

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association April 2001, Vol. 68, No. 4

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President's Message

What a great flea market! FARA flea markets are once again drawing the big crowds of buyers and sellers that we like to see. The flea market committee thanks all the FARA members who worked at the flea, and all our buyers and sellers. We're working to make the November flea even better.

Spring means volunteer events are coming up. Of course, the Marathon is this month, but there are also several walkathons, and Framingham's own Flag Day parade and road race. Lots of opportunities to get outside with your HT and have some fun with fellow hams, while providing communications for some great groups.

We are planning another FARA night out. See the announcement or call Jim for details.

Field Day is coming up sooner than you think! We need to know what the interest level is, so Field Day planning meetings will start this month, on Wednesday nights at the shack.

Thanks again to everyone for a great spring flea market!

Peter, KA1AXY

License-in-a-Weekend Graduates

By Ed, W1NXC

Fara's License in a Weekend class. March 16 through 18, concluded with the addition of 12 new Technician licensees. This class, the ninth in the last six years, has resulted in more than 100 attendees obtaining the Technician license at the 3 day class.

The instructors, who also give up their weekend to teach included, Lee K1GL, Karen K1KEB, Dennis KE6DPL, Pete KA1AXY, Sumner W1VIV and Jim W1EQW.

Here is the list of graduates and their new call signs:

Gregory Berghorn KB1GMP
Debra Bridgham KB1GMO
Daniel Bridgham KB1GMR
Bradley Cauchon KB1GMS
Terri Gerber KB1GMT
Lawrence Griffin KB1GMU
Joseph Hersey KB1GMV
Henry Mittelman KB1GMW
Allison Parent KB1GMX
James Redfield III KB1GMY
Kathy Redfield KB1GMZ
Neil Salamack KB1GNA

FARA NIGHT OUT - May 19, 2001

Bella Costa Restaurant

This is always a fun night, and an opportunity to relax in the company of your FARA friends. Depending on attendance, we will offer either a buffet or choice of

Veal Parm, Chicken Breast or Baked Fish. Price approx \$17 per person, contact Sumner, W1VIV for the details and to make your reservation.

Thursday, Apr 5

This Month's Meeting

It's that time again. Mario and Guido (I8PZA and I8MOR) will again give us their bi-annual update on DX doings from the isle of Pepperoni! Come and enjoy them. They've never failed to give a feast of an evening!

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) 910-5689

by mail

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

by internet

n1uva@ultranet.com

Flea Market Improvements

By Peter, KA1AXY

We had a very good flea market this time. At the March board meeting, we discussed some ways to make it even better.

We agreed that the additional services we provide to the vendors are appreciated, and decided that FARA should purchase a second hand truck to help speed the load and unload process.

We have been relying on one of our members to provide a sound system, and feel that we should work to handle this ourselves, since people have commented that announcements are not audible at the far corners of the room. We will purchase a second amplifier and speakers to place at the opposite end of the room, and a second wireless receiver to drive it. Another possibility we are looking into, is to utilize the existing school sound system.

We also agreed to continue our policy of offering a single table at a discounted rate to club members in good standing. The table must be reserved and payment received in advance. Additional tables and those paid at the door are charged the standard rate. Life members receive the discounted rate on all tables reserved and paid for in advance.

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 so it will reach you, though.

To sign up, send a message to majordomo@qth.net with contents "subscribe FraminghamARA-L". (Without the quotes, of course). The subject can be left blank, the server only looks at the contents of the message. You'll get back a confirmation, follow its instructions exactly, then you're on the list!

Change of Address

If you would like to change the address on your Circuit label, please email fara@fara.org. Or, you can call the Club at 508-879-8097

FARA Flea Market Pictures

Photos taken by Sharon, KC1YR



What a Crowd!!!



Leo WA1HAM, Jim W1EQW and Martin AA1ON at the VE session



Food was provided by Framingham Boy scouts

More pictures by Sharon are available on the club website as well as pictures by Leo, WA1HAM and Marc, WA1R

READ THE CIRCUIT ONLINE... SAVES PAPER AND POSTAGE

Now available as an Adobe Acrobat file
email fara@fara.org and we'll set you up!

Membership Dues

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

Regular FARA \$15

Student / Retired \$10

Repeater (voluntary) \$10

QSL Card

Submitted by Martin, AA1ON

Write-up by Bob, W1RH



This month's QSL comes to us from Martin, AA1ON and features the new DXCC entity of Eritrea. The card confirms Martin's November 1998 QSO on 20 meters with E30GA.

The back of the QSL says it better than I can:

Eritrea has only recently become a country. In 1991 the Eritreans won a 30 year war for independence by defeating Ethiopia's army, the largest in Africa. Eritrea became Africa's newest democracy in 1993 after an internationally supervised referendum where the population almost unanimously (99.8%) voted in favor of independence. They are presently at war with Ethiopia over a border dispute. The State of Eritrea has an area of 125,000 sq. km. and a population of about 3.5 million, of which about 350,000 live in the capital city of Asmara. Asmara is located in the mountains, about 2400 meters altitude and 100 km inland from the Red Sea. Other large cities are Keren, about 80 km northwest of Asmara, and Massawa, the country's major sea port. Eritrea is located in the Horn of Africa, between latitudes 12 degrees and 18 degrees north. It has 800 miles of Red Sea coastline and more than 355 islands. It's neighbors are Ethiopia and Djibouti to the south and The Sudan on the west and north. Since Asmara is at a high altitude, the weather is mild for so close to the Equator.

After months of planning the following operators arrived in Asmara. They were Franz/DJ9ZB, Elvira/IV3FSG, Max/I8NJH, Joe/KO4RR, Larry/NF6S, Mike/N9NS, and Bruce/WD4NGB.

The team's antennas were on the roof of a hotel at over 100 feet. They made a presentation to students at the University and included licensing, propagation, and radio theory.

FARA - The Early Years

Transcribed by Karen Hess

The Framingham Amateur Radio Association, formerly called the Community Radio Association, is fortunate to have the notes dating back to the Club's first meeting. Karen Hess, W1RH's XYL, has transcribed the handwritten notes, verbatim, and they will appear in this and future issues of the Circuit. They make for fascinating reading!

December 8, 1933

The 16th regular meeting of the C.A.R.A. was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Vice President J. D. McLean.

The report of the Secty was read and accepted.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to discussion of club policies to be enforced in the future.

The constitution was read and commented upon by the Secty.

A committee composed of F. L. Tedford and Philip Ride was appointed by the Vice President to act as nomination committee.

A new entertainment committee composed of Ed Parsons, Herb Blanke and Wallace Coffin was appointed by the Vice President.

The Secty announced that the roll would be called at the next two meeting in order to check up on the active member

list.

The acting Treasurer requested the payment of dues which were in order at the previous meeting but not asked for due to inability of acting Treasurer to obtain complete accounts from regular Treasurer. It was decided to open a temporary new set of books until Mr. Marcoux has the regular accounts in order.

No further business being before the club the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Following the business meeting code practice was held by Norman Thompson and the members not interested in code enjoyed looking over a P.P.T.P.T.A. transmitter built by Robert Ride which was on exhibition.

Ted Valpey who is selling for the Radio Shack passed around for inspection the new R-18 type tubes which the Shack is putting out for \$5.95.

Dayton Hamvention's Amateur of the Year

Dayton Hamvention has named broadcasting engineer and propagation guru George Jacobs, W3ASK, as its Amateur of the Year. A renowned international broadcast engineering pioneer, Jacobs has authored hundreds of technical articles and is a co-author of a handbook detailing short wave radio propagation characteristics. Jacobs is perhaps best known in the amateur community as propagation editor for CQ for 50 years, and as a contributing editor for World Radio-TV Handbook for 39 years.

Jacobs is credited with pioneering and developing the worldwide Voice of America system and with overseeing the post-1974 modernization of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. He also served as a delegate on international regulatory conferences.