

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

November 1996, Vol. 63, No. 11

This Month's Meeting

Marc, WA1R, will give a brief look at how the Red Cross works with groups like FARA and the training that the Red Cross can provide to them. Then a celebration!

President's Message

Field Day 1996 - FARA Grabs Fourth In 3A!!!!!!!

Hey, we did it number one in Eastern Massachusetts and New England!!! All our hard work has paid off and we have a very respectable placing nationally also. I am very happy to be a part of the team that has come so far in a short time. I looked back in QST and we have risen from 159th in 1990 to 4th in 1996, not bad. Again, thank you to everyone that was a part of this great effort, especially our leaders, Martin, AA1ON and Dave, K8JLF, whose vision and planning made this possible. Along with Martin and Dave, we had over 50 people involved in the execution of the plan. Thanks to everyone involved and I hope that everyone had as much fun as I did and then were able to relive the fun with our winner score!!

To continue the celebration we are planning a pat our selves on the back night at the next meeting. We will have the pictures from Field Day along with the other important ingredient to a successful FARA event, food. We hope to have a some fun remembering the weekend and perhaps look forward to next year. Hope to see you there!

Now, back to the everyday. We have the web page up and running and I'm told it looks good. Take a minute to check it out. Thanks to Sharon, KC1YR, Paul, N1DGT, and Dennis, KE6DPL, for the great job.

We just finished the CQ World Wide Phone contest and again everyone involved had a fun time. I think we managed to operate about 42 hours out of the 48. We made 472 contacts with our total points at 370,000. Not quite as good as last year but still up in the had fun category. There were several new faces here this time with Tom, N1XYC, operating for the first time. Good job, Tom.

Just a reminder that the shack is open every Saturday morning from 9:00 to Noon and every Wednesday night from 7:30 to 9:30, for radio fun or just to sit around and chat. There has been some talk of improving the antennas for 40 and 80 and we will be happy to hear some good ideas for our limited space. Hope to see you there some time, remember this is your club and your shack.

Have a nice month, enjoy the turkey.

73,
Bev, N1LOO

Field Day Results

Martin Bayes, AA1ON

After all the hard work put in by the participants in the 1996 Field Day effort, all that could be done while waiting for the results was to speculate as to the likely position based on the previous years scores. After all the analysis, we were hoping that our improved score would lift us into the top 10 in our category, 3A. When the November QST hit the streets, to our (very pleasant) surprise the results showed that our 8,528 score had achieved a fourth place finish, behind McHenry CoWireless Assn W9NB (IL 11,336), Shreveport ARA K5SL (LA 11,040) and Nashville ARC K4TCG (TN 9,810). While I have not checked all the records for the many years over which the club has participated in Field Day, it is very likely that this represents FARA's best ever finish.

Our nearest Massachusetts competition in 3A was Billerica ARS (WO1N) at 7,606. We will have to do even better next year to ensure that we retain our #1 Massachusetts and New England position in 3A and to challenge for the top position.

Only two scores from the whole of New England exceeded ours, Sturdy Memorial ARC (EMA WZ1K) at 9,692 in the 5A category and Nashua Area RC (NH N1NH) at 21,756 in 20A. On a per station score basis, we had both of them well beaten too!!!!!!

To everyone who contributed to this outstanding effort, thanks and see you next June !!

License-in-a-Weekend Results

Ed Weiss, N1NXC

Once again, the License-in-a-Weekend Class held in late September concluded on a successful note. Seven students attended and five received the Technician license. The remaining two students did pass element 2 and need only element 3A to qualify for the same license.

These students are now licensed Amateur Radio operators:

Vicki Umina	N1XYA
John Goodwin	N1XYB
Tom Dossa	N1XYC
Sarah Costa	N1XXY
Lorraine Laforce	N1XXZ

These students passed element 2:

Pyllis Smalley
Elmer Kronick

A Digital Voice Keyer (DVK)

Dennis Egan, NB1B

I've dubbed this the K1KP Voice Keyer because I got the design from Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP, a local contester. The design is built around Radio Shack (RS) part number 276-1324, which is a digital record/playback unit on a small circuit board. The entire project uses all new parts available from your local Radio Shack.

I've done a lot of contesting and DXing, and this is the best voice keyer I've come across. The virtues of this particular unit over others that I am aware of are:

- Low in cost. Using all new parts including case, about \$32.00.
- Audio fidelity is excellent.
- Same microphone used to record as to transmit, so audio playback transmissions sound identical to mike transmissions.
- Works with any transmitter.
- Work with any mike (mine to work with the Heil Head-set plugs).
- Good RF immunity. Two units I've built have been used at several big contest stations and, even though mounted in unshielded cases, no problems with RF feedback or erratic keyer operation were experienced.
- Long battery life. I used it for CQWW ssb, ARRL DX ssb, WPX ssb, Field Day and casual DXing last year on the same set of batteries with no signs of weakness.

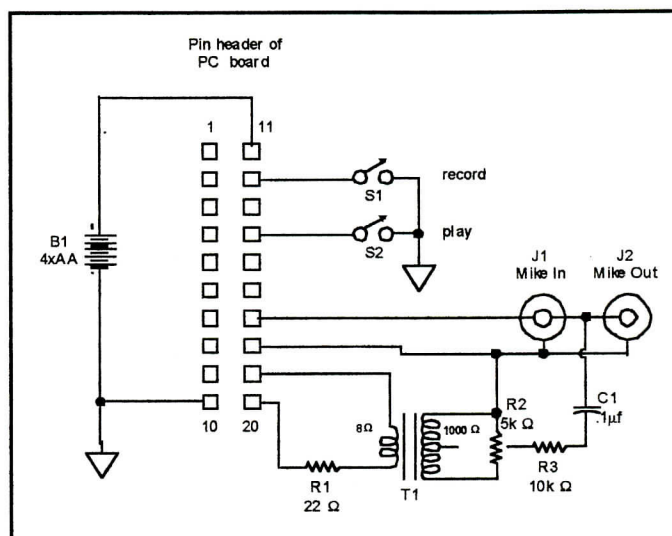
Project parts list

- (1) RS 276-1324 ISD-VM1110A Board
- (1) RS 8:1000 ohm Audio Transformer
- (1) RS 5K mini-pot, screwdriver adjust
- (1) 22 ohm resistor
- (1) 10K ohm resistor
- (1) .1 mf disk capacitor, 20V
- (2) SPST push button switches
- (4) 1.5 volt AA Batteries
- (1) Battery Holder
- (2) Mike connectors to match your station
- (1) Case to meet your specs

Construction Notes (refer to the schematic)

- 1) There are two ways that you can construct this - using the supplied connector, or by soldering directly to the PC board. I have done it both ways - soldering directly to the PC board results in a smaller package, but soldering to the connector was easier. Your choice.
- 2) Two SMT resistors must be removed from the board. They are the ones adjacent to pins 8 and 9.
- 3) Be careful how the pins are numbered,

- 4) There is no switching in the mike line, The mike and the audio playback are in parallel, The transformer, T1, provides the necessary isolation and impedance matching for good fidelity.
- 5) I constructed my unit with 1/8th inch jacks for mike input and mike output to use with the Heil Headset plugs. Short shielded jumpers with 1/8th inch plugs on each end plug the DVK into the Heil adapter cord.



To record, press and hold the the RECORD button and speak into the mike. Release the RECORD button when your message (10 seconds max.).

To play, push the **PLAY** button. If you use **VOX**, pushing **PLAY** will key the transmitter and send the message. An "end-of-message" marker automatically shuts off the DVK if your message is shorter than 10 seconds.

The 5K pot, R2, is the output level adjust. Set to to match the output of your mike. Note that T1 provides isolation between the input and output of the board and greatly improves the fidelity of the output. It also simplifies the mike connection circuitry.

I housed my units in a RS garage door opener case with the mike jacks at one end and the two push-button switches on the top.

If you need additional information please feel free to contact me at (508) 655-0444 or via e-mail using nb1n@aol.com.

Former FARA Member Back on the Air!

Ed Weiss, N1NXC

Fred Rosebury KA1GEN now has a 40 meter dipole at his location in the Heritage House, in Framingham's Nobscot section. Ernie N1EB and Bob WA1JNJ assisted in

the installation. Fred was a Merchant Marine radio operator in the 20's and served for several years as secretary for the SOWP (Society of Wireless Pioneers).

FARA Web Page

FARA has a Web page - and it's been changing! You can find it a "http://www.ultranet.com/~fara/". Dennis, KE6DPL, laid the foundation last year when he did a lot of the research and came up with a solution the club could afford. Thank you Dennis!

A few months ago an informal "Web Committee" was formed consisting of Dennis, Sharon, KC1YR, and Paul, N1DGT. This month the page has a new look and you owe it to yourself to take a look. Members are encouraged to give feedback and suggestions to any of the committee members.

ARE HAMS LESS FRIENDLY?

by Sumner Weisman, W1VIV

Years ago, one of the most cordial activities of ham radio was the cheerful "HI" on the horn in CW, when two hams in cars passed each other. Whenever somebody saw my call letter plates, or my obviously ham type mobile antenna, and gave me the ditititit-ditit, it made my day. I abandoned ham radio for fifteen years, and when I returned (never to leave again!), this was one of the many aspects of the hobby that had changed. I tried the old greeting when I was driving behind someone with call letter plates a few times, and received no reply. In fact, one person gave me a more than dirty look.

I have tried to analyze the reasons for the loss of such an enjoyable greeting, and have come up with these possibilities:

1. More and more hams can no longer copy the code.
2. People are more cautious about making any sort of contact with strangers.
3. Drivers are unwilling to further contribute to noise pollution.
4. New hams have never heard of this mobile greeting, and simply need education.

We now have more cars on the road than ever before, and also more hams than ever before. This fortunate combination is the catalyst that should bring back that cordial old greeting in a bigger way than ever. I propose that all of us, when driving, give a cheerful "HI" on the horn whenever we happen to see another ham vehicle. Soon, I hope, the new hams will catch on, and even codeless hams can quickly learn the simple greeting. Let's bring back the unique way we hams have always had to greet each other.

Swap Board

For Sale *Okidata Microline 380(24 pin printer) b/w. With a print speed of 180 characters per second. Also, a Panasonic KX P1123 24 pin b/w printer. It will print about 6 pages a min. 20 other neat features! \$60 for both/B.O.*

Contact:

Leo Laskin, N1VYF, (508) 820-7344

For Sale *Alinco DJ120T/E 2M Handie-talkie with charger, accessories and manual. From estate of N2BAF. \$100/P.O.*

Contact:

Jonna, (508) 655-5966

For Sale *Cushcraft wide spaced 4 element 10M beam with Hy-Gain rotator and mast, complete as shown on P.58 of March 1996 QST. 10M has bottomed out and is coming back. \$150.*

Contact:

Sumner, W1VIV, (508) 877-1565

FARA Horizons

Nov. 1: Monthly meeting
Nov. 25: Board Meeting

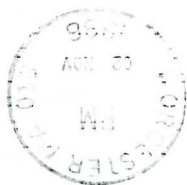
Submitting Material to the Circuit

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 Saturday before the FARA board meeting.

by phone: (508) 877-6933 (before 9:00PM please!)
by mail: Rick Commo, K1LOG
26 Pine Lane
Framingham, MA 01701

by internet: commo@poboxa.enet.dec.com
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First Class Postage



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Club Information 1996-1997

President	Bev Lees	N1LOO	626-2012	Before 9 PM
Vice President	Jim Weckback	W1EQW	435-6487	" " "
Secretary	Anne Bacchiocchi	N1ECI	376-4338	" " "
Treasurer	Dennis Brothers	KE6DPL	358-2863	" " "
Director	Dick Marshall	K1KTK	877-0563	" " "
Director of Training	Ed Weiss	W1NXC	881-2301	" " "
Director of Testing	Dick Marshall	K1KTK	877-0563	" " "
Activities Coordinator	Marjie Stern	KA1HIA	879-2087	" " "
Publicity Officer	Marc Stern	WA1R	879-2087	" " "
Emergency Coordinator	Brian Lees	N1JFO	626-2012	" " "
Scholarship Comm. Ch.	Dick Cosma	KD1BF	877-8241	" " "
Newsletter Editor	Rick Commo	K1LOG	877-6933	" " "

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, 7:00PM, 145.27/144.67 - social/chat, no designated net control
FARAANET: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.15/147.75 - ARES preparedness - WA1R net control
Kid's Net: Sunday, 8:00PM, 147.17/147.75 - youth oriented - KE1BG or N1TYF net control

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.

L /

K1AZE
KA1BYP
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