

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

January 2004, Vol. 71, No. 1

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## Monday, Jan 5 This Month's Meeting

► Special Date ◀

Jeff, WA1QYW will be giving a talk on low frequency submarine communications. Please note the special date for this meeting.

## 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.

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## President's Message

We leave the year 2003 on a sad note with the loss of one of our long time members. Julie Hoffer, W1DL, passed away in late December. Julie had been in great pain following a back operation and died from an apparent heart attack. Dick (K1RAW) was with the family shortly after he heard the news.

Julie was a long time member and good friend of FARA. He was one of the first hams I met when I moved to New England in 1990. I bought the wire for my 80 meter loop from Julie and Sylvia. Robert (N1UVA) was with me at the time. We had a nice chat and a great tour of Julie's basement and garage. We will miss Julie at our flea markets and other FARA activities. We will miss his prize donations and anecdotes. We will miss his sense of humor. Sumner (W1VIV) and Marc (WA1R) have written some nice articles about Julie, elsewhere in this issue of the Circuit. We would like to have a few more articles from those who knew Julie well. If you want to write one, send it to Robert (circuit@fara.org).

Sumner (W1VIV) has suggested we name our annual FARA Scholarship in honor of Julie. This will be discussed at the next board meeting. We welcome your comments.

We do leave 2003 with some good memories and good times. We had two well-attended and successful flea markets, a great Field Day, and a fun summer picnic. Our monthly meetings were well attended throughout the year, thanks to some good speakers and interesting meeting topics. The year was topped off by the fantastic celebration of Ed's (W1NXC) Instructor of the Year award at our FARA Night Out dinner.

2004 will begin with some unfortunate news. Three of our officers, including your President, will be leaving FARA territory. Dick (KB1HIW), our secretary will be transferred to North Carolina prior to the completion of his term. Steve (AA1IZ), our vice-president, has relocated to his house in the Berkshires but will be able to make a few more meetings prior to the end of his term of office. My company has transferred me to another city. I begin work there on

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## Julie Hoffer, W1DL – SK

By Sumner, W1VIV

Julie Hoffer, a long-time FARA member, has recently passed away. "Mr. 40 Meters" left a lot of memories and a lot of friends, and he will not soon be forgotten.

Julie came from Detroit, and got into ham radio at an early age. He liked to talk of his Army adventures in WWII, where he was heavily involved in radio communications. After the war he met the beautiful Sylvia, and they soon married. Two girls, Shelley and Beth, came along, and the Hoffers moved to Framingham. After the kids grew up, Julie started a ham radio parts business, and he and Sylvia had seller's tables at ham flea markets from Florida to New Hampshire. They made the trip for many years, and loved to greet all their old friends and regular customers. When Sylvia passed away of a brain tumor years ago, Julie never fully recovered. He continued until last year to make the trip, spending the winter in Florida so he could do the Miami hamfest, but it just wasn't the same.

W1DL (ex-K1CQO) was very generous to our club, donating door prizes for our flea markets and providing parts for members at very low prices. Everybody knew what a "Julie-joke" was; he loved really bad puns and plays-on-words, and shamelessly used them at club meetings and on the air.

I would like to think that Julie is now up in heaven with his beloved Sylvia, still telling those terrible jokes and keeping his rag-chewing schedules with his cronies on 40 meter SSB.

## Julie's Passing Takes A Great Friend From Us All

By Marc, WA1R

Everyone, it seems has a favorite Julie story or stories. For instance, Sumner, W1VIV, tells of the time he, Julie, W1DL, and Howard Riceman, climbed to the top of Mt. Nobscot to conduct Field Day. It seems they took first place in Eastern MA. So, after taking first place, they decided they'd done it all and retired from competition.

Or, as related a long time ago, by Lew, K1AZE, the club needed a couple of zoomups for Field Day. So, Lew asked Julie, who said it was no problem. Well, Field Day came, and the zoomups went. They became rather large, metal pretzels. And, Julie didn't say a thing. In fact, when the club needed more zoomups, out they came.

Julie Hoffer, W1DL, who became a Silent Key suddenly last week, was like that. He liked giving and he kept on giving through a long, successful ham, family and work career.

Always quick with advice, Julie was a perfectionist with antennas. If there was a way to tweak something, he always thought of it and then tried it out. For example, there was a Field Day; about 20 years ago at Bowditch Field, where W1DL thought a 40-meter vertical would be great. So, what did he do? He went over to his always-overflowing trunk, pulled out the wire needed – after convincing folks to help him haul a lanyard to pull the vertical upright through a tree – and proceeded to put the antenna together. Oh, the feedpoint insulator was an ancient, green Coke bottle.

As I said, everyone has or knows of a Julie story. Or maybe they know of Julie's stories – rather his puns. A punster of the highest order, Julie thought nothing of bringing down groans and laughter from club members with his innovative – if somewhat cringe-provoking – puns. Anyone who has heard one will know exactly what I mean.

It was that mischievous sense of humor, as well as a great and welcoming heart and nature, which endeared Julie to all of us. He was like a huge magnet

who seemed to pull folks into his orbit and they remained there, quite happily.

He treated everyone as if they were a brother, sister, son or daughter. If you needed something and Julie had it, it was yours. It's true that Julie likely had one of everything in the ham universe because of his long years as a fixture on the flea market circuit, so it was highly unlikely that you couldn't find just what you needed, whether it was a weird value doorknob cap for an amp or just a plain, garden-variety PL-259 connector.

For years, Julie's partner-in-flea-markets was his beloved wife Sylvia. Julie was devoted to Syl – he needed her just to keep things in order and under control or else it was likely their modest Cherry Road, Framingham, home would have resembled a huge flea market itself, not just the garage you couldn't park in or the attic.

Syl passed away about eight years ago after a valiant fight against cancer. Her passing was hard on Julie and he missed her until his own on Dec. 26. They were devoted to one another and their two daughters, Beth and Shellie.

Julie was an especially devoted father, Beth noted during a moving speech at the Dec. 29 graveside service where Julie was interred beside Syl. A Seattle, WA resident, Beth related how she came to a crucial career point in her life and asked her Dad for advice. Julie simply asked if she liked the new direction and she said yes. Well, he said, then go ahead and take it. Which is exactly what the former human relations manager did. She became a potter and that is her career. But, that's not all.

When her career demanded certain types and gauges of copper wire, Julie hunted them down and found them for her giving Beth, as she noted, quite

"an inventory." And, then when it took a turn that required other, more unique items, Julie scoured places like Home Depot and found what she needed. He even found her items she didn't know she needed until after she received them.

His daughters were equally supportive of their Dad, especially after his back operation and later pain, laid him up.

Shellie remained close by working in area libraries and now living in Holliston.

Aside from his family, Julie's biggest passion in life was the hobby he became active in nearly 70 years ago, Amateur Radio. He was first licensed at age 13 and remained active for more than 65 years. He was more than a bit influential getting his brother Dan licensed. How'd he do it? Well, you know Julie, he made a game of it, Dan noted. He made code practice a game and Dan took to it. He became one of Julie's enduring nightly 40-meter contacts.

Wherever he went in the hobby, Julie made friends and kept friends. Indeed, I was first licensed 25 years ago next summer and one of the first folks I met and became friendly with in the hobby was Julie. It was the same for Neal, K1NDF, formerly of Newton and now of Framingham, who was a good friend for more than 40 years. The same is also true of Sumner, W1VIV, also a friend of more than 40 years.

Julie drew us to him and he kept us close. He was a giving man with a large heart who was always ready to help out when asked. If we needed connectors at an event, Julie ran home and didn't just pull a few out; he pulled out enough connectors to equip a small army. Or, if we needed an antenna, there it was – no questions asked.

Julie asked no questions, either, when his country called for World War II. Already a knowledgeable ham, Julie enlisted in the Army Air Force. Well, they found out he knew a bit about radio so they sent him to radio school. At radio school, they found he knew

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more than the instructor, so they sent him to officer candidate school, made him an officer and he taught about radio. He later served in the Pacific Theater as a communications officer.

After the war, Julie decided to take advantage of a college education and he graduated Wayne State in Michigan with a degree in accounting. Dan noted Julie worked for the state of Michigan for several years before he heard of a company in Massachusetts who was looking for an accountant who knew something about radio. Guess who that person was? It was Julie, of course. He got the job, transplanted to Framingham and Julie's long relationship with this area began.

His passing was marked quietly on Dec. 29 by about 40 people – family, friends, Hams – during graveside services at the Framingham-Natick Hebrew Cemetery.

Julie was a good friend who will be missed by all who knew him. I know I have lost a little something and I know others have, too.

...President continued from Page 1

January 12.

We had a well-attended board meeting a couple of weeks ago to discuss how FARA will be operated in the following months prior to the election of new officers. We wanted to make sure that the sudden loss of several officers would not affect the seamless operation of the Club. We also wanted to maintain the success of our various activities including the annual picnic, our two flea markets, Field Day, Flag Day, FARA Night Out, etc. Fortunately, we have two past presidents, who are currently FARA officers, Peter (KA1AXY) and Jim (W1EQW) and we have a large, strong, club full of past presidents and officers.

To insure that the Club runs smoothly

over the next few months, the Board asked me to appoint an Advisory Committee and an Election Nominating Committee. The Advisory Committee will be comprised of the following former and present FARA officers: Bev (N1LOO), Lee (K1GL), Sumner (W1VIV), Martin (AA1ON), Peter (KA1AXY), and Jim (W1EQW). The Nominating Committee will include Ed (W1NXC) as the Chairman, Lee (K1GL), Bev (N1LOO) and Jim (W1EQW). I will serve out my term as President, albeit by remote control for the most part. Steve will be able to make a few meetings and will serve out his term. We will have a special election for Secretary prior to Dick's departure. Email is a wonderful thing. This is how Steve and I will be communicating with the Board, Advisory Committee and Nominating Committee. We also plan on holding a few conference calls. I will miss FARA greatly, but it is not time to say goodbye yet.

In the words of Ed (W1NXC) FARA is like a battleship, it has momentum. Translation: the sudden loss of three officers will in no way affect the seamless operation of our fine club.

Our guest speaker this month is one of our members, Jeff (WA1QYW). Jeff will be giving a talk on low frequency submarine communications. We are holding our January meeting on a special day, January 5<sup>th</sup>, Monday. This should be a very interesting meeting. Hope to see you there.

### FARA - The Early Years

Transcribed by Karen Hess

June 28, 1935

The 48<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Framingham Radio Club was called to order at 8:25 P.M. by Pres. Dr. Crosby.

The Club House Committee consists of four members, namely, Mr. R. Gibbs,

Mr. Parsons, Sr., Mr. J. F. O'Neill, and Mr. O. W. Mandell.

It was moved, seconded and voted upon that the amendment, changing the election date from Jan. to the first meeting in Sept. be accepted.

There was a general discussion on whether only the licensed members might vote for officers or all the members. A committee of two were appointed to make some decision on this, the two appointed being one licensed amateur and one unlicensed man.

It was moved, seconded and voted upon that we have application blanks, for membership, made.

It was also moved, seconded and voted upon that the constitution be amended that an initiation fee of 50 cents be charged to all making application for membership.

There was a general discussion on bootleg stations on five-meters, to the effect that after we gave a warning to the offenders, if they didn't heed our word, we'd place the matter in the hands of the R.I.

The Worcester Field Day was announced.

Robt. Reed of Saxonville has applied for membership.

The Club House Committee requested a general discussion on locations of quarters for convenience of all.

All business having been cleared, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M., then a very detailed and instructive talk was given us on "Signal to Noise Ratio" by Prof. Sager of B.C.

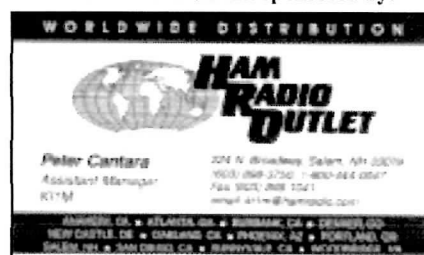
Respectfully submitted

D. J. Giro, Sec.

### FARA Horizons

Jan 5:	SPECIAL DATE - Club Meeting
Jan 26:	Board Meeting
Feb 5:	Club Meeting

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Meeting: Club meetings are normally held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the basement of the Danforth Museum, on Lexington St.

Club Nets: FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.15/147.75 - social/chat, ARES preparedness

Club Station: W1FY, the club station and shack, is open Saturday mornings from 8:30-12:00 and Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00. Call the club number, 879-8097 to confirm.

Club Web Site: <http://www.fara.org>

W1FY DX Spotting Node: 145.61