

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association February 1997, Vol. 64, No. 2

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## Thursday, February 6

### This Month's Meeting

Marjie, KA1HIA

Martin, AA1ON, will be showing a video of the Kermadec Island DXpedition, ZL8RI.

### 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 Saturday following the FARA board meeting.

**by phone**  
(508) 877-6933 (before 9:00PM please!)

**by mail**

### President's Message

So far the weather has not been too bad for us this year. I am truly thankful that the snow has stayed away! I am hoping things will continue in this vane for a few more weeks.

Things at the shack are continuing on an even keel also. Pete, KA1AXY, has finished a set of book shelves in one of the storage rooms to serve as our permanent library. Phil, N1MQG, as our librarian will be working in the next few weeks to organize the magazines and books into the library. His plan is to keep one copy of a magazine on the shelf. The excess will be sold at the flea market. We have also started the beginning plans of reorganizing the shack. This will move slowly as the books and magazines are moved to their permanent home. Thanks Pete and Phil, also thanks to Michael for his work on the shelves behind the scenes.

Our Saturday and Wednesday shack openings have continued to be a great success. Wednesdays have become project night with several different things happening, including a kit building class, lead by Pete. KA1AXY. I am one of his students and look forward to learning about building. Thanks Pete.

As the spring approaches, we need to start thinking about the spring contests we want to compete in. The two major ones are in March, the first weekend and then later in the month. We will plan on contesting again as interest is shown.

The flea market is scheduled this spring for Sunday, April 6th, at Framingham High School. We will be needing lots of help to make this a successful flea market. If you can help in any way, please call Martin, AA1ON, or me, to volunteer. If you work you get free admission to the flea market. This is one of the clubs major fund raisers and the club needs you.

Enjoy this break from the snow and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

### FARA Members Help Pass BARC First Night Traffic

Marc Stern, WA1R

First Night at the Hynes in Boston was a big success. A lot of work was involved and thanks are due, mainly to the volunteers listed below, the Amateur Radio Operators who checked into the traffic net and handled the traffic plus the officers of the Boston Amateur Radio Club. About 400 messages were taken. If I have not thanked you I apologize. Thanks to the following stations, not in alphabetical order: N1NDJ - Peter Szala, N1IST - Mike Ardai, N1NHZ - Arthur Ashley, KB1BDM - Todd Wallace, AA1IZ - Steve Rosenthal, N1WWF - David Grange, NG1A - Fred Butte, N1GIE - Rowe Austin, N1XBR - Renato Donadio, N1RLT - Hank Collins, N1KOI - Ralph Walton, N1VUX - Bill Rick and family, W1MJ - Eliot Mayer, NF1A - Art Pizer, W1GSL - Steve, N1EVH - Mike, N1VDU - Bonny, N1IWF - Capt. Terry Koen.

simple: When your key isn't actually down, you're receiving normally. With true QSK, you can hear between the dits!

Why would you want full break-in? It may seem quaint now; but, when I got my General license in 1958, I was mainly interested in handling message traffic by CW. Whenever the receiving operator missed something, he or she could just sent a few dash. I'd hear them, stop, find out where solid copy ended, and resume sending from that point. It did wonders for throughput. Also, at the higher speeds (when used sparingly) it made CW rag chewing conversational and enjoyable -- at least as much as SSB with VOX (which came along later).

Nowadays I find full break-in very valuable in contests and, especially, in DXing. Usually the DX station listens 1 kHz or more above his transmitting frequency, using a range of frequencies (such as "up 5 to 10") to spread out a pile-up. Often the best strategy is to figure out where the DX station is listening and call there. If you can hear the other stations that the DX is working, you can set your transmitting VFO to the frequency of the station he's now working. Then you start calling as soon as the DX says "TU" or "QRZ." This is how I worked Heard Island recently on 30 meters. VK0IR was transmitting on 10,103 kHz and listening up. I could hear Bill, N1AU (in Lexington) calling around 10,104.8 (I was calling somewhat lower). When VK0IR came back to N1AU, I immediately stopped calling and set my other VFO to Bill's frequency. This time I was lucky. The pile-up wasn't big, and I got VK0IR on the next call! With 100 watts and an R7 vertical on my chimney.

So how do you get set up for full break-in? Many modern transceivers have it built-in; I just

tacts (normally closed), which I used to switch in a pot at the ground end of the receiver's RF gain control, so that I could set my received signal to a comfortable level.

I hope you'll give full break-in a try. It can make your CW operating more effective and more fun.

*[Note that the club station's amplifier is not QSK capable! However, the TS850 is. So if you want to try your hand at this be sure the TS850 is running barefoot! - ed.]*

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While it seems like a long time til June,  
For some it will come all too soon!  
Field Day planning starts now,  
To find out just how,  
To boost FARA's score past the moon!

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### **ARES/RACES Needs New Faces!**

Marc Stern, WA1R

Like most of us, you probably read the "Public Service" column in QST every month. For those that don't know what it is, it is the column that lists how ham operators help out in emergencies. It shows us at our best.

Well, would you like to help out locally? If you would, then read on.

The Framingham Amateur Radio Assn.'s ARES/RACES group needs a few good operators; folks we can count on to be there in an emergency. What type of emergency will it be? Who knows, it might be anything from a blizzard to a hurricane or anything in between.

According to current Emergency Operations Center procedure, everytime an event occurs that requires opening an EOC, the communications center is also activated. This means that any time the EOC is open we are needed.

Our primary function is as communicators. We keep the Town in touch with State officials and relay requests for aid or anything else. We also forward those calls for local assistance that might come in to the EOC, as well as handle any other communications or traffic which comes along.

It's a great chance to help out and return

trum. Through our licenses, we have the right to communicate with stations near and far acting as "ambassadors of goodwill" via radio. We get to operate for free on spectrum that commercial interests pay millions for.

That responsibility means we ought to give something back. In FARA, it's the "rent" we pay for our facility. There aren't many clubs that have been gifted with a site like we have, let alone with the access that we have to the site. As you can see, our commitment is important not only to the town, but also to ourselves.

Given this importance, you might wonder exactly what you can do. It's a good thought and is answered with three words: make a commitment. We need as many operators as possible to commit to helping out ARES/RACES. We have to be prepared to provide two operators for three shifts for up to three days. This means we need core group with a minimum of 18 people who can be there to help out.

This is no idle commitment. It is a key to our future.

Please give ARES/RACES a chance. Help us out because we need you! Besides, where else would you be able to get the neat hats and IDs that are coming? If you aren't a supporter, then... what can we say?

If you are interested please fill out the form on page 3 of this newsletter and return it to me at the club's address. You'll be glad you did!

### **FARA FOCUS ON... Morse Code**

by W1EQW

The next FARA FOCUS ON... will be on Wednesday February 12, 7:45 PM at the club shack. We will continue what we started in January -- a morse code evaluation and improvement seminar.

come on down and join in. It doesn't matter whether you attended the first session or not. All are welcome no matter what your current CW skill level is.

### ARES/RACES Membership Form

#### FARA Scholarship Time

Dick Cosma, KD1BF

Applications for FARA scholarships are now be accepted. The eligibility rules are:

- 1) must be a ham
- 2) must be a member of FARA
- 3) preference will be given to graduating seniors
- 4) applications must be received by April 15, 1997

If you need an application please contact Richard Cosma, KD1BF, at (508) 877-8241.

#### License-In-a-Weekend

Ed Weiss, WINXC

Just a reminder that the next License-In-a-Weekend will start on Friday, March 21. Now is a good time to start talking it up to your friends who might have always wanted to become a ham!

#### FARA Member on DXpedition

Kermadec or Heard Island it's not! But Kwajalein ain't nothing to thumb your nose at! And FARA's Director, Dick, K1KTK, is being sent there for some temporary duty - with plans to do some operating there as V73UG. Special attention will be given to finding FARA members' signals buried under the thousands of call signs in the pile up! The QSL manager for the expedition is K1KTK.

The current itinerary is:

- Feb 8: Arrive on Kwajalein.
- Operate as time permits (and when not golfing!)
- Feb 25: Depart Kwajalein.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: MA Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Availability: \_\_\_\_\_

Hat Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Jacket Size: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Available Equipment

HF: \_\_\_\_\_

VHF: \_\_\_\_\_

UHF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Backup Power: \_\_\_\_\_

Battery Power: \_\_\_\_\_

Access to Pickup Truck/Sport/Utility: \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember that this is a firm commitment to help. If you sign up you will be expected to report to meetings, drills, exercises, and any other activities of the ARES/RACES unit. If you fail to attend three events for any reason you will be dropped from the rolls.

#### FARA Horizons

- Feb. 6: Monthly meeting
- Feb. 17: Board Meeting
- Mar. 1: ARRL International DX Contest, phone
- Mar. 21-23: Get Your License In a Weekend
- Mar. 29-30: CQ WW WPX Contest, phone
- Apr. 6: FARA Flea Market