



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

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 Rexy Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 30-5/1 Florida QSO Party

May 2011:

- 7-8 CQ-M Contest
- 10 Main Meeting, 7 PM**
- 14-15 Volta WW RTTY Contest
- 19 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 21-22 Baltic Contest
- 24 Rexy Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 28-29 CQ WPX Contest, SSB

June 2011:

- 16 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon**
- 18-19 All Asia Contest, CW
- 25-26 ARRL Field Day
- 28 Rexy Meeting B, 8 PM**

CHANGES

New FRC Newsletter
advertising fees effective
May 2011.

Please see page 7.

Deadline for May issue:
Sunday, April 24, 2011

President's Column

Straight from The Radio Shack... K 9 Radio Shack

Wow another exciting contest season is now winding down. We still have many little contests and WPX CW coming up, but if you are like me the main ones are all over and it's time to think about what changes to make for next season. Even though it seems like a long time away (and we will probably have a big time Phillies season including a World Series in the mean time) now is the time to think things through and then be ready to take advantage of the summer weather. We started to get a glimpse of what a few sunspots can do so those 10 meter arrays are going to be very important for this fall. For those of you interested in getting something small that should still work well check out N6BT's new site <http://www.n6bt.com/>. Most of us remember Tom from Force12, which he sold a few years ago, and maybe from his excellent book *Array of Light*, which is still available.. On Tom's web site you will find lots of interesting stuff including the new Q52 two element remote-switched yagi which is about the size of a 2 element ten meter yagi but has gain and efficiency on 20-17-15-12-10 meters. It also breaks down to three foot sections and weighs only 17 pounds so you can take it with you. It's great to see Hams like N6BT continuing to innovate and provide interesting products. I bet almost anyone could figure out a way to get one of these in the air for contest weekends!

Anyone want to host a picnic meeting this summer? We are looking for one or two hosts. I think N3RD is taking a year off after having hosted many of these. K2AX has also hosted a number and not sure if he is up for one again this year or not but it would be nice to also try to add in one or two additional places. Let me know.

FRC sponsoring a station in WRTC2014 – I think we as a club should host a station for the WRTC2014. It's a \$1000 donation. Let me know if you support this and if you have any ideas for raising the money. I am thinking of an auction at the next meeting as a possibility. What do you think? Do you have some stuff to bring and sell and donate or donate 10% of to the Club and/or WRTC2014? I think this is a great opportunity to step up and play a role in this event. Maybe we can even do more...again let me know what you think. Check out the web site at <http://www.wrtc2014.org/>

See you at the next meeting April 12th 7 PM, Inn at Towamencin, Lansdale!

73, Ray K9RS

k9rs@yahoo.com

MEETINGS

Main meeting—April 12 at 7 PM, Inn at Towamencin, Lansdale.

T.I.T.S. meeting—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, April 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, April 26..

Minutes from FRC Meeting March 8, 2011 (Lansdale)

Meeting called to order by Vice President Dale Long **N3BNA** who welcomed everybody.

Floor handed to Secretary Mark Kempisty **AA3K** who continued as Master of Ceremonies.

Round of introductions including scores from the ARRL DX SSB contest the preceding weekend. Unfortunately scores from the ARRL DX CW contest were not given. Applause for all scores reported.

As we did not have a quorum, the slate of candidates for the next club general election was not presented.

Mark reported on the status of the **FRC** Radio Donation contest. He has about 12 applications and 4 members for the committee to select a winner. Requesting one more member and will put that on the reflector.

Mark reported he has designed a new grand slam certificate and once the scores for this contest season are finalized he will get to work on awarding them.

Mark thanked the members present for all they are doing for **FRC** especially that of getting on the radio for the contests.

Thanks to Irwin **KD3TB** and Andy **KD3RF** who presented their adventures of being DX around the world especially as **VE2DXY** in Zone 2 Canada during the CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contests.

Important Notice!!!

The April meeting will feature the election of officers. As of this writing, the incumbent officers are all standing for reelection:

President	K9RS , Ray Sokola
Vice President	N3BNA , Dale Long
Secretary	AA3K , Mark Kempisty
Treasurer	KQ2M , Bob Shoheit

2011 ARRL DX CW CONTEST FRC CLAIMED SCORES

Station	Class	Score	Station	Class	Score
AA1K	SO	4,208,400	N3MX	MS	861,948
AA3B	SOA	6,347,280	<i>Ops</i>	<i>N3MX K3YD</i>	
AA3K	SOA	214,332	N3NA	SOA	1,166,907
AB2E	SOA	1,093,176	N3RJ	SO	555,264
AF3I	SOA	19,008	N3RS	M2	10,861,068
K2CJ	SOA	553,455	<i>Ops</i>	<i>N3RS N2SR N3RD NA3D W7CT W8FJ</i>	
K2GN	SOA	142,494	N3RW	40	11,550
K2M	SOA	4,915,080	N3ZA	SOA	1,160,895
<i>Op</i>	<i>K2NG</i>		NE3F	MM	1,965,870
K2QPN	SOA	506,736	<i>Ops</i>	<i>NE3F NG3J WA3WLH</i>	
K2SG	SOA	1,518,678	NK3Y	SOA	450,288
K3IPK	SOA	2,018,250	NY3C	SO	15,453
K3MD	SOA	2,506,915	TI5KD	15	420,198
K3ND	SOA	1,189,188	<i>Op</i>	<i>N2BA</i>	
K3OO	SOA	316,008	V48M	M2	7,837,008
K3PH	SOQ	844,740	<i>Ops</i>	<i>K8NZ W2OX</i>	
K3PP	SOA	1,722,708	VP2MMM	SO	4,628,412
K3SWZ	20	88,740	<i>Op</i>	<i>N3AD</i>	
K3VA	SOA	100,548	W0BR	SOA	340,080
K3WW	SOA	6,833,325	W1GD	SOA	2,784,501
K3ZV	SOA	605,817	W2EN	SOA	431,577
K4IKM	SOA	1,263,861	W2IRT	SOA	1,409,634
K9RS	MS	6,829,920	W2LE	SOA	1,349,040
<i>Ops</i>	<i>K9RS N3DXX W2GD W2ID</i>		W2VQ	SO	319,656
KC2NB	SOA	170,640	<i>Ops</i>	<i>W2VQ</i>	
KD2HE	15	37,488	W2YC	M2	2,823,174
KD3RF	SOA	24,360	<i>Ops</i>	<i>W2YC AA2WN</i>	
KQ2M	SO	769,488	W3BGN	SO	3,150,000
N1IBM	SOA	599,808	W3CF	MS	828,738
N1RK	SOA	755,379	<i>Ops</i>	<i>W3CF NN3C</i>	
N2AA	20	512,316	W3EA	SOA	725,084
N2CQ	SOA	478,626	W3FVT	SO	149,309
N2LT	SO	3,843,486	W3KB	SOA	1,215,000
N2MM	SOA	3,152,388	W3MF	SOA	301,920
N2RJ	SOA	1,863	W3SQ	SO	229,470
N2RM	SOA	1,422,585	W3TS	SOA	13,050
N2VW	SOA	318,432	W6XR	SOA	124,968
N2WKS	SOA	630,708	WE3C	MM	12,531,248
N3KR	SO	2,800	<i>Ops</i>	<i>WE3C K3CT K3TEJ KF3B KQ3F NN3Q W3FV</i>	
				Total	115,220,336

2011 ARRL DX SSB CONTEST FRC CLAIMED SCORES

Station	Class	Score	Station	Class	Score
AA1K	SO	3,247,695	N3MX	SOA	931,953
AA3B	SOA	3,668,850	N3RD	SOA	88,308
AB2E	SOA	450,000	N3RS	SOA	2,864,019
AF3I	SO	16,704	N3ZA	SOA	1,344,672
K2AX	M2	3,184,236	NE3F	MM	3,396,105
<i>Ops</i>	K2AX KC2TN N1RK N3KR N3RG		<i>Ops</i>	NE3F K3ATO K3GMT KB3GWA N3OW	
	W2MC W2RDS			NT3V WB3TIV	
K2CJ	SOA	425,436	NW3H	SOA	303,534
K2GN	SOA	927,360	V26M	SO	6,145,398
K2SG	SOA	2,134,272	<i>Op</i>	N3AD	
K3CT	SOA	613,206	V48M	SO	4,738,923
K3FT	SOA	863,760	<i>Op</i>	W2OX	
K3IPK	SOA	1,070,649	W1GD	SOA	2,561,310
K3MD	MS	2,712,168	W2IRT	SOA	2,134,513
<i>Ops</i>	K3MD N3PUR		W2JJ	SOA	497,952
K300	SOA	130,644	<i>Op</i>	WA2VUN	
K3000	SOA	19,602	W2LE	SOA	472,383
K3PP	SOA	2,095,632	W2YC	M2	3,038,736
K3SWZ	20	59,778	<i>Ops</i>	W2YC AA2WN KA2NDX W0MHK	
K3VA	SOA	90,396		WA2TML	
K3WW	SOA	4,625,220	W3BGN	SO	3,200,000
K9RS	MS	4,790,430	W3CC	M2	1,880,088
<i>Ops</i>	K9RS N3DXX W2GD W3CF WA2VUY		<i>Ops</i>	W3CC AA3K	
KC2NB	SOA	418,068	W3EA	SOA	1,481,952
KC3WX	SO	73,730	W3FVT	SO	132,300
KD3TB	SO	1,024,227	W3GM	SOA	909,198
KN3A	MS	1,049,070	<i>Op</i>	K3ND	
<i>Ops</i>	KN3A K3MRK K3QF N3BNA		W3KB	SOL	707,805
KP2M	SO	6,769,890	W3MF	MS	2,104,122
<i>Op</i>	N2TK		<i>Ops</i>	W3MF K3PH	
N1IBM	SOA	1,177,209	W3SQ	SOA	306,348
N1RK	SOA	211,680	W6XR	SOA	659,610
N2ED	SOA	1,218,087	W8FJ	SOA	2,023,545
N2MM	SOA	2,070,414	WE3C	M2	12,531,240
N2RJ	SOL	1,036,464	<i>Ops</i>	WE3C K3CT K3TEJ KF3B KQ3F KQ3V	
N2RM	MS	1,597,380		N3RD NN3Q W3FV	
<i>Ops</i>	N2RM K3ZV			Total	115,339,487
N2VM	SOL	15,300			
N2VW	SOA	566,676			

If your score is missing or incorrect, please contact **K3WW** ASAP.

Reprinted from the ARRL Contest Update

Rick "The Locust" K6VVA was operating from KP2CW in the ARRL CW DX contest - by remote control, no less - and noted not just the usual packet-pileups, but "everyone was exactly ZERO BEAT (or within a few Hz) apparently as a result of point-and-click with no single station loud enough to rise above the pack." Needless to say, this makes high-rate operation well-nigh impossible. The technology of cycle-resolution frequency control and accuracy has unintended consequences! The solution? When selecting spots point-and-shoot style, take your hand off the mouse and wiggle the big knob in the middle of your radio before launching your call sign.

Wouldn't it be great to go back after a contest and generate a report of your signal strength compared to other stations in your area? For CW contests, that capability exists today by using the Reverse Beacon Net's Analysis tool. Pete N4ZR explains, "It is graphical and only handles one skimmer and one 24-hour day at a time, but up to 10 stations can be compared at once. It's pretty informative, particularly because the graphical representation and your eye can filter out the odd variations and easily see trends, like who opens the band first, and who is stronger in which part of the opening." Game on!

A new Remote Beacon Network (RBN) Telnet cluster node is now available at **arcluster.reversebeacon.net** port 7000, using the latest AR Cluster Server Version 6 beta. The new node is running in parallel with the RBN node at **telnet.reversebeacon.net** port 7000, which uses the DXSpider node software. This new version of AR Cluster uses revised filtering syntax that makes it possible to concatenate multiple filtering commands in a single message to the cluster, which in turn makes it possible to conveniently send messages to adjust your filters from the message buttons of typical telnet clients and logging programs. (Thanks, Pete N4ZR)

CW contesters are known for their ability to discriminate between signals with nearly the same frequency. The Tonometric web site provides an Adaptive Pitch test to prove your pitch-picking proficiency. There are other exercises for rhythm and even a tone-deaf test! (Thanks, Doug K1DG)

What is "Enter-Sends-Mode" (ESM) anyway? Offered by several contest logging program, this mode lets you do a lot with the Enter key. Call CQ? Press Enter. Send the exchange? Press Enter. Acknowledge the received information and ask for more callers? Press Enter. Pioneered in the MS-DOS TR-LOG program, many top operators find it to be efficient, but it does take some getting used to. To explain ESM, the N1MM development team has posted links to videos on using it during CW and RTTY operation. (Thanks, Larry K8UT)

This week's Science News included an article about sunspots, in which it is expected that the cycle will peak on schedule in 2013 or 2014 and average activity will remain in the doldrums for a while. It's that darn meridional flow, apparently! (Thanks, Bob KY7O)

Thomas NZ4O writes to let us know that, "I have dropped the LF and MF aspect of my seven day radiowave propagation forecast due to low demand. In place of it I now produce a condensed version of my HF radiowave propagation forecast. I publish it every Friday morning at 0000 UTC on my SolarCycle24.org Facebook web page, my Solar Cycle 24 web page, and on my HF/6M Radiowave Propagation Forecast eGroup on Contesting.com. It is also published later in the day at eHam.net, QRZ.com and Southgate ARC. My complete HF/6M radiowave propagation and lightning QRN forecast is still available on the Solar Cycle 24 web page in section 3B."

Reprinted from the ARRL Contest Update

Paul K2DB has uploaded a video showing how the CW reverse beacon network works using his remote station. It shows how quickly he can get to stations with the packet CW skimmer Reverse Beacon Network. Click on the right side of the home page under Main Pages on the RDXA Library link, then Tutorials and Presentations, click on Remote CW Skimmer Demo. When you get on the air on CW and call CQ, you can run but you cannot hide!

Tower-mounted standoffs help keep coax from getting caught in a crankup tower or just hold them away from your tower legs. Bob K6UJ recommends standoffs from KF7P, particularly the curved standoff for supporting a dangling cable.

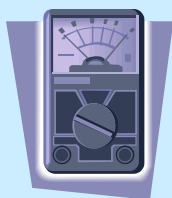
Jim W7RY provides this link to professional grounding guidelines. He also recommends the Motorola R56 Site Ground Standards and Tom W8JI's material on grounding.

Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full - well, most tower bases take more concrete than that. How many do you need, anyway? Mickey N4MB uses this simple online calculator to get the answer. He cautions the user that while almost all the input values are in feet, the depth is entered in inches!

Base loading an antenna to resonate on 160 meters or 80 meters can be tricky. Phil AD5X has addressed the subject from the perspective of his 43-foot vertical antenna. There's good information in the article you can apply to many similar needs. (Thanks, Al AB2ZY)

Teflon is not supposed to stick to anything - so how can you glue it or attach it to something? Lars LA7SL recommends this special adhesive and David G4FTC the Loctite products 406 adhesive and 770 primer. Ulf SMØNOR takes a shorter path and suggests the bondable Teflon sheet from Small Parts.

<http://www.lz1jz.com>



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Contact: John Crovelli W2GD

w2gd@hotmail.com

Phone: 908 391 5611 (Mobile)

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 25-26, 2011! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now available for download and include the complete rules (including a change for 2011), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations and a kit to publicize your event with the local press.

An article in the March 3 issue of the journal *Nature* purports to explain the extended sunspot minimum from 2008-2010. According to one of the authors, Piet Martens, the last time a sunspot minimum lasted twice as long as usual was around 1913 and before that, 1810. Although solar activity has increased recently, scientists have been puzzled by the lack of sunspots from 2008-2010. This quiet period had prevented the ionosphere from supporting much of the long-range higher frequency HF Amateur Radio communication that had been expected during the past few years. Read more here.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Time and Frequency Division is conducting a survey to learn more about its users, seeking to determine how the agency can make its services more useful in the future. NIST services include WWV, WWVH and WWVB, which provide reference time and frequency signals via radio. The NIST also provides the Internet Time Service -- which provides accurate time synchronization to computer systems -- and several other services to offer accurate time information via telephone or web pages. Radio amateurs are encouraged to complete the survey. Read more here.

New FRC Newsletter Advertising Fees

After extensive discussion, the following are the new **FRC** newsletter advertising fees effective with the May 2011 issue.

For individual amateurs:

Advertising is limited to \$ contributing FRC members only

Categories:

Amateur Radio related - non professional - sale of occasional item: FREE up to 1/4 page

Amateur Radio related - for profit (commercial) \$15 /month for 1/8 page

Non-Amateur Radio related (1/2 price) \$7.50 / month for 1/8 page

All other advertising:

Please contact the editor for rates

All current ads will cease effective with the May 2011 issue unless payment is received by the **FRC** treasurer to continue. All future ads must be paid for through the **FRC** treasurer before publication

73, Joe KQ3F

WRTC-2014 RECEIVES CONTRIBUTION FROM NCDXF, SEEKS INDIVIDUAL DONORS

WRTC 2014, Inc., host of the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship competition, is pleased to announce that it has received a significant financial contribution from the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF).

Fifty-nine (59) teams of top amateur radio contest operators from around the globe will travel to the New England area July 10-14, 2014 to compete in WRTC-2014. Participation is based on qualifying scores posted in major contests between 2010 and 2014. A group of referees and judges, themselves well known contest operators, will oversee the competition and confirm the results.

NCDXF Vice President, Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, explained the NCDXF decision. "There is a lot of overlap between contesting and DXing. Many of the participants in WRTC are also active DXers. Sponsorship for WRTC is an excellent opportunity to support contesting and promote the values of NCDXF to amateur radio operators around the world."

"We appreciate this early show of support from NCDXF," said Doug Grant, K1DG, Chairman of WRTC-2014. "We intend to follow the example set in previous WRTC competitions to provide a high level of competition on an unbiased playing field. In addition, we intend to use the event to promote amateur radio competition to a wider audience inside and outside the hobby."

To provide assistance with WRTC-2014 fund raising efforts, the Northern California DX Foundation has established a special account to receive tax-deductible donations of \$100 or more from individuals. Donations to this account should be made by checks payable to NCDXF, but with the notation "WRTC-2014," and mailed to the WRTC-2014 Fund, NCDXF, Rusty Epps W6OAT, 651 Handley Trail, Emerald Hills, CA 94062 USA.

For information on sponsorship, or for general information about WRTC-2014, contact WRTC Chairman, Doug Grant, K1DG, via e-mail at k1dg@wrtc2014.org.

About NCDXF

The Northern California DX Foundation is a private foundation as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It was founded in 1972 to assist worthwhile amateur radio and scientific projects with funding and equipment. NCDXF's funding comes entirely from voluntary contributions from members and friends, from grants from other foundations and organizations, and from investment income generated from the Foundation's initial \$250,000 endowment. NCDXF has supported over 500 DXpeditions, large and small. For the expensive "mega" DXpeditions, NCDXF is often the "anchor" sponsor and its grant often makes the difference in whether the DXpedition goes forward. For more information please visit www.ncdxf.org.

About WRTC 2014

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) is held every four years and consists of approximately 50 two-person teams of amateur radio operators competing in a test of operating skill. Unlike most on-the-air competitions, all stations are required to use identical antennas from the same geographic region, eliminating all variables except operating ability. Previous WRTCs have been held in Seattle (1990), San Francisco (1996), Slovenia (2000), Finland (2002), Brazil (2006), and Russia (2010). More information is available at www.wrtc2014.org.



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

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



Affiliated Club

The Frankford Radio Club

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Committee Chairman

Repeater, K3NL , Nick Leipold	610-449-8910
Packet, N3RD , Dave Hawes	610-935-2684
Activities, N3AD , Alan Donziger	610-581-7032
Awards, K2QM , Dan Marlow	609-683-5633
Membership	

Newsletter & Roster

Editor, KQ3F , Joe Stepansky	717-657-9792	Email: kq3f@comcast.net
Printing, AA3K , 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

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

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 k3ww.gofrc.org 7300
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