

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association March 1999, Vol. 66, No. 3

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## President's Message

My big news for this month is that I received and built my Elecraft K2 kit, and it works! Building took between 20 and 25 hours for the three boards. Alignment and debug took another couple of hours. I had very few problems, and the rig performs very well. I'm waiting for the option kits now. I'll bring the K2 to the March meeting.

The shack computer has been upgraded again, thanks to Paul, N1DGT. Paul donated a 28.8 modem, and spent all morning trying to get Win95 to accept it. In the end, Paul won, and the shack computer now communicates twice as fast as it used to. We have increased the machine's memory, too.

It's an unpleasant topic, but as we head into spring, I am informed that almost half our membership has not yet sent in their 1999 dues check. Please, folks, we can't run the club on donations alone. Dig out that checkbook, and, while you're writing the big check to Uncle Sam, consider how much you get for \$10 or \$20 from FARA. I hate to sound like PBS, but we need the money to stay in business, so please send in your dues.

Our Director is working on FARA Night Out. We have a tentative date of Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. License in a Weekend is also rapidly approaching. If you know anyone who is interested in getting their license, have them contact Ed Weiss.

73,

Peter, KA1AXY

Fred Rosebury, KA1GEN, SK

MetroWest News & Marc, WA1R

## Thursday, March 4 This Month's Meeting

Your H-T no longer works after carrying it around this winter. Or, perhaps the HF transceiver that you use in the house and in the car to communicate with just died. Maybe the problem is condensation. What causes it and what can you do about it?

Learn about Relative Humidity and Dewpoint, and how they affect you and your radio equipment. Learn to better understand the TV weather. Our speaker is Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, who will explain these mysterious terms.

Natick - Fred Rosebury, 97, died Saturday, Feb. 20, 1999, at the MetroWestMedical Center in Framingham, following a long illness.

He was the husband of the late Pauline (Pleasure) Rosebury. Funeral arrangements, which are under the direction of the John Everett and Sons Funeral Home at Natick Common, are incomplete.

Fred Rosebury came into FARA in the early 1980s after a hiatus of nearly 60 years from the radio business, so to speak. Fred was a shipboard spark in the teens and 20s and learned his CW craft there.

When he joined FARA, it became a family affair as Pauline attended many events early on, as did Fred's son Michael.

Some years ago, Fred lost Pauline and Michael, who became an operator through FARA. He was on his own for some time and later moved into an advanced facility for the aged.

Fred remained active on CW until shortly before his passing. Julie Hoffer, W1DL, and others helped to keep Fred on the air with antennas for 40 meters.

## 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.

With Fred's passing, a link to another era in our hobby has gone. He will be missed by many.

*Fred wrote a very nice letter for the Circuit, which was printed in the January issue -ed.*

**'98 Winners and Scholarship Rules for 1999**

### by phone

Home:  
(508) 435-2055 (before 9:00PM please!)  
College:  
(508) 910-5296

by Rich, KD1BF

### by mail

Robert Hess, N1UVA  
1 Cold Spring Brook Road  
Hopkinton, MA 01748

As everyone knows our three Scholarship winners for 1998 were:  
Kevin Goodwin, N1JMY

### by internet

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## Kings Point Amateur Radio Club at Sun City Center, FL

W3SOB - The Bob Sutter Memorial Station

by Dick, K1KTK

Marsha and I visited my aunt and uncle at Kings Point in Sun City Center, FL, in 1985 and were quite surprised at what we found there. As a matter of fact, we liked it so much that in 1986 we purchased our first condo there.

The complex has a clubhouse that covers two and one-half acres and has just about anything one could possibly want: complete woodworking shop, lapidary shop, sewing, music, cards, etc. There was even a HAM SHACK!!

At some point prior to 1985, there was a storm which knocked out the power and phone service to that part of Florida. Of course, the local hams were at the ready and provided communications to the outside world. The developer was so impressed by what they did that he gathered the hams from the complex, told them he was moving the travel club out of their room, would build a ham shack and asked what equipment they needed. The initial shack had a Kenwood TS-430 transceiver with a Classic 33 tri-band beam mounted on a 55-foot crank-up tower.

A few years later, the developer decided that the shack was too small so he moved a wall to give us more room. Equipment was donated by many people to the point that there are now two hf positions, both with amplifiers, packet, 2-meter base station and even a CB setup. We are fully equipped to provide communications to the community. The club even purchased 4 2-meter walkies which can be signed out for short periods of time (like when we were visiting).

Recently the club held a meeting and decided that they wanted to upgrade the equipment in the shack and after totaling up all the costs, it came to \$5000. So they went to the developer to see if he could possibly help out in this effort. Well, the developer said that he would pledge half if they could raise the other half. They went to both the Management Company and the Condo Owners Association who each put up one-quarter and the developer matched it for the full amount.

Not only does the condo complex have a radio club but there are clubs in the

towns of Sun City Center and Ruskin. We also have a repeater association which has repeaters on 2, 220 and 440.

People ask why we are retiring to Kings Point. You now know one of the biggest reasons we chose to live there.



This is the view at the level of the 3 element beam pointed at the USA.



Bob and Steve operated two radios in Grenada, both with amplifiers. Station one is in the foreground. Steve, AA1IZ operates station 2 in the background. Antennas included a 3 element beam, R-7 and center fed Zepp.

Bob, W1RH and Steve, AA1IZ operated the ARRL DX CW contest on the 20th and 21st of February. Bob is back home. Steve is staying for the ARRL phone contest. Look for a detailed article about the adventure in a future Circuit.

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 Ships Four Computers to Grenada

by Peter, KA1AXY

Last month, FARA members gathered at the shack, and packed four 386 computers for shipment to Grenada with the AA1IZ DXpedition. We have been collecting and combining various computer components over the past year. After formatting and reloading the hard drives with Windows 3.1, Word and Excel the computers sat in storage, awaiting transportation to Grenada.

Steve was able to get American Airlines to carry, at no charge, twelve extra boxes. We spent two nights in the shack, wrapping computers, monitors, keyboards and printers in bubble plastic, reshaping Styrofoam blocks with a bread knife, and taping boxes closed. We managed to get four computers, with monitors and printers, into twelve boxes.

When he returns, Steve will bring news about where the computers ended up and how many of them actually worked on arrival. We are still collecting 386 and better machines, VGA monitors, printers and packing boxes. The boxes need to measure no more than 62 inches in combined dimensions (L+W+H<62).

We need any Styrofoam inserts if you have them, too. There's a 70 pound weight limit on each box, so no individual computer component can weigh any more than that.

Steve has been the driving force behind this project, and it was originally his idea. I'd like to see FARA making annual shipments to Grenada (and other places), where even an old 386 is better than nothing.



Steve, AA1IZ and Pete, KD1QS rap bubble rap around one of four 386 systems sent to Grenada  
[More Pictures Here!](#)

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Robert Hess, N1UVA

Kristi Lees, N1JFP

We thought the membership would appreciate an update as to their current endeavors.

Kevin has graduated from Middlesex Community College and is now attending Framingham State College where he is studying sociology but, he is planning to transfer to the Department of Communications Arts.

Robert is attending the School of Business at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth where he is a Business Information Systems major. In addition to his FARA membership he is a member of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. Robert has helped FARA during field day(s) and has operated as a "Rover" in his other contesting endeavors. Robert is also active in both Scouting and church work.

Kristi is attending Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania where she received a Presidential Scholarship from the school. She has been very active in community events, as she has assisted in over five Boston Marathon's as a ham volunteer.

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, 1999.
3. Must be a licensed radio amateur.
4. Preference will be given to graduating high school seniors.

For applications contact Richard Cosma KD1BF (508) 877-8241.

**READ THE CIRCUIT ONLINE...**  
**SAVES PAPER AND POSTAGE**  
email [fara@fara.org](mailto:fara@fara.org) and we'll set you up!

#### Membership Dues

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

#### FARA Horizons

Mar 4: Monthly Meeting  
Mar 27: Field Day Planning  
Mar 22: Board Meeting

#### 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

#### QSL Card

Submitted by Dick, K1KTK



This month's card comes to us from our Director Dick, K1KTK, and formerly WA1KUG. Bob, W6VGQ, was the operator on the Queen Mary when he worked Dick on May 16, 1983. The QSO was on two meters when Dick was in the Los Angeles area. The Queen Mary is permanently docked in Long Beach, California. This QSL was issued for contacting the station which was commemorating the opening of the Exhibition of the Howard Hughes Spruce Goose in May, 1983. Amateur Radio operation aboard the RMS Queen Mary was requested by the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach and the City of Long Beach. GB5QM was the only amateur radio station ever licensed for operation aboard the Queen Mary. This was for the last voyage. It was the first time Americans were licensed to operate aboard a British Ship. W6RO, the club station, was operated aboard the ship on February 21, 1971 as the ship was moved from dockside to her present location at Pier J. Operation of the reconstructed wireless room by the ARA of Long Beach was officially started on April 22, 1979.

*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.*

#### Sunday Evening Net

We're instituting a backup plan for the Sunday evening net. The schedule for the month is posted on the web. The net control for the next week is the backup for the net control for the current week.

If the scheduled net control hasn't started the net by 7:35, the backup net control should start the net. The scheduled net control will then run the net the next Sunday. The week after that, the normal schedule will resume.

#### Pay Your Dues!

Check your mailing label. If it says "Time to Renew", we don't have your check yet, and this will be the last newsletter you receive.

#### Questions, Comments, Complaints?

Could we be doing something differently? Like to know more? Have a suggestion? FARA needs your ideas. Send them to [<fara@fara.org>](mailto:fara@fara.org), or phone Peter, KA1AXY.

#### Field Day, June 26-27

##### Field Day Planning

We will hold our first planning meeting for Field Day on Wednesday, March 17th, at 7:30 in the shack. If you're interested, but can't make it, send email to [<fara@fara.org>](mailto:fara@fara.org) or call Peter, KA1AXY.

##### From the Director

At the most recent Board meeting it was decided to revert back to our previous way of doing Field Day. This means the effort will be less competitive and there will be more time for socializing and eating. Please come to the Field Day planning meeting at the Shack, time and date are listed above. Who knows, the FARA chef may even whip up something green for the evening.