

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association, January 2023 Vol. 90, No. 1

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We are officially into our 90<sup>th</sup> year, note this is volume 90! Let's plan for a Summer gathering to celebrate! See the list of upcoming interesting meetings. Also in this issue, Sumner, W1VIV, writes about a Ham Radio Mystery. Additionally, Bob, KC1OXG, sent in some info on Flight Aware and how he sets it up. He also sent info on the Packenna 20/40 End fed half wave antenna and some other items discussed on one of our Wednesday night nets. Welcome to two new members, Matt Griffin, KC1MWW, son of Larry Griffin, KB1GMU, and Luke Conroy, KC1MGO. Matt and Luke, let us know if we can help you with the hobby. I hope to see you all at the Marlborough Flea next Saturday, stop by our membership booth.

## Recent activities:

- January 5, 2023: Dxpediton videos selected by Dave Hoaglin, K1HT. Also "Show and Tell"
- Board meeting. We discussed ways to increase membership. We will have a membership booth at the Algonquin Flea, stop by and give us some support and recommend to your friends that they check us out.
- Feb 2, 2023: Ron Evett, N1QY, discuss Measuring SWR

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

## Upcoming meetings:

- February 18, 2023 Algonquin Flea [https://www.qsl.net/n1em/AARC\\_Flea\\_Market\\_Flyer\\_2023.pdf](https://www.qsl.net/n1em/AARC_Flea_Market_Flyer_2023.pdf)  
HamXpediton booth will be there as well as a FARA (Framingham) membership drive for 90th anniversary.
- March 2, 2023: Larry Banks, W1DYJ, Antenna Modeling
- April 6, 2023: Terry M. Stader. KA8SCP, on Emergency Communications.
- May 4, 2023: Nominations of officers, Field Day Planning. Possibly a video on a large FM station.
- June 1, 2023: Voting of officers, Field Day Planning

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## Solving a Ham Radio Mystery: By Sumner Weisman, W1VIV

In November 2022, a long time FARA member emailed a link to our radio club. The member was Sharon, KC1YR, and the link took us to the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications (<https://archive.org/details/dlarc>). Looking it over, I quickly realized that this was a wealth of useful information. It contains back copies, going back many decades, of various radio journals such as Ham Radio Callbooks listing all US hams, as well as back copies of various journals such as 73 Magazine, ham catalogs, and so many others items. Here was a cornucopia of ham history!

Thinking about how I could possibly put all this information to any use, it suddenly hit me. The old call books might solve a mystery that has intrigued me ever since I first became a ham back in 1952. I grew up in Worcester, Massachusetts. Upon getting my new ham license, I climbed up into our unused attic to see if I could find a way to get an antenna wire out of the house. Looking at the low ceiling, I suddenly found some old ham call letters written with pencil on one of the rafters! The call, still embedded in my memory after so many years, was W1BZA. As a young new ham, I was thrilled that I was not the first ham to live in this house. I wrote my call letters under his, and I'm sure that both are still there to this day. My long wire went up along the

roof, I built my first transmitter, a crystal-controlled 6V6 vacuum tube oscillator on 40 and 80 meters, and I saved up to buy my first receiver, a Hallicrafters S-38. Life was good.

Now that I had access to all the Ham Radio Callbooks, I decided to see if I could find W1BZA back when he lived at my old address. I first tried the book from that year, 1952. There he was, but at a different address, about two miles away. I gradually worked my way back to earlier years, but each time he was still at the wrong address, and I was starting to wonder whether my memory was playing tricks. Eventually, I navigated all the way back to the 1931 call book, and there he was, W1BZA at my address, 21 years before I became a ham! Mystery solved.

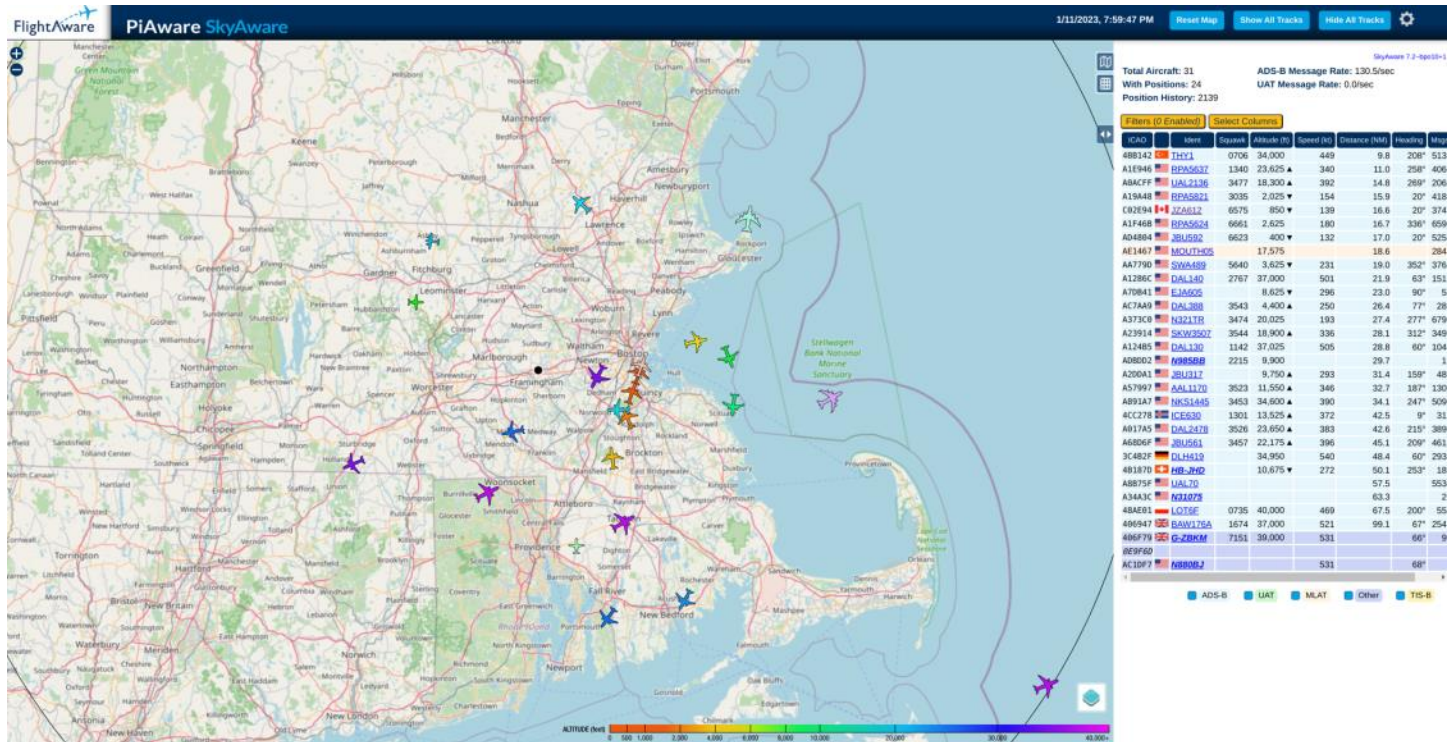
Now, you might ask, “How did I recall his ham call letters for over 70 years?” If you grew up in the Boston area, you may be able to figure it out. For decades, I remember our biggest 50KW AM radio station, WBZ, announcing “This is WBZ Boston, and WBZA Springfield.” WBZA – W1BZA! And now, you know the rest of the story.

Note: I’m quite sure that this ham was the original holder of the call letters W1BZA, and is now a silent key. The W1BZA call was at some point reissued to the person presently listed in QRZ. Sadly, I discovered that he is also a silent key, and have notified the ARRL and the FCC of his passing, so that this venerable call may be reissued and live on in the future.

From Bob, KC1OXG: Hello All, Per our discussion on the Wednesday night net, I thought I'd follow up with some more details.

Here's a link to the flight aware website: <https://flightaware.com/adsb/piaware/build>

Here's a screenshot of a page from my PiAware



Like Steve (N1MH) said you can build your own using an SDR dongle attached to any computer or operating system.

Also here's a quick video of Bob's setup. Two video formats, in case MOV file is not viewable.

MOV Video Format

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hgh043a45c0w40c/2023-01-11%2020.01.17.mov?dl=0>

MP4 Video Format

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/4lq8z4zaj22hpjz/2023-01-11\\_20\\_01\\_17.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/4lq8z4zaj22hpjz/2023-01-11_20_01_17.mp4?dl=0)

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The following were discussed on a Wednesday night FARA net. Info also from Bob, KC1OXG

**Morse Mania:** A learn CW app for your phone.\$2.99

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/morse-mania/id369359680>

**Packtenna:** An end fed half wave 20 and 40 meter antenna.

[https://www.packtenna.com/store/p25/EFHW-20%2F40\\_-\\_End\\_Fed\\_Half\\_Wave\\_20m\\_and\\_40m\\_Antenna.html#/](https://www.packtenna.com/store/p25/EFHW-20%2F40_-_End_Fed_Half_Wave_20m_and_40m_Antenna.html#/)



**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
- Wednesday 7:30 pm, Informal Health and Wellness Check-in Net: Echolink enabled, W1FY-R.
- Scanner listeners are invited to let us know you follow the nets by sending an email to [contact@W1FY.org](mailto:contact@W1FY.org)

**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.

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