

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association April 2019 Vol. 86, No. 2 Final

President's Message

Finally Spring is here and I suspect you are checking your wire antennas for damage and better branches, before the leaves pop out. We had two regular club meetings, a board meeting and the Flea since the last newsletter. In March, Rob Macedo, KD1CY, updated us on changes within A.R.E.S. and did a brief overview of Skywarn. In April, Ted Robinson, K1QAR, talked about and showed us his mag loop antenna for HF. Both meetings were well attended.

Lowell Bursch, KB1FHJ, SK, long time club member and club photographer became a silent key last month. He took photos of many club meetings and events and was an active participant in the club. A memorial service was held at The Elk Lodge, 95 Speen St. in Natick on Saturday March 30, 2010, which was attended by several club members. He used to get to the Holiday event at my house early and we would talk about his 3 D cameras and 3D photography. Feel free to submit memories of Lowell to me.

The Flea Market went well once again and without any major hitches. Many thanks to all who helped out. We got several equipment donations just before the flea, and we unloaded some of the unused shack equipment rather than let it sit idle.

We are always **looking for suggestions for topics and outside speakers** that you think would be interesting to hear at FARA. Also we invite any home grown FARA member volunteers to give a talk at our meetings! Let me know if you would like to give a talk or a demonstration. Similarly, feel free to submit an article, or pictures, or a question to me for the newsletter.

U.S. Islands on the Air <http://usislands.org> Fred Biehold, NV1N, has been active in making contacts for W1FY.

I sent out a draft of this newsletter. With minor edits this is the final version.

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: The weekly roundtable ragchew discussion on W1FY each Wednesday at about 7:30 pm seems to be gaining in interest. Please check in and use the repeater! As I said in the last newsletter, 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. Contacts on the repeater help foster bonds between club members and generate topics of interest for further exploration and discussion.

Dues and Members List on W1FY Webpage: Paid up members will be posed on the webpage. Please make allowances for the time needed to post them. 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. We have recently become aware that some people have had problems sending emails to the distribution email server. We are looking into this. Non-members interested in receiving news about FARA can view the website or get on the separate news@W1fy.org by going to http://w1fy.org/subscribe-to-fara_news

Echolink: The Echolink connection seems to be working well. Have you heard the new announcement? We even had a ham from Texas check in and recommend we check into the W6CDW repeater, noting it is part of the Secret Squadron Radio Club, WWW.SQRADIOCLUB.COM. Because there is some delay using Echolink, we have revamped the Sunday FARA Net script to do Echolink stations at the end, after regular voice check ins. This new format seems to be going well and making check-ins and the flow more efficient. We get 1-3 check-ins each week on Echolink

Nostalgia: I reviewed the March and April 2009 Circuits, which are available on our website. A new repeater was put in that put out 75 watts and IRLP had been just set up. There was talk of Field Day, apparently in 2008 there was no FARA Field Day. Gordy was asking whether a small picnic afternoon Field Day could be considered, as apparently the club had done that before 2008! While I have heard of the grand Field Days “back in the day”, cutting hay and setting up big tents and towers (see videos on W1FY.org) it seems the shorter, more leisurely, gentlemanly “picnic style” Field Day operation has been going on for the last 10 years or so.

Field Day: We will be having our Field Day at the McAuliffe Library on Saturday June 22, 2019, set up probably around 10-11, operations from 2-6 pm. We will be looking for sign-ups for operating. It works best with a pair of people, one to log and one to transmit. The ARRL Field Day 2019 Rules are at <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2019/2019-Rules-RevA.pdf> Please review the rules as I will do a quiz for the June meeting.

Brown Bag Lunch: The main branch of the Framingham Public Library has a Brown Bag lunch series each month on the first Friday from noon to 1 pm to learn about new topics. The goal is to stimulate reading on various topics that people may not have been exposed to before. We are scheduled to present Friday June 7, 2019. A few of us will be introducing the audience to amateur radio and FARA, and hopefully discussing what Amateur Radio is all about and how to get a technician license. We hope to demonstrate some operations, such as using HTs for local communication and maybe the repeater, and also HF using Andy KC1DMM’s remote operation. Join us and you can tell the audience how you got into the hobby. We may purchase an updated Technician License book to donate for someone to read this summer. We plan to advertise our McAuliffe Library Field Day at the Brown Bag lunch, to provide some continuity to the theme. They would like us to do another presentation in the Fall. What better book to read this summer than the Technician Class License Exam Preparation Manual, right?

Websites to check out:

- <https://www.dxmaps.com/spots/mapg.php> DX Maps to check out real time propagation.
- <http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/> DxSummit, my favorite spotting site.
- <http://wsprnet.org/drupal/wsprnet/map> WSPR Net Digital mode propagation maps. You can pick a band and a station and a time frame and see how signals are getting out.

Upcoming Radio Events: From WA7BNM website. <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

- Florida QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 27 to 0159Z, Apr 28 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 28
- New England QSO Party 2000Z, May 4 to 0500Z, May 5 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 5
- Delaware QSO Party 1700Z, May 4 to 2359Z, May 5
- Indiana QSO Party 1500Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5
- Arkansas QSO Party 1400Z, May 11 to 0200Z, May 12

FARA HORIZONS: UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2, 2019: Pizza party, Papa Ginos, 104 Boston Post Road (Rt 20) Sudbury, MA **NOTE NEW LOCATION Meet at 7 pm. Note earlier than usual meeting time.**

June 6, 2019: Elections and Field Day Preparations/Quiz by KB1VXY.

September 5, 2019: Adrian Zeffert, AB2IX, will return for a talk, topic likely to be 3D printing

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

Meeting: Club meetings are normally held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the Framingham Police Station. Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., April., June.

Club Nets:

FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.75/147.15 - social/chat, emergency preparedness
Wednesday Roundtable Ragchew: 7:30 pm, growing.

Traffic passing: Fred Biehold, NV1N, is very active in this activity.

Club Web Site: W1FY.org

Social Media:

- facebook.com/faraw1fy
- 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