

FARA Apr Monthly Meeting via Zoom on 04-1-21 at 7:30 PM - Attendees = 25 by

W1VIV Sumner W	KB1VXY John I	N1MH Steve M	KC1DMM Andy M
KC1LPZ Steve B	K1VEA Victor A	K1AZE Lew N	K1NDF Neal L
W1RH Bob H	N1JIW Joe W	KB1OQA Tom T	KB1GMU Larry G
KC1HPZ Glenn A	KC1NXT Richard W	W1EQW Jim W	WB9PZD Jeff A
KE3KK Ron R	KC1OXG Bob B	KV1YXL Dave M	AB2IX Adrian Z
KC1EIX Fred F	AC1KT Peter M	W1HNZ Bruce R	KC1OPK Barry R
KB1VLS David L	W6WN Alan T**		

** Presenter – Alan Thompson W6WN with W1RH Bob Hess

Meeting Minutes:

Treasurer's Report – 46 Paid Members, 9 Family Members and 7 Life members. A \$500 donation was made to the Framingham Police Association with Sgt Paul Patriarca – K1PMP – as beneficiary. The bylaws current spending limit of \$100 for both the NE QSO Party and Web Host Services each at just under \$200 requires approval.. A Motion was made and the vote was unanimous to approve those two expenditure items.

Secretary's Report – The March Meeting minutes had no further changes. VE Test Sites still limited, but Joe Reynolds – KA1GDQ of the AARC provided information from the AARL on Test Sites in the NE Region at <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session> . For more AARL website links, please check the September 2020 Minutes with Tom W – K1TW – Presentation representing the AARL.

Repeater Report – Everything working okay.

Echolink Report – It is working better despite the software upgrade that had issues. Those on Echolink should take a longer pause before transmitting after the previous User.

Other business –John I. asked where VE Tests were taken. Bob B did it virtually from a site in Oregon and Barry on Zoom from the NE Sci Tech in Natick. John I. also mention State Contests in MN, NM and other States listed on the ARRL website.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 PM

Presentation by Alan Thompson with input from W1HR, Bob Hess on the Paradise, CA Fire entitled “Phones, Fires and Radios” where 240 square Miles were destroyed and 85 people lost their lives. In a disaster cell towers need the internet and when the internet is down so are mobile phones because they only have single point access to a specific tower. That’s when the radio is the viable way to communicate. Tragic events like this go beyond 1st Responders and require community involvement. With the use of GMRS & FMRS average citizens can help. This second part of this presentation focused on how the local HAMs organized and directed average citizen involvement. That aroused even more interest from us to learn what they did. It is important to note in a disaster we are on our own as 1st responders have limitations. “When you need me most, I probably won’t be able to get to you.” Beyond being self-reliant, we must organize as small neighborhoods that can increase our awareness before a crisis hits. This presentation was superb keeping our interest for a couple of hours.

Respectfully Submitted by –
Stephen M Babbitt – KC1LPZ Clerk/Secretary