

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

November 2002, Vol. 69, No. 11

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Thursday, Nov 7 This Month's Meeting

Nothing like pizza after another successful FARA Flea Market

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

As I write this, two days remain until the FARA Flea. As everyone knows, this is one of our two big fund raisers for the Club each year. Profit from the Flea goes primarily to our scholarship fund and to Shack improvements. The last few years have been very good. Let's hope for another good flea market.

Look for an article elsewhere in this issue of the Circuit from Steve, AA1IZ. Steve is coordinating FARA's participation in the November Eastern Massachusetts Simulated Emergency Test. We have a number of FARA members participating in this test but we still need more. This is your chance to do your part to "pay back" for the use of the spectrum. FARA is one of the larger clubs in the state and we really have an obligation to do our part be prepared for the emergency call. Training is available. See Steve or any member of our emergency communications team for more information. A good way to get into emergency communications is to participate in the Flag Day parade communications, the Marathon, etc. Think about it.

Activity on FARA's 147.15 repeater continues to increase as more and more members and non-members realize that the system works again. Going to work in the morning, I now always have someone to talk to and communications is reliable. USE THE REPEATER, It's there for you!

FARA's Packet Cluster node is now working. Peter, KA1AXY, and I managed to get the backbone 220 link going again. Activity has picked up. The system is on 145.61 and operates from Hopkinton. Most FARA members with a simple outdoor two meter antenna should be able to use it. Thanks to John, N1OWA, for donating a 12 volt power supply to the system allowing us to operate the 2 meter and 220 radios at full power.

Charlie, NC1N, operated the FARA station for the CQ World Wide DX Contest. He made 600 QSO's totaling 483,066 points. Charlie was in the W1FY chair for 16.4 hours and says the station worked well. Contests are a good way to test the limits of a station - a good way to insure that it will operate well over a period of time in an emergency. If you want to operate the station in a contest, contact a FARA officer for details.

Speaking of contests, we are hoping to enter FARA, in the club category, in the ARRL 10 meter contest in December. This means that any club member can enter his or her own call in the contest but can also designate his or her points to the FARA total. We hope to have a group effort going at the Club station but also hope to see FARA members operating from their shacks. I think we have a good chance of placing in the top ten or so if we get serious about it. Dust off your radios and check out your antennas. We will need your 10 meter points.

Bob, W1RH

Simulated Emergency Test - Saturday, November 9th

By Steve, AA1IZ

FARA will join with others from the Eastern Mass Section as well as operators in Rhode Island and New Hampshire as we test our preparedness for responding to an emergency. This drill will focus on our ability to use "emergency" power and test our skills in communicating using official National Traffic System (NTS) format

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Our plans are to have two teams at different locations. The "low" team will be "receiving" messages from the town emergency management people and relaying them via simplex to the "high" team. The "high" team, because of their elevated position will be able to relay this traffic on to other stations in the drill.

The "low" team will be solar/battery powered and capable of transmitting on 2, 6 and 440. The "high" team will have a generator and transmitting capability on HF, 2, 6, and 440.

We will muster at the shack at 7:30am to load gear, and roll out to be on the air by 9am. The drill will end about 2pm. Everyone is invited to participate (we offer on the job training) even if for only an hour or two. Please let me know if you are interested at vp@fara.org. Remember, emergency communications is one of the basic reasons for amateur radio to exist. We have a responsibility to be involved. Come have some fun with us and take care of some pay back for the spectrum you enjoy

CEMARC to Sponsor a Youth Net

The CEMARC* Group has concluded arrangements for the start of a YOUTH NET.

The YOUTH NET will air starting Sunday, November 10th at 7:00pm. This net will be a directed net, with a Teen Net Control Operator, strictly for youth's up to Grade 12. Subject matter will be at the discretion of the net attendee's. All young operators are welcome.

NO ADULTS WILL BE ALLOWED *

The Minute Man Repeater Association, through Kevin Paetzold, k1kwp, has graciously made available their linked system to air this net, and will have control operator's monitoring. In addition, Ann Weldon, ka1pon, a mother,

grandmother, Club President, and school teacher, has agreed to act as a mentor and help to coordinate this net.

What can you and I do? First, talk up the net start. Then, advise all youth that you are aware of to try connecting to one or more of the MMRA repeaters before the net start, to see which repeater is best for them from their QTH. Help them decide if you can. Check MMRA web site for list of repeaters. <<http://www.MMRA.org>>

The future of amateur radio, and our clubs depends on the young operators. Their future in continuing in the hobby depends on us. Let's not fail them, our ourselves.

(*) While no adults will be recognized during the Net, parents who desire to sign on their child, under their control, using their call, may do so. However, once the Net starts, no adults will be recognized, only the child who was checked in.

Direct any questions to: * Council of Eastern Mass. Amateur Radio Clubs

Frank Murphy - N1DHW

<n1dhw@arrl.net>

Ann Weldon - KA1PON

<aweldon@aol.com>

Kevin Paetzold - K1KWP

<k1kwp@arrl.net>

IT'S 2003 DUES TIME!

FARA dues for the year 2003 are due January 1, but we're reminding you now, because we know it takes some of us a while to get around to sending that check in. So, while it's fresh in your mind, why not get the checkbook out and write a check for \$15 (regular), \$10 (senior or student), add \$10 if you want to support the FARA repeater (doesn't it sound great?) Put it in an envelope, send it to POB 3005, or hand deliver it to KA1AXY at the next meeting. Then, you'll be all set for another year!

Not sure if you've already paid? Check the label on your Circuit, if you get it by mail. "03 03" or "03 n" indicates that you have paid dues for the year 2003. If you get the Circuit by email, email the treasurer!

Shop Online?

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

Contest Corner

2002 ARRL International DX Phone:

AA1ON, AA1IZ, KC1YR, W1RH

10th place US, High Power

Useful FARA URLs

Main FARA Web site: <http://www.fara.org>

Archives of the FARA mailing list: <http://list.fara.org>

Club info and officers: <http://www.fara.org/info>

Info on our W1FY packet cluster node: <http://www.fara.org/dxcluster>

Other interesting ham-related links: <http://www.fara.org/hamlinks.shtml>

Shop at Amazon.com and help FARA: <http://amazon.fara.org>

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

READ THE CIRCUIT ONLINE... SAVES PAPER AND POSTAGE

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

QSL Card

Submitted by Lew, K1AZE



A member of Lew's club designed this patriotic QSL card. It prints nicely on 4x6 card stock that can be bought at any office supply store for about a dollar for 100 cards. The Word file that the card originated from is very easily customized. It will be posted in this month's newsletter on the FARA web page for anyone to customize for their own card.

The Circuit is in need of QSL cards!!! If you would like to share your favorite QSL card, which could be your own, with the club, please send it my way!

A caption or story would be ap-

preciated also.

Don't let not having a scanner keep you from sending in your favorite card. Many FARA Members have access to scanners, including Bob, W1RH.

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 handwritten notes, verbatim. They make for fascinating reading!

December 27, 1934

The 35th regular meeting of the Framingham Radio Club was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Vice Pres. Dr. Crosby. The secretary's report was read and accepted.

Dr. Crosby gave a report on the clubhouse situation and there being nothing definite decided as yet, the matter was held pending.

Moved by Herbe Blanke that the secretary write to the Federal Communications Commission registering a complaint as to the second harmonic of WBZ. Seconded and so voted.

There being no further business before the meeting, it was adjourned by unanimous vote. After the business meeting a fine talk on crystals was given by Ted Valpey. Ted also donated a mounted crystal to the club and a raffle was held. After the talk refreshments were served and a general discussion was held.

Respectfully submitted

A. L. Schaltenbrand, Secy.

FARA Horizons

Nov 7:	Club Meeting
Nov 9:	Simulated Emergency Test
Nov 25:	Board Meeting
Dec 5:	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