

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

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Thursday, June 1 This Month's Meeting

Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ will have a presentation on "An Introduction to the DXLab Suite of Free Software for the DX'er" Check it out here: www.dxlabsuite.com

Submitting Material to the Circuit

Material may be submitted for publication by sending it directly to the editor. This can be done by US Mail, or via the Internet (preferred). The deadline for each issue is the **Wednesday**, one week before the monthly meeting.

by mail

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President's Message

Well, it certainly has been an active year for FARA! We have had some wonderful speakers, not to mention a successful flea market, license in a weekend, and bash at WCVB. Thanks to all of you who have participated to make this an entertaining and fulfilling club season!

Our June 1st meeting will feature Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ who will have a presentation on "An Introduction to the DX Lab Suite of Free Software for the DX'er". Dave has developed this software himself to aid DXers. Go to Dave's website at www.dxlabsuite.com to get a preview of Dave's talk. We will also have elections for next year's officers.

As you probably know by now, we will be having Field Day with the Wellesley Club on June 24 and 25 at Memorial Park in Needham. This will be more of a low key, social event, so drop by to operate and meet new hams and enjoy what I am told will be a great dinner on Saturday night! This is a great opportunity for us to showcase our EMCOMM capabilities to the public. There will also be other FARA and Ham activities throughout the summer which will be publicized on the Reflector.

Feel free to email me with any suggestions you may have for speakers and activities. The strength of the club lies in its membership, so don't be shy!

This will be the last issue of the "Circuit" until September. I wish to thank Robert, N1UVA for his outstanding job as editor, and to all of you who contributed to its success.

Have a great summer and 73!

Gordy K1GB

Support Your Radio Club

By Sumner, W1VIV

Gordy, our President, works very hard arranging good speakers and programs for our monthly meetings. Yet, attendance seems to be dropping off noticeably. Can you spare one evening per month to enjoy meeting with your fellow hams and perhaps even learn something new? Thursday, June 1, is our last meeting until September. Gordy has arranged an excellent program for you. Put the date on your calendar. Let's end the season with a really great turnout!

Rick Zach Goes to Dayton HamVention 2006

By Rick, K1RJZ

The full text and many more photos can be found here:

<http://www.gemoto.com/dayton06/>

2006 represented my first visit to Dayton in 18 years. Some things have changed and others have not but for all practical purposes, my Hamvention reorientation was that of a newbie. I will detail the cast of characters after we get started. I would visit Dayton again in a heartbeat but I do feel obligated to mention a few gotchas.



Logistics: Hotels

Perhaps by luck, a number of us stayed in the town of Huber Heights and we would repeat that choice in future years. Huber Heights is only a few miles north of the Dayton Hamvention but more importantly, the restaurants are not overcrowded and many economical hotels are available.

One word of caution: If you are a non-smoker, avoid the Super-8 Hotel in Huber Heights! I asked for a non-smoking room but the room and furniture were saturated with the stench of old smoke. Turning on the air conditioner only spewed a different odor now enhanced by smoked dust. The white smoke detector in the ceiling was stained with an amber discoloration. I asked for another room but was told that what I had was all that was available and that the smokers were, in fact, on the far side of the hallway. I always kept the window open but it only helped a little. Other participants stayed at the nearby Huber Heights Days Inn and were quite happy with their accommodations. If you avoid the Super-8 Hotel in Huber Heights on your next trip to the Hamvention, I will consider my time spent writing this narration as a humanitarian effort!

Logistics: Parking

The Hamvention has grown so large that the organizers provide no on-site parking for ordinary participants. Zero. If you are

a flea market vendor, inside exhibitor, volunteer or have special ADA needs, you can be accommodated with on-site parking. According to the printed brochure that you receive once inside, you can park for free at the Salem Mall and then take a for-fee shuttle bus. Unfortunately, the printed brochure does not tell you where the Salem Mall is located. The web site might have helped but I was too far into the parking process for the web to be of any use. For \$8.00 many ordinary participants park in a huge field across the street from the HARA Arena but it seems that the organizers (DARA) and the lot operators do not communicate. When you take the long walk to enter the HARA area's only entrance by foot, absolutely no signs provide you with the most basic orientation such as where to purchase tickets and where to enter the buildings! To be sure, I checked by looking back on my last departure and there was no orientation signage! Many golf carts can be seen scampering about but one would assume that this service is for VIP's or attendees with special ADA needs. I walked into the first door I could find but was told to walk to the main entrance which was on the far, far side of the grounds. I now walked past the area where my car was parked but I was now on the other side of two fences that straddled the same road.

I later found out that the golf cart service was available to all incoming participants but that was never communicated by fixed signs or welcome hosts. Ironic for a communications-oriented group! This may be an indication that due to the age and heritage of this magnificent event, DARA may just expect that these issues are common knowledge and they may be common knowledge for most longtime participants. But for a newbie or returnee after an 18 year hiatus, the first impressions could use some work.

Overall experience:

Now that we've dealt with the gotchas, the overall Hamvention experience was excellent! It is unbelievable that a bunch of volunteers can run such a phenomenally

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Sunday Net Control Schedule

W1NXC	6/4	7/16	8/27
K1GB	6/11	7/23	9/3
W1NAU	6/18	7/30	9/10
WA1R	6/25	8/6	
W1EQW	7/2	8/13	
W1VIV	7/9	8/20	



FARA Email Reflector

If you have email and aren't signed up for the FARA email reflector, you're missing out on the last-minute news and updates. To sign up, send an email to Sharon at kc1yr@kc1yr.com requesting her to add you to the reflector.

Shopping Online?

Use fara.org/amazon and help out the club. FARA receives a small percentage of your order.

Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)

Regular FARA \$15

Student / Retired \$10

Repeater (voluntary) \$10

successful and complex event. DARA wisely chose to have the outside food concessions be operated by local non-profit organizations. As opposed to the zombie stare found at most airport food concessions, the people who staffed the food areas were excited to be there and were quite friendly. I have no idea how many vendors exhibited in the flea market but it was easily several hundred. Contrary to some well known laws of physics and earth science, this HamVention was rain-free!

The 2006 ARRL Expo was also on-site. My only regret was that I was so enthralled with the flea market and exhibitor booths that I was not able to dedicate enough time to the ARRL activities. That was my fault, not DARA's. Too much to see, too much to do.

Nowhere on the planet could one find such a depth and breadth of ham radio exhibitors and flea market vendors... and shall we say "eclectic" participants. Only weeks earlier one could see a person at the NAB Broadcasters convention in Las Vegas dressed-up in a pin-striped suit signing

multi-million dollar purchase orders. Three weeks later the same engineering executive can be seen dressed up in sneakers, dusty jeans and a baseball cap with his call sign on the front. But now he spends his time haggling over the price of a well-used microphone found in the bottom of a cardboard box!

Many, but not all attendees seem to be employed in some sort of technology field. At the extreme, some attendees might be members of the Ted Kazinski Amateur Radio Club. Others in our group noticed what may be an increase of husband and wife ham attendees and many of the couples seem to be retired folks. In the parking lot, we noticed far more vehicles with huge HF antennas. This might be more of a mid-west trend (no parking garages) or perhaps the Hamvention attracts the hard-core ham and having a huge vehicular antenna is not such a big deal.

Hams tend to be a pretty trustworthy bunch. On Friday I did misplace a bag with a precious Kenwood purchase. On

Saturday morning, the bag was ready to pick up at lost and found. It was returned by a ham who was a Professor/PhD from the University of Miami. Now if I can find his misplaced business card!



FARA Horizons

- June 1: Club Meeting
- June 24-25: Field Day

This month's Circuit sponsored by:

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Meeting: Club meetings are normally held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the basement of the Danforth Museum, on Lexington St.

Club Nets: FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.75/147.15 - social/chat, ARES preparedness

Club Station: W1FY, the club station and shack, is open Saturday mornings from 8:30-12:00. Call the club number, 879-8097 to confirm.

Club Web Site: <http://www.fara.org>