



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

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

July 2011:

- 9-10 IARU HF World Champ.
16-17 No. Am. QSO Party, RTTY
21 T.I.T.S. Meeting, Noon
26 REXY Meeting B, 8 PM
30-31 RSGB IOTA Contest

CHANGES

None this Month

**2011 FRC Fund Drive is
underway.**

Please see page 4.

Deadline for June issue:
Sunday, May 29, 2011

President's Column

Straight from the Radio Shack

April was an interesting month with baseball season underway, the weather getting better and a packed **FRC** meeting including an auction, elections, a great remote presentation by Jeff, **W2FU**, and a teaser start of a presentation by Alan, **N3AD**. The auction was popular with proceeds going to WRTC 2014 and some bargains had by those in attendance.

In the election department we now have two new officers with **W2GD** the new Vice President and **N3RD** the new Treasurer. Many thanks go to Dale, **N3BNA**, and Bob, **KQ2M**, for their service. In particular I would like to thank Bob for seven years of effort in the tough responsibility of Treasurer. Make sure you thank both Dale and Bob the next time you see them or run into them on the air.

Jeff's presentation on Green Heron Everywhere gave most of us ideas of what we can now do with less control wires and cables and more flexibility. This was a remote presentation which is one of the things we will try to expand on for future meetings. I don't want to cut down on the in person aspects of the meetings but maybe we can add a number of remote sites in different parts of the clubs geography and get multiple groups together. We will start to work on this for the meetings starting this fall. We will also look forward to the continuation of Alan's presentation on his multi week contest expedition at a future meeting.

Since the warmer weather is finally here it's time to:

- 1 – start work on antennas
- 2 – get ready for Dayton
- 3 – consider contributing to **FRC**

All of these are important! There are many ways to contribute to the club including scores, presentations at meetings, newsletter articles and monetary contributions. All are important and please try to be involved in all the ways that you can but now we are opening up our annual contribution drive so please consider making a monetary donation that you are comfortable with.

73, Ray K9RS

MEETINGS

Main meeting— May 10 at 7 PM, Inn at Towamencin, Lansdale.

T.I.T.S. meeting—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, May 19, 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, May 24..

Minutes from FRC Meeting April 12, 2011 (Lansdale)

Frankford Radio Club
General Meeting
12 April 2011

Meeting called to order by Ray K9RS

Round of introductions.

Auction, proceeds to be donated to WRTC 2014. (Stations at WRTC 2014 can be sponsored for \$1000 each, FRC is hoping to sponsor at least one station.)

Elections. Floor nominations N3RD for treasurer moved & seconded, W2GD for Vice President moved and seconded.

Officers elected: K9RS President, N3RD Treasurer W2GD Vice President AA3K Secretary

Presentation by N2FU on Green Heron products. Delivered remotely from his home QTH.

Preview of N3AD's three contests in three weeks presentation.

2011-2012 FRC Officers!!!

The April meeting featured the election of officers. The following have been elected for 2011-12:

President	K9RS , Ray Sokola
Vice President	W2GD , John Crovelli
Secretary	AA3K , Mark Kempisty
Treasurer	N3RD , Dave Hawes

Reprinted from the ARRL Contest Update

Although "hot switching" is usually a bad thing, RF switching relay contacts that are intermittent on receive can sometimes be temporarily restored that way. Tim K3LR suggests, "set (output power) at about 20 watts. Hot switch your relay box several times while transmitting a CW carrier. The small arcing that occurs while doing this "hot" switching - along with the wipe from the relay contact construction closure may clean the contacts well enough that the problem will subside during receive." You'll probably still have to manually clean or replace the relay but this procedure may provide temporary relief.

If you are concerned about abrasion of cables on a tower leg or rung, look for a product called Spiral Wrap which is normally used to tidy up cabling. Spiral wrap is perhaps a sixteenth of an inch thick plastic and can be wrapped around the offending material or the feed line to be protected then secured with electrical tape. (Thanks, Doug EI2CN)

If you've been wondering where the Ukrainian hams have gone, they've lost some HF frequencies lately - 10100-10150 kHz (all of the 30 meter band) and 14250-14350 kHz. They've also lost a fair amount of UHF and microwave spectrum. (Thanks, Alex UYØLL)

A method of increasing the efficiency of an inverted L or vertical antenna is to raise the point of maximum current well above ground as in this "Double L" antenna for 160 and 80 meters by K2LQ. The same idea could be applied to 80 and 40 meters. (Thanks, Rik van Riel)

Jim W7RY summarized some of the issues associated with dissimilar metals being used in amateur installations. "Copper should never touch galvanized material directly without proper joint protection. Water shedding from the copper contains ions that will wash away the galvanized (zinc) tower covering. Stainless steel can be used as a buffer material. However, be aware that stainless steel is not a very good conductor. If it is used as a buffer between copper and galvanized metals, the surface area of the contact should be large and the stainless steel should be thin. Joint compound should also be used to cover the connection so water cannot bridge between the dissimilar metals. This is why you want to use tinned wire (or suitable transition material) not bare copper when connecting to a galvanized tower."

Regular US rural type mail boxes are observed to work well for protecting outdoor gadgets as they have to seal well. The few drain holes let the water out so that they will protect most anything once the door is closed. (Thanks, Mike K5WMG)

Machinist's Workshop magazine tested penetrating oils for break-out torque on rusted nuts. They "scientifically rusted" nuts and bolts, treated them with various commercial penetrants and one home brew mixture, and then measured the torque required to remove them. The results?

- No penetrant - 516 pounds
- WD-40 - 238 pounds
- PB Blaster - 214 pounds
- Liquid Wrench - 127 pounds
- Kano Kroil - 106 pounds

A homebrew mix of automatic transmission fluid and acetone was also reported to have worked but that is disputed in several online discussions. (Thanks, Tim K3LR)

ARRL to Change Providers for Equipment Protection, Club Liability Insurance Plans

On May 1, 2011, the ARRL will begin a new partnership to provide its ARRL-sponsored Equipment Insurance and Club Liability Insurance plans. The League has signed an agreement with Hays Affinity Group to serve as the program administrator to provide equipment insurance to its members who choose to elect coverage. In addition, Hays will also provide club liability insurance to ARRL Affiliated Clubs for those clubs that wish to take advantage of that program. Hays will be replacing Marsh Affinity Group Services as the program's administrator and will be introducing new policies for both plans, underwritten by the Hanover Insurance Company.

Not only is equipment protection coverage through Hays Affinity Group slightly less expensive than with Marsh, it's easier to enroll in the plans. You can sign up online and even schedule your equipment online, too. With Hays Affinity Group, you can have all your radio equipment covered, even the computers, hard drives and printers in your shack. You can also elect to have coverage for your towers and antennas, up to \$15,000 replacement cost. All losses are settled on the replacement cost value you have stated for your equipment. In addition, any newly acquired equipment during the policy term, up to a value of \$2000, will be covered until your next policy renewal. All this -- and more -- with only a \$50 deductible.

Be assured, if you currently have equipment or club liability insurance provided through Marsh Affinity Group, your coverage will continue through the end of your current policy. But keep in mind that when your policy expires, your coverage will not automatically be switched over to Hays. You will need to enroll with Hays to continue coverage under an ARRL sponsored plan. If you wish to switch to either of the new insurance policies now, you will have to cancel your policy with Marsh and sign up with Hays, or wait until your policy with Marsh is due for renewal and then sign up with Hays for coverage. If you choose to cancel with Marsh before renewal, you will receive a pro-rated refund of any unused premium fees you have paid.

The ARRL has been providing opportunities for equipment insurance to its members for more than 25 years. By choosing to let Hays Affinity Group cover your equipment, you are helping to support the ARRL; a portion of each premium comes back to the League to help fund programs that enable you to enjoy your on-air privileges.

2011 FRC Fund Drive

The 2011 **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 N3RD.**
- 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: Dave Hawes, N3RD, 143 Camp Council Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460

Current 2011 Contributors

W3FVT	KQ2M	W2IRT
K2UT	W3EA	



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



Affiliated Club

The Frankford Radio Club

Club Officers

President, K9RS , Ray Sokola	215-257-2866	Email: k9rs@yahoo.com
Vice Pres, W2GD , John Crovelli		Email: w2gd@hotmail.com
Secretary, AA3K , Mark Kempisty	267-685-6303	Email: aa3k@arrl.net
Treasurer, N3RD , Dave Hawes.....		Email: n3rd@arrl.net

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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