

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association February 2000, Vol. 67, No. 2

In This Issue

President's Message

FARA - The Early Years

[Page 2-](#)

Restructuring for Dummies

For Sale

[Page 3-](#)

Don't Miss the February Meeting!

**QSL Card
and more...**

Thursday, Feb 3

This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will feature a video of the 1999 ZL9CI Campbell Island DXpedition.

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

There have been quite a few developments since our January meeting. I hope you all got to play with the goodies that Peter brought down from HRO. If you didn't get what you wanted, there are HRO catalogs, free for the taking, in the club shack.

Please talk up the Flea Market, it's on March 26, and we need *lots* of help to re-energize our major funds producing event.

Now that the license restructuring plan has been announced, we have rescheduled License in a Weekend for May 12, 13 and 14. This is Mother's Day weekend, but the license testing ends in plenty of time to take Mom out to dinner!

Since there has been so much publicity and debate surrounding the license restructuring, I guess I am allowed to state my feelings. As far as I'm concerned, anything that gets more people interested in getting their ham licenses is a good thing. I like the idea of only three classes of license. I like the emphasis on technical knowledge rather than code proficiency. The 2000 Handbook has a great section on HF digital modes, and it's worth a look, because that's where the big advances are being made today. It's a digital world, and a wireless one, so that should tell you why ham radio has a future. Tomorrow's wireless engineers are today's new hams. They probably won't need Morse, but they do need to get interested in radio before they choose engineering as a career.

Peter, KA1AXY

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!

January 24, 1933

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. at house Rev. Mark Strickland, Ashland, Mass., by temporary chairman Strickland. The purpose of the meeting being to organize a radio club.

The following officers were elected by single nomination and unanimous vote.

Pres. W. L. LaBarr

Treas. C. P. Marcoux

Sect. C. R. Crosby

Moved by Crosby that club be named. Seconded.

The following names were suggested Middlesex Radio Club, Short Wave Radio Club, Community Radio Club, Comm. Amateur Radio Assoc.

The name Community Amateur Radio Assoc. was elected by popular vote.

Moved by Strickland that dues of \$.25 a month be charged all members, seconded, so voted.

Moved by Strickland that meetings be held 2nd and 4th Friday of month.

[Continued on page 3...](#)

Restructuring for Dummies
By Ed, WINXC

Most Hams I know don't really fall into the "Dummies" category, but since the FCC restructuring has caused some confusion, here are some guidelines. If you already have an Extra class license you may skip reading further. Everyone else-pay attention!

License class

NOVICE

Recommendation

Study current element 3A

Take test before April 15

or new element 2 after April 15

TECH

Study Code!

TECH Plus

Study current element 3B

take test before April 15

or take new element 3 test after April 15

GENERAL

Study current element 4A

Take test before April 15

or take new element 3 after April 15

ADVANCED

Take element 4B BEFORE April 15

NOTES:

Grandfathered Techs (licensed as Technician BEFORE Mar 21, 1987 qualify for upgrade to General-no test required but need proof licensed prior to that date. Apply at VE session with necessary credentials.

The new question pools have not been released as of this writing. The new exams will have 35 questions for both the Tech and General class and 50 questions for the Extra class. Keep in mind that as of April 15, 2000, the Novice, Tech-plus and Advanced licenses will no longer be available. No frequency privileges will be lost however and Tech and Tech-plus licensees will be grouped as one license class.

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 Horizons

Feb 3: Club Meeting
Feb 21: Board Meeting

Mar 12-14: License in a Weekend

For Sale

FARA has for sale:

Ham IV Rotator only (no control box)
\$95

3 Rohn 25 "GA25GD" guy brackets
\$35 ea

Telrex TB6EM

6 element monster tribander
\$350

See picture in December Circuit and Web Site

Contact Peter, KAIAXY

NO MORE EXCUSES!

Sign up now for the FARA 5 wpm code class. Starting Sat Feb 19 at Club shack 9:30 am. Six sessions thru Mar 25 exam at Flea Market March 26, 2000. Make the move now to get HF privileges and/or upgrade to Extra!

Call 881-2301 or 879-8097 to register

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 it will 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 \$15
Student / Retired \$10
Repeater (voluntary) \$10

...Continued from page 1

Discussion, so voted.

Moved by Crosby that an active interest in amateur radio telegraph or telephone be the only requirement for membership and that four consecutive absences or non-payment of dues without reasonable excuse for two months will be reason for automatic suspension from membership. Discussion, seconded, so voted.

Moved by Strickland that a committee of two be appointed to arrange for program for each meeting, committee to serve for 3 months. Seconded, so voted.

Following committee appointed by Pres. LaBarr

Harold Williamson

C. R. Crosby

Moved by C. P. Marcoux that 150 postcards be purchased and printed for purpose of giving notice in advance of meetings to members. Also that necessary books for keeping records of Sect. And Treas. Be purchased. The above expenditures to be made by treas., as soon as necessary funds are available. Seconded. So voted.

Moved by Strickland that dues be collectable the last meeting of the month and that new members' dues become payable the first due date after joining.

Discussion, seconded, so voted.

The following members were present at the first meeting for purpose of organization

Mark Strickland
Steve Anderson
Norman Thompson
C. R. Crosby
W. L. LaBarr
E. L. Parsons
Harold Williamson
C. P. Marcoux
Warren Pierce

In lieu of regular meeting place it was decided that the next regular meeting of the club should be held at 203 Union Ave. Framingham and that notice of the meeting should be spread to as many interested parties as possible in order that a good turn out be had for Fri. Jan 27th at 8:15 p.m.

Motion for adjournment by Thompson. Seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Resp. Submitted

C. R. Crosby

Sect.

QSL Card



Plenty of folks have seen this call sign over the years. A card from our own Mr. Flea Market!

The Circuit is in need of QSL cards!!!

If you would like to share your favorite QSL card, which could be your own, with the club, please send it my way! A caption or story would be appreciated also.

FARA Flea Market

March 26

Don't Miss the February Meeting!

Our speaker from last months meeting, Peter Cantara, KIIM from Ham radio Outlet was so impressed with FARA that he has graciously donated two coupons for 5 percent *above cost* off anything at HRO. These will be offered as door prizes at the February meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to save a few bucks at HRO!

In Sympathy

By Anne, N1ECI

We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Marjie Stern's father last week. We ask the club to please join with us in sending our condolences to Marjie and her family.