

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association April 2021 Vol. 88, No. 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Since the last Circuit, we have had the following meetings:

March 4, 2021 Monthly Meeting: Highlights from the minutes.

- Treasurer's Report – 41 Paid Members so far. Annual Report filed with the State. A \$500 donation was made to the Framingham Police Association with Sgt Paul Patriarca – K1PMP – as beneficiary because he and his family lost their house and all they own due to a fire last month. This was approved at a Board Meeting.
- Steve Moro also asked us to chose for the April meeting what webinar by the ARRL from a list of topics for us to select. We were going to use one of these for the April meeting but instead will use one of these for some other meeting.
- Presentation by W1RH Bob Hess on the History of WBZ Radio and TV. From Steve Babbitt:

“Besides the history, particularly interesting was on the towers and antennas used that linked the various radio and TV stations in the Greater Boston area. Westinghouse owned many commercial broadcasters. Hurricanes and other serious storms presented major challenges and fascinating stories that kept us riveted to this subject. No one wanted this presentation to end. Additional thanks go to W1BNC Mike Keller who provided numerous details.”

April 1, 2021 Monthly Meeting: Highlights from minutes.

- **Treasurer's Report** – 46 Paid Members, 9 Family Members and 7 Life members. 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.
- **Presentation by Alan Thompson with input from W1RH, Bob Hess on the Paradise, CA Fire** entitled “Phones, Fires and Radios”. Alan's contact info:
 - Alan Thompson W6WN
 - Public information officer
 - The El Dorado County Amateur Radio Club
 - EDCARC.net
- From Steve Babbitt:

“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.”

- By the way, if any member has a GMRS radio and uses it regularly or has a GMRS repeater, please let us know. We would like to know more about this. I listen regularly to a cheapo FMRS radio on

scan and have heard some locals and a local repeater. We are not supposed to use the FMRS to talk on their repeaters.

New members and call signs:

- Evan Stoddard, KD2TVX, Framingham, MA, Technician Class License
- Bob Bosaz, KC1OXG, Framingham, MA, Technician Class License, obtained after becoming a member with us!
- Peter Morrison, VE3IDX, now AC1KY, Extra Class License

Repeater and Echolink appear to be working well overall.

Dues: Reminder - There is now a flat rate of \$20 per year per person or family, and no separate repeater fee. Paid members for the current year will be posted on the web page. Only paid up and Life members can vote on Association matters. You can join/renew/pay online at <http://w1fy.org/membership-form>

Bylaws changes: We are still in the process of revising the bylaws as mentioned in the Jan/Feb Circuit.

More nets and activities to consider:

- I, KB1VXY, host the Yankee 6 Meter SSB Net, a net that has been in operation since the 1960s, every Sunday morning at 9:30 am local time on 50.272 USB. Check-ins are increasing rapidly over the past few months. 6 Meters works well for local communication, even with a tuned multiband dipole, but a yagi is preferred and horizontally polarized. Some FARA members check into this net.
- Leandra, AF1R, from Needham, MA hosts a 10 meter net, every Thursday at 8 pm on 28.3333 USB. Some FARA members are on this net. She recently added a RTTY net at 9 pm on 28.11111, on the odd Thursdays following the SSB net. Next one 4/15/21. Try this out!
- Joe, W1HAI, from Natick hosts a 10 meter net on Saturday evenings at 8 pm on 28.305 MHz.
- According to the Western MA area, there will be a Simulated Emergency Test in early may. They need volunteers with HF station and VHF capabilities, You must register at wma.arrl.org
- There will be a **MARS interoperability activity this week.** Wed - sat noon and 8 pm on 60 meter channel 1, They will be on at noon and 8 pm on Channel 1 on 60 meters. For more information and details see [EMA.ARRL.ORG](https://ema.arrl.org) <https://ema.arrl.org/2021/04/03/mars-amateur-interoperability-nets-starting-the-week-of-april-7-2021/>
- This week while running the Yankee Single Sideband Net, I had a number of check-ins from Great Hill in South Weymouth. Mike, K1UVH, said the Great Hill Gang goes to that hill about monthly for a “day of radio”. They operate from UHF to HF, and QRP to QRO, and all are invited. The next event is on 4/17/21. If you have more interest, you can “friend” Mike (look up name on QRZ) on Facebook and ask to be allowed into their private Facebook group. I am hoping I can get him to give us a talk on all the activities they are doing to breath life into the hobby. Mike says they also run a 2 Meter SSB net on Mondays at 7 pm on 144.244
- Reminder that the first Monday of the month is the time for the ARES/RACES nets, of which there are several. I usually get on one net on one of the MMRA repeaters at 8:30 pm. There are nets on W1BIM Paxton, 146.970 PL 114.8 at 7:15 pm, W1MHL at 7:15 or 7:30 (very brief), and the Sector 2D on either Sharon or Walpole repeater at 7:30 pm.

Upcoming meetings:

- **May 6, 2021:** Nominations, We need nominations for vice president. We could do any of the following: Parking lot pizza party. Buy your own slice at Whole Foods and meet in the lot. (or other recommended pizza place). Or watch one of the ARRL videos. Or eat your pizza on Zoom and talk. Or maybe I can find a speaker.
- **June 3, 2021:** Elections and field day discussion

Upcoming contests and radio events: selected from WA7BNM calendar

Upcoming contests: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Nebraska QSO Party 1300Z, Apr 10 to 0100Z, Apr 11 and 1300Z-2200Z, Apr 11

New Mexico QSO Party 1400Z, Apr 10 to 0200Z, Apr 11

Georgia QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 10 to 0400Z, Apr 11

North Dakota QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 10 to 1800Z, Apr 11

Michigan QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 17 to 0400Z, Apr 18, 2021

Florida QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 24 to 0159Z, Apr 25, 2021 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 25, 2021

New England QSO Party 2000Z, May 1 to 0500Z, May 2, 2021 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 2, 2021 (Note, we make a donation to this one annually)

Also 7th call area QSO party 1300 May 1 to 0700 May 2: AZ, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY, also Ind, Del

Field Day: June 26-27, 2021. See changes in the rules at <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/Field-Day-Rules.pdf>

Officers: see <http://w1fy.org/fara-officers>:

- President: John Iwuc KB1VXY president@W1FY.org
- Vice president: Open position, nominations accepted
- Clerk/Secretary: Stephen Babbitt, KC1LPZ secretary@W1FY.org
- Treasurer /Webmaster: Steve Moro N1MH treasurer@W1FY.org webmaster@W1FY.org
- Director: Sumner Weisman W1VIV
- Director of Testing Jim Weckback W1EQW testing@fara.org
- Repeater Trustee, Dave Miscia, KB1YXL repeater@w1fy.org
- Traffic Coordinator: Fred Beihold, NV1N traffic@w1fy.org
- Scholarship coordinator, Richard Cosma AA1VI scholarship@w1fy.org
- Echolink coordinator: Andy Boughton, KC1DMM
- Sunday night net control manager: Steve Hewlett, N4NIV
- QSL manager/QRZ Account manager: Dave Miscia, KB1YXL
- Newsletter editor: John Iwuc, KB1VXY president@w1fy.org
- Field Day Manager: Dave Miscia, KB1YXL
- Publicity Manager Richard Cosma, AA1VI

Meetings: Club meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM. Due to COVID-19 and recommendations for social distancing and closing of town buildings, **meetings at the PD are on hold** and will be on ZOOM instead. Members will get an email invitation before the meeting. **Members should be sure that they opted in for email notifications and that their email on record is accurate!** Non-members may request an invitation from president@w1fy.org

Club Nets:

- FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.75/147.15 - social/chat, emergency preparedness, Echolink enabled.
- Informal Wednesday 7:30 pm Health and Wellness check in net, Echolink enabled, W1FY-R.

Club Web Site: W1FY.org

Social Media:

- <https://www.facebook.com/FARAW1FY/>
- https://twitter.com/fara_w1fy

Dues: Flat rate of \$20 per year per person or family, and no separate repeater fee. Paid members will be posted on the web page. You can join/renew/pay online at <http://w1fy.org/membership-form>

Testing: Exams on hold while town offices are unavailable.

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