



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

January 2011:

- 8-9 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 8-9 No. Amer. QSO Party, CW
- 11 Main Meeting, 7 PM**
- 15-16 No. Amer. QSO Party, SSB
- 15-16 HA DX Contest
- 20 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 25 Remy Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 28-30 CQ 160M Contest, CW

February 2011:

- 5 North American Sprint, CW
- 5-6 Delaware QSO Party
- 8 Main Meeting, 7 PM**
- 12 North American Sprint, SSB
- 12-13 CQ WW RTTY WPX
- 17 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 19-20 ARRL DX Contest, CW**
- 22 Remy Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 25-27 CQ 160M Contest, SSB

March 2011:

- 5-6 ARRL DX Contest, SB**
- 8 Main Meeting, 7 PM**
- 17 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 19-20 BARTG HF RTTY Contest
- 19-20 Russian DX Contest
- 22 Remy Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 26-27 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

CHANGES

None this Month

Deadline for February issue:

Sunday, January 23, 2010

President's Column

Straight from the Radio Shack

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

I hope everyone had a nice holiday and some relaxation. 2011 is now here and so are a few sunspots. Maybe this year we will see the return of consistent 10 meter openings to Europe and big runs for all of us in **FRC**. Keep your fingers crossed. Now is the time to get your plans and station set for ARRL. It's also time to add new members so keep that in mind as you run across others that should be in **FRC**. Applications are on the web site. Lets see if we can add a few more in time for the ARRL contests.

Meeting attendance keeps improving with the new location. We are having great programs and those that are attending are leaving with ideas and ways of improving their station and scores. We all have something to share so think about what you have and let me know when you want to talk. It can be 5 minutes or an hour and Powerpoint or just show and tell. Let me know and we will get you on the agenda maybe even for the upcoming January meeting. Share something you figured out or experienced.

73 and GO FRC !

K9RS



2011

MEETINGS

Main meeting—January 11 at 7 PM, Inn at Towamencin, Lansdale.

T.I.T.S. meeting—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, January 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, January 25..

2010 FRC Fund Drive

New Contributors since last update

K3CY

N3VV



FOR SALE: All towers and antennas at the **W3PP** site have now been lowered. (See story on page 3). Items for sale are listed at www.aa1k.us.



**Crane day at the former W3PP site
Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010**

It was a successful day with the crane. Temperature was 17 degrees F and we had a couple inches of snow still on the ground when I arrived just after sunrise. First work was with a chain saw to clear several Leyland Cypress trees that had grown up along the driveway since the last crane visit in 1998, to allow room for its access

Then we started getting the guy attachments loosened up, and removing the nuts on 3 of the 4 bolts on each leg bolt of the SSV tower, and cutting the last remaining cables/ropes and ground wires.

The crane arrived right on time at 8 AM -- only one driveway away, at the house rather than the ham shack. We got him re-oriented and it took about 15 minutes to set up the 35-ton extension crane (with a 110-ft reach) in the middle of the field. He moved the cable and ball into place near the 90-ft. point on the 130-ft. Rohn 65 and then I climbed to attach the two slings, one to each of two legs of the tower. It had likely warmed up a few degrees but my gloves were sticking to the tower as I made my way up, fully harnessed and connected of course. The crane took up the slack on the cable to make sure all was well with the attachment.

Once I was back down on the ground, the turnbuckles on the six guys were loosened -- the ground crew had arrived and we made quick work of this, thanks to N3KNT, KB3HTE and his son as well as Lucy and her brother Eddie. The crane took more of the load and we dropped the guys toward the tower. We also hooked a rope up to the base of the tower so once it was off the pier pin we could "steer" it if this became necessary. It wasn't, but the rope helped to tug the base when the crane moved it to where it would be laid on the ground. This went smoothly, and it was all over in under an hour from when I started to climb the tower.

We moved on to the 60-foot SSV tower, attaching the cable at 40 feet. The bolts were a bit frozen or rusted to the tower base plates and it took a bit of gentle rocking with the crane to get them to break free, one leg at a time. Lowering went smoothly. The operator told me later the crane's computer showed it was at the load limit at one point before they broke free.

Then it was up to 50 feet on the 70-foot Glen Martin aluminum tower, and we had it on the ground with a half hour of time left on the "clock" -- before Lucy would have incurred additional charges.

I had only been involved with installing one previous tower with a crane, so was glad this all went so nicely. The forecast had been for calm wind -- one reason we chose to proceed despite the snow -- and that held through the morning.

All three towers remain intact for the moment. Our next effort there will be to dismantle them, with N3RRR using his backhoe to lift the heavy SSV and Rohn 65 sections as we remove the connecting bolts. We have buyers waiting for the Rohn 65 and Glen Martin. The SSV is still for sale (a potential buyer changed his mind), as is 85 feet of Rohn 25. And a bunch of nice beams. Details here.

This tower removal project began in January, 2010, following the untimely death in a plane crash of Dallas Carter, W3PP, in October 2009. The successful completion of this project has been made possible through the contributions of an entirely volunteer crew who put in many, many hours.]

These include: **Phil, N3RRR; Pat, KW3Z; Roy, K1RY; Marvin, KB3HTE, and his son; Rod, N3KNT; Paris, W3PAR; Chick, NW3Y; Rick, WW3DE; Irwin, KB3TB; and Ray, K9RS.**

In addition I'd like to thank **Glenn, WW4B (ex-N3HUV), Chet, N4FX; and John, W2GD**, for numerous consultations and advice along the way that helped bring this closer to completion.

73/Jon AAIK

2010 CQWW SSB FRC CLAIMED SCORES

Station	QSOs	Zones	Cntrys	Class	Score
AA1K				A	4,845,532
AA3DF				AA	152,453
AA3K				AA	702,210
CW5W				MS	11,226,306
<i>Ops</i>	<i>CX3AL CX6VM PY3VK</i>				
HS0AC				MS	4,415,931
<i>Ops</i>	<i>HS1X HS2X HS3X HS4X K3ZO W2YR</i>				
K2AX				M2	6,792,576
<i>Ops</i>	<i>K2AX K3ZV N3KR N3RG W2RDS</i>				
K2BM				AA	291,160
K2CJ				AA	1,181,593
K2GN				AA	977,010
K2QPN				AA	329,703
K2W				AA	5,177,934
<i>Op</i>	<i>K2NG</i>				
K3FMQ				AA	80,256
K3IPK				AA	1,433,223
K3ND				AA	1,251,631
K3NM				AA	1,735,464
K3OO				AA	2,109,440
K3PH				AA	4,095,166
K3PP				AA	2,077,656
K3QF				AA	2,430,000
K3TEJ				AA	858,687
K3WW				AA	9,193,932
K9RS				AA	4,481,920
KC2NB				AA	24,882
KD3TB				AA	73,814
KP2M				MS	13,000,000
<i>Ops</i>	<i>K3CT K3VA</i>				
KQ2M				A	2,319,289
N1IBM				AA	1,110,720
N1RK				AA	1,317,788
N2BA				14	603,244
N2CQ				LA	231,957
N2LT				A	5,621,200
N2MM				AA	4,761,475
N2RJ				A	1,610,060
N2RM				AA	2,684,294
N2VM				LA	109,827
N2VW				AA	301,576
N2WKS				MM	2,727,274
<i>Ops</i>	<i>N2WKS K2TTT</i>				
N3AD				AA	3,281,580
N3MX				AA	1,404,340
N3NR				AA	259,161
N3RJ				A	1,036,406
N3RS				M2	17,925,000
<i>Ops</i>	<i>N3RS K3WI N2SR N3RD NA3D W8FJ</i>				

Station	QSOs	Zones	Cntrys	Class	Score
N3RW				3.5	5,364
N3ZA				AA	1,355,382
N9GG				LA	7,800
NE3F				MM	4,351,508
<i>Ops</i>	<i>NE3F K3ATO NG3J WA3WLH</i>				
NG3J				LA	996,710
NK3Y				AA	326,475
NQ3N				AA	45,496
P40W				A	12,900,090
<i>Op</i>	<i>W2GD</i>				
V26K				LA	8,347,940
<i>Op</i>	<i>AA3B</i>				
V47NT				A	12,699,348
<i>Op</i>	<i>N2NT</i>				
VE3THX				A	74,865
<i>Op</i>	<i>W2IRT</i>				
W0BR				AA	534,144
W1GD				AA	3,658,620
W2CG				M2	5,544,350
<i>Ops</i>	<i>W2CG W2EN W2NO</i>				
W2ID				AA	3,412,458
W2LE				AA	1,514,700
W2RD				AA	836,666
W2RE				MS	10,163,227
<i>Ops</i>	<i>W2RE AB3CX WW2DX</i>				
W2YC				M2	5,628,525
<i>Ops</i>	<i>W2YC AA2WN K2SE KA2NDX W0MHK</i>				
W3BGN				MS	8,138,645
<i>Ops</i>	<i>W3BGN K2TW</i>				
W3CC				AA	1,100,000
W3CF				AA	1,150,688
W3EA				AA	1,067,999
W3GK				AA	608,638
W3KB				LA	1,459,650
W3SQ				A	93,150
W6XR				AA	1,118,579
WB3FIZ				AA	1,554,615
WE3C				M2	18,186,960
<i>Ops</i>	<i>WE3C K3MD KF3B KQ3F NN3Q W3FV</i>				
WQ2N				AA	2,411,757

This represents about 224,000,000 FRC points that we know about so far.

Please report missing scores to **K3WW**.

Additional note for CQWW SSB results - VE2DXY operators were **KD3TB**, **KD3RF**, **KE3C** and **K3FMQ** all are FRC members. We were joined by a Canadian Operator too, VE2GTZ.

Reprinted from the ARRL Contest Update

After traveling to the UK, Germany, and Italy in 2010, the fifth year of Contest University (CTU) has been announced by CTU Chairman, Tim K3LR, and he wants everyone to know that "early bird" registration is now open! Held in Dayton on May 19th just before the annual Hamvention, this will be the only Contest University held in the USA during 2011. This year's CTU includes a brand-new Youth CTU track led by Scott W3TX. As always, CTU will feature well-known contesters and station builders as CTU Professors. CTU is sponsored by Icom America and a host of other supporting organizations listed on the CTU Web site - thanks to all!

Have fun with the Reverse Beacon Net and its reporting features, particularly after a recent contest, to see how your signal and those of the competition stack up. From Bob N6TV, "Hover your cursor over DX spots in the toolbar at the top of the page, then select the Analysis tool." You can click the signal strength button or the frequency button and start having fun. Hours may pass. To save the image, use Prt Scrn and then paste into an MS Paint window and crop. The image doesn't "save" like most graphics do.

Bob N6TV reports cleaning up some major bugs in the Cabrillo Statistics for Windows (CBSW) rate sheet generator, originally written by Ken K5KA (SK), to allow it to work well with the latest versions of CTY.DAT. "It's a simple Windows command line tool. Type CBSW and enter the name of your Cabrillo file and the name of the output file. You get a nice rate sheet in text format suitable for posting to 3830, and a breakdown of stations worked in each country or section, plus some other statistics." N2IC recompiled the Linux version and that has been updated, too.

Users of the ARRL's Logbook of the World should be aware that a new version of the TQSL software version (v1.13) has been released. Check the LOTW Web page for more information. (Thanks, Dick AA5VU)

Finding your local DXCC Card Checker has been updated with an online search function. To find your local checker open this link and for USA click 'State' and for non-USA click 'Country'. For USA only, you can narrow your search within your state to Zip Code and distance from your zip code by noting this information in the boxes shown. Remember that DXCC card checkers can also certify QSLs for WAS, VUCC, and WAC. (Thanks, Bill NC1L)

Here's a neat on-line wire-size calculator - I like the table of lowest frequencies for 100% penetration of the copper.

Crank-up towers weigh a lot! How do you move them around after the truck drops it off in your driveway? Bill W2CQ rented a drywall dolly from a home improvement store for a small fee. He used a couple of sheets of plywood to act as a rolling surface across the yard and small automobile jacks to lift the tower on and off the cart. Simple, no?

Array Solutions announces a new W3NQN-designed high-performance broadcast-band filter that is rated for use in-line with your transceiver output. This filter features a very steep roll off starting at 1.8 MHz, 50 to 80 dB of stop-band loss from 0.5 to 1.65 MHz, and has a 150- W ICAS Power rating with only 0.5 dB insertion loss at 1.8 MHz, dropping to 0.1 dB at higher frequencies.

Why does recharging slowly kill off batteries? As described by this *Science* magazine article, it turns out that the nanostructures inside the batteries are distorted by the reversed chemical process, eventually leading to a more disordered state that provides less capacity.

'Tis the season for snow sticks intended for use outside to mark driveways and ditches buried beneath winter's blanket. These are often fiberglass and nearly always a rugged and inert plastic - good for all sorts of antenna building projects. Take advantage of a consumer-priced volume item at your local hardware emporium!



Watt Meters

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

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

If you want to neaten up those multi-cable bundles, but conduit or cable tray is too confining or expensive a solution, try these cable hangers that allow access to the cables at any point, but still corral them into neat runs. You can buy them at an electrical supply house and a #10 sheet metal screw will suffice for mounting. (Thanks, Dave K9XD)

David K1TTT recommends an alternative to Coax Seal™. "For years I have been using plain old hardware store duct seal. It comes in big 1-lb blocks for about \$2...(and)...comes off much easier even after years of being on a connector. I usually just squish a big handful of it on the joint then add a layer of electrical tape outside to protect it from the sun and further push it in to the joint." If you're really concerned about removing the seal cleanly, wrap the connector with a single layer of electrical tape before applying the seal.

Bruce K1FZ has updated his Beverage antenna notes Web page with additional BOG (Beverage On Ground) antenna information.

New Rules Governing Vanity, Club Station Call Signs to Take Effect February 14

On Wednesday, December 15, new rules affecting vanity and club station call signs within the Amateur Radio Service were published in the Federal Register. They can be found in PDF format at, <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-31349.pdf>. These new rules will go into effect on February 14, 2011.

Thirteen months ago, the FCC announced its intention of modifying Part 97 as it applies to the vanity call sign system and club station call signs, aligning the rules to prior Commission decisions. Last month, the Commission released a Report and Order (R&O), outlining its decision. Along with the changes to the call sign rules, the FCC made "certain minor, non-substantive amendments" to portions of Part 97.

<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)



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

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



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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 is held at the Inn at Towamencin in Lansdale between 7-9 pm on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May. 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
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