

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

July 2003, Vol. 70, No. 7

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Thursday, July 3 This Month's Meeting

Bob, W1RH and Bob Yankowitz, CBS Boston RF Systems Engineer, will talk about the WBZ/WSBK digital television tower project.

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.

by phone

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President's Message

It is June! Feels like summer, eh? I don't think so!

Between rainstorms and various family related activities, I have managed to get my 40 foot tower up. Yesterday, I got the official Certificate of Occupancy for my tower from the Town. This means that my antennas can now occupy my tower. That's the way it goes when you do it right and get a building permit. Hopefully, on the weekend following Field Day, the W1RH/N1UVA/KB1DZM tower will have a big Force-12, C19XR, eleven-element HF beam on it with a 6 meter beam above it and a 6/2/440 vertical on the very top. Just in time for the bottom of the sunspot cycle! Several FARA members have helped me out on this project including N1LOO, N1JFO, KB1CQI, KA1AXY, N1FOF, N1UVA, AA1ON and others. Isn't FARA great? You need help and there is always someone out there offering a helping hand. I should note that the husband/wife team of Peter (KA1AXY) and Cathy (N1FOF) were up on the tower stacking sections! A site to behold!



Thanks to Bev for doing all of the legwork involving communications for the Flag Day parade. This is always a nice event to work. Everyone got hats from the Flag Day committee and everyone had a job to do. The participants included Bev (N1LOO), Dick (KB1HIW), Brian (N1JFO), Dick (K1KTK), Marsha (K1NGI), Jim (W1EQW), Sumner (W1VIV), Ed (W1NXC), Mary (KA1HGL), Keri (KB1DZM) and myself. Steve (AA1IZ) conducted this as an Emergency Communications event and acted as Net Control. Steve was based in the Framingham EOC at the main fire station. All radio communication was done very professionally on the air as if this was a real emergency net with all radio operators using tactical call signs. This is always a good PR event for FARA. Thanks to everyone who participated.

We are still looking for the ideal FARA Flea location. Some good ideas have come my way. If you have an idea for a location, let me know.

This edition of the Circuit is being mailed out early so that everyone will know about our Field Day plans. Please read about it elsewhere in this newsletter. I want to thank Tom, W1CDA, for his efforts in arranging for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to host FARA's Field Day this year.

The July meeting will feature yours truly as the speaker, along with my RF Systems Engineer Bob Yankowitz. We will talk about the WBZ/WSBK digital television tower project. FARA has seen some of the pictures before but I promise you won't be bored. Bob and I do a pretty good song and dance. Hope to see you there.

Celebrating our 70th Anniversary, 1933-2003

FARA's Field Day, 2003

By Bob, W1RH

We have a fantastic Field Day planned this year. Before I go any further with the details, I think it is important to list everyone who has participated in our Field Day planning meetings this year. Take a look at this list!!!:

W1NXC, KA1AXY, N1LOO, K1HT, K1NR, KB1HIW, KA4FRH, WA1R, AA1IZ, K1VEA, N1JFO, N1FTB, W1RH, W1CDA, K1KTK, K1NGI, N1JDD, N1CPE, N1XAN, AA1IZ, W1NXC.

Counting myself, 22 FARA members have been part of our Field Day planning. That is outstanding. I hope I haven't missed anyone.

Field Day this year will be at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (better known as the "Bunker"). Our thanks to FARA member Tom (W1CDA) for making the arrangements. Tom is a MEMA employee.

FARA's Field Day will be using the MEMA call sign, WC1MA inside the Bunker and will be using W1FY from a tent outside the Bunker.

The WC1MA stations will include two HF stations operating on wire antennas high up the towers. We will also have three VHF/UHF stations, all using antennas at around the 125 foot levels. Because of the height we have on VHF/UHF, these stations will be a major part of our Field Day effort. Imagine that six meters is open and you have 100 watts and a beam at 125 feet to play with! Could happen!

The W1FY station will be a casual use station operating under FARA's large military tent which will be set up outside the Bunker. We will have a multiband antenna. This station will be what the ARRL calls a "Get-on-the-Air" station.

Only Novices, Technicians and relatively inactive Hams of any class are allowed to operate this station for Field Day "points" purposes. This is the station for those of you who rarely operate or have never operated HF.

We have several "Bosses" who have volunteered to be responsible for various aspects of Field Day:

Strategy/Logistics - Dave/K1HT

HF Antennas - Tom/W1CDA

HF Radios - OPEN

VHF Antennas - Tom/W1CDA, Peter/KA1AXY

VHF Radios - Gene/K1NR

Food - Katy/N1JDD

Donations - Dick/K1KTK

Power - Ed/KB1CQI

Shelter - Peter/KA1AXY

Logging Computers - Robert/N1UVA

MEMA Coordination - Tom/W1CDA

Scheduling - Bev/N1LOO

Tours - Marc/WA1R

Outside Station - Peter/KA1AXY

Media Publicity - Sharon, KC1YR

Section Manager Message Points - Steve/AA1IZ

Messages Points - Fran/KA4FRH

Alternative Power Points - Bill/KF4YUU

W1AW Bulletin Points - Dave/K1HT

Elected Official Site Visit Points - Dick/K1KTK

BBQ Grill - OPEN

Katy (N1JDD) is really doing it up right in the food department. I have seen her

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Use fara.org/amazon and help out the club. FARA receives a small percentage of your order.

menu and I can guarantee that this Field Day will match or surpass our past efforts in the food department.

The big need right now is for a BBQ Grill Boss. If you can volunteer a grill, set it up and coordinate gas and/or charcoal, etc., please let me know. FARA will buy the charcoal, etc.

A grill requires something to put on it. Well, we have our "Master", Dick (K1KTK) who has managed to get food and related donations from the Half Way Café, Firefly's Bodacious BBQ, and Price Chopper. As of this writing, Dick is actively seeking other donations of food and related items. Thank you Dick! I will be sending out letters of gratitude to those firms who have donated.



Cartoon by George, N1XAN

Oh, by the way, did I mention that Dick is bringing a big pot of chile? And, oh

Continued on Page 3...

Change of Address

If you would like to change the address on your Circuit label, please email fara@fara.org. Or, you can call the Club at 508-879-8097

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Now available as an Adobe Acrobat file

email fara@fara.org and we'll set you up!

Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)

Regular FARA \$15

Student / Retired \$10

Repeater (voluntary) \$10

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by the way, John (KB1HVK) will be bringing a ham to grace our Field Day table.

Dick has also managed to arrange for an elected official to visit our site. This is worth 100 points to our score. And if that were not enough, Dick has arranged for the Town of Framingham to issue a proclamation acknowledging Amateur Radio Field Day Week in Framingham.

Again, thank you, Dick.

Thanks to Bill, KF4YUU, who will be charging a storage cell or two using solar power. The storage cell will be used to operate a radio, which will make 10 QSO's and earn 100 extra points.

Thanks to Sharon, KC1YR for the publicity. As of this writing, an article has already appeared in the Metrowest News.

We need a Heil headset or two. If you have one, call me.

If you want to operate, you must be on the schedule, at least for the inside stations. Contact Bev if you can operate. We will need lots of operators. CW operators are few and far between so if you operate CW, let Bev know. CW and digital QSO's count for two points so it is important to get at least a few hours on the schedule with CW operation. You don't have to be a contest operator. As a matter of fact, very little experience is necessary. If you want to operate, just let Bev know.

We need chairs for the outside area. This will be a social gathering area with lots of food, a casual ham station, a place to entertain visitors, etc. If you can help out with chairs, contact me.

Field Day this year is pretty organized, thanks to our many "Bosses". It should

be a good time for all. Anyone who wants to go inside the Bunker will need to have a copy of his or her amateur radio licenses with them.

Attention Codeless Techs

By Ed, W1NXC

How would you like to take away the LESS and add the PLUS to your Ham license?

Join the winners at W1NXC's six-week cw class next September. Six two-hour sessions will be held starting September 20 on successive Saturdays at the Club location. Codeless Techs are especially welcome but anyone wishing to learn Morse code or brush up on receiving skills is also invited to join the class.

Classes will begin promptly at 9 am, rain or shine. No text or previous experience is required. To register call 508-881-2301 or e-mail W1NXC@arrl.net.

FraminghamARA-L@fara.org

The FARA email reflector is working well. It provides us with an easy way to reach all our members who have email. You have to sign up so it will reach you, though.

To sign up, go to: <http://www.fara.org/> list and follow the instructions you find there.

FARA - The Early Years

Transcribed by Karen Hess

The Framingham Amateur Radio Association, formerly called the Community Radio Association, is fortunate to have the notes dating back to the Club's first meeting. Karen Hess, W1RH's XYL, has transcribed the hand written notes, verbatim. They make for fascinating reading!

March 22, 1935

The 42nd regular meeting of the Framingham Radio Club was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Pres. Dr. Crosby.

The secretary's report was read and a mistake noted by the Pres., and was corrected, then accepted.

Mr. J. O'Neill gave a report on his progress in obtaining a cut for the newspaper announcements of meetings, and found out that the cost would be about two dollars (\$2.00) to have one made.

Designs for the cuts were submitted by a few members and Mr. D. Armes' was chosen by unanimous vote, thru a regular motion.

Since the Radio Shack of Boston is interested in being included in our Club film it was moved, seconded and voted upon that we should permit this as, it would defray the expense of the film and also be advertisement for all.

It was moved, seconded and voted upon that the Club donate two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) to Fr. McCafferty in appreciation of his loaning us tables for our past Whist Party.

It was suggested and discussed that the dues be paid either semi-annually or yearly and it might be of much more convenience to the members this way.

The Secretary was asked to write ARRL asking for prices on the making of a cut.

All business being cleared up, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Afterwards Pres. Dr. Crosby gave a resume on Dr. Pickhard's speech, and it was of great interest to all of us.

Respectfully submitted

D. J. Giro, Sec.

FARA Horizons

Jun 28-29	Field Day
July 3:	Club Meeting
July 21:	Board Meeting
Aug 7:	Club Meeting

This month's Circuit sponsored by:

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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