

The Framingham Circuit

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President's Message

Although the 1997 Field Day activities are far behind us, reverberations of it continue. Have you seen the November cover of QST? If not, make sure you do. Yes, a FARA photo of Field Day 1997 is indeed on the cover. The photo shows Steve Gilbert, K1SG operating one of the FARA stations. QST claims that two of the cover photos are from the FARA Field Day, but I think we can only claim one. The other photo shows a large house and what appears to be water in the background. Something we don't have at the turkey farm. I'm not sure who took the photo, but it's a dandy. And that's not all. Page 103 of the same issue shows FARA in eighth place in the 3A category. In Eastern Mass we were nudged out of first place by Billerica ARA (sixth place overall) which had 824 more points than us out of our 9,062 total points. Third in EMA was the Capeway RC (tenth place overall) with 8,188 points. Congratulations to all of us and just wait until next year Billerica.

The scouts Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) was held on the weekend of October 18 and Robert, N1UVA, our newsletter editor, brought several scouts down to the club shack for the Saturday morning opening. There they talked to other scouts in Ohio and Pennsylvania and listened to scouts in Sweden and Germany.

One of the neat things about FARA is the variety of activities that go on at the club over the course of a year. Some of the activities are staples like Field Day, Flea Market, and some of the contests. But we're never afraid to try new things depending upon the various (and varying) interests of our club members. Speak up if you've got some ideas and be sure to come down to the shack during our regularly scheduled Wednesday evening and Saturday morning openings. "Radio" is spoken here, as well as a plethora of other topics. 73

Jim, W1EQW

Treasurers Note

by Martin, AA1ON
Club Treasurer

A number of members have noted that their Newsletter mailing label does not correctly reflect the status of their dues payments. I am planning to update these entries in the database this month.

An additional complication this year was that a number of dues checks were mislaid, (probably accidentally thrown away after arriving at the FARA shack). Several people have been kind enough to let us know that their checks have failed to clear.

If any member has questions around their dues or label status, they are very welcome to give me a call (435 0564).

In the meanwhile, the club is always happy to accept dues checks for 1998 !!

WAE

By Sharon, KC1YR

Ever tried a serious 48-hour contest effort before? I hadn't, at least not single-op or with a small team (although I have kicked in a few hours for some major FARA efforts). But, thanks to Martin AA1ON who graciously offered his great QTH, and Danny T93M/N1ZPE who agreed to work with me, I did my first one this September for Worked All Europe SSB.

WAE was a good first choice for me. It's a DX contest, which I enjoy more than domestic versions. Yet it's relatively easy to make calculations on what bands to work when (no need to weigh trade offs between an opening to Africa on one band and South America on another, for example). No need to turn the antenna. And, I happen to know more European hams than DXers elsewhere in the world, having operated as DX in UC, UA, S5 and T9. It's always fun to work friends!

The contest began with some decent openings on 40, but the night quickly grew frustrating as 80-meter contacts were few and far between. We were rewarded during the daytime both days, though, with long and good openings on 20 meters. Alas, 15 never opened to Europe, as it had the previous weekend, and Danny just managed a handful of hard-fought exchanges on that band.

I learned from my fellow experienced testers that it takes a lot more than good on-air skills to make a tester. Good ears, for one; it amazed me how much more Danny could pull out of the noise when all I heard was static.

having QSOs with YL ops.

We're still waiting to find out how we finished, but are overall pretty pleased with our effort: 1482 QSOs, 1438 ATCs, 269 multipliers for a total of 784,673 (that would have been 3rd in North America last year).

Hope to do even better next year!

Band	QSO	QTC	Cty	Mult
160	0	0	0	0
80	66	66	19	76
40	111	90	27	81
20	1300	1277	53	106
15	5	5	3	6
10	0	0	0	0
Totals	1482	1438	102	269

Hamerick by, W1VIV

My AM rig, 30 years old,
At the local flea market, was sold.
But as I look back,
It took up the whole shack
And gave heat when the weather was cold.

AA1IZ Needs Your Help!

FARA member, Steve Rosenthal, AA1IZ, will be participating in the 5th annual Caribbean 1500 Cruising Rally. This sail boat race starts in Newport, Rhode Island, and ends up in the British Virgin Islands, via Bermuda. They will leave Newport on Sunday, November 2nd and should arrive on Bermuda on Friday, November 7th if all goes as planned. Steve will be crewing aboard a 40 foot sloop on the first leg from Newport to Bermuda. This is a difficult cruise which can take the participants through very rough seas and weather, especially when they hit the Gulf Stream. For this reason, Steve will have a radio on board capable of transmitting on the Ham bands. It is a channelized marine radio, so he will have to transmit on prearranged channels within the Ham bands. The radio power output is in the 100-150 watt range. The antenna will be a loaded back stay (a short long wire antenna). Steve expects to be operating on 14,280, 7,280, and 3,280 KHz and will probably not be able to tune beyond those frequencies. He will be looking for phone patches and weather reports. Hours of operation have not been determined at this time, but his first priority will be standing watch on the vessel since there will only be one additional crew member besides Steve. Watch the packet cluster for postings as to when Steve is on the air, make sure your phone patch still works, and watch the weather channel!! Your assistance will be appreciated. Good luck, Steve.

JIM HAWKINS' RADIO ROOM

Jim Hawkins (WA2WHV) has a Web Site called "Jim Hawkins' Radio Room" which provides details of his broadcast transmitter site tours (conventional + VOA). Contains over 150 photos and graphics:

<http://www.exit109.com/~jimh/radio.shtml>

WHAT'S ON SHORTWAVE NOW?

An experimental web listing of shortwave frequencies in use at the time of your inquiry is posted at:

<http://itre.ncsu.edu/cgi-bin/cgi-swddbq>

Save your fingers! All web sites

Welcome to New Club Members

FARA is very happy to welcome the following new Club members:

Neal & Nanci Shaffer, (N1EXV and N1ZAH respectively) Framingham
Bill Hawley, KA1RVM Holliston
Karl Karash, N1ZNQ Berlin
Bob Thompson, N1AIW Framingham
Royce Sawyer, N1BPU Hopkinton

Boxboro

If anyone wishes to help out at the upcoming Boxboro Convention to be held This AUGUST 28--30, 1998, please contact Richard Cosma KD1BF of FARA or Tony Penta WA1MWN at 617 334 5770 (nights).

For Sale

ICOM IC-R70 Communications Receiver. Like-new condition. Manuals included. \$150 firm. Please call Richard at (508) 877-2237, Framingham

Help Wanted

Ham or Technical person to help with minor assembly of nicad battery packs. This would be part time work that could be done in your home at night, weekends, etc. I will furnish all parts. Assembly would involve placing batteries in plastic box, and soldering in 3 parts and some contact wires. Other minor

QST devoted entirely to
AMATEUR RADIO
November 1997

Official Journal of
The American Radio
Relay League

QST reviews:

- Ten-Tec OMNI VI Plus HF transceiver
- Drake TR270 FM transceiver

New Ham Companion:
Practical information for all hams

Work 17 meters with a rotatable loop

Build a dc-to-daylight preamp

Field Day 1997 Results!

Plus...

- Heroic hams in World War II
- On the air from Liaoyang, China

Look at this months QST!