

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association January 1999, Vol. 66, No. 1

---

## In This Issue

**President's Message**  
**Note from the Treasurer**

[Page 2-](#)

**Ham on a Hot Thin Island**

by Steve, AA1IZ, Part 2

[Page 3-](#)

**Tubes Available!**  
**See W1VIV's Latest Article...**  
**and more...**

## Thursday, Jan 7

**This Month's Meeting**

This talk won't be *low* on facts. This month's meeting will feature Peter, KA1AXY as he talks about his QRP adventures.

## 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

## Ham on a Hot Thin Island

by Steve, AA1IZ

### Part 2

A James Bond taxi ride through the streets of Athens brought us to our harbor side hotel. A quick supper and to bed. One problem - the heat required that we open the windows. The social custom of Athenians is that they go out to eat around 10pm and those who party stay out hours more. Around two o'clock we finally fell asleep. Around seven o'clock the ever present city construction workers lit off their compressor and within minutes we were serenaded by jackhammers. Oh well, we wanted to grocery shop early anyway. The family shopped while I walked over to the marina to check out the boat. After waiting an hour the marina offices came to life. Seems that not everyone wakes up early. Finally I met Costas. We sat down to discuss the trip. "Why are you choosing to go to Elafonisos?" Patiently I explained again the contest, and the strategy that had brought us to the decision. "Do you have a place lined up?" "Not yet, but I have friends working on it" "Resourceful", I mumbled to myself.

Soon a van arrived with our food, luggage, and radio equipment. My wife had convinced the market owner to include our personal possessions in with the free food delivery. We loaded everything aboard, bought six bags of ice and another few gallons of water and finally got under way. The temperature on the water cooled to about 95 from the 100 plus that we had been experiencing in the city. Water was consumed by the liter as everyone did their best to cool off.

By Wednesday we were well on our way south to Elafonisos. Costas had been proving his skills each day with his ability to sail

small pileup. The equipment seemed to be OK. The voice keyer was getting mixed reviews - modulation seemed distorted to some people. Also I thought I could hear a slight feedback in my headset, but I wasn't sure. After an hour of operating I felt I had spread the word enough for people to know I would be on during the contest and it seemed all was OK with the equipment.

Friday morning we headed off for the last leg of our voyage to Elafonisos. We had been sailing south to reach the bottom of the Peloponese and now it was time to turn the corner and head west to our chosen island. This section of water can be very rough due to locally heavy summer winds and we were prepared for a good bounce. Although the winds came up they were not too bad and by mid day we were alongside the concrete dock used by the fisherman about a tenth of a mile from town. By now Costas had a full understanding of what I needed: power, space for the equipment, a platform for the beam, poles for the wire antenna, and a clear shot to the north west back to Europe and the US. So in the mid-day sun we walked into town and first checked with the local police force to announce our presence. Again the official letter smoothed all ripples. From police headquarters (and also the chief's home) we walked another 100 yards to the northwest side of the island. As we walked along the narrow beach road we looked at the small, tightly packed two and three story concrete homes that were facing the water. Finally we found one with a room to let. Up the narrow outside stairs to the third floor mini apartment. It was perfect. A small kitchenette, a bathroom, a bedroom, a small terrace looking out on the water, and best of all, the roof of a two story house under construction abutting part of the terrace. Costas negotiated for a two-night stay and an understanding that we would not interfere with the neighborhood. It was time to get organized.

We walked back to the boat and while I moved everything up on deck Costas inflated our rubber dinghy. "Much easier than carrying everything to the

## FARA Thanks...

by Peter, KA1AXY

We wouldn't be able to accomplish a lot of what we manage to get done at the club without the donations. You know what I mean, the people who come by and drop off stuff we have said we're looking for. So, in this season of giving, I thought it would be nice to thank some FARA members for their generosity.

Ed, WINXC for answering all those phone calls about License in a Weekend

Dick, K1KTK and Marsha, KINGI for the thermostat, the filing cabinet, and all the stuff Dick didn't want to move

Sharon, KC1YR and Lee, KA1USL for the TNC, amp and cash to help pay for the freon recycling

Danny, T93M for being our man on the "inside" when it comes to antennas

Anne, N1ECI and Paul, N1DGT for the new shack computer, laser printer and web maintenance

Bev, N1LOO for the mailing labels and the new hot water pot  
Jim, N1XAS for the TNC, and the radio

Jim, W1EQW for the storage space in his barn

Dennis, KE6DPL for maintaining the repeater

Martin, AA1ON for the space in the garage, and allowing us to invade his personal life whenever the node goes down

Bob, W1RH for the radios, the drill, the foam and for having the best junkbox in the club

Robert, N1UVA for his truck and his muscles, and the great job he does on the Circuit

Peter, W1VAB for the freezer and the relays

George, N1XAN for the relays, resistors, and taking one last crack at the amp

All the people who bring food!

[...Continued from first page](#)

spring.)

The two CQWW contests also showed us that our link to the PacketCluster network was unreliable. After discussion with the YCCC Sysops Association (YSA), we changed our network connection from KB1H to K1EA in mid-December. This link is much more reliable. The acid test will be the two parts of the ARRL DX contest, coming up in February and March.

For various reasons, we also replaced both TNCs, thanks to donations from Jim, N1XAS and Pete, W1VAB.

The temperature problems led us to seek an equipment enclosure that would stabilize things. What we needed was a large, well-insulated cabinet with shelves. Pete, W1VAB, stepped forward and offered us an unused, vertical freezer... just the ticket. Peter, KA1AXY, picked it up and arranged for the freon to be drained in an environmentally-sound manner. Next, he removed the compressor and brought it in for recycling. K1KTK and KINGI donated a thermostat, which Peter is using to control two muffin fans. Each of the air holes and cable penetrations are being mouse-proofed. We will have a "General Electric" PacketCluster node when we're through!

Get the idea this is a team effort? There are countless other ways that people have contributed; there's not enough space to cover them all. All this has led to a great system. Please encourage your friends to check us out!

**READ THE CIRCUIT  
ONLINE... SAVES PAPER  
AND POSTAGE**

email [fara@fara.org](mailto:fara@fara.org) and we'll set you up!

### Tubes Available!

FARA has a large supply (several hundred) of vacuum tubes available. Mostly receiving type of unknown quality. We got them from Marlboro, who doesn't want them back. Boatanchor fans, listen up! We want them out of our storage area. You have to take all of them. They're "sorta" sorted. Come and get them before they get trashed!

### See W1VIV's Latest Article on the

#### Internet

Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, has published a new ham radio article. It's not in QST, but in the December 15th edition of the ARRL's new Members Only Internet Magazine. The article is called "Hams and their Antique Automobiles" and shows more than one FARA member in beautiful color. To check it out, go to [www.arrl.org/members](http://www.arrl.org/members). You have to be a member of ARRL, and will have to register if you haven't done it already.

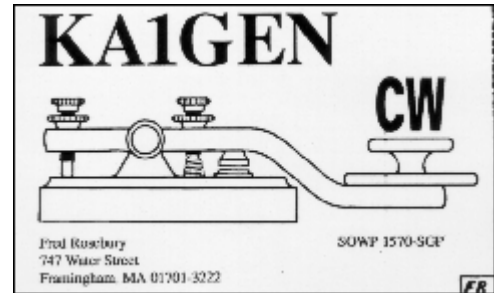
#### Signing onto the FARA email reflector, FraminghamARA-L@qth.net

The email reflector works like an email repeater. Whatever you send to [FraminghamARA-L@qth.net](mailto:FraminghamARA-L@qth.net) gets rebroadcast out to everyone else who has signed up. You can set the reflector to send you each message as it comes in, or to batch them all up into a "digest" and send you one of those a day. To sign up, send a message to:

[majordomo@qth.net](mailto: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!

### QSL Card



Dear Rob:

A few weeks ago two great members of FARA: Julie Hoffer and Sumner Weismann worked for several hours putting up a new dipole for me at Heritage in Framingham. They did a great job - for which I'm eternally grateful. I'm 97 and can no longer do such jobs for myself. Julie (W1DL) supplied all the material and would not let me pay for it.

I am hard of hearing but competent in the Morse code as I was a seagoing sparkgap pro in my early days. CW is therefore a real life saver for me. I have trouble understanding callers on LL, so when Julie phones me I tell him to fire up his rig on 7035 and we have FB copy. I think this is a good argument for keeping CW alive, at least for me -and I'm sure there are others who benefit in the same way.

Better late than never: Holiday Greetings to all -and a healthy and prosperous 1999!

73s and CW forever

Fred Rosebury -KA1GEN

*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*