

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association September 1998, Vol. 65, No. 9

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President's Message

Welcome back to the real world. I hope you all had a good summer. Autumn is the season of hamfests and picnics, and we have both! The FARA picnic on September 6th is a great way to ease back into the stress of school and work.

Good things have been happening. Several FARA members got together a couple of weeks ago, and took advantage of the presence of a dumpster to clean up the alley between the Danforth and the parking garage. Robert Hess is now an Eagle Scout. For those of us who have worked with Robert, this doesn't come as a surprise. We all wish him success at UMass this fall. Dick and Marsha finally have a place to call their own, after being "homeless" since Field Day. Fortunately, they are in Marlboro, still within range of the repeater.

The FCC proposal to restructure amateur licensing is on their web site at www.fcc.gov. I encourage you to email your comments to the FCC. They need to hear from amateurs, not just the ARRL and the other lobbying groups. Your letter does matter, and this is your chance to influence the future of amateur licensing.

73,
Peter, KA1AXY

From the Director

by Dick, K1KTK

On Sunday afternoon, August 23, 1998, I had the extreme honor and pleasure of participating in the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for our Newsletter Editor, Robert Hess N1UVA.

As one who also obtained the rank of Eagle Scout, I know the hard work and dedication that Robert put into this wonderful achievement and I welcome Robert into the ranks of Eagle Scouts. He not only found the time to complete the necessary difficult requirements including his Eagle project, a web page for the Town of Hopkinton, he is involved with his Church, graduated from high school and in the Fall is off to the University of Massachusetts at North Dartmouth. He also manages to publish a first class newsletter for FARA.

One of the Hopkinton Selectmen came and spoke; he said that he never went to these events in the past but he was so impressed with Robert's achievement that he came to personally offer congratulations on behalf of the Town of Hopkinton. In addition, many FARA members were also present.

Robert has received the love and support of his parents, who also seem to be involved in many activities. Mother Karen is the Advancement Chairperson for Troop 4 in Hopkinton while father Bob W1RH is the vice-president of FARA. Everyone in the Hess Family always responds positively to volunteerism.

On behalf of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association, I would like to congratulate Robert and his family for this latest accomplishment, and I am sure that Robert will be successful in each and every endeavor that he undertakes in the future.

Jamboree on the Air

FARA has been asked to supply a station and operators for the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) on October 17th, at Nobscot Scout Reservation in Framingham. The event will run from 12 to 6 PM. If you know someone who is a Scout, tell them. We'll be setting up a G5RV and a vertical, taking a club radio and seeing how many contacts we can make. Come for an afternoon of fun, and help introduce ham radio to the Scouts. Talk to KA1AXY if you're interested.

Thursday, Sept 3 This Month's Meeting

Marjie, KA1HIA

Ever wonder what it's like to spend a day in a State Police cruiser? At the September meeting, you will find out as State Trooper Sean Kiley of the Framingham Barracks discusses what a typical "day in the life of" a State Trooper is like. He will also discuss the impact of new technologies -- such as mobile terminals, trunked radio systems and computers -- on his daily job.

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

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

by mail

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

by internet

n1uva@ultranet.com

My Elmer Could Probably be Yours Too!

by Hal, WN1TKD

Thirty years ago the late Bob Armstrong WA1RQF Treasurer of Fara corned me and my YL Shanie WA1WGX into leaving The Wellesley Radio Club and joining the club. I think Shanie was first lady who had a call sign. We both were Techs. Time wise it was before Lew Nyman K1AZE was at the helm of our club, put us on course and steered us into to being what we are now an outstanding organization.

Six meters was the thing at that time. We used the Band always, had daily nets, get together and battled TVI constantly but it was fun and a challenge. Our Flea Market was held at the Civic Center and Field Day at the Dog Pound. I recall we use to hope and pray that a clear spot was mowed so that we could put up our antennas, tents and whatever.

We became sophisticated! Lew became president, (Karen, KA1BYP his YL assistant President), his family and friends all teamed up. Our Field Day became second best to none. I'll mention only few names but Dick K1KTK alias WA1KUG with his famous Chili and food specialties, his trailer, my 24' trailer, Marsha KA1JIR with her Koogie and Toby N1DDS with her upside down cakes. I'll stop with naming names but you all know who you are and what you did for Fara. Our Flea Market became the best in New England. It became lucrative and afforded us the opportunity to "Pig" up on our famous Pizza night and to do so much in the field of Ham Radio.

I thought it best to mention all of the previous items so I could lead up to the meat of my comments about my ELMER AND FARA'S TOO! JULIUS HOFFER W1DL.

Thirty years or so ago I met Julie at either our Flea Market or club meeting. WN1TKD was an immature Ham with very little knowledge. I had confiscated a 40' tower and needed help deciding where the best place was to locate this monster on my QTH property. He came down the house with his late wife Sylvia (This was before Sil became his right hand at Flea Markets and ran his tables). We became good friends.

You know as well as I what he has done for FARA. His donations to the Club table, the ropes, pulleys, connectors or whatever he always seems to have in his car on Field Day set ups. Famous words Julie do you have?, because we forgot and how he has always comes through for us. He loads his

car with everything to make sure that we have what it takes to make our operation run flawlessly. He, with his knowledge and expertise is unbelievable. You need something special in Ham stuff he has it or will get it for you!

Julie's life has been Ham Radio. He became a Ham in 1939. I know from picking his brain that he was far from a good high school student. He would run home to get on CW and play Ham Radio. His ability and knowledge in Radio got him into officers training school in World War II in communications. He became a 1st Lieutenant. My Elmer was even called back and served as an officer during the Korean in conflict working with Radar installations. Julie retired years ago from Sylvania as an Electrical Engineer.

There was a time in my life that there wasn't a tower or a roof that I wouldn't climb to accommodate my or others antenna needs. Things do change those who know me well can appreciate what I went through physically. Both Shanie and I this past year gave up our QTH with the antenna farm and all our Ham equipment and moved to apartment living in Norwood. Once bit by the Ham Radio bug your stuck for life!

I bought a Kenwood TS570D with the hope of making some noise. The unit is small and I had a good power supply left over for my 2 meter operation. The amp rating was ideal for the new rig. How now to make this work in an apartment without any real estate became a challenge.

I bought a used Spider mobile antenna, made a ground plane out of aluminum gutter strips put on my rug and actually got out, but, a big but, I, when I activated my transmitter started to ring my neighbors telephone and interfered with their TV(complex has 136 units) I even rang door bells!! I called Julie and he sent me parts to make up some filters. No soap bells still rang. My Spider is up for sale as it just will not operate in my QTH without the interference I was creating. I talked the apartment complex super into putting an eye bolt about 28' on an outside wall near one of my windows.

I photographed my area with my camcorder and sent Julie a tape. We spent time on the landline. After much deliberation he paid me a visit. His car was loaded with every conceivable item that you could think of. Items included extension poles to sever branches. I couldn't believe what he had in his car. He had everything but the kitchen sink, in fact he may have had one there Hi!

Seven hours later we had a trapped dipole

up making some noise. The apex is about a 20 degree angle. We used copper wire on the 40 meter side of the traps. Insulated wire was used going through the trees I borrowed a MFJ tuner. We made a few contacts. This all was for "starters". Julie and I compliment each other and worked well together but he was not satisfied!

My Elmer and I went through many phone discussions. Julie came down to my QTH again. Per usual his car was loaded and this time even included the kitchen sink! He used a sling shot went over trees, made adjustments, added, cut, spliced and whatever. We spent another 6 hours at my home. Bear in mind that this system is hardly noticeable. It is indiscreet, workable and I'm one happy puppy. (TKD-The Kind Dog) We've got the 75 meters about a 1.5, 40, meters is pretty flat without a tuner, 20 meters requires my internal tuner. What an effort!! MY ELMER JULIE, W1DL!

By the way I doubled up on the chokes and capacitors on the filter I made for TVI and haven't been ringing telephones. Julie is not done yet. He keeps sending me whatever to try to improve the impossible.

Fall Upgrade Classes Announced

by Ed, W1NXC

Coming soon to a location near you! The FARA fall upgrade clinics starting September 19 thru Nov 21, 1998. The FCC proposal to restructure the amateur radio license classes is more likely a matter of when not if. So if you plan to upgrade, now is the time *before* the rules change. The ARRL proposal was outlined in last month's newsletter and the FCC proposal is summarized in the September 1998 QST.

Schedule of Classes

Novice	Tech	General	Advanced	Extra
Sept 19	Oct 3	Oct 17	Oct 31	Nov 14
Sept 20	Oct 10	Oct 24	Nov 7	Nov 21

All classes will be held at the Club location in the basement of the Danforth Museum Building on Lexington St, Framingham on Saturday 9 am to 12 noon. For further info call Ed W1NXC at 508-881-2301 or the Club number 508-879-8097.

FARA Wishlist

by Peter, KA1AXY

FARA is looking for an older Pentium motherboard to upgrade our shack computer. We are trying to turn the 386 machine into a database and web browser machine so we can print labels and surf the web from the club shack. Talk to Peter, Paul or one of the other computer nerds in the shack if you have upgraded recently.

Got a four drawer file cabinet you don't need? FARA's looking for a used one to file all our important documents in.

Flea Market

by Bev, N1LOO

Mark your calendar now for Sunday, September 27, 1998. The FARA Fall Flea Market is coming up fast. As always, we need everyone to get the word out to everyone in Eastern Massachusetts. We are looking for dealers and buyers. I am also looking for helpers the day of the flea market, the usual shift is 2 hours and earns you a free admission for the day. If you can help please let me know at the meeting on Thursday or give me a call. Thanks for your help and remember this is our major fund raiser for the year.

FARA Picnic

by Bev, N1LOO

Our annual FARA Family Picnic will be held Sunday, September 6, 1998, at the Harrington Outdoor Center in West Boylston. This is the same location as the last several years, with a space for our cookout and plenty of room for outdoor games. There will also be a lifeguard on duty for swimming from 2-5pm. If anyone feels ambitious enough the location has been known to produce ok DB. The club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken, with the various condiments, and cold soda. We ask that each family bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to round out the table. A lawn chair will make sitting more comfortable for you, too. The fee will be \$5.00 per person over 12. Just let me know how many will be attending. Remember we go rain or shine as there is a great indoor space if needed (we've never needed it, yet). Hope to see everyone there.

QSL Card

Submitted by Sumner, W1VIV



I worked this station on 15m SSB in the 1997 ARRL International DX Contest. It's a really neat call that was used by PY2YP for the contest. Look closely at the faces and ask yourself, "Who did something socially unacceptable"?

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.

Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)

Regular FARA \$10
Student / Retired \$5
Repeater (voluntary) \$10

FARA Horizons

Sep 3: Monthly Meeting
Sep 6: FARA Picnic
Sep 27: FARA Flea Market
Sep 28: Board Meeting

Change of Address

If you would like to change the address on your Circuit label please direct all requests to Bev, N1LOO. She can be reached by the following:
Email: b-blees@juno.com
Phone: 626-2012