

Mar. 1986

FramingHAM Circuit

Vol. 53, No. 4 Page 1

Weather Forecaster to tell all in April

Have you ever wondered exactly how the weathermen at Logan Airport and elsewhere come up with their fearless forecasts for the next 24 hours? If you have then come to the April meeting where Logan Airport's Forecaster-in-Charge Tom McGuire will let us in on some of the low-down.

Tom will also be discussing the interface between Amateur Radio and the National Weather Service and how dependent the NWS is on the ranks of Amateurs across the country for real-time observations in heavy weather. In this area, the Radio Amateurs Interstate Weather Net (yes, it really is) and the Police Amateur Radio Team of Westford help make up part of the NWS Skywarn system in Eastern Massachusetts. The Western Mass. Amateur Radio Emergency Service under WB1HIH works in that part of the state. There's also a net on Cape Cod under W1IAY, which links to the NWS.

You may be wondering why the NWS needs trained observers and real-time reports such as the ones provided by Amateurs, especially with all its sophisticated radar and instruments. Well, the reason is actually quite simple. Even with all the sophisticated equipment, the weather service can't see what's happening at any given moment in a weather situation in a given area. It can only see a broad picture. Therefore, the reports of Amateurs across the state and nation fill in holes in the picture and provide real-time data.

Tom will also provide us with a bit of weather training and will have some audio-visual aides, including the latest weather spotting film.

Also at the meeting, the RAIN net will have a brief meeting and training session. The reason FARA was chosen for the site of the RAIN meeting was the fact that four net control stations are members of FARA, as is the net manager and other net officials.

The April meeting will be a busy one. Not only will Tom speak to us, but the club will also have several important items on the agenda. First and foremost, of course, is the Flea Market. Slated for Sunday April 13, Chairman Lew Nyman, K1AZE, will still be looking for help with all aspects of the event. Anyone can help out and is encouraged to do so. The more club members helping out, the more time everyone will have to take advantage of the Flea Market. This is because there will be more hands to take over various chores and each shift will be shorter. Tables are going quickly, so if you want one, then you'd better contact Jon Weiner, K1VVC.

Also in April, we will have our initial discussions of Field Day and how we will be helping out with the Marathon. Because of the commercial nature of the event this year, we will be limited to providing health and safety assistance to the Red Cross.

Dinner-Dance Rousing Success at New Site

Although the weather was cold outside, it was certainly warm on the inside as 80 FARA members and guests enjoyed themselves at the annual dinner-dance March 22 at the Framingham Civic League Building, a new site for the event. Much of the credit for the evening's success has to go to Lew, KLAZE, and Karen Nyman, KALBYP, who not only found the caterer, after the original choice bowed out, but also followed club member Ted Gruber's, WBLECE, suggestion for a band and hired it. The group, led by WALUIY, was one of the hits of the evening.

The dinner, catered by Gene's Catering, was stuffed chicken breast; antipasto; fried potatoes; vegetable, coffee and dessert. It was one of the tastiest banquet dinners we can remember having eaten in the last few years. And the band was very good, playing at a level which accompanied the meal and dancing without overpowering it.

Everyone who attended the event had a wonderful time as could be seen by the number of smiles seen around the auditorium of the Civic League Building.

One thing that surprised many people was the hall itself. Most people associated it with Flea Market and not with a dinner-dance and were surprised at how nicely Karen and Lew and their helpers set it up during the day of the event.

That it was a success could be seen by the number of people dancing and having a grand time. There were quite a few.

And while Lew and Karen deserve a great deal of credit for the evening, others deserve their share, too. Vice President Burt Shaffer, N1DDO, provided the liquid refreshment, while Lew was assisted on the banquet committee by Treasurer Dick Marshall, WALKUG, and Hal Allman, WN1TKD.

Lew, Karen and the committee and their helpers deserve a vote of thanks from the club.

The FramingHAM Circuit is published by the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn., Inc., P.O. Box 3005, Saxonville Station, Framingham, MA. 01701. Headquarters: The Danforth Museum, Lexington Street, Framingham. Meeting: First Thursday every month. Breakfast: Third Saturday or Sunday, depending on interest.

Officers

President.....Bob Press, KBLEW
Vice Pres.....Burt Shaffer, N1DDO
Treasurer.....Dick Marshall, WALKUG
Secretary.....Ken Horton, KALGFN
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 holds meeting at MCDA HQ; Tours Facility

By Ken Horton, KALGFN
Secretary

For the first time in several years, a meeting was held at a site different than our normal club meeting site. It was held at the state Civil Defense Agency headquarters on Worcester Road where we saw not only the Framingham 75/15 repeater, but also who makes state CD communications tick.

At the meeting, the size of the scholarship was set for 1986. The club voted that up to \$1,000 will be expended to qualified applicants. Scholarship Committee Chairman George Blakeslee, N1GB, noted that flyers have been sent to all schools in eastern Mass. Further, they will be sent to local clubs in an effort to publicize the annual award.

The Dr. Carlton Crosby Scholarship is open to any qualified high school or college student who holds a valid Amateur Radio license and who demonstrates not only a scholastic aptitude, but also has the qualities of leadership sought by the committee. Past winners can reapply for the scholarship, although the club is encouraging new applicants, too.

The deadline for the scholarship is May 1.

It was also announced the Dayton Amateur Radio Assn., the same group that sponsors the Dayton Hamfest, is awarding two \$1,000 scholarships this year.

Moving on to a membership report, Treasurer Dick Marshall, W1KUG, reported there are currently 108 members, 60 of whom are also members of the repeater.

Those club members who haven't renewed yet for the year will no longer receive the newsletter, it was also announced.

Flea Market Committee Chairman Lew, K1AZE, then gave a brief talk about the Flea Market and need for helpers. He noted the next Flea Market will be held April 13.

During his talk, a sign-up sheet was passed around for those who wanted to help out. As in the past, helpers will be assigned to two-hour shifts. Cars will be sent out with assignments noted.

The meeting was adjourned and was followed by a tour of the Civil Defense facility and refreshments.

Dan Giro Is Silent Key; Missed By Many

Dan Giro, W1CTR, the longest active member of the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn., passed away last month. He had been in and out of the hospital near his Westbrook, Me., home for some time.

Dan, an active Amateur for 60 years, was born in Berlin, N.H., and later lived in Portland, Me. He moved to this area in 1930 and worked for the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, from which he retired in 1970.

Not only was he an avid Amateur, but Dan was also an active sportsman and active in senior affairs.

As an Amateur, he was active with the Yankee Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Assn. and was editor of their newsletter. He was also net control of their Sunday Net. He was also one of the founding members of the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn., as well as being active in other radio clubs in the New England region.

Dan's son Dan Jr. still lives in the Framingham area, and serves on the Police Department. He also leaves a daughter, Alice Rangelov of New York; two stepchildren, a sister and five grandchildren.

Dan will be missed by all those who knew him and our sympathy goes to his family.

Swap & Shop

Mint condition Drake line, TX4B/R4B transmitter and receiver in great condition, spare tubes, speaker-power supply. Great starter rig. Asking \$350. Contact Dick Weissel, WA1HRV, at 655-0142.

Portable electronic typewriter, doubles as serial printer for computer of RTTY interface. Mint condition, less than six months old, asking \$175. Contact Marc, N1BLH, at club box or on repeater.

Jackets Still Available

Although it is too late to have a jacket in time for the Flea Market, you can still have one for the May meeting and, later, for Field Day, if you order one now. Available for \$28, the club jacket is royal blue with white lettering and more than 50 have already been purchased by club members.

The jackets are very distinctive and will serve you well when the spring breezes turn sharp. The jackets are flannel lined nylon shells and are surprisingly warm. They also look great when we're doing a public service event.

If you're interested, contact either Marjie Stern, KA1HIA, or Marc Stern, N1BLH, via the repeater or a note in the club box or at the meeting and you'll be all set.

Wellesley Club to Hold General Class

If you missed our General study class, which is now winding down, and you would like to upgrade from Novice, then you're still in luck, the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society is holding a General course now.

Their class will continue into June and will offer a chance for you to upgrade before the summer-long hiatus of most of the major clubs. Our own classes will reconvene next September, but will start with the Novice module.

For further information, contact Tom Kinehan, N1CPE, of the Wellesley club. You can find his address in the Callbook or give him a call on the 147.030 repeater.

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

. . . Steve Marshall, KALNYP, who surprised his Dad recently by showing off his brand new Novice ticket. Dad (Dick) never knew about it.

. . . Penny, KALNNV, and Don Morse, KALMLM, on the birth of their son Jeremy Hallam. He was born Feb. 5. If you remember, Jeremy made his debut at home when Penny went into labor somewhat early. A rather startled Dad delivered his new son in the kitchen of their home. Jeremy is doing well and his big brother Eric is happy with his new brother.

. . . Ted Gruber, WBLECE, for upgrading from General to Advanced. Ted was given the inspiration to take the test at MIT by his wife Judy, KALNPT, who is studying for her General.

. . . Karen, KALBYP, and Lew Nyman, KLAZE, for finding a new caterer after the original caterer was unable to fulfill our banquet needs.

. . . Ed Weiss, W1NXC, and Wayne Ledder, W1EWL, for appearing every Saturday, rain, snow or shine, to teach our weekly Amateur Radio classes.

. . . Ed Sawyer, KS1Y, for completing his private pilot's certificate. His able instructors, who are also teaching Lew, KLAZE, are Bob Press, K1EW, and Dick Marshall, W1KUG.

Social Events

April 3: Meeting

April 26-27, Science Museum Project

Sat. April 12: The Great Bay Radio Association will hold its annual Ham Radio and Computer Flea Market at the Dover High School, Durham Road, Dover, N.H. Admission is \$1. For more information, contact David A. Weiss, N1DOU, at

207-363-8336 or Bob Ross, 603-332-8931. Talk-in on Saddleback repeater 146.40/147.00 and 147.57 simplex.

Sun. April 13: New England's largest indoor electronic flea market. The Framingham Amateur Radio Assn. Flea Market. Exams will also be held. It will be at the Framingham Civic League Building, 214 Concord St., (Route 126,), Framingham, Ma. Doors open for public is 10 a.m. Admission is \$2 per person. Tables are \$10 in advance and setup is from 8:30 to 10 a.m. For more information, contact Jon Weiner, K1VVC, at 877-7166, or contact Framingham Amateur Radio Assn., Inc. 37 Lyman Road, Framingham, Ma. 01701.

Sun. April 20: The MIT Electronics Research Society and UHF Repeater Association will hold a Flea Market at Albany and Main streets, Cambridge from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$1.50. There is free off-street parking for 500 buyers and there tailgate room for 200 sellers. In the event of rain there is a covered tailgate area for sellers. Sellers spaces are \$5, which includes one free admission. Set up at 9 a.m. For information contact Jaimie at 262-5090 or 253-2060. Talk-in on 146.52 and 449.2/444.2 W1XM/R.

Sun. April 20: The South Shore Amateur Radio Club will hold its annual indoor Flea Market at the Viking Club, 410 Quincy Ave., Braintree. It will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eight-foot tables available for \$12 each (which includes a free admission) only if paid before April 20. Tables will cost \$18 the day of the event. Contact: Ed Doherty, W1MPT, 236 Wildwood Ave. Braintree Ma. 02184. Checks should be made payable to the South Shore Amateur Radio Club.

Sat. 26 Apr.: The Montachusset Amateur Radio Association will hold a INDOOR FLEA MARKET at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Electric Ave, Fitchburg, Mass. Doors open from 0930 to 1500. Admission is \$1.00, tables are \$8.00 each. Ref. Avail. Talk-in on 144.85/145.45 and 146.52. For table Reservations send check payable to M.A.R.A. c/o Jim Beauregard, 7 Mountain Ave. Fitchburg. Ma. 01424. Or Tel. 617-342-9847

Sun. April 27: The Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Assn. will hold it's 12th annual Giant Flea Market at the 200 Sportsman club, Sutton Road, Webster, Mass., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tables are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Admission is \$2. Refreshments available. For information, contact Richard Spahl, K1SYI, Lake Parkway, Webster, 01570, 617-943-4420 after 7 p.m. Talk-in on 147.225 and 146.52.

Sun. May 4: The Hamden County Radio Association will hold its annual Flea Market at the West Springfield Elks Lodge covered pavilion on Morgan Road. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$1. For information, contact Steve Nelson, W1EYF at 413-596-8216.

Sat-Sun Oct. 18-19: N.E. ARRL convention at the Sheraton, Boxboro, Route 111, Boxboro, Mass. (more info later)

Marathon Net Coverage Expands

Due to changes in the plans of this year's Boston Marathon, the FAAREN Net will be expanding its coverage to include Natick. Normally, race day net coverage is required from Hopkinton through the Framingham-Natick line, as well as four to five stations. This year we will provide six to seven.

With this in mind, the Net needs a few volunteers to help with the Monday April 21 race. You'll report to your station site in the morning and should be finished between noon and 1 p.m.

There will be more information at the meeting, but operators thinking of helping out should be equipped with handheld capability. However, if you'd like to help, but don't have a handie, then we will be able to find one of two spare.

There will be more information at the meeting.

Electricity Study Guide (Touch It and You'll Be Sorry)

With so many operators and would-be operators studying for or taking exams right now, we thought it would be a good idea to provide a little help with a short article we found recently. It explains electricity and its history in no uncertain terms. So, without further ado, here is the story of "What is Electricity?"

Today's scientific question is: What in the world is electricity? And where does it go when it leaves the toaster?

Here is a simple experiment that will teach you an important electrical lesson. On a cool, dry day, scuff your feet along a carpet, then reach your hand into a friend's mouth and touch one of his dental fillings. Did you notice how your friend twitched violently and cried out in pain? This teaches us that electricity can be a very powerful force, but we must never use it to hurt others unless they need to learn an important electrical lesson.

It also teaches us how an electrical circuit works. When you scuffed your feet, you picked up a small batch of e^- electrons which are very small objects that carpet manufacturers weave into carpets so they will attract dirt. The electrons travel through your bloodstream and collect in your finger, where they form a spark that leaps to your friend's filling. It then travels down to his feet and back into the carpet, thus completing the circuit.

Amazing electronic fact: If you scuffed your feet long enough without touching anything, you build up enough electrons to explode your finger! But, this is nothing to worry about unless you have carpets. Although we modern people tend to take our electric lights, radios, mixers, etc. for granted, hundreds of years ago people did not have any of these things, which is just as well because there was no place to plug them in.

Then along came the first electrical pioneer, Ben Franklin, who flew a kite in a lightning storm and received a serious electrical shock. This proved that lightning was powered by the same force as carpets, but it also damaged Franklin's brain so severely that he started speaking in incomprehensible maxims such as "A penny saved is a penny earned" and more. Eventually he had to be given a job running the post office.

After Franklin came a herd of electrical pioneers whose names have become part of our electrical terminology. Myron Volt, Mary Louise Amp, James Watt, Wayne Green and Bob Transformer are a few. These pioneers conducted many important experiments. For example, in 1780 Luigi Galvani discovered (this is true) that when he attached two different kinds of metal to the leg of a frog, an electrical current developed and the frog's leg kicked, even though it was no longer attached to the frog, which was dead anyway. Galvani's discovery led to enormous advances in the field of amphibian medicine. Today, skilled veterinary surgeons can take a frog that has been seriously injured or killed, implant pieces of metal in its muscles and watch it hop back into the pond, just like a normal frog, except for the fact that it sinks like a stone.

The greatest electrical pioneer was Thomas Edison, who was a brilliant inventor despite the fact that he had little formal education and lived in New Jersey. Edison's first major invention, in 1877, was the phonograph, which could soon be found in thousands of American homes, where it basically sat until 1923 when the record was invented. Edison's greatest achievement came in 1879, when he invented the electric company, Edison's design was a brilliant adaptation of the simple electrical circuit: The electric company sends electricity through a wire to a customer, then immediately gets the electricity back through another wire, then (this is the brilliant part) sends it right back to the customer again.

This means that an electric company can sell a customer the same batch of electricity thousands of times a day and never get caught, since very few customers take the time to examine their electricity closely. In fact, the last year in which any new electricity was generated in the United States was 1937. The electric companies have been merely reselling it ever since, which is why they have so much free time to apply for rate increases.

Today, thanks to men like Edison and Franklin, and frogs like Galvani's, we receive almost unlimited benefits from electricity. For example, in the past decade, scientists developed the laser, an electronic appliance that emits a beam of light so powerful that it can vaporize a bulldozer 2,000 yards away, yet so precise that doctors can use it to perform delicate operations on the human eyeball, so long as they remember to change the power setting from VAPORIZE BULLDOZER to DELICATE OPERATION. (Courtesy World Radio)

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electric lights
people did not
use until the
early 19th century
and it was not
until the late 19th
century that
people began to
use electric lights
for general
illumination.

