

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association July 2001, Vol. 68, No. 7

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Thursday, July 5

This Month's Meeting

Martin, AA1ON will be showing slides of his trip to Wallis Island and his recent, related trip to the JARL.

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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(508) 910-5689

by mail

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President's Message

The Hess family moved to Hopkinton from California in 1991. In our first 5 years here, the extent of my amateur radio activity was minimal. In fact, other than our immediate neighbors and a few work acquaintances, I still had not met many locals in my first five years in Massachusetts. It all changed, however, in 1996 when Robert and I joined FARA. I had decided to look into joining a local club. I checked out the repeaters and flea markets. I remember how impressed I was with the cluster of three nets on Sundays - the FARA Net, the Kid's Net and the Emergency Net. I also remember the friendly activity on the 147.15 repeater. Last, but not least, I remember how impressed I was with the FARA flea market. Robert and I soon became a couple of those faces in the back of the meeting room at the monthly FARA meetings. Nobody knew us, but we felt comfortable enough to keep attending the meetings and, little by little, began to get to know some of the members. Five years later, I am the new FARA president and it has been a great five years. FARA is a terrific organization and it is our present and former members who have made it so.

Let me say a BIG thanks to our outgoing officers. W1VIV, Sumner, as Treasurer has done a terrific job developing a budget and letting us know, at any time, where we stand financially. K1KTK, Dick, has been a wonderful Director and will be missed. Florida beckons every winter, however, so we must consider ourselves fortunate to have Dick and Marsha with us for at least half of the year. Last, but not least, we have KA1AXY, Peter, who has spent the last three years as our President and now assumes the job of Treasurer. Peter's endless energy has done so much for FARA.

We have a couple of new officers and one who is assuming his position for another term. AA1IZ, Steve, is our new Vice President. Steve is full of great ideas to make our association even better. Then there's our old friend and former President, W1EQW, Jim, who assumes the position of Director. Big shoes to fill, Jim! KB1CQI, Ed, is now our second term Secretary. Ed became a member after one of our License in a Weekend sessions and has since become a very active member of FARA.

Thanks to everyone who made Field Day a success. Too many names to mention here, but our scaled down version of Field Day - 1A class - came off in typical FARA fashion.....good food and working radios.

Thanks, also, to Bev and everyone who worked the Framingham Road Race and the Flag Day parade.

Bob, W1RH



Bev, N1LOO at the Framingham Road Race that preceded the June Meeting. Photo by Steve, AA1IZ.

An Insurance Claim...

Submitted by Sumner, W1VIV

An insurance company asked for more information regarding a work-related accident claim. This was the response:

"I put 'poor planning' as the cause of my accident. I am an amateur radio operator and was working on the top section of my new 80 foot tower.

When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items using a pulley.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools into a small barrel.

Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of

the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in block number 11 of the

accident report that I weigh 155 pounds. Due to my surprise of being

jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and

forgot to let go of the rope. I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of

speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot

level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured

skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my

rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were

two knuckles deep into the pulley. I regained my presence of mind

and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At the same

time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell

out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now

weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in

block number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met

the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower

body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto

the pile of tools so only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay on the

tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my

presence of mind and let go of the rope..."

You Missed it?

An epic showdown occurred at the June meeting as Dave, K1HT beat Martin AA1ON

at "DX Jeopardy." Photo by Steve, AA1IZ.



Useful FARA URLs

Main FARA Web site: <http://www.fara.org> (goes to www.qsl.net/fara)

Archives of the FARA mailing list: <http://list.fara.org>

Club info and officers: <http://info.fara.org>

Info on our W1FY packet cluster node: <http://packet.fara.org>

Other interesting ham-related links: <http://links.fara.org>

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

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

Student / Retired \$10

Repeater (voluntary) \$10

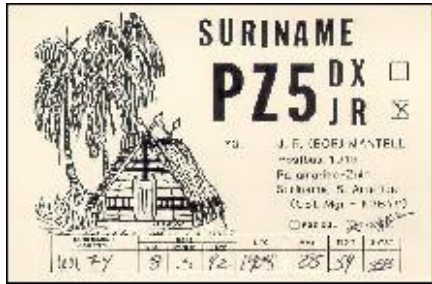
FraminghamARA-L@qth.net

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!

QSL Card

Write-up by Bob, W1RH



This month's QSL comes to us from the country of Suriname. Suriname, while not rare, is one of the more difficult to work South American countries. It also seems to be a difficult country to get confirmed. I am still trying to get a card out of Suriname! In this case, W1FY, the Club station, worked PZ5JR, J. R. (Bob) Mantell in 1992 on 10 meter sideband.

The first Europeans settled in Suriname in 1650. Most of them did not make it long. Indians and diseases decreased their numbers. The first English settlers were sent by Lord Willoughby, the governor of Barbados. The Zealander Abraham Crijnsen invaded Willoughby's settlement and after the peace treaty of Breda (1667) the Dutch gained Suriname but lost their colony in North America (New York).

Suriname was occupied by the English in 1799 after the Dutch became a part of France. Apart from the period between 1802 and 1804 Suriname remained

English territory until 1816. The English abolished slave trade in 1808 and improved the position of the Surinamese slaves. After the defeat of Napoleon The Netherlands got back their colony in South America.

On July 1, 1863 the Dutch were the last Europeans to abolish slavery. Ten years before that date, the owners of the

plantations had started with importing laborers from other continents. The first were Chinese people from Indonesia. Some years before them some Dutch farmers from Groningen were taken to the country to start small farms. These attempts to save the

agricultural importance of Suriname were no success: half of the Dutch farmers died within a year and the Chinese immediately left the plantations after a 5-year obligatory working period. Suriname was on its own during the German occupation of The Netherlands (1940-1945). After the war the political status of the Dutch colonies was changed.

After the 1973 elections the Suriname government suddenly started to negotiate with The Netherlands about the independence of Suriname. The negotiations succeeded. Suriname became independent at November 25, 1975 and the Netherlands agreed to support the young country for ten years with a total amount of four billion guilders. Many Surinamese did not trust an

independent Suriname and fled to The Netherlands.

Without the Dutch development money a lack of foreign currency occurred in Suriname and the inflation rate started to rise. A first attempt to reinstall democracy in 1987 ended in 1990 when the army sent home the government. There were general elections in 1991 after which drs Ronald Venetiaan was chosen as president of Suriname.

Much of the above taken from the Suriname Home Page.

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!

January 26, 1934

The 19th regular meeting of the Comm. Amateur Radio Assoc. was called to order at 8:30 P.M. by President McLean. The secretary's report was read and accepted. Pres. McLean announced Hamfest tickets on sale at \$1.25 if purchased before the tenth of February. The price will be \$1.50 after that date.

Moved by Treas. Parsons that Secty. send a letter of thanks to Mr. Bailey for his fine talk of the previous meeting. Seconded and so voted.

It was announced that Herb Blanke had offered to have membership applications mimeographed.

Suggested by Treas. Parsons that the club obtain receipts to be issued to members on payment of dues. Dr. Crosby was appointed to investigate the possibility of having them printed.

Moved by Dr. Crosby that all delinquent dues prior to January 19, 1934 be canceled, and new records opened. Active members to be designated by paid up dues and those who are unable to pay are to submit a written explanation to the treasurer. Seconded and so voted.

Activities manager Thompson gave a report of some of his adventures with BCL trouble, and suggested the possibility of the club making a research of the matter.

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

After the business meeting, the members retired for general discussion, and to superintend the raffle of Dr. Crosby's receiver.