CD 4 ele 15m monobander \$100
- Cushcraft A3 20-15-10m tribander with 40m dipole driven element \$250
- Rohn 45G 9 sections plus accessories. Email for details
- 2 inch steel mast, 1/4 inch wall, 22 ft long \$100

All antennas and tower items are on the ground ready for pickup. Contact Tom K2TW at k2tw@arrl.net

2010 FRC Fund Drive

The 2010 FRC Annual Fund Drive is now officially underway. This issue should contain a stamped envelope for your contribution. Here a few reminders when getting ready to make your annual contribution to help keep our club running

- 1) **PLEASE make ALL checks payable to FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB, and NOT KQ2M.**
- 2) **PLEASE write your return address and callsign on the envelope.**
- 3) **PLEASE write your callsign/callsigns on the check.**
- 4) **PLEASE seal the envelope.**

If for some reason you don't get an envelope, or you misplace it, you can send your contribution to: Robert L. Shoheit, KQ2M, 51 Scudder Road, Newtown, CT 06470

New Contributors since last newsletter

K2SG K2DM

WE3C N3AD

K3FT N3RW

WB3FIZ NQ3N

WA3YOB N3BNA

AA2WN

N1IBM

N2RM

N2MM WM3L

W8FJ

WA3RHW

W3KB

WQ3E

AA1K/AB1P/N3TTT

K300/K3000

SK

**Nicholas M. Pino
N3ARK**

**Ed Devlin
KF3R**

Getting ready **By Jon Zaines, AA1K**

It's early September, and the contest is just under two months away.

"The" contest is the CQ WW DX SSB, of course. It's the first one of the big-four weekends on which we as **FRCers** focus our efforts each year.

My get-ready list for this contest actually began during the contest last October. As I'm operating, I use the "Alt N" function in N1MM to create short notes of things I notice along the way -- erratic rotor function, high SWR at some part of the band, an antenna that just didn't seem to have the punch in some direction, or some irritating placement of equipment in the shack. These and other thoughts on the station and operating are compiled in the logging program's notes file and form the basis for my "to-do" list for the next contest, and the same contest in the next season.

The list gets printed out and hung on the shack wall, so as time allows I can deal with the problems, or work on improvements. It will be updated through each of the "big four" weekends. A lot of this work I do over the winter -- the leaves are off the trees, making it easier to thread wires through my woods, the bugs are in hibernation, and if the ground is still frozen I'm not sinking into the normal muck on much of my property.

But this winter was an exception. After many mostly snow-free years, we suffered through several major storms. At times I labored through 3-foot drifts of snow to repair fallen Beverages. Fortunately, the towers and their antennas came through mostly unscathed.

But the storms meant that my "normal" antenna-work schedule was way behind. Spring came and I hadn't really made much progress on my to-do list. Vacations, work on the sailboat and other summer hobbies and work commitments started to compete with my time for work on antennas and the ham shack.

Just last week I finally made a climb to fix a busted connection on the 10-meter beam above 100 feet and do some other work on the same tower. The coax shield had broken at the feed point, and since it's a 5-element yagi, it can't be reached from the tower, meaning the beam must be removed from the mast and tilted to make the repair. I got part of the work done, but it will take one more climb to finish it. That includes replacing a broken wire on one of the 160-meter parasitic elements that hang from this tower. What I thought would be an "easy" fix got much more complicated when I discovered the wire had become tangled in the top of a loblolly pine tree.

Next will be a climb up the 40-meter tower to tilt the Hy-Gain Discoverer 3-element yagi to repair a broken top support wire and a couple of the linear-loading wires on elements. Local turkey buzzards have taken to roosting on this beam and caused some damage. The linear loading wires will now be rotated to be below the elements, hopefully minimizing future damage from the birds. A plastic owl will be installed in an attempt to scare off the buzzards.

Some ground-level work on the list includes checking the guys on all the towers. Inspection of these is a routine part of my morning walk with our dog, and I know several have stretched some over time and need re-tensioning. Some trees need trimming where they have grown near guy wires, and a couple of older Phillystran guys will be replaced with steel so there's no chance of tree limbs rubbing through. And there are still some Beverage repairs to be made. Another project is laying of a control line for the new 80-meter parasitic vertical array -- a band I've always felt weak on in the antenna department.

I've set aside a few spare vacation days for September and October to help complete these projects. Other work will be done with an hour here, an hour there. I may need to enlist the help of my son (N3TTT) or another local ham as ground crew on a couple of the projects. One by one, the to-do list will be shortened.

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The inside-the-shack items on my to-do list are usually saved for rainy days, although it's not unusual for me to do ground-level antenna work on those days too. A little water won't hurt me.

A couple of items on my to-do list have little to do with hardware. These are good rainy-day projects, too.

One is a review of last year's results and logs to help me get thinking about strategy for this year's competition. I like to compare the band-by-band and hour-by-hour breakdowns, either from the 3830 reflector or from the official results. A look at other single-ops in my category helps, but I also find comparison with nearby multi-multis such as W3LPL useful. The multi-multis provide a nice benchmark comparison on all bands since they are presumably going full-bore at all times. If they had a great hour on one band when I was on another, I think about whether it was just a strategic error on my part or a weakness in my antenna farm. Did a single op who beat me out in the standings do it by making more extra QSOs on the second radio - and do I need to hone my skills in that realm?

Which leads me to the other non-hardware item, practicing. And this is probably something I have never done enough in advance of the contest. While I focus my contest efforts on the "big four" weekends, I also have a great fondness for the two 160-meter CW competitions, ARRL in December and CQ WW in January, and for Top Band DXing in general throughout the year. But I do very little in the way of other small-time contesting. Thanks to an hour-long commute to my job and a nice mobile setup, I am checking the higher bands for propagation and doing a bit of operating every day. But all too often I have essentially started the CQ WW SSB weekend "cold" -- without any practice. So I've resolved as part of my preparation this year to get on at least a few hours in some of the smaller competitions this fall, including at least several solid hours in the two ARRL Sweepstakes weekends, simply as a way to warm-up and hone my skills for the four big ones that count most for **FRC**.

There are of course other items on the to-do list. Like reminding the XYL to make her own plans -- while I'll be in the house, in the shack, I'm really "away." And then there's the Dream List. But I'm out of time right now. The contest is just over two months away, and I've got work to do.

73, Jon AA1K

FRCer profiled in CQ Magazine

Check out the article featuring **FRCer** Irwin Darack, **KD3TB** and his fellow VE2DXY team members in the August 2010 CQ Magazine, page 13.



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)

The Road to WRTC 2010 – So Many Twists and Turns

By John Crovelli W2GD/P40W

During the first weekend of July, the 2010 World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC 2010) took place in the Domodedovo region of Moscow, about 30 miles south of Red Square. Fifty two-op teams from over thirty countries came together for what would ultimately prove to be one of the closest on-site competitions ever held since the first WRTC took place in Seattle some 20 years ago.

Even under normal circumstances, earning a seat to operate in the WRTC 2010 was exceptionally difficult. The qualifying process is a three year grind, involving 34 possible competitive events. Applicants submit their 8 best scores. One catch, half of the scores had to be for contest operations in the applicant's home geographical region. Qualifying for WRTC 2010 was a long road and peer competition in the more populated regions (e.g. in the US and EU) was exceptionally keen. Despite my best efforts, I ended up missing the cut in the very competitive NA-1 region, coming up 4th behind K5ZD, K1ZM and our own N2NT. I managed to accrue the maximum possible number of points for half of the 8 allowed scores from my CQWW entries from P40W. But not having a home station, I hoped to qualify with M/S, and M/2 scores from operations from W3BGN, WE3C, and K9RS. It was very close, but in the end I came up just short to Andy.

Over the past 20 years I've attended all five prior WRTC events, and had the honor of competing in three of them: 1996, San Francisco with W0UA, 2000, Slovenia with K8NZ, and 2006 Brazil with F6BEE. When it was apparent the nine US team leaders had chosen their teammates, and still wanting to be an official participant in some capacity, I applied for a referee position, having been nominated by the K5ZD/W2SC team. In April notice came the referee application was accepted. Airline tickets were purchased the following week (somewhat reasonable \$1K R/T Newark/Moscow).

While at the Dayton Hamvention in mid-May, I ran into Ted, HI3TEJ. He had qualified as Team Leader for the Central America team, but told me he was having great difficulty finding a another operator from CA able to make the trip to Moscow in July (a significant financial commitment). Half jokingly, I told Ted I'd be happy to be his partner in the event he didn't find someone from CA and he could convince the WRTC organizing committee to go along with the needed rules exception.

Several weeks later, I was copied on a series of emails between Ted and Harry, RA3AUU (the WRTC 2010 Co-Chairman) about problems finding a viable CA teammate. Ultimately the organizers decided to make the exception and allow me to HI3TEJ's teammate representing Central America. A press release announcing the committee's decision was posted on the WRTC 2010 website a day or two later. Needless to say, I was extremely pleased to finally be a competitor in WRTC 2010, and not a referee. And what would become critically important later in this story, the paperwork for my R3 license and equipment import permit was then put in motion by the organizers.

But sadly the euphoria (and my tenure as a teammate) would last less than a week. It became apparent during a number of subsequent emails and phone calls with Ted that he would most likely be forced to drop out of the competition for personal reasons. And a few days after our team was created, Ted notified the WRTC committee of his need to withdraw with sincere regrets.

This left me in total limbo. I was no longer a competitor or a referee. My offer to operate a 'demonstration station' without a teammate was shot down by the organizers. At this point I'd purchased plane tickets for two, had Russian visa applications submitted, and booked a room at the hotel. What would happen next?

Fortunately I didn't have to wait too long. A week later another referee withdrew and I was once again made a member of the official WRTC 2010 party as a referee, but still not particularly thrilled about the prospect of playing the role of observer having come so close to being a competitor.

Fast-forward to the Monday evening July 5th. Elaine and I are scheduled to leave for Moscow from Newark Airport the next evening at 7 p.m. (Andy, N2NT is on the same flight). About 10 p.m. I receive an email from Paulo, YV1DIG, a

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team leader for one of the South American teams. He writes that his teammate YV8AD is having great difficulty in obtaining government permission to purchase a plane ticket to Moscow because of the restrictive currency regulations imposed by the Chavez regime. Paul asks whether I would be willing to be his WRTC teammate if the organizers agree. Well, as BGN has been known to say does a bear go poo poo in the woods? I immediately responded assuring Paul I'd be honored to be appointed his teammate.

Another series of emails fly across the world. Paul writes to the WRTC organizers, explaining the problem, and requests that I be appointed his partner, pointing out my unique qualifications (i.e. my 75+ operations from SA under P40W and other call signs, and most importantly, I already have an R3 license and equipment import permit). Given the immovable Russian bureaucracy, have the license approved just days before the competition was the key.

By daybreak the next morning Harry, RA3AUU had replied – “NO, it's not possible at this late date.” Not being someone who easily takes NO for an answer, it was time to discuss the situation directly with the organizers. I couldn't find Harry's number, but with the help of Ranko, 403A (who by chance I'd seen signed onto Skype), I found a cell number for Andy, UA3AB, another member of the WRTC 2010 committee. I called Andy and explained the situation. He was very sympathetic and agrees to discuss the matter with Harry and make the case for Paul and I. A half hour later I'm told once again Harry says no, BUT, Andy promises to try again in a few hours, adding that Harry can be quite stubborn at times.

It's now 10 a.m. Tuesday morning and Elaine and I are leaving for the airport in six hours. The only choice is to proceed under the assumption the committee's decision will ultimately be YES. A quick call to Ray, K9RS (who's in Chicago on business) has me in the car on the way over to the 'RS' radio store to pick up a K3 loaner and whatever cables I can scrounge. While I'm there, another call from UA3AB comes in, and this time Andy says everything is 'almost OK' and I should bring a radio. Finally an hour later, I get home and an email is waiting confirming my new SA teammate status! Wow, I'm back in the game....TERRIFIC! Team South American....here we go.

Weeks earlier after losing the CA team seat I'd stopped paying much attention to the technological challenges in station design imposed by WRTC 2010 rules. Guess I was resigned to simply go to Moscow and be a little bored for 24 hours listening to two other great ops doing 202R having fun contesting. That's what 'senior' contesters do – right?

But now just hours before leaving for Moscow, circumstances had really changed, and it was catch-up time on station design. The baseline requirements called for a foolproof lockout system to limit the station to only one radio on the air at any point in time, provision for stereo audio output for the referee, and finally the ability to record the contest in stereo (one station on each track).

More advanced station technology implemented by most WRTC competitors included automatic switching for antenna and bandpass filter systems. It appeared this was most frequently done with band decoders and SixPack antenna switches. The “hot” item a majority of the teams had was a triplexer which made the C3 tribander clone available to either radio at all times. Some of the switching and filter systems were even more sophisticated, reportedly costing \$5,000 to nearly \$10,000. This was not your typical “boy with his radio under an apple tree” environment.

Obviously YV1DIG and I had zero time to work through station design options. At best we would arrive in Moscow with two K3 radios and the needed interface cabling. And fortunately my teammate had the critical hardware preparation, the most important item being the assembly and testing of a K3 to K3 interface cable which provided a totally foolproof lockout system. Paul had also built the audio distribution system to meet the referee's monitoring needs, and he had installed a stereo sound card in his laptop to make the required recording. But the bits and pieces for antenna and bandpass filter switching were not in his inventory. He had a small MFJ antenna tuner and a single B&W manual antenna switch, and a few jumpers. We'd just have to make the best of it.

<http://www.lz1jz.com>



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So Paul and I start to put together a station Friday morning after breakfast with the piece parts we have in hand. But since I arrived, I've tried to get my hands on a triplexer...some teams had spares, but in the end no one would take the chance.

At first we cant get our two computers to talk to each other. I convinced Paul to use Win-Test logging software instead of N1MM. We spent about 2 hours going through PC and Win-Test setup routines, and finally got the things networked. It was time to go sweat for 2 hrs for the opening ceremony.

Back from the opening ceremonies.....skip lunch. Next step is to confirm the K3 inhibit lockout trick works (Paul told me it had been working before he left home). This turned out to be another puzzle. Eventually we determined neither K3 had a sufficiently recent firmware update. We load new firmware on both K3s and the problem is solved. Now its past time to head off to the location selection ceremony and then the rules FAQ session. We missed 95% of the station site drawings, but it was just as well.....we were the LAST team to select.....so only one card left in the jar.

OK....next comes the rules discussion session. There are concerns expressed by many of the competitors about how uniques would be handled, and also about potential score reductions for contacts where the information copied on the other end of the QSO was incorrect. As these things go, there was plenty of emotion But we all survived.

During the meeting I've gotten Bob N6TV and Steve N2IC to agree to come by and give us a hand in diagnosing and resolving a few lingering K3 – Win-Test interface issues. TV-Bob is a recognized Win-Test expert and he managed to get things sorted out in very short order. We finally had two computers running Win-Test, that were communicating with their respective radios, and passing data back and forth.....what a struggle this has been. It's now time for dinner and we still haven't loaded the secret score board software that Harry RA3AAU has been bugging us for 24 hrs to get loaded. Now we can't find Harry. But we found Andy UA3AB and got it done.

Finally, we have to get the recording software working properly. Spent another hour diagnosing problems and ultimately got the recorder working too. So in summary we are ready to go out into the field with the lockout working, talking computers and radios, working stereo recording software, and audio output for our referee, UA9USU. Its nearly 11 p.m. This all started at 8 a.m. Oh yeah, remember, this is FUN.

Have figured out we are one of maybe ten teams without a triplexer, and probably the only one without automated antenna switching. So GD and DIG will just have to do it the ole fashioned way during this event....we'll earn our score the hard way.

The organizers decided we are to go out to the sites at 6 a.m. and spend 10 hours getting setup. This seems excessive to us, since if it takes less than 2 hours to get a station set up and working, and that's a stretch. What do you do in the hot humid tent for the next 8 hrs? We're no more than 5 miles away from the site. There is something wrong with this picture.....it's now a game of physical survival. The lucky teams who have stations close to the hotel can literally walk back to enjoy some additional sleep and A/C before the event.....while those of us further away are being sentenced to wither on the vine. As it turned out, the organizers discovered line noise at our original station location that morning and had to tear it down and move it to another site. So instead of a 6:30 departure, Paul and I didn't head to the fields until about 10 a.m.

We arrived to find a tent, three tables, a tower with tribander and inverted V dipoles for 80 and 40, a generator, and a latrine. In an hour we had the radios and computers set up and working, and re-oriented the wire antennas so they were roughly firing East/West.

It's very hot and humid. Due to transportation limitations, a trip back to the hotel for a shower is not possible before the scheduled start time. But our dedicated volunteers offer up a field shower at their camp about 1500 feet away. It felt great to have cleaned up and even better to accept an ice cold beer (not something that is easy to find out in the field). It's my 61st birthday, why not celebrate!

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Since we didn't have automated antenna switching we lay out and label the antenna cables and band pass filters so they were easy to identify and access. All switching was done manually.....probably over a hundred times during the next 24 hours. Likewise the set and shoot settings on the little MFJ tuner were dialed in and documented. For better or worse, we were ready to go. Fifteen minutes before the start, the referee handed us our call sign envelope. We'd been assigned R320.

Our basic operating strategy was to run on the highest frequency band possible, take maximum advantage of 5 point QSO opportunities (NA, JA, UA9), and dig for as many multipliers as could be found. Paul had the honor of running the first hour as Team Leader. Conditions dictated that 40 and 20 would be the primary bands during the contest.

It was amazing how well these FD stations performed. We actually felt loud despite running just one hundred watts, a small tribander, and wires. The rate hovered in the 100 to 150 range much of the contest. Our mutual operating preference was to stick with CW as much as possible, but we had reasonable success running on SSB, particularly on 20M. It was amazing how well the 40M dipole worked on 15 and 10 with the tuner. There were short skip openings on both of these bands for much of the contest. I was repeatedly amazed when even weak stations would come back to our calls on the higher bands when using the dipoles/tuner. Running UA9s on 10M was a total gas (there are thousands of UA9s we just never hear in this part of the world).

The sun doesn't set until nearly ten p.m. local time, but we found 40 and 80 alive with stations well before sundown. Like anywhere else, the 'deep night' period (3:30 to 6:30 a.m. local time) were the slow hours.

Much was reported about the thunderstorms that hit some of the WRTC stations. In our case we didn't seem to have a near field lightning strike, but the rain pounding on the tent roof made hearing extremely difficult for a time, and the static crashes and the rain static buzzsaw lingered for about 45 minutes. We were lucky not to have to stop operating. The OE team who suffered a near direct hit (damaging both of their K3s) were just a half mile away.

When the contest was over Paul and I both felt we did the best we could with our simple station setup. Having a triplexer would very likely have increased our score several percentage points, and automated antenna/filter switching certainly would have helped too. But just being a part of the event was a thrill and honor we both will never forget.



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Callsign : R320
 Mode : MIXED
 Category : Multi Operator - Single Transmitter (MS)
 Overlay : WRTC
 Band(s) : All bands (AB)
 Class : Low Power (LP)
 Zone/State/... : 29
 Locator :
 Operating time : 23h58

BAND	SSB	CW	DXC	HQ	POINTS	AVG
80	94	382	32	22	1175	2.47
40	72	437	46	33	1445	2.84
20	454	786	71	40	4121	3.32
15	196	344	50	28	1644	3.04
10	24	76	15	12	307	3.07
TOTAL	840	2025	214	135	8692	3.03

TOTAL SCORE : 3 033 508

R320
 All bands - By mode
 QSOs (with dupes) - By time

Hr	CW	SSB	Total
12	103	3	106
13	143	11	154
14	147	2	149
15	159	3	162
16	132	8	140
17	141		141
18	96	5	101
19	87	70	157
20	52	64	116
21	53	13	66
22	130	13	143
23	80	1	81
00	25	80	105
01	66	8	74
02	34	49	83
03	126		126
04	28	102	130
05	14	127	141
06	52	37	89
07	109	3	112
08	98		98
09	33	129	162
10	13	116	129
11	148	3	151
	2069	847	2916

R320 - Continents
 All bands - By mode
 QSOs (with dupes)

Mode	EU	NA	SA	AF	AS	OC
CW	75.2%	7.8%	0.3%	0.5%	16.1%	
SSB	79.8%	4.8%	1.3%	0.2%	13.6%	0.2%

Reprinted from the July 21, 2010 ARRL Contest Update

Microham announced the new DigiKeyer II at the recent Freiderichschafen hamfest. It replaces the current DigiKeyer and adds the K1EL WinKey keyer, an auxiliary CI-V output and PTT input (for amp control with VOX operation), and soundcard support for the micro2R two radio interface. (Thanks, Joe W4TV)

So you record the contest into one massive MP3 file - how do you break it into manageable pieces? Dave KM3T recommends the MP3SPLT tool. It doesn't need to decode the file, saving time and memory.

For really long runs of feed line for which hardline is not available, consider using open-wire line with impedance transformers at each end. For example, 9:1 transformers make it easy to use low-loss 450-ohm line connected to 50-ohm sources and loads. For getting the line from here to there, consider using the inexpensive insulating electric fence posts sold by Tractor Supply Company or other farm stores. (Thanks, Jim VE7RF, Rick N6RK, and Mike K1MK)

The W6NL 40 Meter Moxon antenna design is getting some good ratings from Tim K3LR. The design, "is pretty simple (no matching components) and it is a 50-ohm feed. The VSWR never gets over 1.4:1 from 7 to 7.3 MHz." Tim's 40 meter scores speak well for this antenna - he uses a stack of two of them along with a full-sized 4-element OWA design.

Reprinted from the August 4, 2010 ARRL Contest Update

While the 2011 Dayton DX Dinner has been moved to the Dayton Marriott on Patterson Blvd, contest activities during the Dayton Hamvention remain at the Crowne Plaza. This includes the Contest Dinner, Contest University, and Contest Super Suites. There are no plans to change locations for 2011. (Thanks, Tim K3LR)

A new Pennsylvania FM Sprint has been announced by the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club (HARC). It will run on Saturday, February 26, 2011 from 7 - 11 PM using FM simplex frequencies on 50, 144, 222, and 432 MHz. The first statewide FM contest in the country, Pennsylvania is leading the way in this activity - an excellent way to introduce VHF FM hams to contesting and long-distance communications. (Thanks, Bob WA3PZO)

Veteran all-night contester, Fred K1VR relays the link to a Havard Magazine article on lost sleep. "This article tells you that you will have a higher rate, with greater accuracy, from 3 PM to 7 PM, and a lower rate, with lower accuracy, from 3 AM to 7 AM. Quelle surprise!" At least you now have an excuse.

CQ WW CW logs are now on-line for public viewing. They have also been parsed by the CQ WW Analyser - software written by Stan EI6DX/UA1OUT. The log database now contains almost 13 million QSOs from nearly 30,000 SSB and CW logs submitted in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Stan notes that 2009 activity was up 12.5% compared to 2008!

A CQ Worldwide RTTY searchable scores database is now on-line, containing the entire 23-year history of the contest. The rapid growth of digital contesting is reflected in a graph on the contest's statistics page. Records in virtually any category imaginable are also posted. Contest Director, Ed WØYK would like to thank Don AA5AU and Randy K5ZD for the creative, hard work that pulled it together.

CTY Files - most logging software uses the prefix-based cross-reference developed by Jim AD1C to link call signs and location. With so many special calls and prefixes in play these days, keeping your CTY files up to date should be on your pre-contest to-do list.

Rob K5UJ recommends this Radio World article on lightning protection as a source of good information on thinking about grounding as a means of handling a strike once it happens.

The perfect work glove hasn't yet been made, but we all keep looking. Pete N4KW uses sailing gloves for tower work. The tips of the fingers are cut out, making the glove great for handling hardware. They have extra leather padding in the palm and the entire top of the glove is made of a stretch nylon material. You can find them at a local marine store or online vendor.

Reprinted from the August 4, 2010 ARRL Contest Update

While you're up there on the tower, how about taking care of your feet? Work boots such as the popular Red Wing brand are available with a steel shank, taking the load away from the tender arches of your feet. Mike K5WMG also notes that motorcycle boots are also available with instep plates that have similar benefits.

Another handy tip from the superstation of VE6JY - use blue or green paint masking tape for labeling equipment. It adheres well, comes off without leaving a residue, is easy to write on, and easy to see!

Julius N2WN uses the software tool ADIF Master for working with big ADIF files. It can be used for editing and for finding specific contacts too:

Just how long was that QSO anyway? If you have the latitude and longitude of both stations, John AE5X sends word of a WGS-84, a program to calculate the distance between points. In fact, you can calculate it to the foot if you want!

For plumbing a tower use a string and weight. If the weight moves in the wind, try putting it in a bucket of water to damp the movement. (Thanks, Towertalkians and Steve K7LXC)

Reprinted from the August 18, 2010 ARRL Contest Update

A new release of the Super Check Partial database files is now available. This version has 41,164 calls in the main database and 9,772 in the RTTY file. The next SCP release will occur about a week before CQ World Wide SSB in October. To check the version of the SCP files you are currently using, look for a call beginning with "VER". Every SCP file includes the version number in the list of calls in the format VYYYYYMMDD. Your editor notes that it is a good thing to update your software and supporting files well in advance of the contest. (Thanks, Bob WA1Z)

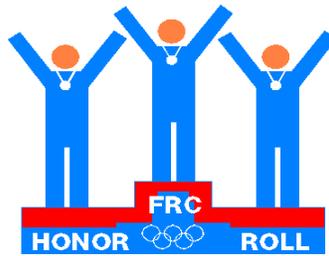
Craig K1QX notes that the "Beyond Landschiedt" Web site is recommended by Accuweather as having done a superior job of predicting solar activity. Unfortunately, the site predicts a drop in activity after this current burst of solar enthusiasm - we shall see! And why might that drop in solar activity occur, anyway? A recent BBC article relates the changing duration and amplitude of the solar cycle to changes in the speed at which plasma circulates in the north and south solar hemisphere

Order - of the information in an exchange is important to efficient operating. In general, try to give out the information in the same order in which the contest rules specify it. Changing the order is confusing to the receiving operator and increases errors. For example, if the rules specify an exchange of signal report, serial number, and S/P/C (state, province, or country), don't switch the serial number and S/P/C information. You'll find everything runs much smoother without "surprising" the other operator!

Marshmallows are a sweet idea and might even be a safety aid! A friend recently told of an incident during antenna work in which he walked directly into the tip of an element. If he hadn't been wearing glasses, he might have lost an eye! Placing a colored item on the small element tips of an antenna can prevent that accident from happening to you - a tennis ball or ping-pong ball would work and would eventually fall off. A marshmallow is guaranteed to dissolve in the sun and rain - or a bird will eat it. At any rate, save the eye-patches for pirate costumes!

Here are some links to tower-climbing and related safety equipment; LHR Services & Equipment, Conney Safety, PK Safety, and US Safety Equipment. Gravity isn't our friend when atop the tower! (Thanks, Ken K5RG)

The NOAA Spaceweather site is a treasure trove of information and novel e-gadgets to view it. Jake K9WN found a good Java applet - this scrollable view of the sunspot numbers. Click on any value in the year window so that it is highlighted, move the cursor away from the year list and use your mouse's scroll wheel to zoom back and forth through the years.



SEPTEMBER

conducted by N2SS

2010

WARC BANDS

30 Meters	17 Meters	12 Meters
K2FL .. 337	K2FL ...340	N2T K..331
N2TK336	N2TK ..340	K2 FL.....327
W3BGN.....330	N2 LT.....339	N2 LT.....324
N2LT.....329	W3 BGN...334	W3 BGN...318
W2YC.....320	N2 SS.....327	WØ MHK...313
W8FJ.....313	WØMHK...326	N2SS.....303
N2SS.....303	W2 YC.....323	W2 YC.....286
N3RD.....297	W2UP.....322	K2PS.....270
W2UP.....296	K2 PS.....312	W A2VYA...269
WA2VYA...295	WA2VYA...303	W2UP.....268
WØMHK...294	W8FJ.....301	N1IBM.....243
K2PS.....292	N2 MM.....300	W8 FJ.....235
N2MM.....260	N1IBM.....286	KQ3F.....220
N1IBM.....232	KQ3 F.....270	N1 RK.....218
W2LE.....223	N1 RK.....266	W2 LE.....202
KQ3F.....217	W2 LE.....261	N2 MM.....194
K2QPN.....191	K2 AX.....236	W2 YR.....187
W3KB.....189	W2 YR.....213	N2 CQ.....128
N2VW.....182	N2 CQ.....191	W3 KB.....99
N2CQ.....181	K2 QPN.....177	AB2 E.....92
AB2E.....156	K2 GN.....147	K2 AX.....86
N1RK.....144	W3 KB.....143	K2 QPN.....72
W2YR.....144	N2 VW.....133	N2 WKS.....51
K2GN.....110	K3 ND.....130	N2 VW.....43
K3ND.....96	AB2 E.....127	K2 GN.....38
N2WKS.....86	N2 WKS.....116	
K2AX.....81	W A3RHW...15	

Still looking for that undisputed
KING OF WARC

6 METER DXCC	
WØMHK114	N2SS55
N2LT112	N2TK54
K2PS109	N1IBM53
AA1K100	W2YR50
K30095	W2LE46
WA2VYA88	K2GN43
K3SX75	K2AX21
W2YC70	N2MM21
W3BGN	K2QPN.....10
N1RK57	N2WKS.....3
WT3Q56	

100 Meters

W3BGN309	K3ND137
AA1K307	N3RD134
WT3Q280	N1IBM.....122
N2LT270	N2VW.....121
N2TK263	K2PS.....116
K3SX254	K2GN.....110
W8FJ243	K2AX.....106
W2YC235	AB2E100
W2UP222	W2YR.....92
N2MM195	KQ3F88
K3SWZ193	N2WKS.....83
N3RS192	N2SS.....82
WØMHK171	W2LE.....71
WA2VYA162	K3NL70
K2FL154	N1RK65
	K2QPN28

W3BGN continues as the Top of Top Band!

ATTY DIGITAL

W2UP 342	N1IBM161
N2LT340	K2QPN149
K3SWZ329	W2YR.....132
W3KB315	K2GN.....123
W2YC308	N2SS.....88
K2PS303	WA2VYA84
KQ3F208	W3BGN59
N2TK208	N2WKS.....55
N2CQ188	N1RK39
W2LE171	W8FJ.....12

MOBILE DX

AA1K278	WM3L109
W2YC276	W2YR.....28
N2SS234	

Jon continues as our Big Wheel.

1.5K Club

K2FL..... 1726	KQ3F1501
W3BGN1715	WA 2VYA ...1499
N2LT..... 1707	N2VW1334
N2TK1707	N1IBM1280
W2UP1685	N1R K.....1312
N3RS1648	W2LE1225
W8FJ1629	AB2E1185
W2YC1625	W2YR1170
N3RD1600	K2GN1118
N2MM1559	K2AX1101
N2SS1547	W3KB1086
K2PS1555	N2WK S965
WØMHK ...1523	K2QP N854
K3ND1510	

ARRL DXCC Challenge

N2LT..... 2994	W2LE1864
N2TK..... 2947	W2YR.....1747
W2YC2840	N2VW1664
WØMHK ...2708	K2AX1631
WA2VYA ..2602	K2GN1147
K2PS2394	N2WKS1118
KQ3F2206	AB2E1104
N1IBM2025	W3KB.....1017
N2SS1952	K2QPN957
N1RK1941	

Low continues in the lead.

Islands On The Air

K2FL..... 1029	K2A X298
N2SS885	N2VW.....282
W2YC734	K2QPN273
W8FJ679	W2YR271
N1RK557	AB2E205
WØMHK.....502	W3KB177
WA3RHW ...329	



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

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
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