

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association September 1999, Vol. 66, No. 9

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September 26

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Thursday, Sept 2

This Month's Meeting

Steve, AA1IZ and the FARA IOTA (Islands on the Air) team which operated from Georges Island last month will be showing a video presentation of their adventure.

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!)

College:

(508) 910-5296

by mail

Robert Hess, N1UVA

1 Cold Spring Brook Road

Hopkinton, MA 01748

by internet

n1uva@ultranet.com

President's Message

Welcome back to another year of school, work and FARA! We're starting off the year with some good news. The Annual FARA Picnic is being held on Sunday, September 5th, at our usual place, the YMCA's Harrington Outdoor Center, off route 140 in West Boylston. Tickets are *still* only \$5 for those over 12. I hope to see you all there. I will be bringing the kayak.

In spite of the financial challenges facing a group like FARA, the board has decided to keep dues at the current \$10 level for another year. However, we are asking that you pay your dues promptly, to avoid missing an issue of the Circuit! Y2K FARA dues are payable starting in September, and we need to receive your check before December 15, to insure that you get the January issue of the Circuit.

Also in September, we have our semi-annual Flea Market. Please come and support the club, and tell all your friends that this is a chance for them to unload all those old computer parts and get some different stuff to store in that corner of the garage.

Last, but certainly not least, the beam's back! We're ready to contest again. The vertical will be going back up shortly, as soon as we work on some guying and radial issues we have.

73,

Peter, KA1AXY

ULS opens for Amateur Business August 16

ARRL Headquarters

August 13, 1999

Submitted by Peter, KA1AXY

The FCC's Universal Licensing System opens its doors to Amateur Radio Monday, August 16. The FCC reported August 13 that the ULS would be out of service until then to prepare for implementation. Amateurs should wait until the ULS is back on-line August 16 to register.

The ULS ushers in an era of electronic, interactive filing and handling of Amateur Radio applications and marks a major change in the way Amateur Radio applicants will deal with the FCC. It also means the demise of the familiar paper FCC Form 610 series in favor of the "universal" Form 605--primarily designed for electronic use but also available on paper. Amateurs filing applications with the FCC under the ULS will use Form 605 for all purposes except--at least for now--club station applications.

The FCC began a weeklong ULS phase-in period for the Amateur Service August 8 and has been converting existing Amateur Radio licensing data into the ULS database. Electronic Amateur Radio renewal using FCC Form 900 was scheduled to end August 9. Electronic vanity call sign application using Form 610V was to terminate August 13 at 530 PM Eastern Time. Hams should not try to file renewal or vanity applications until the ULS comes up August 16.

Before using the ULS to file an application, renew or modify a license, or apply for a vanity call sign, all amateurs must register. When registering, individuals eligible to hold a Social Security Number must provide this number--which the FCC refers to as a Taxpayer Information Number or TIN. This requirement is a mandate of Congress, not of the FCC. All hams must be registered in the ULS to do business with the FCC.

Applicants use TIN Registration Form 606 for both

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 electronic or manual registration. To register electronically, visit <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/> and click on "TIN/Call Sign Registration." A paper Form 606 is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html> or by calling 800-418-FORM (3676). Applicants first register their Social Security Number (or TIN), then enter a call sign. Applicants also must specify a password and a personal identifier. Registrants receive a nine-character Licensee Identification Number. Amateurs may use this number in place of a Social Security Number in future dealings with the FCC.

For now, applications for club, military recreation, and RACES licenses should be filed on the "old" FCC Form 610B. Trustees and custodians of these licenses should not use their personal Social Security Number as the TIN for these applications but should contact ULS Technical Support (202-414-1250) to obtain a FCC-generated identification number for Form 610B. Applications for new licenses or upgrades will continue to be filed through a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. VECs will use a special NCVEC Form 605—a variation of Form 605—to file with the FCC for test sessions.

Starting August 16, hams already registered in the ULS may file applications using the new FCC Form 605 electronically at any time of day, seven days a week. FCC Form 605 will be used for license renewals, modifications, cancellations, application withdrawals and amendments, as well as requests for a vanity call sign, duplicate license, change of address or other clerical license modification.

Visit the WTB ULS page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/> and click "Connecting to ULS" for information on accessing the ULS system. Accessing the ULS database requires a telephone modem. A toll-free number, 800-844-2784, connects users to the FCC's Wide Area Network.

Among other things, the ULS features a renewal reminder sent 90 days prior to a license's expiration date. The ULS also simplifies the process of submitting fees to the FCC. The FCC said it also anticipates that the ULS will be capable of

accepting credit card payments online "in the near future."

For more information, visit the FCC's ULS page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls/>.

**Don't Miss an Issue!
 (Y2K dues are now payable)
 You won't get the January
 Circuit unless we receive
 your 2000 dues before
 December 15th.**

FARA Picnic
 YMCA Harrington Outdoor Center
 West Boylston, MA
 (off rt 290)
 September 5, 1999
 12-6 PM
 Waterfront open 2 - 5 PM
 \$5 per person over 12
 Please bring a side dish or dessert

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

QSL Card

Submitted by Bob, W1RH



This is the QSL card for the J37VG February ARRL DX Contest DXpedition to Grenada. Bob, W1RH, and Steve, AA1IZ, worked the CW contest. Ed, K1EP, and Steve worked the Phone contest.

The J37VG station consisted of a Yeasu FT890AT to an SB200 and a Kenwood TS-450 to an SB-230 fed to a TH3jr at 20', an R7 at 10' and a 180' ladderline fed dipole at about 25', complete with networked CT logging.

The three island state of Grenada (Grenada, Carriacou, and Petit Martinique) is the southernmost of the Windward Islands and is located 100 miles north of Venezuela. From the 2,800 foot Mount St. Catherine, to the beautiful white sand beaches surrounded by clear sea, Grenada offers a variety of environments. Among its 100,000 inhabitants, there are a variety of people of African, East Indian, and European descent. Also known as the Isle of Spice, Grenada produces cloves, mace, cocoa, cinnamon, ginger, and a third of the world's supply of nutmeg. Grenada is a wonderful site for a vacation or a DXpedition.

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

FARA Horizons

Sept 2: Monthly Meeting
 Sept 5: FARA Picnic
 Sept 11: Emergency Test
 Sept 26: FARA Flea Market
 Sept 27: Board Meeting

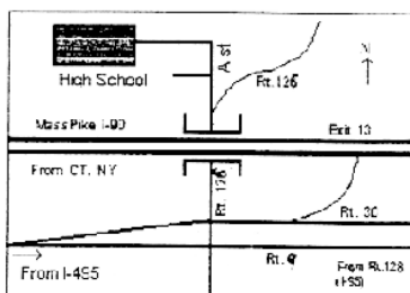
FRAMINGHAM

Amateur Radio Association Fall Flea Market and Exams

Sunday, Sept 26, 1999

9:00am - 1:00pm

Amateur Radio Equipment, Electronics and Computer Hardware/Software



Admission \$3.00

- Door Prizes drawn from 11:00 - 1:00

Tables

- SIX FOOT table, paid in advance, \$10.00 (\$14.00 at the door)
- Limited TAILGATE space available, \$10.00 each
- Setup, 7:30am Sunday morning

Information

- Tables: Bev NILOO 508-626-2012
- Exams: Dick K1KTK 508-303-8336

Directions

FRAMINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL, off Concord St (Rt. 126)
From Rt 128 (I-95), go WEST on Rt. 9. Take Rt 126
NORTH about 1.3 miles. As you pass under the Mass
Turnpike, the school is STRAIGHT AHEAD on "A" St. (Rt
126 continues to the right. Take the SECOND LEFT into
the school parking lot.

TALK-IN 147.15+ MHz

Exams

EXAMS START AT 11am

Pre-registration is by mail only, walk-ins register before
9:30am, on a space available basis only. Send a completed
FCC Form 610, copy of current license, list of exams you
plan to take and a check for \$6.45, payable to FARA to:
Dick Marshall, K1KTK, 62 Village Dr., Marlborough, MA
01752.

NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE

Proceeds support the FARA Scholarship Fund and the High School Radio Clubs

For advance reservations, send this form and a check to: FARA, PO Box 3005, Framingham, MA 01705
Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$_____ for _____ tables/ _____ tailgate spaces at the
Fall 1999 Flea Market

Name _____ Call Sign _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone(____) _____ E-mail _____

TABLES ARE \$14.00 AT THE DOOR