

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association December 2001, Vol. 68, No. 12

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Thursday, Dec 6

This Month's Meeting

Don't miss FARA's
biannual all-you-can-
eat pizza feast!!!

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!)

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President's Message

Well, we survived another FARA Flea. Our fall Flea was one of the most successful FARA fall Fleas in a long time. Attendance for the fall flea market is usually lower than the spring flea market. This time, however, we had about the same attendance that we had in the spring - about 500. This is great, and in a time when flea market attendance, in general, is trending down. On behalf of the FARA Flea Committee, I'd like to thank all of the hard working FARA members who helped out at this fall's Flea. Thanks, also, go out from me to our Flea Committee, consisting of Bev (N1LOO), Ed (KB1CQI), Peter (KA1AXY), Martin (AA1ON), and Spencer (N1JWB).

OK, we have smelled the roses. Now, we have to get serious again. Our spring flea market presents a real challenge for the Flea Committee. Framingham High School will be undergoing a major renovation and WILL NOT be able to host our spring FARA Flea. This means we need to find a new location and get the message out to our 500 loyal attendees. Bev has been working on this and the Committee will be checking out some possible locations. We welcome suggestions, however. Just give Bev or me a ring if you have a suggestion for our spring location.

A few weeks ago, Barry Foote, K1BTF, sent an email to the FARA web site offering to donate his 50-foot tower to FARA. Barry had been a FARA member years ago but was not currently a member. We took care of that and gave Barry a one-year membership as FARA's "thank you" for the donation. Here's what Barry gave us: Five sections of Rohn 25 (already on the ground and ready to load up), a Cushcraft A3 tribander, a rotator, a wire antenna, and a genuine Rohn gin pole. Peter, (KA1AXY) is really jazzed about the gin pole, as you will find out elsewhere in this issue of the Circuit. Thank you, Barry, and welcome back to FARA.

Speaking of new members, FARA also welcomes Frank (K1IX) from Marlboro, Dionisio (WP4OQ) from Springfield, Megan (KB1FCA) from Framingham, and Don (KT4OK) from Framingham. We will look forward to seeing all of you at future FARA meetings and functions.

For the first time in a long time, we activated the Club station for the CQ Worldwide DX Contest. Steve (AA1IZ), Ed (W1NXC) and I had the station cranking out 600 watts of power and made 371 QSO's. We worked 52 countries on 10-meters, 65 countries on 15-meters, and 42 countries on 20-meters. Total points: 223,202. Not exactly an award winning score but enough points for a lot of fun. Our FARA club station really plays well on 10, 15 and 20. We're planning on doing the December ARRL 10-meter contest from the Club station. Watch the reflector for details.

Peter's been working on Shack improvements. He has magically come up with a new file cabinet and plug strips to be located behind the station equipment. He has also built a computer interface for the TS-850 transceiver, which should be useful when running our DXBase logging program and CT contest logging program. Peter is also working on the 40 meter add-on kit (donated to FARA a few months ago) for the A3S beam. We may just have to declare Peter "Chief Engineer" of W1FY.

I know I've said this before, but where would we be without our great newsletter and web site. Thanks to Robert (NIUVA) for the super job he does every month on the paper, email, and web versions of the Circuit. Thanks also to Sharon (KC1YR) for everything she has done to make FARA.Org the best Ham Radio Club web site I have ever seen.

Last, but not least, I remind all FARA members that if you order your holiday gifts from Amazon.Com, via the FARA web site, FARA makes a commission on every

FARA VE Session Nets 12 New/Upgrade Licensees

By Jim, W1EQW

FARA Director of Testing

The November 4, 2001 VE session held at the FARA Flea produced twelve new licensees or upgrades among the sixteen applicants. The VE team administered twenty-two exam elements of which thirteen received a passing grade. New call signs were posted on the FCC database ten days after the exam. Congratulations to all the first time hams and those that upgraded. They are:

Technician:

Patricia Aschoff KBIHKL
Ken Franklin KB1HKM
Dirk Hart KB1HKN
Laurence Oberman KB1HKO
Ira Wyman KB1HKP
Joseph Wyman KB1HKQ

General:

Lucien Couvillon Jr. KB1HKR
Robert Hoskins KC4SFE
Lance Kisby KA1OON
John Winslow WA1IFE

Extra:

Edwin Merrick NI1UR
Robert Crowley W1XYZ

The VE team did a superb job in efficiently administering the session. The team consisted of the following:

Gerry Nadtich AA1WS
Larry McCoskery AG1C
Sumner Weisman W1VIV
Leo Cantin WA1HAM
Gordy Bello K1GB
Kevin Goodwin W1MEX
Ed Weiss W1NXC
Jim Weckback W1EQW

Change of Address

If you would like to change the address on your Circuit label, please email

2002 Dues Due

By Peter, KA1AXY

It's that time again, folks. If you want to make sure of receiving your January issue of the Circuit, please be sure to pay your 2002 dues before Christmas! You can mail them to the FARA PO box, or pay the Treasurer at the December

meeting. Can't remember if you've paid or not? Check your mailing label. If it shows "01 01" or "01 n", we haven't yet received your 2002 dues payment. Or call or email either the Treasurer or the Secretary at the numbers on the back of this issue.

To those of you who have already paid, and especially to those who paid early or threw in a bit extra, a big "thank you" from your Treasurer!

Framingham Fall flea in retrospect...

Letter by Rick Zach, K1RJZ

I must say that the management style of the Fall FARA left a lasting impression on me. I must also comment that your efforts seem to have paid off with a very well attended event.

I was a seller and as an example, I was first greeted by your "blue shirts" in the parking lot. Ed Collins cheerfully offered to help me unload a heavy rack mounted repeater system. He later returned to offer a second helping hand. I was not being treated as a special visitor as all sellers were receiving equal treatment. Sellers were also treated to a complimentary coffee and donut. At the end of the event, even your President assisted me in re-packing unsold items. I can assure you that none of this went unnoticed! Your event now has serious "brand equity".

Your club did not treat sellers as "bodies with boat anchors", they were treated as valued customers (even though some were actually selling the expected boat anchors).

Please accept this letter as a very sincere "thank you" and a job well done!

READ THE CIRCUIT ONLINE... SAVES PAPER AND POSTAGE

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

Shop online and help FARA too!

Just a reminder that if you're shopping at Amazon.com this holiday season - or any time - please start using the link <http://amazon.fara.org>. It won't cost you any more, and FARA will receive referral-fee revenue for every item you buy!

FARA Gets a Gin-Pole

By Peter, KA1AXY

FARA would like to express our appreciation to Barry Foote for his very generous donation of 3 sections of Rohn 25, a Cushcraft A3 and, wait for it...a gen-you-wine Rohn gin-pole! Barry also donated several lengths of coax and a wire antenna. Not only did he donate all this stuff, but he had it taken down and ready to go when we arrived to pick it up. What a guy! Barry is a former FARA member, so we signed him up for a complimentary year's membership to show our appreciation for his donation. We have already started sprucing up the gin pole. Ed Collins supplied a sandblaster and paint, and the result is that the thing looks brand new! Next tower job we do, will be with our own gin pole!

You Missed it?

Photo by Steve, AA1IZ



Mike Neilson, W1MPN, Eastern Mass Section Emergency Coordinator presented to the club at the November meeting. Check out

www.emaares.com
for more info.

Membership Dues

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

QSL Card

Card Submitted by Dick, K1RAW Write-up by Bob, W1RH



Dick, K1RAW, submitted this month's card from the number one most wanted DXCC country. P5, North Korea, is the rarest of the rare. Very few DX'ers have worked North Korea.

Dick worked P5RS7 on Christmas Day, December 25, 1992, on 20-meter sideband. What a holiday gift! This was the first operation from the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea. The leader of the DXpedition was Romeo Stepanenko, 3W3RR. The operators were all from the former Soviet republics. The story does not end here, however, read on.....

Romeo has activated several very rare DXCC countries including Myanmar, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and Libya. He lives in Moscow and is rumored to be an arms dealer. As a result, he has many contacts in some of the countries where it is very difficult, if not impossible, to get an amateur radio license. Many Hams have some of Romeo's treasured QSL's. 35,000 Hams worked P5RS7. Romeo's P5 North Korea DXpedition, however, was disqualified from DXCC

status, in 1996, when the ARRL Awards Committee discovered that Romeo faked the necessary documentation proving he had North Korean authorization to operate in that country. The documentation included the requirement to submit originals of all available documents, licenses, passports, photographs, and even video shots of the location. North Korean military authorities supposedly issued a license. According to Romeo, when asked about getting permission to operate, "Is very long story. I made the submission four years long. I talked with around 200 guys in Northern Korea, in Russia and everywhere and I keep all those guys together, all the information together and I pay some money." The location of the pictures he submitted of his operation was found not to be in North Korea. Instead, the operation was in Siberia, just across the border from North Korea. It was rumored that the location was verified by Japanese stations using direction finding equipment. The result? Romeo has been banned, forever, from participating in the ARRL's DXCC program in any way and Dick's treasured P5 card, along with the P5RS7 cards in the hands of thousands of other

amateurs, is worthless.

North Korea continues to ban amateur radio activity with the exception of some small demonstration DXpeditions that have been approved by the ARRL. Dick, thanks for the card and good luck working a real P5.

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. They make for fascinating reading!

April 6, 1934

The 24th regular meeting of the Community Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Pres. McLean. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The matter of a supper meeting was brought up again and after a short discussion a motion was made and seconded to hold it at the Hotel Kendall on May 25th.

It was suggested that the club get permission to inspect the State Police radio station at the next meeting. Dr. Crosby offered to arrange the details.

The secretary was asked to write to R.C.A. for information on tube manuals. A letter received from the Springfield Convention Committee was referred to the secretary.

There being no further business before the meeting it was adjourned by unanimous vote.

After the business meeting, a reel of motion pictures was shown by Herb Blanke and a raffle was held.

Alfred L. Schaltenbrand, Sec.