

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association October/November 2020 Vol. 87, No. 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Already November! I started this back in September. So belated greetings for the 2020 Fall and almost Winter Ham Radio Season! Contributions are always welcome for the newsletter.

- Steve Babbitt, KC1LPZ, our new secretary submitted an article below, that was also published in the MMRA Newsletter.
- On September 3, Tom K1TW presented on some lesser known services provided by the ARRL.
- On October 1, 2020, our own Neal Lipson, K1NDF, reviewed the basic principles of propagation, and then presented and defended his thesis that the Framingham area may be a ideal location for Ham Radio. See the article on Neil's station in the July 2020 Circuit.er 5,
- On November 5, Bob DeMattia, K1IW, presented on "Computer Assisted Ham Radio". Like almost everything else, computers have touched many aspects of ham radio. From station logging, to the modes we operate - many things have changed. This presentation went through a brief timeline of the merging of technologies, and discuss how computers are used in ham radio today.
- **Special Upcoming Event: Northeast Hamxposition Virtual Banquet**, November 7, 2020 7 pm. You must register but it is free or you can make a donation. I just signed up. There is a radio prize. Buy take out food, sit back, then enjoy the banquet. Gordon West, WB6NOA, author of many training books will be key speaker. There is a daytime Ham Bootcamp. Also W1A will be operating and you can sign up. See info at <https://hamxposition.org>
- **Upcoming - December 3, 2020:** Brian Loverro, K1BML, President of the Central Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association (CMARA), and also active with the Worcester Emergency Communications Team, will talk about some of his favorite HTs. While many of us have a handful of HTs, Brian has more than anyone else I know and knows their strengths and weaknesses.
- **Upcoming - January 7, 2021:** We hope to come up with a Dxpedition video, maybe directly from Youtube. We are hoping to do a "show and tell" of a station or two. Volunteers needed and preferably with an iPad so you can walk around the shack.
- **February 4, 2021:** Lew Nyman, K1AZE, past FARA President (1976-1982) will talk about the past history of FARA.

Amateur Television Network. Submitted by Stephen M. Babbitt, KC1LPZ



As the name ATN suggests, this started by a couple of Hams who wanted to link their communications worldwide into the digital age. From the initial video link of a man sitting in a rocking chair with a camera beaming his image across a Repeater to another hobbyist, ATN has flourished, amazingly so, to a bunch of microwave repeaters throughout Southern California, Northern California, Nevada, Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida. Go to <https://www.atn-tv.org> for a brief overview. About 6 months ago ATN was featured on the Ham Nation podcast by Gordon West, the well known author of several study guide books many of us have used to pass our

licensing test(s).

I have been accessing ATN for several months now even though I do not possess a repeater here in my backyard in Framingham and you, too, can access their network by either their YouTube Channel at <http://youtube.com/amateurtelevisionnetwork> or by <https://whereby.com/ATN1> with a desktop, laptop, smartphone or iPhone that has a working camera and microphone. Roland Hoffman – KC6JPG – is the net control for their weekly net every Tuesday evening at 10:30 PM EDT. I am a regular fixture on their network every Tuesday through my laptop over

their “whereby.com” website. I believe they have 50 rooms –channels - on whereby for free access and it is through that website that I can check into their Amateur TV Network. There have been hams from as far away as Australia who have checked in just like I do from Massachusetts. Those of us on “whereby.com” have a session after the formal net is completed and I must say I have met some wonderful Hams that have become regular Tuesday evening participants like myself. My Granddaughter, Skylar, age 13 who had been visiting us earlier this summer for several weeks joined me on the ATN system. She actually got excited about it. I am not sure she will actually get her Tech License as her family has moved from CT to NM and had been preoccupied with the notion of meeting new friends as an adolescent in another region of the country.

Regardless on whether she becomes a Ham or not, I can easily envision other young minds falling in love with our hobby because Amateur TV is another venue we old timers can offer. I also envision our Framingham Amateur Radio Association becoming a part of this Network directly or through cooperative efforts with other AR Club, without the need for an interim site like whereby.

Upcoming contests and radio events:

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW 2100Z Nov 7 to 0300Z Nov 9, 2020

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest SSB 2100Z Nov 21 to 0300 Z Nov 23

CQ Worldwide DX CW 0000Z Nov 28 to 2400Z Nov 29, 2020

ARRL 160 Meter CW 2200Z Dec 4 to 1600Z Dec 6, 2020

ARRL 10 Meter Contest 0000Z Dec 12 to 2400Z Dec 13

Officers: see <http://w1fy.org/fara-officers>:

- President: John Iwuc KB1VXY president@W1FY.org
- Vice president: Open
- Clerk/Secretary: Stephen Babbitt, KC1LPZ secretary@W1FY.org
- Treasurer /Webmaster: Steve Moro N1MH treasurer@W1FY.org webmaster@W1FY.org
- Director: Sumner Weisman W1VIV
- Director of Testing Jim Weckback W1EQW testing@fara.org
- Repeater Trustee, Dave Miscia, KB1YXL repeater@w1fy.org
- Traffic Coordinator: Fred Beihold, NV1N traffic@w1fy.org
- Scholarship coordinator, Richard Cosma AA1VI scholarship@w1fy.org
- Echolink coordinator: Andy Boughton, KC1DMM
- Sunday night net control manager: Steve Hewlett, N4NIV
- QSL manager/QRZ Account manager: Sumner Weisman W1VIV, qslmanager@w1fy.org, turning over to Dave Miscia, KB1YXL
- Newsletter editor: John Iwuc, KB1VXY president@w1fy.org
- Field Day Manager: Dave Miscia, KB1YXL
- Publicity Manager Richard Cosma, AA1VI

Meetings: Club meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Framingham Police Station if it is available. Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., April. June. Board Meetings are called periodically. **Due to COVID-19 and recommendations for social distancing and closing of town buildings, meetings at the PD are on hold and will be on ZOOM instead. Members will get an email invitation before the meeting.**

Club Nets:

- FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.75/147.15 - social/chat, emergency preparedness
- Informal Wednesday 7:30 pm Health and Wellness check in net.

Club Web Site: W1FY.org

Social Media:

- [facebook.com/faraw1fy](https://www.facebook.com/faraw1fy)

- twitter.com/fara_w1fy

Dues: Flat rate of \$20 per year per person or family, and no separate repeater fee. Paid members will be posted on the web page. You can join/renew/pay online at <http://w1fy.org/membership-form>

Testing: Odd numbered months on the second Wednesday at 7:30PM by appointment only. <http://w1fy.org/license-exams>
Exams on hold while town offices are unavailable.

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