

The Framingham Circuit

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President's Message

Get RADIOACTIVE! What I mean, of course, is be an active ham. It doesn't mean you have to be listening or transmitting on the radio for hours on end each day. (Although it certainly could mean that.) I suspect every ham goes through periods where he or she hasn't turned on their radio for days or weeks at a time but still is very active doing other "ham things" like kit building, studying for the next upgrade, rebuilding the shack. This hobby never ceases to astound me with the endless varieties of things to do and all under the umbrella of what's called "Amateur Radio". If you're like most hams, interests change, ebb and flow, HF today, Microwave tomorrow, Packet yesterday, all of the above and much more. And what about the technologies - digital, sideband, slowscan, AM, FM, CW, etc., etc., etc. Whether you're fixing an antenna on a cold blustery January day or reading your QST in your easy-chair nearby the fire, it's all part of the hobby. And don't forget to share your enthusiasm. Come on down to the shack on Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings, or to the monthly FARA meeting and tell people what you've been doing and find out what they've been up to. Got a question, ham related or not, ask it. You'll get at least twice the number of opinions as the number of hams you ask. Almost guaranteed. You'll have to do the filtering to figure out which opinions have the most merit and which ones have none at all. The bottom line is have fun and share it. 73

Jim, W1EQW

Thursday, Feb. 5 This Month's Meeting

Marjie, KA1HIA

Ever wondered what the terms NTS or traffic handling mean? If you have, then you'll want to listen to February's speaker, Jim Hatherly, WA1TBY. Longtime American Radio Relay League Section Traffic Manager, Jim will speak about the National Traffic System (NTS) today and how it has changed, among other things. Plan to attend to hear Jim give an interesting talk the FARA meeting on Feb. 5.

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 Thursday, one week before the monthly meeting.

by phone

(508) 435-2055 (before 9:00PM please!)

by mail

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Hopkinton, MA 01748

by internet

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Emergency Communications Training to be held Feb. 8

by Marc Stern, WA1R

One of the keys to Amateur Radio is public service. For years, Amateurs have spent long hours manning their radios whenever we have been called upon to help, no matter the circumstances.

Here are some examples:

Mt. St. Helens, 1981: Two Amateurs, who made the supreme sacrifice, help provide early warning of a major eruption. Their heroism helped to save others.

West Coast wildfires: Amateurs provide yeoman service by providing common frequencies so firefighters can intercommunicate. Normally, few fire departments share have common frequencies to do this.

Hurricane Andrew, 1991: Hams keep relief efforts moving by providing communications support.

Boston Marathon: Hams continually provide health and safety support for Red Cross responders.

Skywarn: Amateurs here and in other parts of the country provide real-time reports to the National Weather Service to fill in the pictures drawn by other technologies

Local communities: In Framingham and elsewhere in Massachusetts, Hams provide continuing support for emergency management and civil defense activities. In most cases, Hams are the communications arm of the local emergency preparedness office.

As you can see, the list goes on and on. And, you may be wondering just how you can get involved in this and what it takes to participate.

The first thing it takes to participate is enthusiasm. Second, of course, there's the equipment part of the equation, too. We do all of this work with our own equipment and on our own time with no expectation of reward, except for a word

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or two of thanks and a handshake. Third, and finally, there's the learning experience. By just participating you learn how to operate in a public service atmosphere; it's part of our own long history of self-training. However, in the last few years Amateur ranks have grown rapidly and there are many new operators who may not know what ARES or RACES or Skywarn stand for. (ARES is the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, RACES is the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service and Skywarn is the Weather Service reporting service.) Each has different roles, but in Massachusetts, they work together, much of the time. In working together, there are times when operators in one organization will work directly with the second or third and they need to know how to communicate. In an effort to provide a new level of training and knowledge for new operators (and a refresher for experienced Amateurs), the Mass. State RACES organization under Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, Eastern Mass. ARES under Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, and Skywarn, under Rob Macedo, KD1CY, have organized training sessions across Massachusetts.

The next one is scheduled for Feb. 7 at 1:30 p.m. at the Mass. Emergency Management Agency's Area I headquarters in Tewksbury. It is open to all Amateurs interested in public service communication. To date, other sessions have been held in MEMA Areas II and III in Bridgewater and Belchertown, respectively.

The Tewksbury session, the third of four planned, will be a great opportunity for new Amateurs or experienced operators to receive training and knowledge of each service and how they interact. All those interested in this type of operation should plan to attend.

To get to Area I headquarters:

Take Route 495 North to Exit 38 (Route 38). Exit the highway and turn left at the lights at the bottom of the ramp. Stay on Route 38 for about two miles until you come to a Shell gas station on the left at a set of traffic lights. At those lights turn left and take your first right into the grounds of the Massachusetts Department of Health hospital grounds. Drive up the driveway and take your second

left. Proceed through the parking lot until you see the antennas and MEMA trailer and building. Enter through the door. From Route 128: Take Route 38 West until you see the Shell station (about 10 miles) and bear right and take your first right.

The Year 2000: Will Your PC Crash?

by Charlie Ross, NC1N

Happy New Year! It's January, 1998, and there are only two years to go until the "millenium disaster" the media can't seem to stop talking about.

Many hams rely upon PCs in their shacks, homes, and offices. However, many PCs have BIOS bugs that will cause problems starting on 1/1/2000. Is yours safe?

NSTL (National Software Testing Laboratories) has prepared a free Y2K test program. You can download a copy from:

[link](#)

Please note that the program must run in MS-DOS mode (a DOS window in Win95 is NOT sufficient).

Southern Club News

by Lew, K1AZE

Hello up there in the Tundra. I thought I'd give you FARA folks an update on MARC (Montgomery Amateur Radio Club) here in Alabama. I conducted my first meeting as club president, and the only person who heckled me was another former Yankee, who happens to be our new club treasurer. I will be inaugurating their first pizza night out, probably for the April meeting. Take a look at our web page at:

[link](#).

It won some kind of ARRL award for most outstanding web sight. You might get some ideas for FARA's web page.

I just attended an ARRL section meeting for Alabama Section, and when we went around the room to introduce ourselves I got up, gave my name and call sign and said I thought this was the Eastern Mass section meeting, and that I must have made a wrong turn off Interstate 95 somewhere. Broke the place up.

I won't discuss the wx because I know

what you've been getting up there. Suffice to say we have perfect antenna weather here.

We plan to be in Boston in early September to attend a wedding and will try to make the FARA meeting. Regards to all from Karen and 73 from 4 land.

The 27Mhz Problem

By Jon Isabelle N1ZWG

I am sure that many of you have noticed in the past and now more than ever that there is a rivalry between the CBers and the hams on the HF bands. I have noticed that lately while listening to a channel in Framingham on a friends CB that lots of these people are treating the airwaves horribly but then again that's not really news. The thing that I found very disturbing was the amount of amplifiers that are readily available to the average person today!

I was also a little irritated to find out that these CBers were not only causing overload but that they were actually transmitting out of their band and attempting to occupy the 10 meter band with foul language and illegal activities. I have recently spent a little time listening to one of these "Local Channels". The people that I was listening to I found out are running illegal radios. Apparently what they do is buy these stock 10 meter radios and modify them to transmit out of band. Some of these radios that they most commonly use I am told are: The RCI 2950, The Discontinued HR 2510, And many of these "Galaxy" brand radios. Apparently I am told by local Technicians that these radios are so easily modified that all you have to do is pull a diode or resistor.

Now I know that this is really becoming a problem because recently in the earlier month of January I was in the shack scanning the bands with the HF rig. As I was on 10 meters I thought it was dead when all of the sudden a major dose of overload hit us. So we quickly spun the dial to find the source and low and behold it was a nearby CBER transmitting on 10 meters with what seemed like a lot of power. I think that it is about time that the FCC or the local hams took action to protect our air waves.

CABIN FEVER AUCTION 1998

by Paul, WR1X
Mohawk ARC PR
pcbolduc@delphi.com

The Mohawk Amateur Radio club Inc. is sponsoring a Cabin fever auction March 14, 1998 at the American Legion Post, intersection of Elm St. and Pearl St. Gardner, MA. Doors open at 9:00 AM the auction begins at 10:00 AM. until 5:00 pm
Talk in 145.37 Templeton Repeater.
Admission: \$2.00 per person Sellers a 10% donation will be retained by the Mohawk club, up to \$50.00 maximum. Adjust your opening bids accordingly. Contact: Paul Topolski, W1SEX at 978-632-9432 evenings between 6:00 and 10:00 PM or E-mail to ptopolski@net1plus.com
Hope to see you there.

QSL Card

Submitted by Sumner, W1VIV



Swap Board

I have a Yaesu FT-757GX-II for sale that I purchased in '92. It is in good condx, and has the optional cw filter. I'll also throw in an MFJ electronic keyer and hand microphone. I've had it in my car as a mobile rig all this time, and have recently purchased a new car that I won't be drilling any new holes in for the foreseeable future.

I'm asking \$400 or best offer.

Phil Temples, K9HI
h: 617-926-5986
w: 617-496-6518
email: phil@temples.com

and...

K12B, Terry Mayer, Sudbury, recently passed away. His widow would like to offer for sale his radio equipment. Mrs. Mayer's address and home phone number is, Janet Mayer, 61 Fairbank Road, Sudbury, MA.01776.

1-978-443-2486

SSTV hams don't need the Post Office or the QSL Bureaus. They often send QSLs during the actual QSO, for immediate gratification. Here is a typical QSL, as received by Sumner, W1VIV.

If you would like to share your favorite QSL card with the club, please send it my way! A caption or story would be appreciated also.
Next month's card will be brought to you by Rich Wiik, N1YWO.

Hamerick by W1VIV

The cricket, with a bit of a sigh,
Said, "I'm sure you're correct that I
Have a chirp that sounds funny,
But I'm saving my money
And an electronic keyer I'll buy!"

FARA Horizons

Feb 5: Monthly Meeting
Feb 23: Board Meeting