

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association December 1999, Vol. 66, No. 12

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QSI Card

**Submitted by Leo, WA1HAM
and more...**

President's Message

The leaves are gone and it's beginning to get colder. Almost time to do that antenna work you've been putting off. The FARA "Tower Crew" has been hard at work, taking down another tower. It looks like we might actually get some money for the club from this one.

The colder weather means that I'll be starting the kit building sessions soon, probably in January. I have had a very good response, six people have signed up to build the "Desert Ratt 3" regenerative receiver. I only hope we have enough solder! But seriously, if you think you might like to build your first kit, let me know. There's always room for another kit builder. The December meeting should be a good one (if you've been nice, less fun if you're naughty). My thanks to W1RH for getting our speaker. Also, please don't forget the January meeting, at which we need to discuss club finances. Since we need to make some important decisions, I encourage you all to attend.

As we enter the holidays, I'd like to thank all the FARA members who have given so much to this club over the past year. I could never run this club by myself. FARA runs so smoothly because there are so many of you who jump in to help. I appreciate it, and this diverse, active club is our reward.

73 and Happy Holidays,

Peter, KA1AXY

Y2K Help Needed

by Walt Zilonis, KC1XE

At the end of this year there are tentative plans to open the Westborough civil defense bunker on route 135 and staff it with three shifts of operators over a 12 day period. This is one of the reparations the State wants to do in order to have communication links available in the event of Y2K difficulties. Operators are needed from December 27 through January 7th. Each shift is 8 hours and the idea is to have full coverage 24 hrs a day during that period. The bunker, of course, is equipped with uhf/vhf radios. Licensed amateurs (Technicians on up) are needed to operate the radios.

Brian Sullivan (N1PHC) who has been charged with pulling this all together has asked me to ask club members if they would be willing to help. Even if you can work only one shift, that would be fine. So, if you would like to give it a shot, let me know by either email (zilonis@ix.netcom.com) or phone (508.366.7163) I'll write you in for whatever shift or shifts you would like to work.

Is this going to be exciting? We hope not. We hope that nothing over those twelve days will happen that will require the services of the amateur community. This is just a precaution.

Thursday, Dec 2

This Month's Meeting

The FCC visits FARA. Meet Vince Kajunski and bring your questions. Vince will talk about recent enforcement actions and possible future changes in the Amateur rules and licensing structure.

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 (before 9:00PM please!)

College:

(508) 910-5296

by mail

Robert Hess, N1UVA

1 Cold Spring Brook Road

Hopkinton, MA 01748

by internet

n1uva@ultranet.com

Don't Miss an Issue!
(Y2K dues are now payable)
You won't get the January
Circuit unless we receive
your 2000 dues before
December 15th.

Kit Building

By Peter, KA1AXY

This winter, I'd like to try something different. We'll be building the **NA5N Desert Ratt 3 Regen Receiver**, and we'll be building it from scratch! Parts cost should be in the \$10 - \$20 range. We'll build on bare PCB material, and all parts necessary for a working receiver will be supplied. I'm still working out the details, but if you're interested in building a shortwave regenerative receiver (6.6 - 15 MHz) from R's, C's, Q's and some wire, let me know!

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's speaker had to cancel at the last minute. Peter, from HRO, had complications related to laser eye surgery and could not drive to the meeting. Bob, W1RH, did a fill in talk about the WBZ tower project. Peter wants to come to one of our meetings. We have tentatively set up for the January meeting.

A Beam Comes Down...



Club Members Bob W1RH, Brian N1JFO, Martin AA1ON, Sumner W1VIV and Peter KA1AXY (Taking the picture) recently took down a beam that was donated to the club. More pictures of this undertaking can be found on the Club Web Site.



**Happy Holidays
from the
Framingham
Circuit
Thanks to all who
have contributed to
the Circuit this
year.**

Amps for Sale

FARA has two amplifiers for sale to the highest bidder. Neither amp works. Documentation is available. Both are Heathkits. One is an old Warrior and the other is a SB-201. Email your bid to fara@fara.org. The amps are available for inspection at the club on Saturday mornings. Bids start at \$100. Bids are due by Friday, December 24 and the successful bidders will be chosen at the December board meeting.

**READ THE CIRCUIT ONLINE...
SAVES PAPER AND POSTAGE**
Now available as an Adobe Acrobat file
email fara@fara.org and we'll set
you up!

FraminghamARA-L@qth.net

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 it will reach you, though. See the instructions on the FARA web page, and remember that, once you sign up, anything you send must come from the address you signed up with. If you change email addresses, you won't be able to post until you repeat the signup process from your new address.

FARA Horizons

Dec 2: Club Meeting
Dec 27: Board Meeting

Mar 17-19: License in a Weekend

Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)
Regular FARA \$10
Student / Retired \$5
Repeater (voluntary) \$10

Change of Address

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

QSL Card

Submitted by Leo, WA1HAM

Write-up by Bob, W1RH

This month's card comes to us courtesy of Leo, WA1HAM. Leo worked Gail, TR8GDC, in January, 1979, using his old call, WA1ETX.. Gail's card says she is the only active YL in Gabon.

Gabon has not been on any of the 100 most wanted countries lists, but it is still a good catch for the younger and casual DX'er. The country is located in Western Africa, bordering the Atlantic Ocean at the Equator between the Congo and Equatorial Guinea. Gabon is a republic with the capital in Liberville. Gail, TR8GDC, worked for the Department of State at the time of this QSO and probably was stationed at the United States Embassy in the capital city. Gabon received its independence from France in 1960 and French is the official language. Although Gabon is in the third world, it is not without technology. The country has 15,000 telephones, 6 AM, 6 FM and 1 TV station. Weather? Try hot, wet and humid!

Did you notice last month's card and its contributor? Newsletter space prevented a detailed write up. Lew, K1AZE, mailed the card to our newsletter editor. The Card was from the Spain's Canary Islands. The call letters on the card, EA8BH, represented a major contest operation.

Thanks to Leo and Lew for their cards. If you have a card we can feature in the newsletter, scan it in and email it to me. If you don't have a scanner, I will scan it in and promptly return it to you.

Last Month's Card - Submitted by Lew K1AZE



OSLs COURTESY DELTA DX ASSOCIATION		GABON WEST AFRICA					
		TR8GDC					
10-X 21943 "Only Active YL in Gabon" 1558 11471							
TO RADIO		Confirming QSO					
Day	Month	Year	GMT	RST	2xSSB	2xCW	MHz
WA1ETX	15	JAN	1979	2147	59	L	21
GAIL D. CURLEY Liberville Department of State Washington, D.C. 20520 U.S.A.			Thanks for QSO <input type="checkbox"/> Please QSL Thanks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Yessu FT 101EX TH3 MK3 15m Vertical QSL VIA WSRU		

The Circuit is in need of QSL cards!!!

If you would like to share your favorite QSL card, which could be your own, with the club, please send it my way! A caption or story would be appreciated also.

Don't let not having a scanner keep you from sending in your favorite card. Many FARA Members have access to scanners, including Bob, W1RH.

