

The Framingham Circuit



Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

October 2008, Vol. 75, No. 10

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Thursday, Oct 2 This Month's Meeting

Jim Hanson, W1TRC will be speaking on tracking down power line noise.

See the next page for info about the new meeting location

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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by internet

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President's Message

Hi all: There is a cool, crisp, snap in the air and the Red Sox are in post season play. Fall is definitely here, and with it another exciting FARA season!

Our first meeting at the Framingham Police station went very well. It's a nice venue with tables and chairs and can seat about 35 people. Those of you who didn't attend missed an EXCELLENT presentation by Dan, W1DAN on digital TV. Dan informed us about what to expect and answered all of our questions as to what will occur in February 2009 when the commercial broadcasters make the switch from analog to digital. We had 23 people in attendance ; not bad, but it would have been nice to have a few more. This is only seven shy of having me wear my straw hat during the meeting. Let's do it this month!

I want to thank Gene, K1NR and Eric, KB1PJN for stepping up to take on the linking our two repeaters. This is something which is long overdue and should stimulate more activity on the machines as well as an overall interest in FARA. I also want to thank Bob, W1RH, who, from California, is working behind the scenes providing guidance and direction for the project. Other people who have provided input are Peter KA1AXY, Rick K1RJZ, and Roger WA1NVC. I know we can count on all of you to help us if needed.

Keep December 21 open for the FARA Holiday Breakfast at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel in Marlborough. This will not be anything on the scale of the 75th Anniversary Celebration. It will be a relaxing, casual event for FARA members, friends and family to socialize and enjoy. The price is \$20 per person. Greg, W1TDF who did a fantastic job as ticket chairperson for our 75th, has volunteered to do the same for this event. Thanks, Greg!

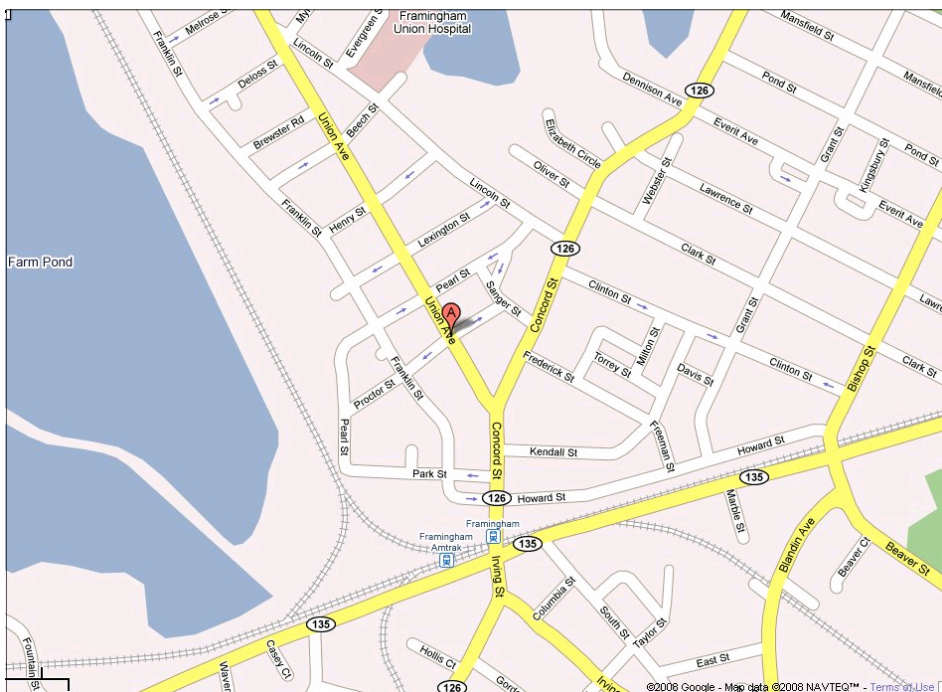
Our October 2 meeting (at the Framingham Police Station) will feature Jim Hanson, W1TRC speaking on tracking down power line noise. Jim is an expert and has written articles for QST. In Jim's own words, "The talk will describe how to recognize power line noise and the steps that can be taken to get the power company to fix the problem. I will describe the power line noise problems that I had and how they were resolved. I will also discuss some of the problems in tracking down power line noise, particularly if it is intermittent. I will also have the ultrasonic detector that was described in the April 2006 QST article that I wrote. In addition, I will bring my MFJ -852 power line noise meter and the 3 element tape measure beam that was described in the May 2007 QST article that I also wrote." Jim's presentation sounds great, so let's give him a fantastic audience!

Finally, I urge all FARA ARRL members to cast their vote for Mike Neilson, W1MPN as Eastern MA Section Manager. Ballots will be in the mail early October. For more info on Mike's qualifications and accomplishments, go to www.w1mpn.org.

73, Gordy K1GB

Meeting Location

Due to construction at the Danforth the monthly meeting has been moved to the Framingham Police Station at 1 William Welch Way. When coming to the meeting, enter via the front entrance of the police station. Sign in at the guard shack and tell them you are there for the radio club meeting. The meeting is in the training room which is off to the left.



General Crash Course October 18 and 25

Instructor Ed W1NXC

Sign up now for FARA's General "crash" course which will be held at the club shack Oct 18 and 25, 2009, Saturday morning from 9 to 12 noon. No text, no fee, Techs and Novices welcome.

Why upgrade to General class? Here are a few reasons.

Instructions and hints for passing the General class license:

Passing the General exam opens up a lot of new frequencies, i.e., frequencies not previously available to Novice or Tech licensees. There are specific segments in the 40m, 20m, and 80m bands where Generals are allowed and you also will have the same frequency privileges that Advanced and Extra operators enjoy on 160m, 50m, 30m, 17m, 12m and 10m. That is a huge amount of bandwidth!

It is important, therefore to know the precise frequencies for Generals in the so-called "Action bands", 40, 20, 15, and 80 meters. Study these carefully! Watch out for questions on the 60m band which has distinct differences (For example, you may only use USB on this band (that's not true for any other band!) Note also that the 30m band does not permit phone operation, only CW, RTTY, and Data.

FARA Horizons

- Oct 2: (Meeting) Jim Hanson, W1TRC on Tracking Power Line noise
- Oct 18 & 25: General Crash Course
- Nov 6: Rob Macedo, KD1CY on the National Hurricane Center and Hurricane Conference
- Nov 12: FARA VE Session
- Dec 4: Greg Algeri, WA1JXR on Antenna Analyzers

This month's Circuit sponsored by:

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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

First Class Postage

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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>