

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association Sept./Oct./Nov. 2021 Vol. 88, No. 4



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Sorry that I have been slacking off on the newsletter. If anyone wants to contribute an article to the newsletter or help, feel free to let me know. We had some submissions this time, see below under **Odds and Ends** and under **Upcoming Events**. Sumner, W1VIV, writes on making your own contest logging template for the function keys. Bob, KC1OXG, describes in great detail, some of his equipment, purchases, activities and results, I would invite others to submit similarly detailed "shack reports." We have already had a Hot Dog gathering, 4 meetings, and a Pizza gathering since Field Day. Thanks to Dave Miscia, KB1YXL, for his leadership around the Field Day at the McAuliffe Library which went very well.

We met the three candidates for the ARRL New England Director position. Completed ballots must be received at the designated PO Box in the envelope provided by noon Eastern Time Friday, November 19, 2021.

We have unfortunately confirmed that the Framingham Police Station training room is no longer available to us due to changes in the computer systems at the station.

We have finally confirmed receipt and cashing of our \$500 gift to the Police Association for Officer Paul Patriarca, K1PMP.

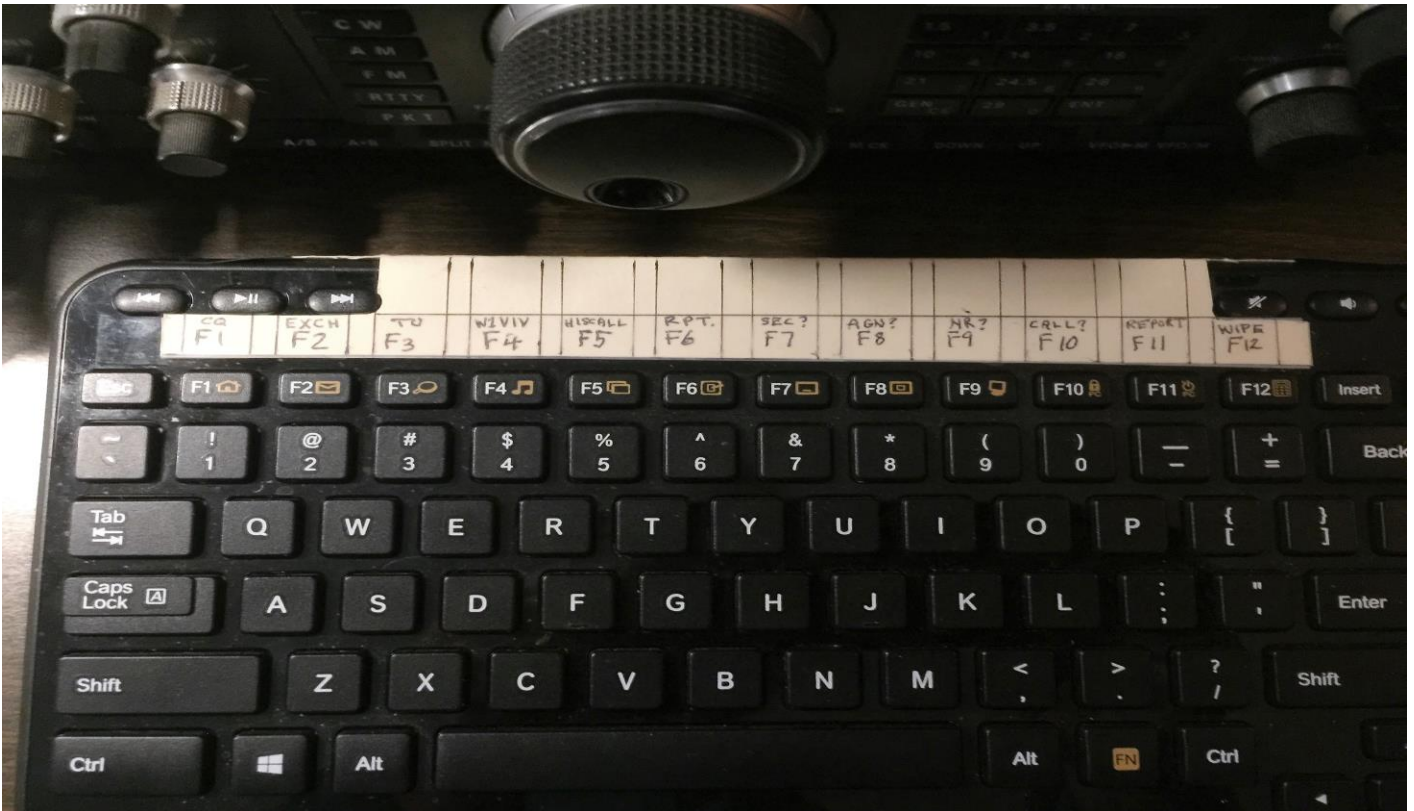
Minutes: The minutes of past meetings are available for members on our website. You will have to do a search for "minutes". Thanks to Andy, KC1DMM, for writing them up this year, and I will not repeat them here.

Recent Meetings:

- **Field Day June 27, 2021 at McAuliffe Library.** Photos are posted on our website.
- **Fred Hopengarten, K1VR,** the current ARRL New England Division Director, gave a special Zoom presentation to the club on Thursday August 5, 2021. Fred discussed the KD1MF antenna case and his efforts to improve the management of the ARRL endowment. Fred is running to continue as the ARRL New England Director.
- We had another **Hot Dog Ham Radio Happening** at Zippity-Do-Dog, 160 Speen Street in Framingham on Saturday August 7, 2021 with several members attending.
- **Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC,** gave a presentation on "Bringing New People into Amateur Radio" on Thursday September 2, 2021. He also talked briefly about his candidacy for ARRL New England Director.
- **Leandra MacLennan, AF1R,** gave a presentation "On the Road with AF1R" about operating and successfully contesting VHF and HF as a mobile, on Thursday October 7, 2021. She included some of her Parks on the Air experiences. She runs a 10-meter SSB net on Thursdays at 8 pm on 28.33333 MHz, and a digital net at 9 pm, on odd dated Thursdays on 28.11111 MHz, starting on RTTY -45. The second speaker, **Tom Frenaye, K1KI,** talked about his candidacy for ARRL New England Director.
- **Pizza gathering** at the home of Steve, N1MH, Saturday October 9, 2021. Thanks Steve, and it was well attended and great weather and pizza!
- **Greg Algeiri, WA1JXR,** showed the video of a talk he gave on the NANO Vector Network Analyzer earlier this year, and then answered questions live on November 4, 2021.

Odds and Ends. This was a regular section of the old Circuits. Feel free to submit materials.

Sumner, W1VIV, writes the following: Make Your Own Contest Logging Template. Contest logging software, such as N1MM and others, use the function keys on your keyboard to send out pre-installed messages during a contest. For example, when I tap F2, a contest report is transmitted to the station I'm working. It's a great time saver. Instead of trying to memorize which message is assigned to each function key, I made a template out of piece of manila folder. A little Elmer's glue holds it down. This is not a new idea, but it makes my contest efforts a lot more enjoyable.



Bob, KC1OXG, writes the following:

License Upgrade:

In August 2021 upgraded from General to Extra. I was able to get my licenses way quicker than I thought by using HamTestOnline: <https://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com/index.html>

Thank you for the recommendation. I originally thought I only wanted the technician license, but soon enough I got the ham bug.

New Radios:

1. I won a Xiegu G90 (Figure 1) with a bunch of accessories via HVVDN (Hudson Valley Digital Network) go fund me raffle. Here's the site: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/hudson-river-radio-relay-2021>.

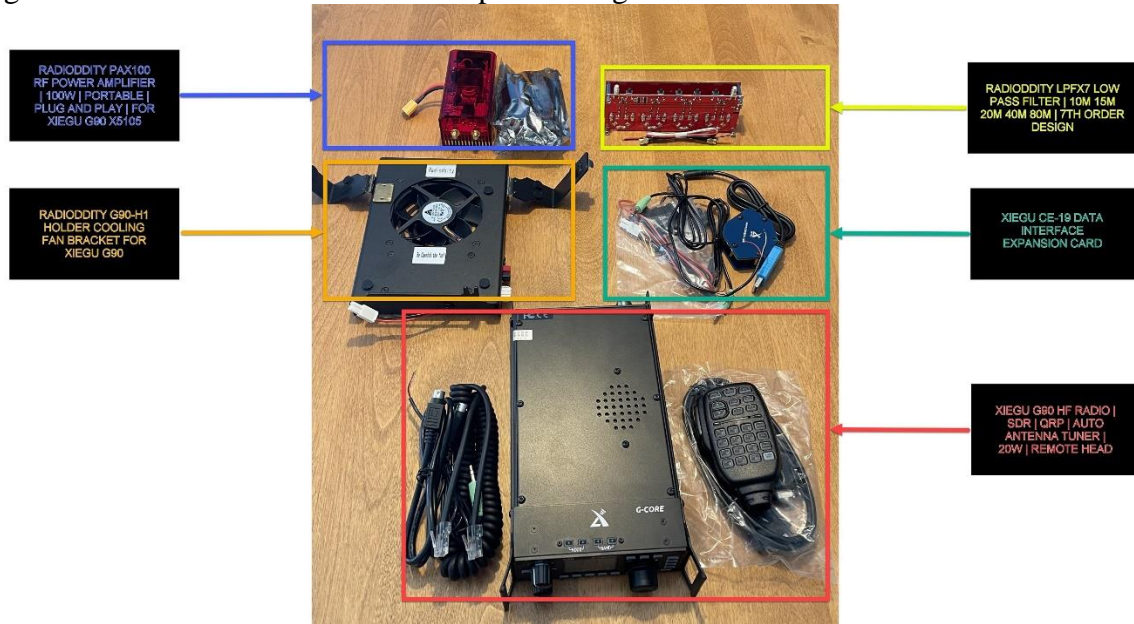


Figure 1 – Xiegu G90

Using the G90 with the MFJ 2010 (Figure 3), I made my first contacts on 40m and 10m:

- 40m contacts (Vito VA3VMD and Arthur AD2CM).
 - 10m contact by checking into Leandra's AF1R net.
2. Purchased a Yaesu FTM-400XDR which I use from my backyard, garage, and cars. When I'm itching for some 2m or 70cm nets, this is my “go to” radio. When not mobile I use Arrow ground plane (Figure 2) else I use the MFJ 1729 mag mount.
 3. I wanted a rugged well-built basic radio, so I purchased the Yaesu VX-6R. Since receiving the radio, I've been using it to check into the weekly FARA nets. I'm really digging it.

Antennas:

1. Steve, N4NIV, recommended the Arrow antenna, so I purchased an Arrow GP146/440 Dual Band Ground Plane (Figure 2). Using PVC piping around my house I fashioned a ~12-foot mast with an old iron patio umbrella base. Works great and it's easy to move around my yard.



Figure 2 - Arrow GP146/440 Dual Band Ground Plane

2. After talking with people on the FARA net decided to buy an MFJ-2010, OCFD, 40/20/10/6M (Figure 3), dipole antenna. So far so good!



Figure 3 - MFJ-2010, OCFD, 40/20/10/6M

3. Purchased and built the KM4ACK EFHW (Figure 4). The kit includes everything you need to build a 49:1 end fed half wave antenna. Antenna works without needing a tuner on 10m, 15m, 20m and 40m. I haven't made a contact with it yet but will try this week. I typically setup it up as a sloper by throwing the non-transformer end into the tree.



Figure 4 - KM4ACK EFHW Antenna

4. Purchased DX Commander CLASSIC (plus 80m) HF Multi-Band (40m-2m) Vertical Kit. I have yet to build this beast, but totally looking forward to it.
5. After talking with people on the FARA net decided to get the MFJ 1729 mag mount to use with my handhelds and mobile radio.
6. Bought an Arrow 146-3BP Arrow II Handheld Portable. Thinking about using when hiking and possible foxhunting (still need an attenuator). At some point would like to build the tape measure Yagi.

Other Items:

Started CW training at Long Island CW Club, so I bought the following (Figure 5):

- CW Morse's Double Paddle Key & Straight Key with Steel Base
- MFJ-554, CW Straight Key Practice Oscillator
- Morse Code Iambic Paddle Practice Oscillator



Iambic Paddle Practice Oscillator Straight Key Practice Oscillator Double Paddle Key & Straight Key with Steel Base

Figure 5 - CW Training Devices

I'm using the G4FON Morse Code Trainer and CW Player applications to assist in CW training.

- (Great Job Bob, keep us posted on how all this stuff works. I think this could serve as a model for others willing to update us on their shack and equipment and activities!)

Ross, WA1WXT, wondered if there was interest in a swap and sell net on the repeater on some other night?

Upcoming meetings: We need some speakers or else videos to watch!

- December 2, 2021: Open
- January 6, 2022: DxPedition video?

- February 3, 2022. Open
- March 3, 2022: Open
- April 7, 2022: Tom Freneye, K1KI on New England QSO Party and other topics.
- May 5, 2022: Open
- June 2, 2022: Field Day discussion and elections.

Upcoming contests and radio events: selected from WA7BNM calendar

- **ARRL Sweepstakes SSB**, November 20-22, 2021. This contest uses a long exchange meant to simulate passing traffic. The exchange can seem complicated, but it is a step up from the usual “599” in other contests. See <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>
- The Boston Amateur Radio Club is hosting a **Technician Class POTA day** on November 20th at Chickatawbut Hill. Included is a press release for you to include in your club newsletter should you see fit. All hams are welcome to attend. After the event Join us at the 110 Grill in Braintree afterwards for some food and drinks! Please include in your email if you will be joining us at 110 Grill so we can make a proper reservation. Brendan Baldonado, President, Boston Amateur Radio Club.
- **Yard Sale with ham radio equipment**: Saturday, November 20, 8:30-11:30 AM. New England Sci-Tech and Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society invites FARA members to a flea market that will have radio and electronics equipment. We will post as much as we can on <https://nescitech.org/yard-sale/> so you can check it out before coming in. 16 Tech Circle, Natick. Bob Phinney, K5TEC, President New England Sci-Tech Inc.

Officers:

- **President:** John Iwuc, KB1VXY
- **Vice President:** Ron Rothman, WO1E
- **Treasurer:** Steve Moro, N1MH
- **Acting Clerk Secretary:** Andy Boughton, KC1DMM
- **Director:** Sumner Weisman, W1VIV

Meetings: Club meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM and will be on ZOOM. 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, output frequency 147.15 / input frequency 147.75, optional output PL of 100 - social/chat, emergency preparedness, amateur radio questions, Echolink enabled. W1FY-R
- Informal Health and Wellness Check-in Net: Wednesday 7:30 pm, 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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