

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association, December 2022 Vol. 89, No. 4



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Since the last Circuit in August, we are now already into the holidays! While this Circuit is long overdue, we have been busy since then. See the list of activities/meetings. I am always interested in articles or short pieces of news for the members, new radios, antennas, product opinions, rare stations worked, successful contests entered, field operations, interesting nets checked into, etc. This club has lots of active hams but as they say where I work in the hospital, if you didn't write it down, it didn't happen. Document, document, document! If you did it, write it down! I need submissions. I will accept any help or articles at any time for this newsletter. There are lots of things to read about Ham Radio, but what we need are actual submissions from members, short pieces, news of the members, please submit stuff!

Speaking of submissions, Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, submitted an article on Ron Lahti's Ham Radio Trailer project.

Review the upcoming events. Please note that 2023 is the 90th year that FARA, in one form or another, has been in existence. We need to form a subgroup to discuss possible activities, such as operating as a special event station with new QSL cards, a celebration get together, and any other ideas. Happy Holidays!

Recent activities:

- NAQP SSB 8/20 to 8/21/22. Many of us participated.
- HamXposition 2022 August 26-28, 2022 in Marlboro.
- September 1, 2022: Adrian Zeffert, AB2IX, gave us a well received talk on the test bench.
- October 6, 2022: Ron Rothman, WO1E, gave a demo on digital contesting modes with FT4 and FT8.
- November 3, 2022: Don Rolph, AB1PH, gave a talk and demo on Winlink.
- December:1, 2022 about 13 of us met for a Holiday Dinner at Carbone's Restaurant in Hopkinton.
- We had a couple of Zippity-do-dog gatherings which were well attended.

Odds and ends:

Two interesting podcasts with local hams on QSO TODAY PODCAST Episodes 429 and 427:

- Episode 429 Michael Crestohl ("Mr. Mike"), W1RC founder of Nearfest. Note that the dates for Nearfest have been changed to April 28 and 29, 2023.
- Episode 427 Ted Robinson KI1QAR on magnetic loop antennas. Ted gave us a talk several years ago and brought one of his antennas in to describe it.

Meetings: Club meetings are held on Zoom on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM, while some meetings will also be hybrid at either the Framingham main library or the McAuliffe branch. 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

- January 5, 2023: Dxpediton video selected by Dave Hoaglin, K1HT. Also "Show and Tell", bring something interesting to show the members.
- Feb 2, 2023: Ron Evett, N1QY, on Measuring SWR
- March 2, 2023: Larry Banks, W1DYJ, topic TBD
- April 6, 2023: Terry M. Stader. KA8SCP, on Emergency communications.
- May 4, 2023: Nominations of officers, Field Day Planning.
- June 1, 2023: Voting of officers, Field Day Planning

FARA Member Spotlight: Ron Lahti, N1CNG

By Sumner Weisman, W1VIV



N1CNG joined our radio club fairly recently. If you check his QRZ page, you will discover that he has an impressive background in EmComm and FEMA courses. He performed a great service to our club last June, when he facilitated an outstanding Field Day effort at Crow Island in Stowe. Ron now has a new project – one that can be of direct benefit to FARA. He has purchased a trailer, and he is fitting it out for serious ham radio mobile use. He is inviting our radio club to join in a wide array of ham activities. A few possibilities are:

- Field Day
- POTA (Parks on the Air)
- IOTA (Islands on the Air)
- SOTA (Summits on the Air)
- Lighthouse Activations
- An EmComm self-contained mobile station
- Ham Radio Training



Ron is continuing to build out the trailer, which is presently a work in progress. Among the items installed so far are flooring, two storage cabinets, two 4-foot workstation desks, and a 1500 watt space heater. In addition, Ron has acquired a 3500 watt gas generator, 400 watt solar panels with three 200Ah batteries, 1000 and 2500 watt inverters, two and three node waterproof intelligent chargers, and an assortment of extension cables.

The trailer is being equipped with HF, VHF, and UHF all-mode radios. These include (2) IC-7300 (HF), IC-9700 (VHF/UHF), IC-7100, and FT-857D, and Ron has many more radios available as needed. Antennas include a Mini Tarheel HF Vertical with all needed radials, and other multi-band wire antennas. Also included are a 50 foot mast, and a 30 foot mast, with two military tripod bases and variable height masts. He has also purchased four new 11.8 inch laptop computers, and has loaded them with N1MM+ and WSJT software.

Ron has also purchased a wide array of bandpassfilters, covering bands from 6 meters to 160 meters, including all the WARC bands.

N1CNG has spent an impressive amount of his own time and money on his ham radio trailer project. We thank him for his generous offer of joint radio activities in the future, and look forward to some interesting trailering adventures. Congratulations, Ron!

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.
- Scanner listeners are invited to let us know you follow the nets by sending an email to contact@W1FY.org

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. We are accepting dues for 2023 now. 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