

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

February 2007, Vol. 74, No. 2

## In This Issue

President's Message

FARA Scholarship 2007

*Page 2-*

Not just laptops  
by Donna Schabiague, KB6FOT

*Page 3-*

Spring Flea Market

FARA Horizons

and more...

## Thursday, Feb 1 This Month's Meeting

Sumner, W1VIV will speak about how to sell your ham gear on EBAY!

## 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**  
Robert Hess, N1UVA  
1175 Farmington Ave 3-204  
Bristol, CT  
06010

**by internet**  
circuit@fara.org

## President's Message

Happy February! We had a nice turnout for our Show and Tell/QLF Contest. Congrats to Neil, K1NDF and Fran, KA4FRH for being our top two QLF'ers! We will also be running a QLF contest as part of our flea market on April 1. at Keefe Tech. Speaking about the flea, our flea market chairperson, Steve, KB1NIV is doing a super job, however, he cannot do it all. Now is the time to start thinking about lending a hand (or two!) for the flea market as it is only two months away. We need people to help sellers moving their gear, checking in sellers, taking money from buyers, and for clean up. We had a great response from our members last year, and we know you will do the same again. In addition to the great feeling you will have for helping your club, you will also get a free coffee and donut!

Our February 1 meeting will feature our own Sumner, W1VIV speaking on "How to Sell Ham Gear on EBAY". If you have never sold gear on EBAY, but would like to know how, Sumner is the expert as he's had a lot of experience. This will also be the first time we will be using our new projector we approved to purchase.

Don't forget about License in a Weekend on March 16, 17 and 18. If you know anyone who would be interested in getting their Tech License, Ed, W1NXC's class has been proven to be extremely successful. Also, we have a limited number of FREE slots to Boy and Girl Scouts for the course.

Finally, I will be making an announcement at the meeting about a club activity I know you will all enjoy. Let's keep up the great attendance we've been having at FARA meetings this season...the enthusiasm is contagious!

73, Gordy K1GB

## FARA Scholarship 2007

Must be a FARA member and a licensed Ham Radio operator.

The must have been active member of FARA.

The dead line for submitting applications is April 15, 2007.

Preference will be given to graduating high school seniors.

For an application contact Richard Cosma AA1VI at 508 877 8241.

## License in a Weekend Class Mar 16, 17, 18

This will be the **FIRST** class after the FCC dropped the code requirement. This means those who pass the Tech exam on Sunday Mar 18, will have all the HF privileges previously available **ONLY** to those who passed a code test. We may have a crowd!

**Reminder: Registration closes Feb 15, 2007**

## Not just laptops

by Donna Sehabiague, KB6FOT

*From the West Coast bureau!...originally printed in the November, 2006 SBE 43 Newsletter*

By now I'm sure everyone has heard about exploding laptop batteries. But I want you to know that it's not just limited to laptops. Amateur radio batteries have the same problem, apparently. I just bought a new battery for my radio. Been using it about a week or so.

Yes, I am an amateur radio operator. I have a handheld radio that I use every day. I check in with my dad every morning on the way to work.

So, today I'm driving to work, doing about 70mph in the fast lane. I smell something kind of like what you smell the first time you start up your furnace for the winter. Now, I have the defroster running, but it's been going for a half hour or more, so that's not it. And it doesn't smell like someone's fireplace. Hmmmm, maybe there's a grass fire nearby? ..... BANG!!! Something really loud just happened and my right leg hurts. I look to my right, and see that my handheld radio is on fire! OK, no shoulder on the left, on go the emergency flashers and I cut across 3 lanes of traffic and way over onto the right shoulder.

Now, the radio is burning pretty good. I need to get it out of here. I open the door

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

Feb: Sumner, W1VIV, on using EBAY to sell ham gear.

March: Leo Burke, KA1LN on batteries

March 14: FARA VE Session

March 16, 17, 18: LICENSE IN A WEEKEND!

April 1: FARA FLEA MARKET AT KEEFE TECH!

April: Pizza party (SECOND Thursday of the month meeting).

May: Rick Cantin, AA1TI Field Day presentation

June: Ray Bintliff, W1RY on Antique Radio and election of officers.

June 23, 24: FIELD DAY!

and try to throw it out. And that's when I realize that it is tethered to my truck by the antenna cable. This is by far the scariest part of the whole event. I somehow manage to disconnect the antenna without catching either myself or the truck on fire. I don't really want to throw the radio, so I set it on the running board. At this point the battery has melted enough that it disengages from the radio on its own, and falls to the ground, spitting and sizzling.

I wait until the battery calms down a bit, and toss it into the bed of my pickup truck. Now, there are a couple of reasons why it's really lucky that I was driving the pickup and not the 4Runner this morning. First of all, instead of lying on the seat like it would have been in the 4Runner, the radio was sitting in one of the cup holders in the center console. So the initial explosion was pretty much contained within the cup holder (although there's soot, small pieces of plastic, and pieces of some kind of small-gauge wire mesh everywhere). Secondly, I was able to toss the thing into the bed of the truck, instead of putting it in the cargo area of the 4Runner. Because, about a minute after I tossed it into the truck bed, the thing exploded again.

Up until this point, the battery pack was pretty much still in one piece, and roughly its original size and shape. With this second explosion, half the battery

cells were forcibly ejected from the pack, and wound up just behind the pickup cab, strung out in a row like some futuristic hi-tech sausages. The remainder of the battery pack, seriously twisted out of shape, wound up almost at the tailgate.

So, the good things about this morning's events were: I was driving the fully insured pickup, not the 4Runner without comprehensive coverage. The initial explosion occurred inside the cup holder, not on the upholstery. I didn't crash the truck when this thing exploded and scared the stuffing out of me. I threw the battery into the pickup bed, instead of into the cargo area of the 4Runner. The secondary explosion did not occur while I was holding the battery in my hand. And, I had a really cool "show and tell" item at work today.

Oh, and surprisingly enough, the radio still works.



### 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](mailto:kc1yr@kc1yr.com) requesting her to add you to the reflector.

### Shopping Online?

Use [fara.org/amazon](http://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

# Framingham Amateur Radio Association Spring Flea Market and Exams

Sunday, April 1, 2007

**New location: Keefe Technical School**

Doors open at 9 am

Amateur radio equipment, electronics and computer hardware and software

\* Admission for buyers: \$5 (under-12 free with adult)

\* Door prizes -- grand prize a new 2-meter HT!

\* Tables: Six-foot table, paid in advance, \$20 or \$25 at the door

\* Seller setup starts 7:30 a.m. Sunday. Free coffee and donuts! Load/unload help available!

\* License exam sessions, QLF contest

For information on tables, e-mail Steve KB1NIV, call him at 508-872-9336 before 9 pm or go to our online table reservation form at [www.fara.org](http://www.fara.org)

For information on exams, contact Jim W1EQW 508-435-6487.

Talk-in: 448.025 repeater (PL 88.5)


Keefe Tech, 750 Winter St., Framingham. Then follow the signs to the Framingham flea market

## FARA Horizons

Feb 1:	Club Meeting
Feb 19:	Board Meeting
March 1:	Club Meeting
March 16-18:	License in a Weekend

This month's Circuit sponsored by:

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



**Peter Cantara**  
Assistant Manager  
KI1M

224 N. Broadway, Salem, NH 03079  
(603) 898-3750, 1-800-444-0047  
Fax (603) 898-1041  
email: [ki1m@hamradio.com](mailto:ki1m@hamradio.com)

ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • BURBANK, CA • DENVER, CO  
NEW CASTLE, DE • OAKLAND, CA • PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR  
SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA • SUNNYVALE, CA • WOODBRIDGE, VA

*First Class Postage*

Post Office  
Will Not  
Deliver  
Without  
Proper  
Postage

Framingham Amateur Radio Association  
PO Box 3005  
Framingham, MA 01705

**Club Information 2007**

President	Gordy Bello	K1GB	781-891-5572	president@fara.org
Vice President	Leo Cantin	WAIHAM	508-877-3319	vp@fara.org
Secretary	Tom Malloy	N1FTB	508-655-0392	secretary@fara.org
Treasurer	Peter Simpson	KA1AXY	508-429-7069	treasurer@fara.org
Director	Bev Lees	N1LOO	508-626-2012	director@fara.org
Director of Training	Ed Weiss	W1NXC	508-881-2301	
Director of Testing	Jim Weckback	W1EQW	508-435-6487	testing@fara.org
Publicity Coordinators	Sharon Gartenberg	KC1YR	508-877-6692	
Emergency Coordinator	Victor Anderson	K1VEA	508-877-8299	
Activities Director	Gordy Bello	K1GB	781-891-5572	vp@fara.org
Scholarship Comm. Ch.	Dick Cosma	KD1BF	508-877-8241	scholarships@fara.org
Public Service Coordinators	Bev Lees	N1LOO	508-626-2012	
	Jim Weckback	W1EQW	508-435-6487	
Newsletter Editor	Robert Hess	N1UVA	508-435-2055	circuit@fara.org
Webmaster	Sharon Gartenberg	KC1YR	508-877-6692	webmaster@fara.org

- 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>