

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association July 1999, Vol. 66, No. 7

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## Thursday, July 1

### This Month's Meeting

It's show and tell time. Bring something interesting and share it with the club. A full wrap up of Field Day '99 will be offered as well.

## 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!)

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(508) 910-5296

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Hopkinton, MA 01748

### by internet

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## President's Message

My first order of business this month is to thank you all for allowing me to serve another term as the president of FARA. All kidding aside, it's a great honor to have a group of people ask you to lead them. I'll do what I can to make this coming year fun for all. I would imagine that, besides food, this would involve some kit building (I have a neat regenerative receiver project) and continued improvements to the shack. We're working on a budget and Sumner's been putting a lot of effort into showing us where our money comes from and where it goes. Bob is working to line up some great programs, and Dick is doing his usual great job of directing. By the time this edition of the Circuit hits the street, Field Day 1999 will be a done deal. I hope you all had fun. We can't do an event of this magnitude without a lot of support, and the usual major contributors have my deepest gratitude. I especially want to thank Dick and Marsha for their many efforts in making the weekend a success (most notably in the food area), Bob and Robert for helping with the logistics and shelter, Dave and Martin for being master competition organizers, Bev for remembering all the stuff I forgot, George for the truck, and Jim for being in charge of waste management. If I left someone out, I apologize, you all know what you did, and we couldn't have Field Day without everyone pitching in and helping. The best part of the end of the year is not Field Day, but the distribution of scholarships. We were able to award four scholarships at the last meeting. We have already received some very nice thank you notes, which are displayed in the shack. Dick and the rest of the committee did another great job.

73,

Peter, KA1AXY

### CALLING ALL CODE-LESS TECHNICIANS!

By Ed, W1NXC

VHF is a lot of fun but you can get in on some real action. How? By simply passing a 5wpm code test which adds a plus to your Tech license. Only then can you explore the HF bands on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters, thus joining in the excitement of DX chasing, contesting etc.

Furthermore, if either the ARRL or the FCC band restructuring plan is adopted, the Tech-Plus licensees will inherit even more bandwidth privileges. The ARRL proposal, which the FCC has been requested to approve, gives Tech-Plus operators 2700 kHz of additional frequencies, thus allowing operation on 160, 20, 12, 17 and 30 meters (these bands are currently restricted to higher class licensees).

The FCC plan is somewhat similar but both proposals offer the most advantages to Tech-Plus licensees. Meanwhile no changes to the current question pools are contemplated, pending resolution of the restructuring of the rules governing the Amateur Radio Service-This could come as early as this fall.

No-Code Tech license holders interested in obtaining code proficiency at 5 wpm can call Ed, W1NXC or any of the FARA officers for further information.

*Note: The Advanced question pool scheduled to change July 1, 1999 will remain current until further notice.*

**IOTA 99 TEAM NA-148**  
By Steve, AA1IZ

On Friday, July 23rd a team of FARA members, operating under the call of AA1IZ, will set up a multi-operator station on George's Island in Boston Harbor to compete in the 1999 Islands On The Air contest. The contest calls for contacting as many stations operating on designated islands throughout the world. The designation for George's Island is NA-148 (North America-148). The team will travel by boat transporting two HF stations, one backup HF station, a packet station, two three element tribanders, a vertical, and a 180 ft dipole. The two computers will run TR networked for logging. All supplies will be carried in including water.

At 1200Z on Saturday operators around the world will begin 24 hours of contesting on both phone and cw. The FARA team plans to operate 3 teams of 3 people rotating 2 hour shifts to stay fresh and alert during the contest. Each team has at least one phone and one CW specialist. Every QSO is important, so please come up on frequency and help the team to big numbers.

After the contest ends Sunday morning both stations will stay on the air until mid afternoon to give out as many George's Island QSO's as possible.

Visitors can reach George's Island by ferry from Long Wharf in Boston.

**Boston Harbor Islands Ferry  
Schedule**

**Departures**

Long Wharf	George's Island
10:00	10:50
11:00	11:50
12:00	12:50
1:00	1:50
2:00	2:50
3:00	3:50
4:00	4:50
5:00	5:50

**Rates**

Adults: \$8  
Seniors: \$7  
Children under 12: \$6

Ferry Service is provided by Boston Harbor Cruises. More information can be found on their web site at:

[www.bostonharborcruises.com](http://www.bostonharborcruises.com)

**About George's Island**

Boston Harbor Islands Web site:  
[www.bostonharborislands.com](http://www.bostonharborislands.com)

Constructed of granite between 1833 and 1869, Fort Warren was used during the Civil War for training Union soldiers and later functioned as a prison for captured Confederates. The author Edward Rowe Snow asserted that Fort Warren "has more memories of the Civil War days than any other place in New England." Another historian claimed that prisoners working on the fort's parade ground wrote the lyrics to "John Brown's Body," whose melody was used by Julia Ward Howe when she wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

To this day, within the fort's dark corridors, the legend lives on of "The Lady in Black," the ghost of a Confederate prisoner's wife who was sentenced to death for aiding in an escape and hanged in a black robe made from the Fort's mess hall drapes.

Dominated by Fort Warren, a National Historic Landmark, this 28-acre island is the center of transportation to the islands.

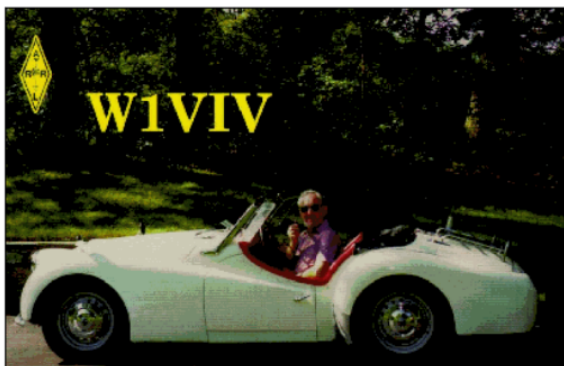
Seven miles from downtown Boston, George's Island contains a large dock, picnic grounds, open fields, paved walkways, a parade ground and a gravel beach. Guided tours of historic Fort Warren and a slide show are offered. George's also has the only food-service—a snack bar—on the islands.



Aerial view of George's Island  
Friends of Boston Harbor Islands: [www.fbhi.org](http://www.fbhi.org)

#### QSL Card

Submitted by Sumner, W1VIV



When Club Treasurer, Sumner, W1VIV, isn't taking care of our finances or operating radios, he is cruising around in his Triumph convertible. If you missed seeing it at Field Day... Here it is as Sumner's cool new QSL card!

*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.*

#### FARA Horizons

July 1: Monthly Meeting  
July 26: Board Meeting

#### New Appointees

As the summer starts, the officers and board have made some changes in the appointed staff positions to better address FARA's needs.

Sharon, KC1YR and Director Dick, K1KTK have agreed to share the position of Publicity Coordinator. These appointments recognize the constant efforts of both these members to inform the public and local officials of FARA's activities and projects.

Bev, N1LOO and Jim, W1EQW have been appointed to the newly created position of Public Service Coordinator. Many of our activities involve service to the town or other nonprofit groups. Bev and Jim will manage FARA's participation in all non-emergency public service events.

Please join me in wishing Sharon, Bev,

Dick and Jim success in their new roles.

#### Late Breaking News from the DRMA Auction in Kittery, ME

By Peter, KA1AXY

Director Dick, K1KTK and Treasurer Sumner, W1VIV have just informed me that FARA is the proud owner of THREE each, Tent, GP Medium. These are the huge olive drab tents we have been borrowing from the National Guard (thanks, Sgt Randall!) for Field Day each year. We now have our own, at the bargain cost of \$80 for the three.

We plan to keep at least one of them, for Field Day use and one as a loaner for other Town non-profit groups (like the Celebration Committee). The last tent we will attempt to sell, to recover the cost of the other two. Our only other problem is where to store these

monsters.

Congratulations to Dick and Sumner on an acquisition well done. There's also a rumor that they did some outlet shopping while they were up there.

#### 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 for it to 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.

#### 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](mailto:fara@fara.org). Or, you can call Bev Lees at 508-626-2012

#### READ THE CIRCUIT ONLINE... SAVES PAPER AND POSTAGE

Now available as an Adobe Acrobat file email [fara@fara.org](mailto:fara@fara.org) and we'll set you up!