

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association March 2001, Vol. 68, No. 3

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## Thursday, Mar 1

### This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting topic is a tape, supplied by Dave, K1HT, of the Bhutan, A52A, Dxpedition. Dave says it is a real good show. Popcorn will be served. Check out this month's QSL card for more on the Kingdom of Bhutan.

### 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

### President's Message

March is going to be a busy month for FARA. We have both the License in a Weekend and the Spring Flea coming up. We especially need people to stop by the shack and pick up flea flyers to hand out at any ham events they might be attending over the next few weeks. If you're not planning on going to any, W1RH has a list of upcoming events you could take a look at. If you fancy yourself a teacher, give Ed, W1NXC a call. He'll put you up in front of a class of aspiring hams and you can find out if you have the "right stuff". No Mass. teacher certification required.

We need to start thinking about Field Day, too. Last year's Field Day involved a lot of planning by only a few people. We need more people who are willing to help shoulder the burden of planning Field Day. While it's fun to show up and work putting the towers up, this is the part of Field Day where we always have more than enough help. What we really need is a few more people to help in the months prior to the event, making sure the ropes are sorted and the water is ordered. If you can spare an hour on Wednesday nights, maybe every other week, please speak with a club officer. We'll give you something to worry about!

Thanks to Julie Hoffer, W1DL, who supplied the silver/teflon PL259s, the club has three new lengths of coax. This is the stuff that came off the two towers we took down last year. Although the ends were damaged by water, we still managed to get two lengths of over 120 feet and one of 70 feet. I absolutely despise installing PL259s, but in spite of this mild dislike for the task, I have developed a system for putting them on that seems to work well, and does not require the use of a high power soldering iron. The secret is to tin the braid well before attempting to install the connector. That, and remembering to slide that barrel nut on before soldering the connector!

Peter, KA1AXY

**Revitalized fara.org**

By Sharon, KC1YR

www.fara.org works again!

You can now type <http://www.fara.org> or <http://fara.org> to get to the FARA Web site.

The Web site remains where it was before, at <http://www.qsl.net/fara>. So, you can continue to type in that address as well to get to our site. Fara.org is now simply set up to redirect you to that existing qsl.net site. Give it a try!

This is all thanks to the deregulation of Internet domain registration, which has allowed us to use a new company for our fara.org domain name that offers some enhanced services.

One of those services is some free e-mail forwarding accounts. In addition to our [fara@fara.org](mailto:fara@fara.org) general e-mail account, I've set up a few others, such as

[president@fara.org](mailto:president@fara.org) going to Pete KA1AXY

[vp@fara.org](mailto:vp@fara.org) going to Bob W1RH

[circuit@fara.org](mailto:circuit@fara.org) for submitting articles to Robert N1UVA for the Circuit

[scholarships@fara.org](mailto:scholarships@fara.org) going to the head of our scholarship committee, Richard Cosma AA1VI

[director@fara.org](mailto:director@fara.org) going to Dick K1KTK

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testing@fara.org to our director of testing Jim W1EQW

nomcom@fara.org to our temporary nominating committee this year, etc.

You can also now reach me at webmaster@fara.org (along with my new "vanity" e-mail address sharon@kc1yr.com).

We're allowed a few so-called "third-level" domains as well with our new fara.org. This means we can replace the "www" in our URL and point somewhere else. Here are some of our new Web addresses -- remember, DON'T type a www before these:

<http://circuit.fara.org> takes you to our newsletters online

<http://fleamarket.fara.org> goes to our flea market flyer (PDF format)

<http://info.fara.org> displays club information including a list of officers

<http://liaw.fara.org> goes to License in a Weekend info

<http://tables.fara.org> sends you to our online flea-market table reservations form

<http://list.fara.org> redirects you to the archives of our FARA mailing list.

It's possible we will have a few extra free e-mail forwarding accounts remaining after I've finished setting everything up. If you might be interested in having an e-mail address @fara.org, drop me an e-mail. (We can't guarantee that you'll have it forever, though, as use of the fara.org domain could change). You'd need to have an existing e-mail account where it could forward.

Thanks to Dennis KE6DPL who had the foresight to register the fara.org domain before most people were thinking about such things!

### Change of Address

If you would like to change the address on your Circuit label, please email [fara@fara.org](mailto:fara@fara.org). Or, you can call the Club at 508-879-8097

### The VP Report

By Bob, W1RH

We're gearing up for another FARA flea market and we need your help. See Bev if you're available on the day of the Flea - Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Our last two flea markets have been very successful for FARA and have provided the funding for a new solid state amplifier, scholarships, and various FARA activities. Another successful flea market will give us the funds to further enhance the Club and our activities. In addition to the flea market in the main hall, we will have exams, one or two talks and a Yankee Clip

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### 2001 FARA Scholarship Rules

As in previous years the rules are:

1. Must be a member of FARA.
2. Applications must be turned in or post marked by April 15, 2001.
3. Must be a license radio amateur.
4. Preference will be given to graduating high school seniors.

For applications contact Richard Cosma AA1VI 508 877 8241.

### "Radio Rage" Hazardous To Ham Radio

ARRL

Entering his third year spearheading the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement effort, Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says "radio rage" could become a bigger danger to the future of Amateur Radio than rule breaking.

"It's the infighting and arguments and juvenile spats," Hollingsworth said this week. "That's going to come back to haunt us if we don't just grow up. It will do the service in, if the ham community doesn't put a stop to it."

Hollingsworth said that he's encouraged

that the FCC's enforcement program has the support of "99.9%" of the amateur community and that the vast majority of hams follow the rules. But, he said that radio rage in the form of such things as on-air squabbles or frequency fights can degrade the bands just as quickly as outright rule breaking. "The FCC can't do anything about that," he said. "It's up to the amateur community."

Hollingsworth said that while much radio rage technically is not illegal, it reflects poorly on Amateur Radio and can balloon into an enforcement issue. More important, he said, rude or intemperate on-air behavior might provide just the sort of ammunition that an entity seeking additional spectrum will use against Amateur Radio.

Hollingsworth predicted that the departure January 19 of FCC Chairman William Kennard and the changing of the guard the White House the next day will not alter the course of the current amateur enforcement effort. He said he sees nothing but positive changes ahead. "I'm willing to bet my SX-115 that we won't miss a beat," he said, referring to one of his latest acquisitions of vintage ham gear, "as long as the amateur community lets it be known it still wants enforcement."

Hollingsworth said it was pressure from the ARRL and individual amateurs that prompted the resumption of amateur enforcement in 1998 during Kennard's tenure, "and it's the type of program that needs that continual pressure to keep it going," he added. Overall complaints are down, Hollingsworth said, "but no one can be complacent."

### Contest Corner

One of our own, K1HT, took first place in Eastern Mass. in 2000 IARU HF World Championship contest, single operator, mixed mode.

### Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)

Regular FARA \$15

Student / Retired \$10

Repeater (voluntary) \$10

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

Now available as an Adobe Acrobat file email [fara@fara.org](mailto:fara@fara.org) and we'll set you up!

..."The VP Report" Continued from  
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per Contest Club meeting in an adjacent room.

The ARRL SSB DX Contest is a 48 hour contest beginning Friday, March 2, at 7 PM and ending Sunday at 7 PM. This is a great opportunity to work DX and, since we are at the peak of the 11 year sunspot cycle, conditions are superb. DX'ing from the Club Shack should be a lot of fun with the new amplifier and our KA1AXY re-built tribander. If anyone is interested in a "contest university" session on Saturday or Sunday, let me know. I do plan on spending plenty of time at AA1ON's QTH during the contest but I, or another FARA member, can be available to show anyone, who might be interested, some of the basic contesting techniques using the CT contest program. Give me a ring or email if you want to have some fun at the controls of FARA's TS-850 this weekend.

#### QSL Card

Submitted by Bob, W1RH



The Kingdom of Bhutan is the subject of this month's QSL and the feature of this month's FARA meeting. The A52A dxpedition gave many Hams a new one including yours truly. The signals from A52A were very weak on my wire antenna so I was very lucky to work this dxpedition on 15 meter SSB, number 291 on my DXCC list.

Prior to this dxpedition, very few Hams had worked Bhutan since amateur radio operation was, with few exceptions, not permitted. Though the dxpedition was limited to 100 watts, they were still able to make over 82,000 QSO's with Hams around the world.

The back of the card has nice description of Bhutan:

*Hidden deep within the great Himalayan mountains, Bhutan developed its own civilization over the past almost 2000 years. The population of 600,000 lives in close harmony with nature. It is a matter of great pride to the Bhutanese that their small kingdom was never colonized. This mythical land is one of the last hidden domains of man, now cautiously coming out of centuries of isolation. The wind roaring down the majestic valleys of the Himalayas produces the sound of the mythical Thunder Dragon, for which the Kingdom is named.*

*King Jigmi Singye Wangchuck became the youngest modern monarch in 1972. He has steered his kingdom through almost 30 years of development into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with emphasis on preserving the rich religious and cultural heritage. Bhutan's population is, in many ways, one large family. More than 90% of the people live on subsistence farming. The Bhutanese are physically strong and fiercely independent with an open and ready sense of humor. Hospitality is a built-in social value in Bhutan.*

FARA thanks Dave, K1HT, for supplying the 60 minute tape of the Bhutan dxpedition to be shown at this month's meeting. Hope to see you there.

*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 - 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!*

November 10, 1933

The 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the C.A.R.A. was called to order at 8:20 p.m. by Vice President J. D. McLean. No business being before the meeting the speaker Mr. Joe Mullen was introduced. Mr. Mullen formerly with station WNAC showed some interesting slides of their installation at Squantum and covered in detail the way in which programs were handled thru the Colombia Network.

After the speaker had completed his talk the meeting was opened for questions.

It was suggested by the Secty. that the club go thru WBR at the next regular meeting. The majority present were in favor.

Motion for adjournment by Mr. Rowland. Seconded. So voted.

November 24, 1933

The 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the C.A.R.A. was called to order promptly at 8 p.m. by Vice Pres. J. D. McLean. The report of the Secty. was read and accepted.

Volunteers for code practice were asked for and about 8 members responded. It was agreed to meet with the Secty. on the following Wed. for a definite arrangement to conduct a code class between meetings.

No further business being before the meeting it was adjourned early and the members left to visit WBR at Millis thru special arrangement with Mr. Stanire.