

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

April 2003, Vol. 70, No. 4

## In This Issue

President's Message

Operation Wolfpack

Page 2-

FARA Scholarship

Shack Trustees Wanted

Page 3-

QSL Card

FARA - The Early Years

and more...

## Thursday, Apr 3

This Month's Meeting

Don't miss FARA's bi-annual all-you-can-eat pizza feast!!!

## Submitting Material to the Circuit

Material may be submitted for publication by sending it directly to the editor. This can be done by phone, by US Mail, or via the Internet (preferred). The deadline for each issue is the **Wednesday**, one week before the monthly meeting.

### by phone

Home:

(508) 435-2055

### by mail

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Hopkinton, MA 01748

### by internet

circuit@fara.org

## President's Message

Technology never stops. We saw a good example of this at the last FARA meeting when Icom gave a talk on their new DSP radios. The digital signal processing technology is fascinating and makes the new generation radios run circles around yesterday's radios. The technology marrying computers and radios continues to evolve. At last month's meeting, the entire group of attendees passed around a 440 HT and ID'd themselves to the room and to Lew (K1AZE in Alabama) via Roger's (WA1NVC) repeater using an IRLP voice-over-IP link back to Montgomery, Alabama. Amazing! And a lot of fun. How about Echolink? Have you heard of it? If not, we'll tell you about it at a future FARA meeting. This is a technology that lets you talk (voice-over-IP) to other hams around the world using your computer to link into other repeaters or directly to another ham's computer. Driving home the other day, I had a great QSO on FARA's 440 repeater with Len (K1LU in El Dorado Hills, California) who was talking, on his end via a repeater in California. Tom (N1CPE) has rigged up an attended link to FARA's 440 repeater connecting it to the world via Echolink. By now most of you have heard about PSK-31. This fairly new technology allows you to work the world on HF using your computer with minimal power and antennas. Katy (N1JDD) will give a talk on this subject at a future FARA meeting. There's lots of fun left in amateur radio with the evolving new technologies. Read about these new technologies in QST or hear about them at FARA meetings but, by all means, don't let them pass you by.

Ed (W1NXC) just completed another successful License-in-a-Weekend with the help of several FARA members. This year's class graduated seven new hams including David (KB1JQZ), the son of Lowell (KB1FHJ). Thanks go out to our Instructors Dennis (KE6DPL), Lee (K1GL), Pete (KA1AXY), Jim (W1EQW), Karen (K1KEB), Sumner (W1VIV), and Wayne (W1EWL). Thanks also go out to our fabulous logistics person, Mary (KA1HGL). I also want to personally thank Ed

*Prez continued on next page...*

## Operation Wolfpack

By Rick Zach, K1RJZ

**Wolfpack:** A group of individual predators who unite to increase effectiveness of each member by operating as a coordinated group.

Recently, a group of four New England ham repeater clubs banded together for some highly organized dumpster diving (must be a childhood thing).

We became aware of an entity that migrated their two-way radio operations to 800 MHz and was decommissioning their network of 1/4 kW Motorola MICOR repeaters. The original cost for these very high-power repeaters was reported to be a whopping \$22,500 each! They did not want other entities to put this equipment back into commercial operation and they did not want to see the gear show up at a flea market or on Ebay. However, they understood the public good performed by amateur radio operators so they did feel comfortable donating these to hams.

As a corporation, the donor understandably wanted no liability plus they asked to remain anonymous. They clearly did not want an ongoing stream of others to come knocking on their door asking for equipment. This had to be quick and simple.

We were told that the donor would leave these six 300-LB monsters outside of a certain facility next to a dumpster area. After 7PM, our group was to assemble as a Wolfpack to clean out the remaining hardware as quickly and quietly as possible.

Perhaps to play a joke or to insure minimal legal liabilities, we found the six 70" repeater cabinets not near the dumpsters but **IN** the dumpsters. This group of five

*Wolfpack continued on next page...*

*Celebrating our 70th Anniversary, 1933-2003*



*Prev continued from Page 1...*

(W1NXC) for doing what he does best...coordinate the class and convey his wealth of knowledge to others.

And speaking of Ed, how many of you saw the HUGE picture of Ed in the Framingham Tab newspaper? Looks pretty good, doesn't he! And the FARA shack looks pretty too! There is also a nice article to go with the picture.

As most of you know, FARA has nominated Ed for the ARRL's Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award. This is a prestigious award that Ed certainly deserves. All of our efforts last year resulted in getting Ed in the top five but did not get him the award he deserves. This year, I am going to be driving FARA's membership crazy with reminders to fill out the simple form to express your familiarity with Ed's great teaching skills. Sharon (KC1YR) has made it real easy. She now has the form up on the FARA web site ([www.fara.org](http://www.fara.org)) so that it can be downloaded. On top of that, Sharon has designed a form that can be filled out while you are on-line. Sweet and simple! Several have already submitted their completed forms. Have you? If you don't have a computer, I will personally deliver a form to you. Just call. The deadline is April 15. We all know Ed deserves the award. Now let's work together as a club and get it for him!

Steve (AA1IZ) has coordinated an ARRL sponsored Level One Emergency Communications Course which will be done in a License-in-a-Weekend style on the weekend of April 25, 26, and 27. This is your chance to learn about Emergency Communications and join the growing list of FARA members who are prepared in case of an emergency. If you don't know the proper protocols and procedures used in amateur radio emergency communications, the time to learn it NOW. We already have a bunch of FARA members signed up for the class, but there is room for a few more. See the home page of our web site for a link

### Change of Address

If you would like to change the address on your Circuit label, please email [fara@fara.org](mailto:fara@fara.org). Or, you can call the Club at 508-879-8097

that will give you all of the necessary information, or call Steve.

Here's hoping we have a successful FARA Flea. This month's meeting will adjourn early so we can celebrate our Flea over pizza.

### FARA Scholarship

As in previous years the rules are:

1. Must be a member of FARA.
2. Applications must be turned in or post marked by April 15, 2003.
3. Must be a license radio amateur.
4. Preference will be given to graduating high school seniors.

For applications contact Richard Cosma AA1VI 508 877 8241.

### Shack Trustees Wanted

FARA is looking for a few more trustees for our Shack. The job will require occasional Saturday and/or weeknight shifts as Shack Trustee. The Shack Trustee opens and closes the Shack and oversees W1FY radio use. A shift generally will not be in excess of three hours and no more than once per month. You will be issued a set of keys and be completely trained in the proper operation of the radios and key sets. Extra Class licensees preferred, so lower license class hams can operate the radios on all bands, but everyone will be considered. If you are interested, please let an officer know. All applicants will be reviewed by the FARA Board.

### Badges? You need one of these stinking badges!

The Club will issue one Name/Call badge to a member for free. If you have not received a badge, contact the Badge Team:

AA1IZ, Steve - [vp@fara.org](mailto:vp@fara.org)

N1LOO, Bev - 508-626-2012

*Wolfpack continued from Page 1...*

grown up (?), middle aged men couldn't help from hysterically laughing while we were muscling these cabinets into multiple pre-staged Caravans, pickups and Explorers.

And then with very big grins, we disappeared into the night.

**Epilogue:** What a perfect example of how multiple clubs can come together to operate as a group for the betterment of all! The peer-peer members of this wolfpack now meets on an email listserv and on the air to help share their parts and their knowledge... with big smiles.

Checkout some pictures below and more on the web: <http://www.bostonusergroups.com/gemoto/wolfpack.htm>



### Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)

Regular FARA \$15

Student / Retired \$10

Repeater (voluntary) \$10



## QSL Card

Submitted by Bob, W1RH



The Canary Islands is the focus of this month's QSL. The FARA W1FY club station worked EA8BH during the 2002 ARRL DX Phone contest in March, 2002. The SSB contact was made on 10 meters.

The Canary Islands are located southwest of Spain and northwest of Africa, directly in front of the coast of Morocco. They are Spain's tropical paradise and for Spaniards, living in mainland Spain, they are synonymous with holidays, as they are for the hundreds and thousands of foreign tourists who pack the islands' resorts all year round. Colonized and populated by Spaniards, they lie 715 miles off the coast of Africa. They are politically and administratively Spanish and yet culturally and geographically they have very much their own personality. The EA8BH group came to the Canary Islands to contest. From the QSL: Seeking to concentrate their energies on the finer elements of contesting, they wanted the "Mother of All Contest Locations." And they found it, in a little space called GaldarAll elements of the ultimate QTH are in the Canary Islands. The land resembles a lunar plain, devoid of RF absorbing trees. To the north, the entire hemisphere overlooks the salty ocean, providing the perfect launch for low angle signals. The sheer remoteness

and vast space are ingredients that most true-blue contesters can only dream of.

## FraminghamARA-L@fara.org

The FARA email reflector is working well. It provides us with an easy way to reach all our members who have email. You have to sign up so it will reach you, though.

To sign up, go to: <http://www.fara.org/list> and follow the instructions you find there.

## FARA - The Early Years

Transcribed by Karen Hess

*The Framingham Amateur Radio Association, formerly called the Community Radio Association, is fortunate to have the notes dating back to the Club's first meeting. Karen Hess, W1RH's XYL, has transcribed the handwritten notes, verbatim. They make for fascinating reading!*

February 15, 1935

The 39<sup>th</sup> emergency meeting of the Framingham Radio Club was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Pres. Dr. Crosby.

This emergency meeting was called because the Boy Scouts were not permitted by their Constitution to dispose of tickets for our Whist Party, consequently it was up to the members to sell extra tickets, etc.

Mr. Mandell gave the latest report on the Whist Party preparations.

It was moved, seconded and voted upon that the Club pay \$1.00 from the treasury for a paid ad in the Framingham News about the Whist Party.

Mr. O'Neill was nominated by Mr. Tedford about a cut being made for future use in the Framingham News.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

D. J. Giro, Sec.

## Useful FARA URLs

Main FARA Web site: <http://www.fara.org>

Archives of the FARA mailing list: <http://list.fara.org>

Club info and officers: <http://www.fara.org/info>

Info on our W1FY packet cluster node: <http://www.fara.org/dxcluster>

Other interesting ham-related links: <http://www.fara.org/hamlinks.shtml>

Shop at Amazon.com and help FARA: <http://amazon.fara.org>

## FARA Horizons

Apr 3:	Club Meeting
Apr 21:	Board Meeting
Apr 25-27:	Emergency Communications Course
May 1:	Club Meeting

## This month's Circuit sponsored by:

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

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