

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association August 2000, Vol. 67, No. 8

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President's Message

I hope everyone has recovered from Field Day and is having a great summer. Although we didn't get the Army tent set up in time for Field Day, a dedicated group managed to erect it on W1RH's front lawn, and it looks like we're all set for Field Day 2001.

The FARA Picnic is coming up on Labor Day Sunday, so get your checks in to me as soon as you can. It's always a lot of fun, and you never know what will happen. Martin has been known to work new countries with a wet noodle as an antenna.

The FARA shack boasts a brand new, no-tune Ameritron ALS-600 amplifier, which I picked up at HRO a few weeks ago. Thanks to Pete, the assistant manager, for talking Ameritron out of one of these hard-to-find beauties. W1RH has already tested it and found it satisfactory. No tuning required, and the 10 meter kit should be on order by the time you read this.

Peter, KA1AXY

FARA's Tent Raising

By Peter, KA1AXY

A dedicated team of volunteers worked on the Army tents that W1VIV and K1KTK acquired at auction last year. Unfortunately, the old maxim "you get what you pay for", held true. On Saturday, W1RH, N1LOO, N1JFO and your president dragged each tent out of storage, and rolled them out in the entrance way. Out of the three tents, two were so badly torn as to make them unusable in their current condition. One of those two may be repairable, but the other was torn at the points of greatest stress, the ends of the ridge pole, AND was shredded at one end.

The third tent has a "minor" 2 foot square hole, and several more pinholes. It was selected as the one to be set up, and loaded, with poles, into N1UVA's truck, for transport to W1RH's house.

On Sunday, the crew met again, aided by KB1CQI, KB1DXN, AA1ON and N1FOF, at Bob's house. It took us two tries, but we finally got the tent up. It took us about two hours to get it up, and a crew of six can easily handle the job. We needed only two extra sets of guys (supplied by Ed) for the ends of the ridge pole.

The tent stayed up through lunch (thanks to Karen) and Kerianne's chocolate chip cookies vanished rapidly as we let the tent "air out".

After lunch, we took the tent down, folded it and returned it and the poles, stakes and guys to the club. Ed generously offered to store the extra poles at his barn. We believe the tent we set up will work as a Field Day shelter, and Dick, K1KTK has offered to try to get the biggest hole repaired as a "training exercise" at the National Guard tent repair facility.

The bottom line is that setup and tear-down of the tent requires a crew of six to eight for an hour, and a pickup truck or flatbed trailer for transport. Even unrepaired, the tent is usable with a tarp draped over the hole. The canvas on the roof is "thinning", and has several patches, but, with proper care, should last us for quite a few Field Days. The most important thing is to make sure the tent gets proper care, meaning that it needs to be completely dry before being stored, and always lifting, never dragging it. Dragging abrades the bottom of the bundle, which turns out to be the "roof" of the tent, where we can least afford thinning of the canvas.

Thursday, Aug 3

This Month's Meeting

Steve, AA1IZ recently came back from a three week journey aboard his new boat from the Virgin Islands to MA. Along the way Steve talked to many club members. Find out how he did it and more at this month's meeting.

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

[Check out the pictures on page 3](#)

FARA Picnic - Sunday, September 3

We'll be at the YMCA Harrington Outdoor Center in West Boylston from 1:00 till 5:00 on Labor Day weekend. Plenty of fun for the whole family. There will be swimming, boating, games and, of course, food. Bring a dessert to share and anything else you feel would be appreciated. FARA will provide burgers, hot dogs, chips and soda.

Get your reservations and check for \$5 per person in to:

Peter, KA1AXY

POB 6634

Holliston, MA 01746.

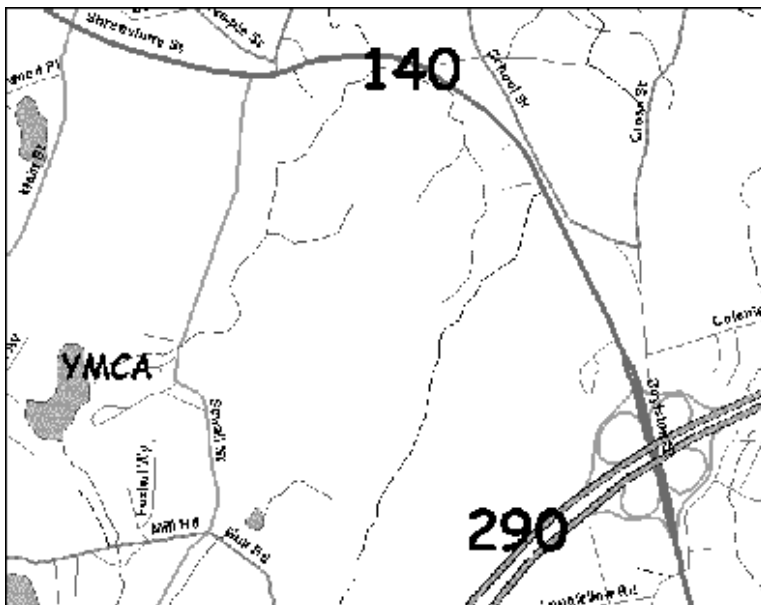
Directions to YMCA Harrington Outdoor Center

From 90 (East of Worcester)

Take the 495 North exit of 90. Follow 495 North to 290 West exit. Follow 290 West to 140 North exit Follow 140 North for 1 mile. Take a left onto Sewell St. The entrance to the center is 1/2 mile on the right.

From 495

Follow 495 to 290 West. Follow 290 West to 140 North exit. Follow 140 North for 1 mile. Take a left onto Sewall St. The entrance to the center is 1/2 mile on the right.



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

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

Contest Corner

ARRL 160 meter contest, December 1999:

Eastern Mass:

Second place, low power -- W1VIV

Sixth place, low power -- K1HT

Western Washington:

Sixth place, high power -- K1LOG/7

Quite a few FARA members are contesters and now there is a place to share your scores. If you would like to submit your reported score to be in the Contest Corner, please email it to me. Of course if you see another club member's score in your favorite ham magazine, you can report it too. Thanks to Sumner, W1VIV for this idea.

Boxboro Hamvention

The Boxboro convention is coming up this August 29 & 30th. On Saturday the doors open at 9AM and Sunday at 10AM. The FACTORY booths from Kenwood, Icom, Yeasu and MFJ will be there as well as HRO, the Wireman and many other commercial exhibitors. In addition, as always, there will be the outside Flea and indoor Technical Programs. This is an opportunity to see and handle the new rigs from all the major manufacturers.

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!

Tent Raising Pictures



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 hand written notes, verbatim, and they will appear in this and future issues of the Circuit. They make for fascinating reading!

April 14, 1933

The Sixth regular meeting of the C.A.R.A was called to order at 8:45 p.m. by Pres. LaBarr.

The reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer were read and accepted.

It was unanimously voted to put the regular May 12th meeting over until May 13th in order that members of the New England Radiophone Club might be entertained on that evening.

No further business being before the club the meeting was adjourned.

After the business meeting members enjoyed a talk by Prof. Newhall of Worcester Tech., on electrical advancements in Ham Radio.

April 28, 1933

The Seventh regular meeting of the C.A.R.A. was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Pres. LaBarr.

The reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer were read and accepted.

No business being before the club the meeting was adjourned.

After the meeting a talk on 5 meter experiences by J. D. McLean was enjoyed. The talk was followed by a practical demonstration.

Resp. Submitted

C. R. Crosby