

FramingHAM Circuit

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What did Darwin, DXpedition Have In Common? The Galapagos

For many Amateurs the DXpeditions conducted by bands of hearty operators are the only way to work that "rare one." The reason is quite simple, really: those out-of-the-way places that DXpeditioners go to are just that out-of-the-way.

Some of them are so far off the beaten path of world travel that the planning alone takes on visions of planning for the D-Day Invasion. And some of them are just plain dangerous, as the tragedy that befell the German DXpedition a couple of years ago when it was fired on and two Amateurs lost their lives.

For the most part, though, DXpeditions aren't quite as dangerous as that. They just require planning and lots of money and time and equipment to get off the ground. And many of them don't go to places that are that far off the beaten track. Instead, they go to DX countries that just haven't been worked for a while.

Such was the case last year with Paul Young, K1XM, and his XYL Charlotte, KQ1F. President and Vice President of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, respectively. The Youngs and the club traveled to the Galapagos Islands. They are the islands made famous by Darwin in his study of evolution and other theories.

At our January meeting, we'll hear about that DXpedition from K1XM and KQ1F. During that DXpedition, they not only concentrated on operating, but they also had time to take some photos of the unique Galapagos Islands animal and plant life. They will also talk about that unique part of their trip.

So, circle Jan. 2 on your calendars and get ready for an interesting evening as we hear from the Youngs about their trip and their organization.

Our meeting will be at its usual location, club headquarters in the basement of the Danforth Museum, Lexington Street and Union Avenue, Framingham. Entrance is through the rear door on Lexington Street and parking is available in the parking garage next to the entrance. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Handicapped access is available, but, please contact an officer beforehand.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year one and all.

Discussion planned on 1986 banquet, activities

The January meeting promises to be quite busy as we get down to the serious business of discussing the banquet.

The committee has made some inquiries and has come up with some ideas as to caterer and meal, but, now it's up to the club to act. Committee members Lew Nyman, KLAZE, Dick Marshall, WALKUG, and Hal Alman, WN1TKD, have been hard at work for more than a month looking into various facets of the banquet, but, they need input from you. To facilitate that input, you'll find a coupon later in this issue of The Circuit. Please fill it out and bring it with you to the next meeting or mail it to the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn. , P.O. Box 3005, Framingham, MA 01701.

Moving along to other topics, we'll probably have a preliminary discussion at this meeting of the scholarship as this is the time of the year we begin working on it. President Bob Press, KB1EW, will have more to say on this at the meeting. At the same time, he'll probably have a few words to say about planning for the rest of this year.

Education Committee Chairman Ed Weiss, W1NXC, will have a few words to say about the upcoming general classes. According to Ed, we have had 13 new operators attain their licenses through our Novice course and now it's time to help them upgrade to Technician or General Class. There has also been some interest expressed in having a second Novice class concurrent with the General Module. However, this is totally dependent on space availability, as well as the availability of people to teach the course. There has also been some interest expressed in an Advanced class. But, again, this depends on space and personnel. The primary interest is still helping our Novices along to higher class licenses. However, if you're interested in helping out or know of someone thinking of taking the Novice course, don't be afraid to speak up. We have to know before we can proceed.

Finally, there will be a report on the Emergency Operating Center and its new radio equipment from Marc Stern, N1BLH, emergency coordinator for this area and Civil Defense radio

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Officers

President.....Bob Press, KB1EW
Vice Pres.....Burt Shaffer, N1DDO
Treasurer.....Dick Marshall, WALKUG
Secretary.....Ken Horton, KA1GFN
Activities.....Marc Stern, N1BLH
Director.....Lew Nyman, KLAZE
Counsel.....Arthur Marshall, Esq.

Club Station: W1FY. Repeater: W1FY/R, 147.75/15 FAAREN Net: Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Classes: Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

FARA Renewed As Special Service Club, Receives Certificate

Last month, FARA received recognition from the American Radio Relay League as our Special Service Club status was renewed. ARRL presented FARA with a certificate of recognition for having served successfully as an SSC in 1985.

At the same time, ARRL indicated in a letter it is selling advertising space for SSCs in the repeater directory. However, after some discussion, the sense of the meeting was not to become involved with the advertising service and so we decided not to.

Moving to another matter, President Bob Press, KBLEW, noted that the Framingham Civic League had sent us a brochure outlining its activities and requesting a donation. Bob noted that the Civic League had helped us a great deal in accommodating our needs for our Flea Markets and suggested that FARA make a donation in recognition of the help the League had provided.

A motion was made and seconded on the donation and it was passed unanimously.

Speaking of the Flea Market, Lew Nyman, KLAZE, Flea Market Committee chairman, noted that final attendance figures indicated that 730 people passed through the gate, making the fall Flea Market one of our better ones.

The board reminded members that dues must be in by the end of the year. This is because FARA operates on a calendar year of January to December and therefore dues are now due. However, since dues can be paid at any time during the year, members were also reminded that their membership status for both the repeater and the club can be found on the mailing label of their newsletters. The first date indicates when their club dues expires and the second indicates when repeater dues expire, for those with two dates on their labels.

This year's banquet will be held March 22, 1986, the banquet committee indicated during a discussion of the annual event. Committee member Lew, KLAZE, indicated that the site will be the Framingham Civic League auditorium and Hal, WN1TKD, indicated he had talked with a caterer about the event. Discussions are also being conducted with another caterer and now the committee needs input on what members would like for dinner, dancing and the evening.

When this discussion was finished, the meeting turned to a list of new Amateur Radio operators that is provided regularly by the ARRL. Bob, KBLEW, noted that our secretary, Ken Horton, KALGFN, usually sends a note to the local Amateurs on the list, telling who we are, when we meet and what we offer. This month a departure was suggested. It was urged that each member take the name of one of the new Amateurs on the list and then call that person and talk with him about FARA and Amateur Radio, in general. The membership agreed and the list was passed from member to member so each person could choose a name and give that name a call.

Ed Weiss, W1NXC, head instructor and chairman of the education committee, announced that all members of the Novice class have passed their license exam and are awaiting their calls. Ed also noted the Technician/General Class will begin Jan. 11. He also noted that we are considering another Novice class, provided enough interest is expressed and he noted there has been some interest expressed in an Advanced class.

Station Trustee Lew, KLAZE, then gave a report on the repeater. He noted the duplexers were to be tuned and calibrated in anticipation of the new repeater amplifier, which is on order. He also noted there have also been requests to have the audio level increased.

The meeting was followed by a talk by Wayne Ledder, W1EWL, on his years of experience with National Radio. His talk was followed by refreshments which were provided by a number of members.

Happy Holidays! Ken Horton, KA1GFN

Dinner Questionnaire

In order to help the banquet committee determine the best dinner-dance options for FARA, the committee has asked you to respond to this questionnaire, which covers some general areas where input is needed. Please bring it to the next meeting or mail it to FARA, P.O. Box 3005, Framingham, MA 01701.

What type of dinner would you like? Chicken dish: _____; Beef dish: _____; Fish dish: _____.

Do you want live music? Yes _____; No _____. If yes, what kind? Contemporary _____; Country _____; Swing _____; Rock _____; Other _____ (indicate your preference).

Please indicate the preferred price you would be willing to spend per ticket. \$10 _____; \$12 _____; \$14 _____; \$16 _____; \$18 _____; \$20 _____. (Remember the club does absorb some of the cost of the evening.)

Other comments: _____

WIFY/R Report

By Lew Nyman, KLAZE,
Trustee, WIFY

On Dec. 7, a work crew at the repeater site made some adjustments to WIFY/R which noticeably improved our repeater.

First, the duplexers were fine tuned with a spectrum analyzer. This has resulted in elimination of most of the random noise getting into the receiver.

Second, the audio level of the repeater was increased. Consequently, all users sound louder and the repeater is easier to hear at distant points where the signal is weak.

We are now in the process of purchasing and installing a new amplifier. It is planned that installation be done during the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. This will noticeably increase the signal strength of the repeater and will benefit distance mobile stations especially. But remember, even though you will hear the repeater a lot better, once the amplifier is installed, it does not mean that you will get into the repeater any better.

Finally, repeater dues of \$10 are now due for 1986. If you have not paid as yet, you may do so at our January meeting. We may be changing access codes if there are a number of repeater members who fail to renew. We would prefer not to do this.

Also, we may be forced to change codes if they are mentioned over the air. During the last several months there have been instances where two or more numbers of the control code have been mentioned by various operators. The control codes are your property as members of the repeater and they should be kept under your hat. If you repeat them over the air, then we all lose one of the primary reasons for belonging to a repeater with a members-only autopatch, because it is conceivable someone listening, who isn't a member, could dial the autopatch and place calls, costing us extra money. So, if you are having trouble, contact the control operator and arrange to talk on the twisted pair or face-to-face. It will save us the trouble of changing control codes, for obvious reasons.

If you need help while using the repeater, or if you have any questions, ask for a control operator. One is always listening.

Finally, remember to observe the courtesy tone. It is there to allow the repeater transmit timer to reset and to allow other stations to enter into a round-robin QSO. If you disregard it, you run the risk of timing out the machine and if you key down quickly then a station that may be trying to join the QSO may be locked out. And, for the station trying to enter the conversation, never use the word "break." That word should be reserved for an emergency situation where a station must "break" on frequency. Instead, simply saying "call, please," or stating your call "X1XXX," for example, will alert others on frequency that you wish to either use the machine momentarily or join the QSO.

One of Each Added To Marshall Clan

It certainly has been a busy, happy season for the family of Dick, WALKUG, and Marsha, KALJIR, Marshall as the new grandma and grandpa have been traveling to Leominster and Claremont, NH to see their new grandson and granddaughter.

As we noted last month, Dick and Marsha's son Steve, a police officer in Claremont, and his wife Karen, were the proud parents of Moriah Lynn last month and Moriah's arrival set the stage for the second of the season, this time from Dick and Marsha's daughter Sharon. Sharon, NLCUJ, is the wife of Chris Kronick, NIDOM, and gave birth to Daniel Marshall Kronick, Dec. 4. The newest member of the Marshall Clan weighed in at 8 pounds 12 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Arthur Marshall, Esq., FARA's counsel, and his wife are one set of proud great-grandparents. They are Dick's parents. The other set of proud great-grandparents are Marsha's mom and dad.

Incidentally, the day Daniel arrived was especially exciting because it was also his great-grandmother Marshall's birthday.

To both Karen and Steve and Sharon and Chris and their new children, we tip our cap and wish them luck, happiness and health in the future.

Who knows, in a few years, we'll probably have two more operators on the air! Well, at least we heard something about a certain grandpa telling a certain grandson what his name was in CW. We also heard he did the same for his granddaughter. Now, we're not the type to tell tales out of school, but with this kind of dedication, we could end up with the world's youngest operators. The only question is where would they put their walkies?????

Dan Giro Home Recuperating ; Cards Or Notes Appreciated

Dan Giro, WLCR, our longest active club member, is now at home recuperating from a recent bout with illness, we were informed recently. We were also informed he would love to hear from FARA members with notes or get well cards. They really do lift his spirits, according to reports relayed to us.

He is now living in Maine with his XYL and his most recent visit to FARA was during our 50th anniversary banquet nearly three years ago. Dan was active in the club soon after its formation and was its president during those days. At that time, portable operation was something to behold and mobile operation was nearly unheard of so you can imagine what the state of the radio art was when Dan was an active officer. But, the club thrived, in large part, due to men such as Dan and Cliff Walton, another of our older members. They were the pioneers.

For all these men mean to us and our hobby, they deserve thanks and recognition and they also deserve contact with younger members of the club, especially when they're under the weather as Dan has been. So, since this is also the holiday season, what better time than to send a note or card up to Dan. He really would appreciate it. Send cards to:

Dan Giro
WICTR
678 Spring St.
Westbrook, ME

Cards Would Cheer Roland, K1OIS', XYL

Another club member who has been impacted by illness is Roland Boucher, K1OIS. His XYL is also recuperating from a series of hospital visits due to recurring bouts of illness.

You may know Rollie better as the voice of the weather on local radio stations such as WKOX in Framingham. However, he's also an active club member.

We're sure his wife would enjoy a get well card or brief note and we're equally as sure it will raise her spirits to know that many are thinking of her at this holiday season. It will also help raise Rollie's spirits.

Please send cards and notes to:

Mrs. Roland Boucher
3 Draper St.
Natick, MA 01760

A Tip Of The Editor's Hat To . . .

. . . The Hospitality Committee for their baked goods which were among the highlights of the December meeting.

. . . Arnie Zunick, K1BPM; Lew Nyman, K1AZE, Thad Litchfield, K1AFS, Dick Marshall, W1KUG, and Burt Shaffer, N1DDO, for their work tweaking the repeater.

. . . Ken Horton, K1GFN, for completing the American Red Cross' First Responder course.

. . . Ed Weiss, W1NXC, Wayne Ledder, W1EWL, and John MacLeod, W1IGL, for their dedication to teaching Saturday mornings.

. . . Jim Boates, W1UEH, for his new home in Hopedale.

Latest Call Signs Released

If you've upgraded or changed your call sign recently and are still awaiting an answer from the FCC, you might be interested to know what calls signs had been issued recently. Through Nov. 1:

Radio District	Group A Extra	B Adv.	C Tech/Gen.	D Novice
0	NO0L	KE0BK	NOGQI	KA0VNC
1	NC1F	KB1VC	N1DVF	KA1NMG
2	NN2M	KD2PC	N2FXU	KA2ZKC
3	KY3D	KC3UO	N3EPX	KA3ORF
4	AA4OP	KJ4LZ	N4NAJ	KB4QCK
5	WC5R	KF5GM	N5ION	KA5YED
6	WN6G	KG6ZE	N6MTH	KB6KJB
7	NR7J	KE7KU	N7HQB	KA7WHL
8	NO8X	KE8BJ	N8GYZ	KA8YHH
9	NG9V	KD9SH	N9FLV	KA9UGV

Swap & Shop

For Sale: Kenwood MC-25 low-impedance hand microphone;
Noise-cancelling feature. \$25. Contact Marc, N1BLH, on repeater
or drop a note to the club box.

Framingham Amateur Radio Assn., Inc.
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Framingham, MA 01701

LEW & KAREN NYMAN
K1AZE/KA1BYP
17 HEATHER DRIVE
FRAMINGHAM MA 01701
86 86