

The FramingHAM Circuit

Editor: Martin Bayes W1/G4DZC

APRIL 1990

FARA March Meeting

The next FARA meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday April 5th, in the basement of the Danforth Museum. This months presentation will be a "Show and Tell", so dig through your shack and bring something of interest in.

FARA SPRING FLEAMARKET

The Spring Fleamarket will be held on SUNDAY, April 8th, at the Framingham Civic League Hall, 214 Concord St (Rte 126) Framingham. Doors will open at 9 am for Early Bird Admission and at 10 am for regular buyers. Sellers table set-up will be at 8 am. For info on Novice and Upgrade exams call Dick, WA1KUG (508) 877 0563. Talk-in will be 147.150+

Gymnasium table arrangement will be done on Saturday afternoon at 12.30 pm and the Auditorium on Sunday morning at 7.00 am.

Much needed volunteers to help set up should contact Lou Nyman.

WANTED OLD ISSUES OF QST

I've been looking through the back issues of QST that the club received as a donation from the estate of W1RVA. The table below lists the issues that we are MISSING. If you have any of these issues and the wife has been bugging you to clean the closet, here's a chance to give them a good home. The collection contains issues from 1948-1988. I'm also going to photocopy the yearly index out of each December copy, put them together and hand them out at a future meeting.

January	85 84 83 82 81 77 76 48
February	88 84 80 77 61 60
March	88 80 79 78 77 76 61 58
April	86 85 84 81 79 76 61 58
May	86 81 80 79 61 60
June	87 81 80 79 78 76 74
July	84 83 82 81 79 61
August	86 85 84 83 82 81 80 78 76 61 59
September	83 80 79 61
October	86 85 84 83 81 80 79 71
November	84 83 81 80 75 60
December	88 81 80 79 78 77 60 57 56

If you'd like to donate any of the above mentioned issues to FARA, please call me at evening at the number below, and I'll come and pick them up!

Peter Simpson KA1AHY 429-7069

QRN CORNER

Well, time for a few words of dubious wisdom, random thoughts, etc. from your pres, here goes.

We have some interesting events coming up:

1. Banquet - come and gone by the time you'll get this newsletter (quite probably). Boy, did we have fun, (very probably).
2. At the next meeting, I'm going to bring my "Rig in a Bag". It's a complete portable station designed to go anywhere. My version of it contains:
 - Transceiver Atlas 210x
 - Power supply - ADC switching supply 15 A output. Also contains a cord to attach to auto cigarette lighter or battery.
 - Mike
 - Electronic key - Ten-Tec
 - Antenna tuner
 - SWR meter
 - Antenna - wire antenna on a spool
 - Extension cord
 - AC adapter - for those places that don't have 3-prong sockets
 - Repair kit - contains : soldering iron (gas), meter, cutters, ties etc.
3. Flea Market - (see front page) If someone asks you about it on the repeater YOU ARE expected to know the date. Members failing to remember this information and revealing this fact in on the air conversations, will become fodder for Ed's (W1NXC) next safety lecture. They will probably participate in the "Effects of High Voltage on the Careless Ham Radio Operator" demo.
4. Lots, lots, lots more happening, tell you about it at the meeting.

Dick : W1IBN

ARRL PHONE CONTEST

A number of club members participated in an entry in the ARRL phone contest. In spite of the less than ideal antenna situation, some fairly good contacts were made. All continents, except for Antarctica, were reached, even if our signal was somewhat less than dominant.

The grand totals were 339 QSOs and 151 total multipliers on 80,20,15 and 10 metres (total score 158,097). Best DX was probably 5W1HK, AH3C, HZ1AB, UM9TWA, 5U7NU and TL8WD. With improved antennas, our next effort should be even better.

Martin Bayes W1/G4DZC

WORKED ALL UDU AWARD ?

If you own a PC, but are not yet involved in packet radio, you can still use your home computer to send and receive information about amateur radio. With a regular, telephone-based modem, you can dial up several local bulletin board systems (BBS's) which have sections devoted to ham radio. Best of all: some of these systems are free! All you pay for is the phone call.

Even if you're already involved in packet, you might still want to get involved with "landline" BBS's. Why? Computer hobbyists often leave questions on these systems asking about amateur radio. If all the amateurs have fled to packet, there won't be anyone left to encourage these would-be hams!

For the uninitiated, a "landline" BBS is a computer and telephone-based information service that you can access through your home PC. (there are also packet BBS's you can contact using a PC, a TNC and your radio). Typically, BBS's have areas where you can leave messages for other users, and offer software and text files you can download into your own system.

All you need to access a landline BBS is PC, modem, communications software and phone. The modem allows you to transmit computer data over telephone lines; you can buy a moderately fast 1200 baud (bits per second) model for under \$100. Many modems come with communications software; if not, good packages can be uncovered for under \$25 or so.

Fee vs Free. Like so many things in this world, on-line information services can be separated into two broad categories: those that charge, and those that are free. Large, fee-based services, such as CompuServe usually have ham-specific areas. However, you have to be a subscriber to use them, and most charge hourly connect fees. Needless to say, this can get expensive.

One notable exception is the Prodigy service, which charges one flat, \$9.95, monthly fee for unlimited use. you can't download files from Prodigy, but it does have an amateur radio message area, where you can ask other hams for help. I once left a message seeking addresses for a couple of call signs and got five responses back within 2 days.

Fortunately for those lean of budget, though, you can often find that same level of helpfulness -- sometimes more! -- on local, free services.

The Cul-de-Sac BBS in Holliston (508/429-1784) has several features of interest to hams. there are a number of files you can download, including such things as a list of repeaters in New England, and ham-related "shareware" (shareware is software by the honor system. You download it for free; if you like it, you're supposed to send a fee to the author). In addition, the system sponsors a local ham message area, although that's not very active.

Cul-de-Sac is also one of several Boston-area BBS's that carries the "National Ham" where posted messages are sent to BBS systems around the country. This section is

active, and a nice way to chat with hams -- and ham hopefuls -- you might miss on the airwaves. Before we bought our Kenwood TS-440, I posted a message there, and several users responded with opinions about their rigs. Cul-de-Sac offers the national ham for-sale as well.

Boston Citinet (617/439-5699) is an advertiser-sponsored commercial service, but it's free unless you want to pay for a private mailbox, on-line chat, or premium services -- NONE of which you need in order to use the ham radio section. After signing on, type **G0 HAM** at the prompt, and you'll come to a section with a great deal of useful information.

There are message areas that cover virtually every interest: ARRL bulletins, local exam listings, propagation reports, satellites, antennas, ham events, DX and contesting, for sale, homebrew, public service and emergency traffic, ragchewing, a beginners corner and more. A few messages of interest that have been posted on packet BBS's also appear here.

The editors who run these message areas seem both friendly and helpful, and they are eager to get more callers using this new Citinet offering. One even talked me into trying for my Tech upgrade at the Boston Red Cross monthly exams in March.

Finally, if you belong to the Boston Computer Society, give the **BCS Macintosh** board a call (617/625-6747). You don't need to be an Apple user to sign on (although you must be a BCS member to become a registered user). The Mac board gives some space to several other BCS groups, including the new Amateur Radio SIG.

The local ham message area here is not exceptionally active, but the participants are awfully nice. One kind soul actually sent me his '89 Call Book set -- **FOR THE COST OF POSTAGE ALONE** -- after I had posted a message asking for a couple of call sign addresses !!! The Mac board also carries the National Ham Echo.

I've found land-line BBS's a great way to combine the hobbies of PC telecommunications and amateur radio. If you're willing to tie up your phone line, I think you'll discover the same kind of nice, friendly hams on your computer that you're used to encountering on the airwaves. Happy BBSing!

Sharon Machlis Gartenberg KA1UUD

HAPPENINGS

Bill Ledder KA1N0I was one of 150 U of Lowell students honored for his top 10% grade ranking in the fall semester. Lynda Ledder (N1EYU) has been awarded a Regents scholarship to attend U of Hartford this fall.

MEETING MINUTES

The long awaited club roster was distributed at the March meeting. Forthcoming activities, including the ARRL Phone contest, Banquet and the Flea Market were discussed. Lew (K1AZE) mentioned that the Framingham Civic League is seeking financial support. Pete Simpson (KA1AXY) suggested that

DX CORNER

A51 Bhutan should be activated March 28-April 14 by Jim **VK9NS**, he may visit Bangladesh later.

YU8AA Aves Is will be activated on RTTY/Packet/AMTOR April 11-14.

ST0 Southern Sudan will be activated by **PA3CXC** around April 16. **4W/70** North and South Yemen may be activated by some Kuwait ops late in April.

There are also reports of a possible expedition to Jarvis Is, but this info is confused at this time.

On a philosophical note, should hams welcome the unification mood present in the Germanies and also between the two Yemens? The moral of the story is work them now, before they disappear for ever.

we offer to provide financial and time assistance to help rebuild the Civic League building loading ramp, which is in poor condition.

Education Chairman Ed Weiss (**W1NXC**) passed out First Contact Awards. Pete Simpson asked if other members would be interested in sharing the cost of a copy the "DC-Light" frequency data base.

Following the business meeting, Lew (**K1AZE**) gave an interesting talk on "Search and Rescue by the Civil Air Patrol".

HAMFESTS

April 8 Framingham Flea Mkt (see p1)
April 15 MIT Flea Market Talk-in 146.52
April 22 Wellesley Flea Mkt " 147.63
April 22 Southington CT " " 146.28
April 27-29 Dayton Hamvention
May 4-5 Deerfield NH Talk-in 146.40

CONTESTS

April 7-8	North American QSO Party CW
April 7-8	SP-DX Contest CW
April 7	W1AW Qualifying Run 10-35 WPM 10 pm EDT
April 9	ARRL UHF/UHF Spring Sprint 144 MHz 7-11 pm local
April 14-15	North American QSO Party Phone
April 21-22	ARRL International DX Contest 20z 21st-20z 22nd SSB+CW
April 22	Connecticut QSO Party
April 28-29	Helvetica Contest 13z 28th-13z 29th SSB + CW

Executive meetings are held on the Monday evening of the week before the Club Meeting, at the QTH of Dick Landau. Any member who is interested in raising specific issues, or would like to find out what the executive does on these occasions is invited to attend. Call Dick Landau for info/directions.