

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association February 2001, Vol. 68, No. 2

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President's Message

What's so important about January 23, 2001?

Exactly a hundred years ago, at 4:30 p.m. local time, Italian-born radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi sent the first ever long-distance wireless transmission from the Isle of Wight to Cornwall on the British mainland.

Although Marconi had, over the previous five years, been sending messages over increasingly long distances, the January 23 transmission marked a milestone in the development of long-distance communication.

Not only was it the furthest wireless transmission ever made -- 186 miles (299 kilometres) -- but it also proved that radio waves could be transmitted across the horizon, something the majority of the scientific establishment had insisted was impossible.

Most of us living in Massachusetts know of the "Marconi site" on the Cape Cod National Seashore in Wellfleet. I wonder how many know that Marconi not only invented radio, he went on to build a business that held a global monopoly on wireless in the early 1900s. Marconi not only patented his invention, he built a business around it. If you wanted radio communication on your ship, you rented the equipment from the Marconi company, and hired their operators to run it. The company is still in business. An aside is that, due to lack of support in his native Italy, he founded his company in England.

Peter, KA1AXY

Message from the Treasurer

By Sumner, W1VIV

FARA members: A few of you still have not paid your Year 2001 dues. You know who you are. Your radio club uses dues income for a number of worthy purposes: We award annual college scholarships (four each year to deserving young people); we set up a large Field Day station every year, providing operating experience, fun, and food for a large number of hams; we have a great summer picnic each year; and we hold a meeting every month with interesting, entertaining, and educational programs. In addition there are many more worth-while activities and services, including our unique License-in-a-Weekend program, code classes, and VE sessions as needed, and an outstanding newsletter. You get more than your money's worth with FARA membership.

If you are not sure whether you are paid up-to-date, call me (508-877-1565) or e-mail me at w1viv@arrl.net, and I will look it up for you. Please support your radio club, and send your dues check NOW to FARA, PO Box 3005, Framingham, MA 01705.

Field Day 2001

By Martin, AA1ON

Now is the time to mark your calendars for Field Day 2001. This years event will take place on the weekend of June 23 - 24.

In order to maximize your Field Day pleasure, FARA would like to get your input on the plans for this years effort. There will be a brief discussion at the February Club meeting and a schedule for planning meetings will also be made at that time.

Last year FARA operated in the 3A category, but scaled back the complexity of the

Thursday, Feb 1

This Month's Meeting

This month Bob, W1RH will be giving a demonstration of PSK31, one of the newest digital modes.

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

setup (in particular putting up smaller towers than in the previous years) to compensate for somewhat reduced participation, mostly due to members being out of town on vacation. Having a fairly accurate estimate for the number of people interested in participating this year will help our planning, so let me know either in person or via e-mail (mbayes@shiple.com) whether you plan to be a part of FARA FD 2001.

Silent Key's

By Sumner, W1VIV

Another FARA member has passed away. Elmer "Rem" Goldman, W1BJS, died on January 8th. If anyone wants to send a card, the address is 52 Gregory Rd., Framingham 01701.

Club Member Elmer "Rem" Goldman, W1BJS, passed away this month. Rem was a long-time ham, and was known nationally as an expert judge at cat shows. He was active in Framingham town politics for many years.

In November we lost Hal Alman, WN1TKD. He left his wife Shanie, WA1WGX, also a FARA member.

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

QSL Card

Submitted by Bev, N1LOO
Write-up by Bob, W1RH

This month's QSL card comes to us via Bev, N1LOO's father, Stan, WS7O. Stan worked FW/KG7XE in October, 1992 on 10 meter sideband. FW counts as Wallis and Futuna. The DXpedition worked was on Wallis Island. Now, if you look at the back of the QSL very closely, you will see Martin, G4DZC, in the "special thanks" section. This is the same Martin, AA1ON, who we all know and love. G4DZC is Martin's call sign in England. Why was Martin thanked? Read on.....

Martin did his own DXpedition to Wallis Island the week before the FW/KG7XE group arrived on the island. He had been advised that it might be a problem getting his equipment through customs and it might help to bring along "inducements." As "inducements," Martin chose a bottle of gin, a bottle of kahlua, and 200 packs of cigarettes. As it turned out, customs was a breeze and he was left with all of the "inducements." Martin worked 3000 hams in his week on the island, which included the CQWW DX Sideband contest. Nearing the end of the week, his voice was going away and Martin chose to use the Kahlua as a way to revitalize his voice. At the end of the DXpedition, as Martin was rolling up his antenna wires, he ran into the Japanese group that would be FW/KG7XE installing their antennas at the same hotel. These guys were chain smokers, so Martin donated the cigarettes to their cause as well as the gin. The donation was well appreciated with a deserving "special thanks." The question I forgot to ask Martin is how did a group of three Japanese hams end up with a KG7 call sign?

Wallis and Futuna Islands are an overseas territory of France, located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. The two volcanic island groups are 125 miles apart and count as a DXCC entity.

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



Confirming QSO with

To Radio WS7O

DATE	UTC	RST	Freq	Zone
'92/09/31	23:38	59 28	SSB	

Rig: TS-890S
Ant: HB-325 (2el Tri Band BEBCV)

Equipment : TS-890S + HB325 (Tri-band),
PC-750 + AFS + Long Wire (200m),
MFJ-1278 (RTTY) + PC-9801a (PC)

QTH : Mats-Uru, WALLIS Is.
C.L.C. : AH18VE CW ZONE : 32

THANKS FOR QSO and QST

FW/KG7XE

Shinji Shimada "Shin" (JA45VB)
 Yutaka Tasaki "Taka" (JR1LZK)
 Yasunori Iizuka "Yasu" (JI1NJC)

Special Thanks to: Hotel Lonipean FW1D Jose,
Mini Multi Antenna G4DZC Martin, JALCWS Ratsou,
FR1WLC, JF1MDK, JG1SFP, JI1ARB, JI1KTD,
JF7CDE and JI1ZBU Members.

QSL verified by JI1NJC

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. Don't let not having a scanner keep you from sending in your favorite card. Many FARA Members have access to scanners, including Bob, W1RH.

Cordless Phone Interference

This article has been edited for length it is available in it's entirety at:
www.n7viv.com/interference.htm

On March 20, 2000, a carrier appeared on 147.000 MHz at or about 9:00 to 9:15 P.M. MST in Boise, Idaho. This particular frequency is the repeater frequency for Mt. Harrison repeater located 200 miles SE of Boise. But the signal wasn't coming from Mt. Harrison. It was a low power signal coming from Boise, Idaho. I located the signal coming from a house at 3691 N. Jullion St., Boise, ID 83704. AC7BF, came at my request and also DF'd the transmitter to make sure I was correct on the location. There wasn't anyone home so I went home and did some searching on the internet.

Armed with a phone # I called and asked for Ben, the owner of the property. I introduced myself to Ben and asked, "had he recently got an amateur radio license." He told me, "no do I need one?" I then explained to him that I had tracked a radio signal and it appeared to be coming from his residence. I asked him if maybe he had recently got a new piece of electronic equipment that might possibly be transmitting accidentally in the amateur bands? He said the only thing he had, was a cordless phone but he didn't have a radio. I mentioned the antenna I could see up on top of the patio roof. He said that was the antenna for the cordless phone. He said it was a "NOKIA" and it had a five (5) mile range. I had never heard of a cordless phone with a five (5) mile range. Ben invited me to his home that evening at 9:00 P.M. MST to look at the cordless phone and check it out. I accepted.

Well as it turned out the cordless phone was indeed transmitting in the two (2) meter band. Myself, N7VIV and KB7SYC both had our frequency count

ers with us when we showed up to look at the cordless phone. The cordless phone was transmitting a constant signal on 147.003 MHz. according to the frequency counters. We asked if we could unplug the base unit to check it out. When we did the signal disappeared on 147.003 MHz. It had been in constant transmit for twenty four (24) hours. The base unit was cool to the touch and didn't have a visible fan. Over the twenty four (24) hour transmit period the signal kept coming up as though it was gaining in power output. W7ZRQ could receive it anywhere in the Boise area. KB7SYC could receive it twenty (20) miles to the west near the Caldwell, ID airport.

Heather, the lady of the house explained that they had bought this phone off of "ebay". She was upset at the sellers for not telling them that this unit was illegal in the United States. She also explained that they had \$300.00 per month cellular bills until they bought this cordless phone. That's what interested their friends. So we may see more of these in the Boise area. Heather said they paid about \$1000.00 for this unit.

When I was DF'ing this signal I talked with Larry Smith, W7ZRQ, about this particular situation. Larry is the local frequency coordinator. Also he is an engineer at a local TV station. He has a great amount of knowledge which I wanted to draw upon.

After I discovered this transmitter, Larry came up with a theory. He thinks that maybe this unit is built like a trunking system. And that would explain why we have been getting carriers on a lot of local frequencies. We are still negotiating with the people to see if we can buy the unit or possibly trade with them. That way we can get the unit to do some testing into a dummy load of course.

Also the owners of this unit told us that they had a lot of friends that wanted to

buy these units. We may not have seen the last of this yet. And here is the reason. Ben & his wife Heather own a pawn shop. They told us they sell a lot of CB's and assorted electronics. This may be the way these units are being imported. I don't know for sure. But keep your eyes and ears open.

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!

October 27, 1933

The 13th regular meeting of the C.A.R.A. was called to order at 8:45 p.m. by the Secty. in the absence of the Pres. and Vice Pres.

The report of the Secty. was read and approved.

The engaged speaker being unable to attend it was suggested that he backed out of our early date to give his demonstrated talk at the U.B.C.

Mr. Blanke requested information from those interested in an elementary theory class what particular points they wished to have covered.

The Treasurer opened the books for the collection of dues it being the second meeting of the month.

No further business being before the club the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to getting acquainted there being a large attendance and several new members.