

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association February 2019 Vol. 86, No. 1

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**President's Message:** I hope everyone had great holidays and made some New Year's Ham Radio Resolutions. I would like to hear some of those. Tell us what you want to buy or do differently or try this year in the amateur radio hobby.

On January 3, 2019, we had our regular meeting and watched one of David Hoaglin's, K1HT, videos, "**Nine DXpeditions to DXCC Ten Most Wanted**" which was enjoyed by all. We also had some exhibits for our "**Show and Tell**".

On February 7, 2019 we had two presentations and a short business meeting. Tom Kinehan, Jr., N1CPE, from Milford, MA, did an excellent presentation on **Army MARS, the Military Auxiliary Radio System**. He concluded with a video on how the MARS is still active with phone patches. He reviewed how the system works, how it relates to other emergency services, and what is expected if you want to participate. This was followed by a short presentation by Fred Biehold, NV1N, (who has done a presentation for us before on how to write and pass traffic within the NTS). Fred presented his ideas from the Shack Search Committee that could help the club get some publicity and make contacts with the City of Framingham by considering activating Framingham's islands for the US Islands Awards Program. <http://usislands.org>

Several FARA members were at the Algonquin Club's Marlborough Flea market last weekend. While I picked up several items, I put them back down, except for two hotdogs! I did recruit some speakers (not the kind that have ohms, but instead the kind that speak live) though.

Our next meeting is on March 7, 2019: Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator, and ARES / SKYWARN Coordinator for NWS Boston/Norton, will give us an update on ARES. Rob would like to catch a dinner, most likely at La Cantina in Framingham, before the talk, which would be a great opportunity to hear more from him. I will send an email out to the members list for anyone interested.

We are always **looking for suggestions for topics and outside speakers** that you think would be interesting to hear at FARA. Thanks to Victor, K1VEA for suggesting some for next year. Also we invite any home grown FARA member volunteers to give a talk at our meetings! Let me know if you have a talk.

**Odds and Ends:** The older Circuits used to have a section where people could submit pictures, station news, license upgrades, antenna projects, new gear, rare DX, etc., for the newsletter. **Please send them to me!**

**Rag Chew On Air Weekly Club Meeting?** I have received some feedback that there is growing interest in an informal "roundtable" ragchew discussion on W1FY, on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. While an active repeater may not be metaphysically and absolutely logically necessary for an active club, listen around and I think you will agree that active repeaters are associated with active clubs.

**Dues and Members List on W1FY Webpage:** At the Board Meeting in August, we discussed posting an accurate list of paid up and lifetime living members on the webpage starting this January, 2019. As you pay dues, you will be added to the webpage list. Please make allowances for the time needed to post. If there are any discrepancies, please contact me or Steve, N1MH.

**Open Positions:** We have open positions for Director of Training, Activities Coordinator, Publicity Officer and Emergency Coordinator. If you are interested in any of these or have a suggestion for a nomination, please inform one of the officers or Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, the Director.

**FARA Members Email:** Paid members and lifetime members should be receiving emails from members@w1fy.org. Let Steve or I know if you or anyone else is not getting the club emails. Non-members interested in receiving news about FARA can view the website or get on the separate [news@W1fy.org](mailto:news@W1fy.org) by going to [http://w1fy.org/subscribe-to-fara\\_news](http://w1fy.org/subscribe-to-fara_news)

**Board Meeting:** We are planning an **important Board meeting** for Saturday March 2, 2019 at the McAuliffe branch of the Framingham Public library starting at 10 am. Please note this is the McAuliffe branch not the main library. We have to discuss filling open positions, the Flea market, and other topics. Please let me and Victor K1VEA know which non-officers might be attending. All are welcome. We usually have room for at least 10 -12 or more.

**Echolink:** Andy, KC1DMM, and Morris, N1AVP have been working on the Echolink project. I have checked into one net using Echolink entirely and stayed on the whole net. On the Echolink program or application, it is now listed as W1FY-R, or Node 279337, not KC1DMM anymore. This option has allowed some regular club members who can't usually reach the repeater, to check into the weekly net. My recommendation would be to check into the repeater on Echolink a few minutes before the Sunday or Wednesday night nets, get someone's attention by voice, so they know you are there and they can tell net control and the others. There is only about 1 second by my measurements between the repeater signal coming in and the Echolink signal coming it to my house when I listen to both. If you are net control (or anyone) and you are responding to someone speaking on Echolink, you can proceed as usual in your response. When you hear them end their transmission, you can proceed to respond. But if you are requesting Echolink check ins or talking to someone on Echolink, your signal has to go through the network, to them, they have to prepare their response, say it and it has to come back through the network to the repeater. Please allow at least several extra seconds when asking for Echolink check-ins to get back to you. If there is a lot of activity on the repeater, the Echolink might not clear on the computer end for transmission long enough for someone to make a transmission on that mode. So slow down, take a deep breath, ponder the meaning of life, consider what new radios you might want to purchase and be patient for the Echolink response.

**Nostalgia:** I reviewed the January and February 2009 Circuits, which are available on our website. The club had just identified a new EMCOMM representative and that was the hot topic. As we will here from Rob, KD1CY, this remains an important topic. There was talk of a Chinese buffet night out back then, anyone interested in one?

**FARA Flea Market:** The Flea is schedule for Sunday April 7, 2019. Andy, KC1DMM, and Steve, N1MH, and others are handling this event, many thanks. Sumner, W1VIV, is handling the club table. <http://w1fy.org/flea> Flyer at <http://w1fy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/flea flyer2019.pdf>

**Website** to check out:

- <https://ema.arrl.org> Eastern MA ARRL Website. Check it out before our next meeting in March.
- <https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php> WA7BNM Contest Calendar

**Upcoming Radio Events: From WA7BNM website.**

- Classic Exchange, Phone: 1400Z, Feb 24 to 0800Z, Feb 25 and 1400Z, Feb 26 to 0800Z, Feb 27
- ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB: 0000Z, Mar 2 to 2400Z, Mar 3
- 03/03/19: The New England Antique Radio Club will hold its New England Vintage Electronics Expo 2 on Sunday, March 3, 2019 from 8 AM to 4 PM at the Courtyard Marriott Event Center, 2200 Southwood Drive, Nashua, New Hampshire.

- Oklahoma QSO party. Starts 1500Z on March 9, over two days.
- Idaho QSO party: 1900 Z March 9 to 1900Z March 10
- Stew Perry Topband Challenge: 1500Z, Mar 9 to 1500Z, Mar 10
- Wisconsin QSO Party: 1800Z March 10 to 0100Z March 11.
- Virginia QSO party: 1400Z, Mar 16 to 0400Z, Mar 17 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 17. I have placed first among MA entries in this contest as it is a good skip distance for us.
- Louisiana QSO party: 1400Z, Mar 16 to 0200Z, Mar 17

## FARA HORIZONS: UPCOMING EVENTS

March 7, 2019: Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Easter Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator, and ARES SKYWARN Coordinator for NWS Boston/Norton, will give us an **update on ARES**. We will likely meet at La Cantina in Framingham on Waverly street before the meeting for a quick dinner.

April 5, 2019: Meeting. Ted Robinson, K1QAR from Stow, MA, will give a talk on **mag loop antennas**. He demonstrated one at the Marlboro Flea.

April 7, 2019 Sunday, FARA Flea Market

May 3, 2019: Pizza party?

June 7, 2019: Elections and Field Day Preparations.

September 5, 2019: Adrian Zeffert, AB2IX, will return for a talk, topic to be determined.

Brian "Wolf" Gudgevich, WO1VES is willing to give a talk on the SharkRF boxes that connect computers to UHF/VHF radios for some of the digital modes. These will hopefully be scheduled for next season.

### Club Information December 2018

**Officers:** see <http://w1fy.org/fara-officers>

- President: John Iwuc KB1VXY [president@W1FY.org](mailto:president@W1FY.org)
- Vice president: Paul King N1VAM [vp@W1FY.org](mailto:vp@W1FY.org)
- Clerk/Secretary: Victor Anderson K1VEA [secretary@W1FY.org](mailto:secretary@W1FY.org)
- Treasurer/Webmaster: Steve Moro N1MH [treasurer@W1FY.org](mailto:treasurer@W1FY.org) [webmaster@W1FY.org](mailto:webmaster@W1FY.org)
- Director Sumner Weisman W1VIV [director@W1FY.org](mailto:director@W1FY.org)
- Director of Testing Jim Weckback W1EQW [testing@fara.org](mailto:testing@fara.org)

**Meeting:** Club meetings are normally held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the Framingham Police Station.

#### Club Nets:

FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.75/147.15 - social/chat, emergency preparedness

Wednesday Roundtable Ragchew: 7:30 pm, growing.

**Club Web Site:** [W1FY.org](http://W1FY.org)

#### Social Media:

- [facebook.com/faraw1fy](https://www.facebook.com/faraw1fy)
- [twitter.com/fara\\_w1fy](https://twitter.com/fara_w1fy)

**Dues:** Regular membership \$15, student / senior \$10. Repeater fee \$10 (optional)

You can join/renew/pay online at <http://w1fy.org/membership-form>

**Mail Address:** Framingham Amateur Radio Association, PO Box 3005, Framingham, MA