



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

December 2011:

- 2-4 ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- 10-11 ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- 13 Main Meeting, 7 PM**
- 15 T.I.T.S Meeting, Noon**
- 17 OK DX RTTY Contest
- 17-18 Croation CW Contest
- 27 Remy Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 28 FRC Pizza Blast, Noon**

January 2012:

- 7-8 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 10 Main Meeting, 7 PM**
- 14-15 North Am. QSO Party, CW
- 19 T.I.T.S Meeting, Noon**
- 21-22 Hungarian DX Contest
- 21-22 North Am. QSO Party, SSB
- 24 Remy Meeting B, 8 PM**
- 28-29 CQ 160 Meter Contest, CW

February 2012:

- 4 No. Amer. Sprint, CW
- 4-5 Delaware QSO Party
- 11 No. Amer. Sprint, SSB
- 11-12 CQWW RTTY WPX Test
- 14 Main Meeting, 7 PM**
- 16 T.I.T.S Meeting, Noon**
- 18-19 ARRL DX Contest, CW**
- 24-26 CQ 160 Meter Contest, SSB
- 28 Remy Meeting B, 8 PM**

March 2012:

- 3-4 ARRL DX Contest, SSB**

CHANGES

New Email

W2YR—john@w2yr.com

Deadline for January issue:

Thursday, December 29, 2011

President's Column

Straight from the Radio Shack.....K 9 Radio Shack

CQ WW 2011 is now history other than log checking and adding up the scores. Thanks to all who put in an effort and particularly to all the expeditions. We lost a lot of points during SSB due to the freak snowstorm but looks like we had lots of activity overall and some really big scores as well as lots of great smaller scores. They all count and as we say EVERY POINT HELPS! Although there are plenty of other contests like 160M, 10M etc in the meantime the next big one for us is 2012 ARRL DX. It would be a good time to bring a new prospective member to the next few meetings as there is time to get some more signed up before ARRL DX.

Anyone using an LFA yagi yet? Take a look at the stuff G0KSC at <http://www.g0ksc.co.uk/> looks pretty interesting to me.

I hope we all get some station enhancements for presents over the holidays! Let's see a big turnout at the next meeting and the Pizza bash.

73 de K9RS



FRC Pizza Blast

This year's FRC Pizza Blast is 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, December 28. Location is the Crossroads Hotel, 1443 Main Street, Hellertown, PA. Contact Dave, W3MM, for more information.

Happy Holidays!!



MEETINGS

Main meeting—December 13 at 7 PM, Holiday Inn, Lansdale.

T.I.T.S. meeting—The Trexlertown International Transmitting Society meets on Thursday, December 15, 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, December 27.

FRC Pizza Blast—Wednesday, December 28 at noon at the Crossroads Hotel, Hellertown, PA.

FRCers in the news

Not sure what copyright rules allow me to do, but I'll just point everyone to a link. The article describes details of a radio donated by **FRC** to Matt Morrison, **KB3PSN**.

http://www.pennlive.com/perry-county-times/index.ssf/2011/07/young_ham_finds_words_are_gold.html

SK

Harry Burhans, W3FM



Bucks County, PA House with antennas for sale

7 year old 3K+ sq ft house on 4 acres in Bucks County PA, 4 Bedrooms, Office, walkout basement. Tower with permit and 160-6 with gain on all bands. Contest winning and outstanding DX performance. Less than \$500K to own a top station! email if you have serious interest. 73, Ray K9RS

You can see this ad in full at: <http://eham.net/classifieds/detail/360374>

FRC 2011 CQWW SSB CLAIMED SCORES

CALL	SCORE	CLASS	CALL	SCORE	CLASS
AA1K	6,066,360	A	W3SQ	834,822	MS
AA3B	5,185,523	AA	<i>Ops W3SQ, WA3IWC</i>		
AA3K	1,300,000	AA	W6XR	1,079,187	AA
AB3AH	129,876	LA	WA3F	1,504,044	A
AF3I	20,430	A	WP2Z	17,052,706	MM
K2AX	6,137,352	M2	<i>Ops W3FV, N2TK, WB3FIZ</i>		
<i>Ops K2AX, K3ZV, KV2M, KC2TN, N3KR, N1RK</i>			WW2DX	1,154,979	A
K2GN	1,573,614	AA	WW2Y	2,406,950	AA
K2QPN	449,962	AA	W2RD	1,457,450	AA
K3NM	2,044,686	AA	VP2MDG	13,752,960	M2
K3PP	4,468,960	AA	<i>Ops K2DM, AD4J, K3ZM, K6AAX, W4GKA</i>		
K3SWZ	31,044	28	W3BGN	1,700,000	A
K3WW	6,763,743	AA	AB2E	46,720	AA
K4IKM	721,672	A	N3RJ	165,600	A
K9RS	6,407,172	MS	W3IZ	457,704	A
<i>Ops K9RS, W2ID, VU2PTT, N8NA, N3DXX</i>			NE3F	5,455,182	MM
KA2AEV	12,261	AA	<i>Ops NE3F, KS3F, N3OW, K3ATO, NT3V, NB3R, N3QO</i>		
N1IBM	1,333,343	AA	K3LR	37,293,465	MM
N2MM	5,375,300	AA	<i>Ops K3LR, N2NC, N5UM, W3TX, WM2H, W2RQ, W5OV, K3LA, K8CX, N2NT, KIAR, N3SD, K3UA, DL6LAU, N3GJ, LU7D</i>		
N2RJ	1,840,816	A	K3IPK	1,560,306	AA
N2SR	3,185,952	AA	N2VW	1,063,944	AA
N3MX	2,197,245	AA	K3VA	209,293	A
N3NR	645,246	AA	W3EA	212,962	AA
N3RS	6,068,252	M2	KQ2M	1,510,548	A
<i>Ops N3RS, N3RD, N3NA, K3WI, W3CF, WA3LRO</i>			WE3C	20,541,094	MM
N3ZA	1,915,564	AA	<i>Ops WE3C, NN3Q, KQ3V, KQ3F, K3CT</i>		
NA2U	1,931,952	MM	N2VM	30,900	A
<i>Ops NA2U, K2TTT</i>			W2CG	513,150	MS
NK3Y	454,860	AA	<i>Ops W2CG, W2EN</i>		
NW3H	602,206	AA			
P40W	15,086,624	A			
<i>Op W2GD</i>					
PJ4T	26,230,873	M2			
<i>Ops K2NG, N3BNA, LU2FA, LU1FAM, LU8ADX, JH5G</i>					
VE2DXY	4,372,688	MS			
<i>Ops KD3TB, KD3RF, K3FMQ, KE3C</i>					
W1GD	4,304,140	AA			
W2IRT	1,180,872	AA			
W2LE	300,328	AA			
W2RE	9,267,020	AA			
W2YC	3,690,564	MS			
<i>Ops W2YC, N2CQ, WA2TML</i>					
W2YR	1,751,648	AA			
W3FVT	50,419	A			
W3GM	1,565,993	AA			
<i>Ops K3ND</i>					
W3KB	1,523,929	LA			
W3MF	3,170,447	MS			
<i>Ops W3MF, K3PH</i>					

Send any corrections to **K3WW**.

Deadline for CQWW CW logs is Wednesday, December 21, 2011.

Reprinted from the ARRL Contest Update

The [Contesting Wiki](#) continues to grow and contains a wide source of hints, tips, kinks, and narrative. This is a great resource for those learning about radiosport. For those more experienced in the ways and means of contesting, consider lending some of your expertise to the site, as well! (Thanks, Hans KØHB)

How to get that deeply-buried PL-259 loosened? With so many cables and connectors packed into a station, it can be almost impossible to turn the shell of a PL-259 in the midst of a packed panel. Several readers have contributed ideas but the best I found involve a tool for the purpose. Mike W3MC and Mark N1UK recommend the Knipex "[Micro Cobra](#)" style pliers, nylon-jawed if you can find them. Your editor has found that [heavy-duty spark plug boot pullers](#) also work and are available at a local auto-parts store. These can turn not only the UHF shells but N, BNC, and even F!

Tree N6TR has been fixing his Tailtwister with a new-style brake wedge. He developed this handy [how-to guide](#) for other rotator repair-ers.

FRCer Brings Home Gold at 2011 High Speed Telegraphy World Championships



Kody Low, K3ODY, Kennan Low, KE3X, and Barry Kutner, W2UP, represented the US at the Ninth High Speed Telegraphy IARU World Championship last month in Bielefeld, Germany. Kutner also took the first-ever gold medal won by a non-European in the pileup competition. [Photo courtesy of Barry Kutner, W2UP]

Back in September 1936, Eugene A. Hubbell, W9ERU, took home the silver trophy at what the October 1936 issue of QST called the first official "Amateur Code Speed Contest." Only making one error, Hubbell won first prize with his winning speed of receiving 52.2 words per minute. Held at the ARRL Central Division Convention that year, the contest required operators to decipher plain language text at two minute intervals that ranged in speed from 25 to 52.7 words per minute. But things have changed since Hubbell made history. Today, individuals all over the world compete in High Speed Telegraphy (HST) events where they are challenged to correctly receive and copy Morse code transmissions sent at very high speeds, upwards of 300 characters a minute.

According to Barry Kutner, **W2UP**, HST has long been considered a sport in Europe, especially Eastern Europe, similar to chess or an Olympic sport. This year, Team USA -- consisting of Kutner, Kennan Low, KE3X, and Kody Low, K3ODY - placed 10th at the Ninth High Speed Telegraphy IARU World Championship in Bielefeld, Germany this past October. Kutner won a gold medal -- the first in HST history to a non-European -- in the pileup competition, and a bronze medal in the RUFZ competition.

CQWW SSB in a Blizzard

By Bob Shohet, KQ2M

There was a lot of damage in western Connecticut after Hurricane Irene in late August, so I was not prepared to do a major single op effort. My health has been erratic as well, adding to the uncertainty. However, even with a promised October snowstorm(!) on the way, I was not going to miss this weekend.

With major issues on 20 and 15 and no low band antennas, my strategy was to see how the first hour was on 20 then go to sleep and get up early. At 5 AM, the National Weather Service upped their forecast to 8"-14" inches of snow for Newtown, CT. I have lived here for 18 years and have NEVER seen snow in October; but now they were predicting a major snowstorm! CQWW Phone has traditionally been a MAGNET for violent Nor'easters over the past 30 years, so I wasn't complete surprised. However, with 80+% of the leaves still on the trees, this amount of wet snow would be disastrous, actually causing worse damage than Hurricane Irene did.

I started on 15 @ 1030z and most of Europe CQ'd in my face. Found a decent freq. and at 1054z, with a few flecks of light in the sky, the band EXPLODED! Absolutely astonishing rate that did NOT let up! The last 10 rate quickly soared into the 350+ range, then moved into the 400+ range and continued to climb! At 1119z, Marko, ZD8O called in - Marko ON5ZO, was the referee of my WRTC team (with W7WA) in WRTC 2002 in Finland. At 1129 RV9WB called in with RA9FEL at 1131z (Z17). EX8ML followed at 1142 and RV9UP in z18 @ 1145z. The 11z was 251! At 1207z UN9PQ called followed by HS0ZEE at 1209z and YB0COX @ 1217z, VK6GR @ 1229z and YB1AQD @ 1257z. At 1224z the last 10 rate was 450.0 and at 1233z, the last 100 rate was 315.2!! The 12z hour was 208! Only once before did I have back to back 200+ hours in a SSB DX contest from stateside, but things were only just warming up!

The 13z hour got rolling with TF3CY @ 1304z, A61EE @ 1305z and VU3DJQ @ 1306z! WOW! CN8VO followed @ 1309z, with YE2R @ 1312z and YC2FAJ @ 1314z I couldn't believe the volume of callers and how fast I was able to work them. At 1325z I qsy'ed to 10, found a good spot and all hell broke loose! 5Z4EE called in @ 1326z - barely audible in the din of EU callers. R9WS and RV9WP (z17) followed at 1330z and 1332z Now the rate really soared to numbers that I could only imagine: I was working 6-7 per minute consistently, with 1351z and 1352z back-to-back 7 qso minutes! Again, a first for me from stateside. At 1352z the last 10 rate was 529.4!! and the last 100 rate was 316.9!! The spectacular 13z hour was 274! 14z continued the tremendous rate with A65EE calling in @ 1423z and HZ1PS @ 1435z.

At 1439z the snow started. The temp was about 33 degrees but the snow was so thick and fast, that there was no time to melt. It started to accumulate immediately and the snow static became a small roar. Fortunately the EU signals were still loud, but it was getting progressively harder to pull them out from the relentless roar of the snow static as it built to well over S9. 14z ended as a 235 hour, making it the first time that I have ever had 4 straight 200+ hours from stateside!

Not to be outdone, the snowstorm rapidly turned into a blizzard with 3"+ per hour snowfall rates and wind gusts into the 30 mph range. 10 meters continued to crank in the 15z hour with ZA1E and CN8VO both calling in at 1525z, and ZS2NF, GZ5Y and 5N7M calling in @ 1548-9z. 15z ended as a 164 hour, as the snow static got louder, the power blips were becoming more common, often tripping the breaker on the amp. causing me to run barefoot for a few minutes.

The NWS continued to upgrade the forecast, now predicting 10" - 15" inches of snow, and on weather radar, some very intense yellow/brown (4"+ per hour) snow bands were setting up over my QTH. The end of the contest was now inevitable, the only question was when? 16z continued the great rates but it was getting more and more difficult to copy anything. IG9/I2ADN called in @ 1633z followed by Robert, ST2AR @ 1637z and GT8IOM at 1651z. 16z ended with a 159 hour, which felt very slow compared to earlier in the morning. 10 was fading but with such heavy snow static I knew that 15 would be useless. Nothing to do but ride 10 until there was nothing left.

The snow reintensified at 17z with more yellow bands on the radar. Visibility was under 50' without the wind, and with wind gusts approached whiteout conditions. It was January in October, and fully leaved branches and trees started to snap from the weight of the heavy snow, now frozen as the temp. dropped into the 20's at 1 PM!

17z started with the EU stations getting weaker and more and more often buried beneath the snow static. I tried different

FRC MEMBER SUBMISSION

combos of antennas, changing antenna headings, and every conceivable combination of filtering with and without the Notch, AF gain and IPO on my FT1000MP, to little avail. at 1722z, AL1G called in at his sunrise! Something I have only seen with top of the cycle conditions. 5H3EE called in @ 1737z and at 1753z I lost the amp for the 4th time. I couldn't copy on 10 anymore but had a 162 hour even though I operated only 53 minutes! I left 10 with 924 QSOs in 4.6 hours for a rate of 200/hr!!! Truly incredible!

Ordinarily I would expect to run on 15, but 15 was utterly useless. With a full-scale blizzard raging outside!, the snow static on 15 was s9+20 regardless of anything that I tried. Nothing to do but go to 20. I found a good freq. between 2 M/M stations and let it rip. Lots of 6 minutes followed as the power blips got angrier and became more numerous. The radar was all yellow over my QTH and the snow continued its record pace - determined to outdo the QSO rates that I was experiencing. Although the snow static was ferocious on 20 (but better than the deafening roar on 15), the EU Multi's were super loud and I able to pick them out.

The 18z hour was 206 and VK3CTN longpath called in @ 1841z. 19z started with SX5P calling in @ 1905z, followed by ZM4M at 1915. GD3YUM followed at 1928 and 3V8SS was worked at 1939z. I kept losing the amp. and at 1949z I lost power. I worked the last few stations with no amp, no power, no lights and the FT1000MP barefoot on an uninterruptible power supply. I said KQ2M QRT and shut the radio off.

I went upstairs and it was quite dark even though it was only 3:49 PM. There was 9" of snow on the ground and the temperature had fallen to 20 degrees! I know that there are areas of the country where this type of storm might only be a minor "event" on October 29th, but here in western Connecticut, an October blizzard, is a truly "off-the-scale" event and from what I have heard, it was the first ever recorded! Broken trees were already blocking my driveway and now the power and cable lines had just been ripped from the side of my house by falling trees. During the night, the storm raged and about 1 AM, with more than a foot of snow on the ground, one extremely large tree starting leaning dangerously toward our house. I woke my XYL and daughter and we moved to the downstairs just in case the big tree snapped and hit our house. Fortunately it didn't and early the next morning, I went out and chain sawed 15 trees out of my driveway so that I could get the snowplow in.

There was no heat, electricity, cable or cell phones. We were totally cut off. Later I found out that Newtown, CT had more than 170 power lines down with more than 2/3 of our roads impassable. It took five full days before EMS could finally reach all the homes and up to 12 days for some streets to get their power back. The power grid, cable and communications of this part of Connecticut was almost totally destroyed and took two weeks to rebuild (they are still rebuilding it even now) with the help of crews from 23 different states! I did not have cable/internet/email for 2 full weeks, and before the power could be restored, it took a crew from Michigan to clear the road of the trees and Central Maine power, who restored my electric, had to cut down an additional 15 trees on my property. As expected, the local utilities, CL & P (Northeast Utilities), ATT and Charter communications, learned NOTHING from the damage that Hurricane Irene had caused exactly two months before, so they were even more unprepared for the extreme devastation that this epic storm caused. I will try to post some pictures on my website www.kq2m.com in the next few weeks.

Back to the contest, it was truly incredible to experience 200+ hour rates for the 9 hours that I operated on Saturday morning/afternoon. I can only imagine what I would have been able to do with a full working station, the incredible conditions and activity and without the vicious weather. I had never seen rates like this from stateside in 35+ years of operating contests! I thank all the stations for the QSOs and all the DX stations and Dxpeditons for the wonderful mults! What a blast, even though it was cut quite short by an equally unbelievable blizzard that dropped 20" of snow on my hill! Unfortunately my antennas/rotators did sustain damage from the heavy wet snow that iced up and then "grew" in size as the additional wet snow stuck to it, mushrooming the size and weight of the accumulations. I will be on but not seriously. Too much antenna work to do and too much of other "real-life" to catch up as well.



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

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 Holiday Inn 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

Telnet DX Cluster

k2ut.gofrc.org
 k3ww.gofrc.org 7300
 wt3q.gofrc.org 7300
 tuacluster.no-ip.org:23