

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association April, 2020 Vol. 87, No. 2

President's Message: Greetings from KB1VXY. Springtime is well underway, the leaves are not quite out yet, there is still time to adjust wire antennas! Hope you are all coping well with social distancing. When you think about it for a minute, being social but from a distance has always been an important aspect of our hobby, from DXing, to working special event stations, contesting, Field Day, or just nets on local repeaters. We stay put, most commonly alone in our shack, making social contacts. Or we go out to isolated areas and set up a station. That is what we do. Even if we work the digital modes, we look them up to see where they came from and who sent them. We are still curious about where the stations are coming from and who sent them. Social interaction at a distance!

I have noticed that most of the nets I participate in or run are increasing in attendance. Even our Sunday and Wednesday night nets! Local call signs are coming out of the woodwork. And if forced to stay at home, you can do some house or yard work then take a break and see what is active on the bands. 10 and 6 meters have had openings. A number of local hams hang out around 28.400 MHz USB (the calling frequency), +/- 0.050 MHz. Also on 50.125, USB on 6 meters, and up to 50.200 MHz. There are reports of AM activity on 50.400 MHz. We even had a couple of FARA get together on 10 meters and on 75 meters after the Wednesday night net. Maybe you can now show someone else in the house what gets us excited. See my list of suggested nets to participate in from 2 meters FM to 75 meters. Some have been started just to deal with the "stay at home blues."

We may not be able to have meetings at the PD for some time. If I had to guess, I would think we will be lucky to be able to meet together in September. We had our April meeting on the repeater and I think we had more participants than usually come to some of the PD meetings. We practiced using Zoom the night before and many were able to check in there. Sumner will be setting up a Zoom meeting for our May 7th meeting.

Silent Key: Gerald D. Ceccarini, K1AIU, 79, passed away peacefully Wednesday, February 26, 2020. His sister, Mary Caruso, notified us on Facebook, and submitted the following. I asked the membership for any memories of Gerald. Lew Nyman, K1AZE, President of FARA from 1976 to 1982, submitted an email about Gerald.

From the obituary:

He was the son of Egisto and Helen (Postizzi) Ceccarini. Gerald was the husband of 59 years to Regina (Ceruti) Ceccarini. Born and raised in Framingham. Graduated from Framingham High School Class of 1958. He attended Franklin Institute of Technology. He worked for the Federal Government FAA for 50 years and retired at the age of 70. Besides his wife Regina, he is survived by their children, Dominic Ceruti and his wife Patricia of Framingham, Roberta Eglitis of Charlton, Maria Ceccarini of Framingham; six grandchildren, Cassandra Cornett of Charlton, Michelle Eglitis of Michigan, Christina Ceruti of Allston, Stephen Ceruti of Framingham, John Quintin of Framingham and Jake Quintin of Framingham; two great children, Anthony and Alice Cornett. He is also survived by his sister Mary Caruso and her husband David Caruso of Fairhaven and his nephews David Caruso and his wife Julie, Daniel Caruso and his wife Stacy, and Dominic Caruso. The family will be having a memorial service to be announced at a later date. Funeral Arrangements are under the care of the Norton Funeral Home, 53 Beech St., Framingham, MA.

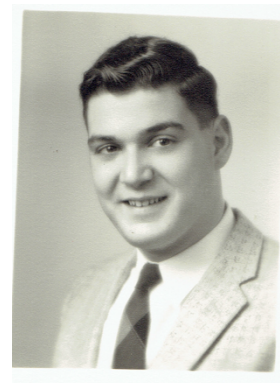
Lew Nyman wrote the following:

Lewin Nyman <lewin.nyman@gmail.com> For those who didn't know Gerry Ceccarini, he was for many years the keeper and maintainer of the 147.15 repeater. In fact it was located at his house. He and a couple of other guys formed the Framingham Repeater Assoc. When I became president of FARA (I was president from 1976 to 1982.) I negotiated with the repeater assoc. to transfer ownership of the repeater to FARA. Many of us FARA members were in fact members of the repeater assoc. The repeater was moved from Gerry's house to the EMA bunker on Rt. 9. And the rest is history. Lew K1AZE

His Sister Mary Caruso wrote the following:

Thanks for the reply and acknowledgement of the involvement and interest that my Bro had in his love of amateur radio. Hope you can use these in the message about my Bro to his fellow friends and members...Sis. Please do send a copy,..

Gerald has been living in Florida for the last 10 yrs or so and that may be why he has been afar from his friends in MA.. I did find his old learning morse key code device that he used when we were kids at home and as we lived on Stillman St. in Framingham brought back old memories of the beginning days of his involvement in radio & technology.. I remember WKOX calling the FEDS on him because he had concocted a small radio station activity that they were able to pick up..WKRC was what they called it...for Kenny Adams, Ronnie Adams & Ceccarini...He also did not like to climb the repeater tower and coerced a young neighbor Peter Houlihan to climb the tower to do any activity that the Tower might need..He was a great brother and had an intellectual capacity that allowed him to be a successful person in his chosen professions.



Open Positions:

- **FARA Director** – Sumner will keep this position for now but **we need to replace the position by the June meeting**. Submit nominations including self-nominations to any officer.
- **Field Day Manager** – Sumner will keep this position through this June's Field Day, June 27-28, 2020, then **we will need a volunteer for 2021 and going forward**. A selection of our equipment has been collected for Field Day, including backup radios, batteries, wirings, ground rods and a pop up tent. We will need to distribute these to club members for housing after the upcoming Field Day.
- **Publicity Manager:** Sumner will continue with this through our upcoming Field day then **we will need a volunteer publicity manager going forward**.
- **Nominating Committee Manager:** This will be an **open position after June 2020**. The officers and new director can assume this responsibility after that.
- **Officer nominations:** Paul King N1VAM suggests that we may want to look for a nomination for his position as he expects to leave the area in the future. Victor Anderson, K1VEA, has notified the club that he will not seek reelection as Clerk Secretary. Many thanks for Victor's years of service to FARA. Steve Babbitt, KC1LPZ, has accepted an offer of nomination for this position. We will have to finalize these officer changes in June.

FARA Scholarship Rules & Application:

We have two applicants for the scholarship according to Richard, AA1VI at rcosma@rcn.com. We will have a Board Meeting, probably on Zoom, to address this.

FARA Members List and Email: We have 8 life members, 44 paid members and 2 honorary members as of this edition. Paid members and lifetime and honorary members should be receiving emails from members@w1fy.org. Let Steve Moro or I know if you or anyone else is not getting the club emails. Paid members will be listed on the webpage. 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 very well. Many thanks to Andy, KC1DMM!

Upcoming Radio Events: The New England QSO Party. We make a significant monetary contribution to this contest each year. It would be great if members could participate in this contest from their homes. 2000Z Saturday until 0500Z Sunday (4pm EDT Saturday until 1am EDT Sunday), then 1300Z Sunday until 2400Z Sunday (9am EDT Sunday until 8pm EDT Sunday)

FARA HORIZONS -- UPCOMING EVENTS Meetings are on hold for the moment pending assessment of the COVID-19 situation.

Nets to consider during Stay At Home: I recommend the following nets.

Daily Nets

HF

- 5:30 a.m. Monday to Saturday. **New England Weather Net.** 3.905 MHz to 6:30 a.m., for the “early birds”! Listen to weather reports from around the region. A long standing net.
- 6:30 a.m., MONDAY TO FRIDAY. **GALLOPS ISLAND RADIO ASSOCIATION NET**, 3.923, usually I check in at 7:00 am, Mon to Fri. <http://www.gallupsislandradio.net/>
- 10:00 am: CMARA HF “**Breakfast Net**” at 10 am each day on 3982 KHz, hosted by Greg, WA1JXR, who has given us several talks over the years.
- 7 a.m. TO NOON 14.300 MHz. **INTERCON NET**, from NOON TO 9 pm, it changes to the **MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE NET**. You may hear stations to relay that the NCS can't hear. From 9PM AND LATER IS THE **PACIFIC SEAFARERS NET** (if you can hear it).

- 7:30 a.m. TO 2 p.m. EASTERN TIME WEEKDAYS, 8 AM TO 2 PM WEEKENDS ECARS 7.255

VHF

- 9:00 a.m.: The Central Mass Amateur Radio Association, CMARA, has a **“Breakfast Net”** each morning on the W1BIM repeater, 146.97 MHz, PL 114.8.
- 7:30 p.m.: **George’s Old Timer’s Net** runs each night at 7:30 pm on W1FY also. I run it on Tuesday pm, and it has had a lot more check-ins.

Echolink Nets: There are many nets on the DODROPIN and WORLD conference servers. Also you can get on repeaters outside of your radio range.

Weekly Nets

Sunday am:

- HF:
- 8:30 a.m.: **Western MA HF Emergency Net**, on 3944 KHz.
 - About 8:45 am: **New England Phone Net**, after above, on 3945 KHz, I have been running it in absence of usual net control.
 - 7:30 p.m.: **PILGRIM AMATEUR WIRELESS ASSOCIATION 10 METER NET 28.375 USB**

VHF:

- 9:15 a.m.: **Western MA VHF Emergency Net**, on W1BIM 146.97 MHz, PL 114.8
- 9:30 a.m.: **Yankee 6 Meter Single Sideband Net**: 9:30 am, 50.272 MHz USB, I run it on alternate weeks. Check out your 6 meter equipment.
- 7:30 p.m.: **FARA Net** on W1FY, 147.150 MHz, no PL needed. On Echolink.
- 8:00 p.m.: **NORFOLK COUNTY EMERGENCY NET**, K1HRV, WALPOLE, MA 146.895, PL 123 ECHOLINK. One of the longest running emergency nets!
- 8:00 p.m.: **PART Net-- POLICE AMATEUR RADIO TEAM, SUNDAY PM, WESTFORD, MA, WB1GOF REPEATER 146.955 MHz, PL 74.4 ECHOLINK TOO**

MONDAY:

- 8:00 p.m.: **NORFOLK COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, K1HRV, WALPOLE, MA 146.895, PL 123, ECHOLINK**
- 9:00 p.m., **BOSTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (BARC) NET, K1BOS, 145.230-, PL 88.5**

TUESDAY:

- 220 Tuesday DAY, FIND A 220 REPEATER!
- 8:00 p.m., **MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION, TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND OTHER STUFF (LINKED) NET**, I get on AE1C, MENDON, MA 146.610, PL 146.2, IRLP – 4133. Or W1BRI 449.575 You can also get on through Echolink. Also W1MRA 147.27, PL 146.2 <http://www.mmra.org>
- 8:00 p.m. **MASSASOIT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION NET ON W1MV BRIDGEWATER, MA 147.180+, PL 67 WEEKLY (EXCEPT 3RD TUESDAY)**

WEDNESDAY:

- 7:00 p.m.: **BLACKSTONE VALLEY ARC (BVARC) 2 METER SIMPLEX NET, NCS W1DDD, 146.565**
- 7:00 p.m.: **RI SKYWARN NET, SCITUATE, RI, 146.760, PL 67,**
- **7:30 p.m. Framingham Amateur Radio Association, Health and Wellness Check-in Net, on W1FY, 147.150, no PL**

- 8:00 pm **WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION WEEKLY NET**, W1TKZ repeater, 147.030 NEWTON, MA RPTR PL 123. also UHF W1TKZ 444.600MHz, PL 88.5
- 9:00 p.m., **WALTHAM WRANGLERS SWAP NET**, WALTHAM W1MHL RPTR, 146.64-, PL 136.5, **THURSDAY**

SATURDAY:

- 6 or 7 a.m.: 6 Meter AM mode, on 50.400 MHz simplex
- 9:00 am. **RI Swap and Sell Net** on NB1RI in Cumberland, RI, 145.170, PL 67

Club Information:

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
- Repeater Trustee, Dave Miscia, KB1YXL repeater@w1fy.org
- Traffic coordinator: Fred Beihold, NV1N traffic@w1fy.org
- Scholarship coordinator, Richard Cosma AA1VI scholarship@w1fy.org
- Echolink coordinator: Andy Boughton, KC1DMM
- Sunday night net control manager: Steve Hewlett, N4NIV
- QSL manager/QRZ Account manager: Sumner Weisman W1VIV, qslmanager@w1fy.org, then Dave Miscia, KB1YXL
- Newsletter editor: John Iwuc, KB1VXY president@w1fy.org

Meeting: Club meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Framingham Police Station. Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., April. June. Board Meetings are called periodically. **Due to COVID-19 and recommendations for social distancing and closing of town buildings, these meetings are on hold**

Club Nets:

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

Club Web Site: W1FY.org

Social Media:

- facebook.com/faraw1fy
- twitter.com/fara_w1fy

Dues: Flat rate of \$20 per year per person or family, and no separate repeater fee. Paid members will be posted on the web page. You can join/renew/pay online at <http://w1fy.org/membership-form>

Testing: Odd numbered months on the second Wednesday at 7:30PM by appointment only.
<http://w1fy.org/license-exams>

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