



THE FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

PROFICIENCY THROUGH COMPETITION

CALENDAR

March 2012:

- 3-4** ARRL DX Contest, SSB
- 13** Main Meeting, 7 PM
- 15** T.I.T.S Meeting, Noon
- 17-19 BARTG HF RTTY Test
- 17-18 Russian DX Contest
- 24-25 CQ WPX Contest, SSB
- 27** REXY Meeting B, 8 PM

April 2012:

- 7-8 SP DX Contest
- 10** Main Meeting, 7 PM
- 19** T.I.T.S Meeting, Noon
- 21-22 YU DX Contest
- 24** REXY Meeting B, 8 PM
- 28-29 Helvetia Contest
- 28-29 Florida QSO Party

May 2012:

- 8** Main Meeting, 7 PM
- 12-13 CQ-M DX Contest
- 12-13 Volta WW RTTY Contest
- 17** T.I.T.S Meeting, Noon
- 22** REXY Meeting B, 8 PM
- 26-27 CQ WPX Contest, CW

CHANGES

None this month

Deadline for April issue:

Sunday, March 25, 2012

President's Column

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

Another contest season is over

Conditions for both of the ARRL contests were pretty disappointing particularly on 10 meters. I know I was expecting big things but no such luck in the ARRL tests this year. Still plenty of great **FRC** efforts both big and small...they all count! We will have to see how all the scores add up. The only thing we can do now is get the scores submitted and then get ready for next year! It may seem like next year is a long time off but now is the time to plan to go on a contest expedition or get started on planning antenna or other station improvements.

Club elections

It is time for elections and while the other officers are standing for re-election I will be stepping down after two years.

Thanks

Thanks to all for lots of help but particularly to- The other officers during my time which included **N3BNA**, **KQ2M**, **N3RD**, **AA3K** and **W2GD**. **K3NL** for the effort unwinding the repeater which has really improved our financial situation going forward. **K3WW** for continuous support in many ways. **W3CF** for organizing the meeting location. **N3AD** and **N3ZA** for nominating efforts. I can't say enough about two other people who both spent many hours on the newsletter and web site, **KQ3F** and **K2GN**. Joe and Larry have both done a great job for the club and deserve much thanks from all of us! I also want to make special mention of those members that have held **FRC** picnics which have included **K2AX**, **N3RD** and **W2DLT**. Thanks also to everyone who contributed newsletter articles, presentations at meetings and most important of all...SCORES!!!!

I am sure that I unintentionally left some out, forgive me if I missed mentioning you and I will try to make up for it.

Let's keep moving **FRC** ahead. Support the new leadership with an increase in participation...present at a meeting...write for the newsletter...contribute with antenna help for members...contribute with donations of \$ or equipment. The club will be better off if we all do something to contribute.

73 and GO FRC, K9RS

MEETINGS

Main meeting—March 13 at 7 PM, Holiday Inn, Lansdale. Phil K3TUF will give a tower safety presentation at the FRC meeting in April. He will also give this same presentation at the antennat forum at Dayton. More details available from him: phil@k3tuf.com

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

FRC Member Accomplishments

In the 15 meter SOSB High Power Unassisted category:

KQ2M finished #1 US and #4 World with 3 NEW US records! :-)

New 15 meter SOSB High Power Unassisted US Record 9,591,670

New US Single Band Record for qso's 3,006

New US Single Band Record for mults 1,210



Newsletter Editor Wanted

After 13 years of editing the newsletter, missing two issues (I think), I've decided to step down as **FRC** newsletter editor.

When I took over from **K3WW**, I had little idea what I was doing and virtually no artistic ability. I don't think much has changed over the years. So if I can do it, most anyone can do it.

I'm going to continue editing the newsletter through the August issue, or sooner if we find a replacement before then.

If you're interested, or know someone who is, my contact information is on the last page. I'm not sure the editor has to be a club member or even a ham, but others may have different feelings about that.

73, Joe KQ3F

New Ontario Sections

On February 6, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) issued a statement on their website that the Ontario Section would be split into four new RAC Administrative Sections, effective September 1, 2012. The reason given for the restructure was "...to create a management model that better communicates with, and represents the interests of, the overall Ontario Amateur population." The Ontario Section will be dissolved and be replaced with four new RAC Sections: Ontario North, Ontario South, Ontario East and the Greater Toronto Area. The new section abbreviations will be announced when final.

This new change will affect ARRL contests and Field Day in the following ways:

- ◆ For ARRL contests that use ARRL/RAC sections as multipliers -- the ARRL November Sweepstakes and the ARRL 160 Meter Contest -- there will be an overall increase of three available multipliers.
- ◆ ARRL contests that use US states and Canadian provinces as multipliers -- the ARRL RTTY Roundup, the ARRL International DX Contest and the ARRL 10 Meter Contest -- are unaffected by this change. ARRL VHF+ contests and the IARU HF Championships are also unaffected by this change.
- ◆ The first contest to be affected by the RAC administrative change will be the 2012 ARRL November Sweepstakes, which will now require 83 multipliers to achieve a Clean Sweep.
- ◆ ARRL Field Day does not use multipliers, but Ontario stations will send new Section abbreviations as part of their exchanges.

New Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Elected

After serving more than 11 years as Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager, Eric Olena, WB3FPL, of Mohnton, decided not to run for another term. Three hams threw their hats into the ring, vying to become the new Section Manager: Robert B. Famiglio, K3RF, of Media; Phil Theis, K3TUF, of Ephrata, and Andrew Shecktor, N3OMA, of Berwick. With 590 votes, Famiglio was declared the victor. Theis received 574 votes and Shecktor received 154 votes.

Famiglio -- an ARRL Life Member -- has been an active radio amateur for 44 years. He has served as ARES First District Emergency Coordinator for the last six years and as an ARRL Atlantic Division Volunteer Counsel for more than 25 years.

DXCC Entity Deleted

According to the Finnish Ministry of Transportation and Communication, the Saimaa Canal Treaty between Finland and Russia has been finalized by relevant Finnish and Russian authorities through ratification.

The Treaty has entered into effect with a date of February 17, 2012.

Malyj Vysotskij Island (MVI), R1M, is no longer included in the Treaty. Thus, MVI will be deleted from the DXCC list as of February 17, 2012, and added to the Deleted Entities List.

Administratively at HQ, we will not make the necessary changes to the DXCC system until after the final data processing for 2011 is complete -- this includes the tables shown in Logbook of The World.

DXCC members will see their current entity totals drop by one on their Mixed awards, and on the bands and modes where MVI credit is given. They will also see their DXCC Challenge totals drop commensurately.

Reprinted from the ARRL Contest Update

Making a lot of award-chasing contesters happy, the ARRL's [Logbook of the World](#) program (LOTW) will soon support CQ-sponsored operating awards. Announced on January 24th by ARRL COO Harold Kramer WJ1B and CQ Communications President Dick Ross K2MGA, the first award to be supported will be CQ WPX with a target date of April 1st, 2012. (No joke!) Standard LOTW and CQ award fees will still apply. As ARRL CEO Dave Sumner K1ZZ observes, "LoTW has significantly increased interest and participation in the ARRL's DXCC, Worked All States and VUCC awards programs. We anticipate a similarly positive response to the addition of the CQ WPX award. Amateurs will be able to spend more time operating and less time chasing QSL cards." Amen to that!

More HF activity from Thailand is expected soon, at least partially due to the effective emergency search and rescue communications provided by Thai hams during the recent severe floods in that country. According to Fred K3ZO, "Effective immediately Thai authorities have announced that any Thai ham holding a US General Class or Extra Class license can apply to have their Thai license upgraded to Thai Intermediate Class which means they will have HF privileges. Thai authorities have also granted permission for the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand to conduct a Thai Intermediate Class examination on May 19. This will be the first time in nine years that this examination has been offered. The Intermediate Class license affords HF privileges with 200 watts power." This is good news to DXers and contesters - a tip of the cap to the Thai hams for an emergency communications job well done!

The late G4FGQ created a number of useful [calculator utility programs](#) such as this [radial calculator](#) that includes the conductivity of the soil. With it you can begin to answer the question, "How many ground mounted radials do I need and how long do they need to be?" All such calculators are a model and probably deviate from an exact simulation but you can get an idea of what might work. Another tack is to vary the radial *length* but keep the number of radials constant. (Thanks, Bob N6TV)

Here's a great resource for planning your contest weekend and tracking down the "who's who?". [Bill NG3K](#) has been tracking upcoming contest expeditions and provides many other resources on his "one-stop-shop" website.

How are we doin' on that solar cycle? This [graph of sunspot indices](#) shows long- and short-term variations in the cycle. It looks like a lot of up-and-down, which is typical of a cycle starting out. (Thanks, Mike W4EF)

Also drawing closer is the summer thunderstorm season here in the US. This would be a great time to spend a few hours in a National Weather Service (NWS) [SKYWARN training session](#). Even with the advances in Doppler radar and other monitoring marvels, the NWS relies on the eyes and instruments of observers. Contesters make great weather spotters, too, being accustomed to exchanging information accurately and efficiently. Here's a great way to put your talents to work for your community - especially younger hams looking for a way to make meaningful contributions.

Here's an interesting [remote rig control interface](#) based on the iPad. It also logs your contacts! (Thanks, Brian K1BRF)

Jim AD1C has released version 3.1 of [PASS](#) - a program to analyze passing stations from band-to-band during contests. This version includes pass_win.exe which will work from a command prompt under Window 7/Vista as well as Windows XP.

Check out the [soapbox comments](#) collected from 3830 postings for recent contests by Dink N7WA. Great reading and an excellent way to get prepared for the next contest!

Who was loudest? Who was spotted the most on all the bands? Pete N4ZR reports that Bob N6TV has prepared a package of statistics from the recent ARRL DX CW contest. They are now posted on the [Reverse Beacon Network blog](#).

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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 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

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 k3ww.gofrc.org 7300
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