

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

November 1995, Vol. 62, No. 11

## This Month's Meeting

It will be "Show and Tell" night on Thursday, Nov. 2nd! So if you have any pet projects or have taken part in some special event let the club know about at this month's meeting.

## President's Thoughts

Well, this month we bid a fond farewell to two of the backbones of our club, Lew and Karen Nyman. Lew and Karen have worked very hard to help make the club what it is today and their help and advise will be sorely missed. I know the entire club joins me in wishing Lew and Karen the best as they start a new chapter in their lives.

We thank, Boris, S51XE, for speaking at our last meeting. It was very nice to learn about Ham radio in Slovenia from our club member in Slovenia. It was very enjoyable meeting Boris and learning more about radio around to world.

The club station continues to improve, with the 3 element beam installed on the roof and ready to operate in the upcoming contest. Thanks to all who helped with the antenna projects, including Jim, W1EQW; Steve, N1TYH; Mark, N1FXE; Lee, KA1USL; Brian, N1JFO; Rick, K1LOG; John, KA1ALT; Dennis, KE6DPL; Boris, S51XE; and everyone else who worked so hard in the shack. We now have a place to meet and play radio on the weekends. Please, stop by any Saturday morning and enjoy the new and improved shack.

The first of our seminars was held last week and several club members now understand the operation of the TS850 and know what ALL the bells and whistles are all about!!! We look forward to learning more new things in the months to come.

Have a good month and Happy Thanksgiving.

73,  
Bev, N1LOO

## Tribute to Lew and Karen

Dick Marshall, WA1KUG

Town of Framingham declares October 24, 1995, as Lew and Karen Nyman Day.

A surprise farewell party was held for Lew (K1AZE) and Karen (KA1BYP) Nyman on Tuesday, October 24, 1995, at the Bella Costa Restaurant in Framingham (and was attended by over 50 people. Lew has accepted a new position that will take them to Orlando, Florida, and then on to Montgomery, Alabama.

The festivities began when Dick and Marsha Marshall were able to successfully lure Lew and Karen into joining them for dinner. The Club members had done a fabulous job in keeping it a surprise. Little did Lew and Karen know what was in store for them.

Lew and Karen were presented with a Proclamation from the Town of Framingham Selectmen which commended Lew and Karen for their service to the Town and FARA and declared Tuesday, October 24, 1995, as Lew and Karen Nyman Day in Framingham.

A "Press Release" was read which announced Lew's departure for a foreign assignment and stated that the FARA Food Budget would be drastically reduced. Karen's "Press Release" stated that the price of Tuna Fish would decrease because of the decreased demand. They were also presented with a set of maps and books to help them find their way around the Southeastern United States.

Barbara Gray, the State Representative from Framingham, personally presented Lew and Karen each with a Commendation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for their dedication and service.

Many people spoke about events that had occurred with Lew and Karen. Although it started as a "roast", it did turn out to be a "toast".

A good time was had by all, especially Lew and Karen.

No question, we will ALL miss Lew and Karen Nyman and we wish them the best of everything in their new endeavors. 73 Y'all

*[Here is Lew's and Karen's new address. It should be good from Nov. 5, 1995 until around Jan 1, 1996]*

Lew and Karen Nyman  
Summerfield Suites  
8480 International Drive  
Orlando, FL 32819  
Tel: 407-352-2400  
Fax: 407-352-4631

## Training and Education Report

by Ed Weiss, W1NXC

The recent License-In-a-Weekend class, held on Sept. 26 through Oct. 1, concluded on a happy note as 12 entrants passed elements 2 and 3A and will soon receive their call signs as Technician Class operators.

A total of fifteen students enrolled in the intensive three day course held at the Club location in the Danforth Museum basement. Two additional passed element 2 and need only

pass element 3A to also qualify for the Technician license.

This was a new venture for FARA and many club members made significant contributions to this effort. Special thanks to instructors Dennis, KE6DPL, Jim, W1EQW, and Lee, KA1USL. Also assisting on the Sunday morning review panel were Paul, N1DGT, and Wayne, W1EWL. The Friday evening orientation session featured Bev, N1LOO, welcoming the students to the class; Paul, N1DGT, speaking on the role of computers in Ham Radio; Dennis, KE6DPL, explaining ARE and RACES; and finally, Phil, N1MQG, talking on the history of Amateur Radio.

Many thanks also to Bev, N1LOO, Anne, N1ECI, and Mary, KA1HGL, for their help in handling the "behind-the-scenes" arrangements for the license session.

The exam session was handled capably by Dick, WA1KUG, and his VE team, Jim, WA1KUG, Lee, KA1USL, Paul, N1DGT, Wayne, W1EWL, and Pete KA1AXY.

*[Since Ed wrote this article the original 12 have received their licenses (N1VYA - N1VYL) and two others passed additional elements - one finishing his Technician and the other passing element 2. The former had already received his call before a week had passed. So that's almost 14 out of the 15! Congratulations to Ed and his crew!!— Editor]*

### Easter Island DXpedition Goes High-Tech

Charlie Ross, NC1N

Got Him! It was Saturday, September 9, and I joined the ranks of the few thousand hams that worked the XRO Y DXpedition on Easter Island. I had only recently caught the DX "bug," and Easter was the first place I had worked that could be considered somewhat exotic. I also remembered from CQ magazine that they would be posting their logs on the Internet while still on the Island. I'd have to remember to check that out. Then, my thoughts turned to other things... noisy kids, the lawn that needed mowing, etc.

Fast-forward to Monday morning at work. While sipping high-octane coffee, I started perusing my E-mail. One message jumped out at me (see side bar).

Huh? I hadn't given them my E-mail address. What was this about?

Ah-hah! A couple of months back I had registered my E-mail address with the QRZ folks. At the time, I didn't think it would be of any use to anybody.

About a week later, the automatic QSL arrived: The QSO information was printed on the front, both in human-readable letters and in machine-readable bar code. The expedition points out that no one is yet using bar codes for validating QSLs, but they hope to start a trend.

Here's the scoop: For your first contact with XRO Y (or its sister station, XRO Z, on Salas y Gomez), you got an E-mail message if you had registered your address with QRZ in advance. You got an automatic QSL if they could find your mail address in a callbook database. To get a fancy QSL, or to get QSLs for any other QSOs, you need to send your QSL and a SASE to the expedition's QSL manager.

Both the E-mail message and the automatic QSL came loaded with advertising for commemorative items... tee-shirts, mugs, photos, even a book. They're selling them in an attempt to offset the considerable cost of sending 30 hams to the southern Pacific.

Has this DXpedition started a trend? I hope so. It's great to get the quick feedback. I've already seen messages about other DXpeditions make reference to, "Like XRO Y, we will be keeping in contact via the Internet." No one else has yet done as much, but's only a matter of time.

#### The URLs:

To register your E-mail address with QRZ, go to <http://www.qrz.com/cgi-bin/webcall>.

To search the XRO Y logs, go to <http://ve7tcp.ampr.org/> and follow the links to the DX area. (The logs were still on line when this was written (October 9). Like anything else on the Internet, they may not be there by the time you read this.)

#### Late News:

On October 9, the XRO Y team announced that the ARRL has decided NOT to accept the "automatic" paper QSLs for DXCC credit. The DXCC desk is concerned that they contain too many errors. Naturally, the team disagrees with this position. In the mean time, if you worked XRO Y or

XRO Z, make sure you send in your card and an SASE to their QSL manager. It's likely the League will hear some complaints about this...

### Digital rules clarified

ARRL Bulletin 94

The FCC, responding to a request from the ARRL, has clarified its rules regarding Amateur Radio stations' use of digital codes.

Date	From	Subject
Sep 10	QRZ Easter Island	E-Mail QSL Confirmation
Congratulations for working the Easter Island/Salas y Gomez DXpedition!		
We have you in the log for the following QSO:		
>>>> NC1N 9-Sep-95 1749 SSB 18 56 XRO Y		
If this is your first QSO with the DXpedition, and we can find your name and address in a database, you should get a QSL card in the U. S. mail within a day or two. This service was implemented by WJ20....		

The ARRL, in a letter to the Commission, said that some amateurs had expressed concern about the propriety of using the CLOVER, G-TOR, and PacTOR codes on the HF bands (below 30 MHz), because FCC rule 97.309(a) "appears to authorize" only Baudot, AMTOR, and ASCII codes. The League told the Commission that it had worked with the developers of CLOVER, G-TOR, and PacTOR to document the technical characteristics of those codes, and asked the FCC to remove any doubt about their legality on the HF bands.

The FCC agreed, saying that the use of the three modes does not conflict with its objective of preventing the use of codes or ciphers intended to obscure the meaning of the communication.

As a result, the FCC added a paragraph (4) to Part 97.309(a) to read:

(4) An amateur station transmitting a RTTY or data emission using a digital code specified in this paragraph may use any technique whose technical characteristics have been documented publicly, such as CLOVER, G-TOR, or PacTOR, for the purpose of facilitating communications.

### H-2782 Update

Phil Temples, K9HI

The Governor's office has decided not to sign off on H-2782. The Governor will send the bill back to the legislature with amendments to include aesthetics and health, in addition to public safety, as criteria by which local governments may regulate towers.

In short, the Governor's advisers would like to see H-2782 look more like PRB-1. We have been reasonably well-served by PRB-1, and having the Massachusetts regulation look more like PRB-1 is probably in our best long-term interests.

#### *What's Next:*

Fortunately, the revised bill does not have to go through the 14-step legislative process again. The new draft of the bill will go straight to the House floor for a vote, then straight to the Senate floor for approval, then back to the Governor. This could go quickly if we all contact our Reps & Senators.

**Thank you!** to everyone who has called the Governor's office in the last two days. This was our most successful

squeaky-wheel effort to date. I hope you will all be able to make phone calls in the coming weeks as we push this through one more time. But...

**Please--No more phone calls to the Governor's Office!** The decision has been made for this round. The Governor's office has been very cooperative, even if we disagree on a few small matters. Let's not alienate our new friends. [Courtesy K3HI, State Government Liaison, MA]

### Jamboree On The Air

Jamboree On The Air, JOTA for short, run by Dennis, KE6DPL, and Rick, K1LOG, was well received. Held at the YMCA Center in Hopkinton as part of the Algonquin Council (Eastern district) Camporee, there were close to 20 Boy Scout troops attending and many of their boys got a positive exposure to Amateur Radio.

The set up included Dennis's TS-990 on HF to a G5RV at 55' (thanks to a very obliging oak tree); his packet station tuned to the DX Packet Cluster; and the ubiquitous 2M HTs. The first HF contact was on 20M to a JOTA station with an American call operating from London. However as the day wore on the JOTA calling frequencies became extremely cluttered. It was very hard to cut through the QRM.

The DX Packet Cluster spotted several JOTA stations in the States and abroad. Thanks to the cluster we worked K2BSA/9, the official BSA station. FARA member Nick, N1TIM, and Adam, KE1BG, operated the station part of the time. Carl, Nick's father, showed himself to be a very good potential operator! Thanks to all three. It was a very rewarding day for the Scouts and the operators despite the absolutely horrible weather we had last weekend.

### 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 an issue is the Saturday before the FARA board meeting.

by phone: (508) 877-6933 (before 9:00 P.M. please!)

by mail: Rick Commo, K1LOG

26 Pine Lane

Framingham, MA 01701

by Internet: [commo@poboxa.enet.dec.com](mailto:commo@poboxa.enet.dec.com)

### FARA Horizons

- Nov. 2: November meeting.
- Nov. 24: Deadline for December Circuit articles.
- Nov. 27: Board Meeting
- Saturdays: Listen to 147.15 on a regular basis and you'll often hear about getting together for breakfast!
- Sundays: Don't forget to participate in one of FARA's three nets.