

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association May/June 2021 Vol. 88, No. 3

---



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** June already, new bylaws, new officers, the heat is on, Summer soon, Field Day in a few weeks! Thanks to all for the help this year to keep this club going. Since the last Circuit, we have had the following meetings:

**May 6, 2021.** 19 members attended on Zoom.

- **Treasurer's Report**
  - 2 New Members: KD2TVX, Evan S and KB3ZOO, Hector C
  - 58 Paid Members, 7 Life Members for a total of 65.
  - Other expenses: Purchase of more storage from Google and payment for the NE QSO Party.
- **Bylaws changes** were voted on and passed with 16 votes. They are posted on the website.

**May 8, 2021: Ham Radio Hot Dog Happening.** 6 attended, see below.

**June 3, 2021:** 19 members attended by Zoom

- **Officer Elections:** John I, KB1VXY continues as President; Ron R, WO1E stepped up as VP; Steve M., N1MH continues as Treasurer and Andy, KC1DMM stepped up as Clerk/Secretary. All were voted in unanimously for a one year term ending 6/2022. Sumner, W1VIV continues as Director. Many thanks to Steve, KC1LPZ for taking on the Clerk/Secretary position over the past year!
- **New members:** Jason P., KC1MMC & Steve S., KM5GN
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - Re-issuing the \$500 check to the Police Dept. Association for Paul Patriarca, K1PMP. They could not confirm receipt of the initial check so it was cancelled, and a new one was hand delivered by Steve, N1MH, to Officer Andrews Lewis.
- **VEC Report:** The City had not opened their facilities to us. Shortage of City personnel .
- **Training room report:** Not available for meetings yet. We discussed the possibility of continuing with Zoom even if we have access to the room, to have some kind of hybrid meeting to allow out of state members to attend.
- **Repeater Report** – Everything working okay.
- **Echolink Report** – Restored and working fine now.
- **Other business** – Club Insurance Policy discussed. Must have clearly defined coverage in writing. We did not renew the policy and will review the options.
- **Field Day:** Still no answer on set up in the backyard of the McAuliffe Branch Library. Equipment discussed if we have FD at the Library. At least 3 members have working club radios, batteries, charge controllers and tuning capabilities. See below.

**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>

### 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 SSB net, every Thursday at 8 pm on 28.33333. Some FARA members are on this net. She recently added a digital net at 9 pm on odd date Thursdays. I have checked into a couple of these. She starts with RTTY45 and we have tried BPSK31, an Olivia variant, Feld Hell, Domino, and others. I have learned a lot and worked out several bugs in just a few sessions. We monitor W1FY for any questions. Next digital net is on Thursday June 17, 2921 at 9 pm on 28.11111 USB.
- **Comment on HF Digital Modes:** All Hams should be able to operate with some of these modes. Download FLDIGI (free) and at least monitor the net and play around with the settings. A signalink or equivalent is needed for best operations. However, you could copy the digital info using just your radio and the computer with FLDIGI on it if you place the mic of the computer near enough to the radio's speaker, or alternatively use headphones and put them over the mic. You need a quiet background to do this. I have also transmitted some of these modes without signalink by putting the mic of the radio near the computer speaker. It is much easier with a signalink or equivalent. Some of the NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System) modes can be used with just a handheld and a computer and an air interface.
- Joe, W1HAI, from Natick hosts the Saturday Night Special 10 meter net on Saturday evenings at 8 pm on 28.305 MHz. Several FARA members check in.



Ham Radio Hotdog Happening! We had 6 hams show up for the initial event on May 5, 2021. This picture is from the second one on Saturday June 5, 2021, at Zippity-Do-Dog on Speen Street just North of Rt. 30. (Full disclosure, I know the owners). We are eating behind the shack (up hill to the right in this photo) on the walking trail. Morris, N1AVP is holding the phone camera and is partially visible. From left at front table, Jim WN1A, Sumner W1VIV, John KB1VXY. At rear table are on left Steve KC1LPZ and Nels, K1UR

**Field Day:** June 26-27, 2021. See changes in the rules at <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/Field-Day-Rules.pdf> I have a suggestion. I think the goal of Field Day is to demonstrate that we can set up and operate radios when needed, make contacts across the country, pass information (the exchange), and log the activity. Assuming we can not use a public setting, we can still give the newer members of the club a chance to see and participate in a Field Day operation. How about pairing up a newer member with an experienced one at the home station, with the newer member getting experience in logging and making contacts? I can do this with one newer member if interested, preferably vaccinated. I may just use my home station, perhaps bringing the equipment outside, or I might set up a different 20 meter antenna and operate off one of the club radios and a battery for a few hours. Any other experienced operators willing to do this kind of arrangement, if so email me. Any new members interested in logging and operating on Field Day for a few hours, if so email me also. We can try to pair people up. I know of one club member who needs assistance in logging.

### Upcoming meetings:

- **TBA:** Board meeting to discuss insurance.
- **September 2, 2021:** Mike Antoine, K1UVH, on the Great Hill Gang's Amateur Radio Activities.
- **October 7, 2021:** Paul, KC1HHK and Pete, KC1HHO, Wires-X and APRS

### Upcoming contests and radio events: selected from WA7BNM calendar

- RAC Canada Day Contest 0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
- North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Jul 17 to 0559Z, Jul 18
- North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Aug 7 to 0559Z, Aug 8
  
- North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z, Aug 21 to 0559Z, Aug 22
- Hawaii QSO Party 0400Z, Aug 28 to 0400Z, Aug 30

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

**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](mailto:president@w1fy.org)

### Club Nets:

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

**Club Web Site:** [W1FY.org](http://W1FY.org)

### Social Media:

- <https://www.facebook.com/FARAW1FY/>
- [https://twitter.com/fara\\_w1fy](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.

**Mail Address:** Framingham Amateur Radio Association, 330 Cochituate Road, #5123 Framingham, MA 01701-9998