



# THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

*PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION*

## CALENDAR

### 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

### April 2011:

- 2-3 SP DX Contest
- 12 Main Meeting, 7 PM**
- 16-17 YU DX Contest
- 21 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 23-24 Helvetia Contest
- 26 Remy Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 30-5/1 Florida QSO Party

## CHANGES

**None this Month**

### Deadline for March issue:

Wednesday, February 23, 2010

## President's Column

Straight from the Radio Shack...**K9RS**

The CQ 160 contest was fun and if you take a look at the 3830 scores you will see lot's of big **FRC** scores in that contest as usual. Conditions were very good and, as **W2GD** said, it was hard to find a frequency that wasn't occupied by at least several European stations.

Now it's time to get ready for the ARRL DX contests. With the 160 contest showing us that the low bands are hanging in there and the sunspot number increasing we should have a lot of fun in these two contests. Remember there is still time for signing up members. Think about those people that we should have in the club and get them to the next meeting.

Speaking of which, it is coming up on Tuesday Feb 8th at the Inn at Towamencin (right off the Lansdale exit of 476). We missed the last meeting due to weather but this meeting should be another great program. If all goes well, and thanks to **N3RD** and **W3CF**, we will have Jeff, **W2FU**, from Green Heron as a guest/ remote speaker as well as the usual good food, drink and company. Those that are coming to the meetings are picking up lots of great stuff that can increase scores. I know that I am excited about some of the touch screen switching that I've added after hearing **N3RD** talk about it at an earlier meeting! If you can't get to the meeting make sure to look at the info on the web site.

Larry, **K2GN**, has done a great job of getting our web site to be a world class site and useful for all of the members. Take a look at the propagation data on the home page and then look for presentations from the meetings under the **FRC** Private Archive area. Remember that you too can do a presentation at a meeting and/or an article for the newsletter.

We all have useful, unusual or just fun things we have done that it would be great to let others know about. Joe, **KQ3F**, is doing a great job with the newsletter but can use more material. I know the thoughts and ideas are out there so don't be bashful and contribute to the club.

73 & GL in the test.

## ARRL DX Tests

**CW:** 0000Z February 19 to 2359Z February 20

**SSB:** 0000Z March 5 to 2359Z March 6

## MEETINGS

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

**T.I.T.S. meeting**—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, February 17, 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**—The next FRC West meeting will be held at the Quentin Haus Restaurant on Tuesday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m. The restaurant is at the intersection of Routes 72 and 419 a few miles north of the Lebanon-Lancaster exit of the turnpike.



**NEWLY LISTED ITEMS:** Antennas, towers, coax, hardline, cables and other new items from the **W3PP** estate. Follow links from [www.aa1k.us](http://www.aa1k.us) to updated list.

<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](mailto:w2gd@hotmail.com)

**Phone: 908 391 5611 (Mobile)**

### **ARRL Outgoing QSL Service Pricing**

Effective January 17, 2011, a new pricing structure will go into effect for the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service. With the new rate structure, amateurs will no longer need to count outgoing cards and then guess as to what to pay based upon a half-pound rate; a simple weighing of the cards is all that is necessary to determine what amount to send to the Bureau. This new structure also accommodates a small rate increase in response to recent postage, shipping and handling costs.

The last rate revision for the Outgoing QSL Service was in January 2007. Even though international shipping costs have remained flat over the last 4 years, domestic shipping costs have risen more than 16 percent since 2007, while material and handling costs continue to climb 1 to 2 percent each year.

The new rate will be:

- \$2 for 10 or fewer cards in one envelope.
- \$3 for 11-20 cards in one envelope, or
- 75 cents per ounce, for packages with 21 or more cards. For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds -- 24 ounces, or about 225 cards -- of cards will cost \$18.

If you have any questions concerning the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service or the rates to use the service, please send them via e-mail to [buro@arrl.org](mailto:buro@arrl.org).

### **Former Northern New Jersey Section Manager Appointed Hudson Division Vice Director**

After review of eligibility by the ARRL Ethics and Elections Committee, President Kay Craigie, N3KN, has appointed William W. Hudzik, W2UDT, of Gillette, New Jersey, to serve as Vice Director of the ARRL's Hudson Division for the remainder of the current term that expires January 1, 2013.

Hudzik fills the vacancy created when Frank Fallon, N2FF, retired from the ARRL Board of Directors after more than 14 years of service and his Vice Director, Joyce Birmingham, KA2ANF, assumed the Director position.

"I've know Bill for many years," Birmingham said. "He has been active in legislative matters in New Jersey. He did a fine job as the ARRL Northern New Jersey Section Manager and I know I can count on him to work well as Hudson Division Vice Director. I am pleased to have Bill as part of the Hudson Division Team."

An ARRL Life Member and an Amateur Extra class licensee, Hudzik -- who admits to being a "contest junkie" -- served as ARRL Northern New Jersey Section Manager from 2001-2008. He has been an ARRL Official Emergency Station since 1997.

First licensed in 1961 as WV2UDT, Hudzik has been continuously licensed for 47 years. Hudzik serves as Trustee of the Raritan Valley Radio Club and the North Jersey DX Association, and is also a member of the New Providence Radio Club. He cites his most outstanding ham radio memory as the holiday season of 1966-67. While stationed at Kadena Air Force Base on Okinawa, he spent the time running phone patches for his fellow squadron members using the KR6SP call sign.

Hudzik is a Senior Engineering Aide/Project Manager for Morris County, New Jersey. He is married to Maryann, a Morris County Superior Court judge.

### Reprinted from the ARRL Contest Update

In RTTY contests, do not use "cut numbers", such as 5NN. This requires an extra shift character to be sent, making your rate slower, unlike CW. Also note that if you receive a letter sequence where numerals are expected, the shift character was likely miscopied. The number represented by each letter is above and to the left of the letter key. For example, TOO is 599 without the shift. (Thanks, Dick WØRAA and Barry W2UP)

A pair of eham.net technical articles caught my eye and may give you some ideas, too. The first is for every little pistol's dream - a 40 meter beam. The article "Vertical Moxon for 40 Meters" by N8MUS describes hanging a vertical wire beam antenna under a KT34A tribander. The second article is a classic by one of the site's founders - "Fighting CC&R's: 20M 4-Square Array" by W4AN (SK). It shows how to make the best of a compromise situation and still have a useful and capable antenna system.

While the ARRL LOTW site does have a lot of supporting instructions, Dave, AA6YW, author of DXLab Suite, has created his own complementary set of instructions for adding locations to your TQSL software configuration - a key element of successful LOTW use. (Thanks, Peter N5UWY)

The North Coast Contesters have announced the 19th Annual Dayton Contest Dinner and are taking ticket orders. This is the venue for CQ Contest Hall of Fame inductions and the keynote speaker is always enjoyable. The dinner will be held on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. (Thanks, Tim K3LR)

Amplifier fuses may not be the usual glass-cartridge style. If yours uses ceramic cartridge fuses, you can often find them as "microwave oven fuses". They are also available from electronic suppliers, such as Mouser Electronics. Don't substitute glass fuses as they are not rated to handle or interrupt the same current and voltage. (Thanks, Jim W7RY and Vic K2VCO)

Looking up the connections of a microphone can be maddening - there are so many, the manufacturers all use different conventions, signal names are different. Ugh. To the rescue rides Roy, G4WPW with his amazing compilation of microphone connector wiring and schematics. Three cheers for the compilers of information among us!

Here's a way to evenly space any number of radials around an antenna base. First, find the circumference of the circle that contains the shortest radial:  $C = 2 * \pi * r$ , where r is the length of the shortest radial. Divide C by the number of radials. This is the distance between the radials as they cross the circle. Using this method, even an irregular area can be covered with evenly-spaced radials. (Thanks, Rod WN8R)

At the other end, to what do you connect the radials? There are all sorts of suggestions from pre-drilled and threaded radial connection plates to scavenging bent aluminum wheel rims from an auto body shop. Dave AB7E reminds us that while it looks pretty, the electrons don't care if the radial attachment is made in a circle - you can use short lengths of bus bar or flashing strip around the antenna to make several radial connections as a strip or with the ends connected together forming a polygon.

Reminder - call before you dig! No matter where you live in the U.S. there is a phone number you can call to check for buried cables and pipes before the first shovel of dirt is turned. Call your local utility to find out who does the job in your area.



#### Watt Meters

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

Featuring new and used meters, elements, loads and more by BIRD<sup>®</sup> and Coaxial Dynamics.



# 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 .....	267-685-6303	Email: aa3k@arrl.net
Treasurer, <b>K2QM</b> , Bob Shohet.....	203-270-8456	Email: kq2m@earthlink.net

### Committee Chairman

Repeater, <b>K3NL</b> , Nick Leipold .....	610-449-8910
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 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  
 k3ww.gofrc.org 7300  
 wt3q.gofrc.org 7300  
 tuacluster.no-ip.org:23