

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association, April 2023 Vol. 90, No. 2



President's Message

Well, we are past a quarter of the year into our 90th year! We are already talking up and planning Field Day. We welcomed 9 new members that we recruited from our membership table at the Algonquin Flea Market! Larry Banks, W1DYJ, friend of the club who has done several other talks, reviewed some non-EZ-Nec antenna modeling programs and a propagation program. Below, we have member contributions to the Circuit from Sumner-W1VIV, Joe- N1JIW, Bruce-W1HNZ, and Bob, KC1OXG. Please consider joining our "Activities Committee." Also please sign up to operate on Field Day, we will show you how.

Activities Committee

We need to form an education and activity committee so that we can schedule out the year's activities both for the regular meetings, speakers, videos to watch, dinners, hot dog happenings etc. Just like for FD, I would say, no education committee, no agenda. Let's recruit members of all interests and come up with a schedule for next year. I have exhausted my known speakers list, and my interests may not overlap with the majority. I will send out an email recruiting folks for the committee. One example mentioned was to alternate speakers with videos from Youtube, and perhaps dinners more frequently. We need members to decide how we want to use our monthly meetings. We need speakers that folks want to hear. Our actual turnout for speakers could be improved. We could resume the Zippity-Do-Dog outings on Saturdays. We could use our meeting time to go out to eat at a restaurant every few months. We could go outside and operate or operate from a member's home. For example each 3 month block of meetings could be something like this, Speaker, Dinner, operating. We need ideas and grass roots interest. Enthusiasm, interest and ideas have to come from the membership, not from the officers. Please let me know if interested. Please sign up.

New members: From the membership table at the Algonquin Flea Market.

- Barbara Irby KC1KGS , Extra
- Jim Irby WB4EJR, Extra
- Steve Kondo KC1QAY , Extra
- John Ronski WA1RAE, Extra
- Glenn Ghidaleson WA2KRS General,
- Yuri Dogadaev UT1EE
- Richard Gregorio K1RAW, Extra
- Leandra MacLennan AF1R , Extra
- Tom Verra N1CKB , General

Recent activities

- February 18, 2023 Algonquin Flea, we had a membership booth. See pictures below.
- March 2, 2023, 7 pm, Larry Banks, W1DYJ, Antenna Modeling Antenna Modeling using TLW (Transmission Line Program for Windows), YW (Yagi for Windows), and HFTA (High Frequency Terrain Assessment)
- April meeting was cancelled
- April 15, 2023, Board Meeting. Separate minutes submitted. Discussions included formally ending the scholarship program due to our limited income, Field Day preparations, formation of an activities and

education committee, Jamboree-on-the-air, 90th Anniversary of FARA dinner, considering a table at the HamXposition.

Special Award

The board voted to award fellow ham and club member Delaney Ringer, N1DMR, daughter of Dan Ringer, AE1DR, with a special \$500.00 Award in recognition of her many accomplishments including getting her amateur radio license a day before her 10th birthday, her many accomplishments in high school including graduating a year early, and her plans to attend Rochester Institute of Technology. We hope amateur radio plays a role in her future.

Regular Meetings

Club meetings are held on Zoom on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM, and 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.

Upcoming meetings:

- May 4, 2023: Terry M. Stader. KA8SCP, on Emergency Communications. Nominations of officers, Setting up meetings for Field Day Planning, and activity planning.
- June 1, 2023: Voting of officers, more definitive Field Day Planning

Field Day Planning: From the Board Meeting Minutes of 4/15/23.

John. KB1VXY. and Sumner, W1VIV, visited the home of Bruce, W1HNZ, in Sudbury in the last few weeks to view the site for a potential Field Day operation. Field Day is scheduled for Saturday June 24 and Sunday June 25 this year. We thought the site in Bruce's back woods would be ideal for an operation. Bruce presented an outline of various topics to discuss such as what kind of class (A if we set up new antennas and operate on emergency power or E if we use existing antenna structures but run off emergency power). We are sure we want at least 2 stations, one for CW probably on 40 meters and the other on SSB that could run 10, 15, 20, 40 during the times we expect to run. Other issues like pop up tents, tables and chairs, computers, etc., were discussed. One advantage of running a 2E station is that there would be minimal set up and tear down. One advantage of running 2A would be that it would be more in the spirit of Field Day emergency preparations. We may also run a digital FT8 station (Ron Rothman W01E was unable to attend), so that is still an option. We can also do a 2 meter FM station for simplex. We can run APRS on 2 meters (beaconing mode on 144.390 MHz) to place us on the APRS map. There is interest in running at least 5-6 hours on the Saturday say from 2 to 7 or 8 pm, and some interest in coming back in the am Sunday. More to discuss. The key "rate limiting step" or bottleneck is how many of the members want to operate. No operators, no point in doing it. We have at least 3 operators, but would like to give other members especially newer ones the chance to operate. For each hour of operation, ideally we need two people, one to operate the radio and one to log. Both are essential skills to learn for emergency preparedness, and Field Day is a low key opportunity to get live practice. John will send out an email recruiting members to sign up for set up, take down, and hours of operation. Please sign up.

FARA's W1FY Repeater and the Boston Marathon:

Glenn, KC1HPZ, W1FY Repeater Trustee confirmed with Dan Loveman, K1DSL, Start Segment Coordinator

BAA Communications Committee, that they could use our repeater again this year. As Glenn stated, "It is FARA's pleasure to host the Marathon again this year on repeater W1FY in Framingham."

Regarding a venue for our 90th anniversary celebration: Emails asked the following.

- When? Several responses thought having this in the Fall would be better than the Summer as some folks may be away. Mid September would likely still be good weather.
- Where? In the Board Meeting on 4/15/23, we discussed possibly exploring Ken's Steakhouse in Framingham as a site for a Saturday afternoon 90th get together sometime after the Summer, preferably in September or October. Other venues and times and days can still be considered, but the luncheon prices are reasonable, it is centrally located for most members, it serves good food, and the time is good for those with issues driving at night. Stay posted. This will have to be a prepaid event.

Recruitment at the Algonquin Flea Market

Photos below from the membership table at the Flea Market: On left, John, KB1VXY, on right, Sumner, W1VIV with John KB1VXY.



New England QSO Party - 2023

The New England QSO Party on May 6th and 7th is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.

Our goal is to get every one of the 67 counties in New England on the air so we hope you will encourage your friends to join in the fun! Even if you can join us for a couple of hours, we'd appreciate it! Will you be QRV? Let us know with a message to info@neqp.org

The New England QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep on Saturday night. It runs from 4 pm Saturday until 1 am Sunday, then 9 am Sunday until 8 pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and/or digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your call sign, a signal report and your county/state. Top scorers can earn a plaque and everyone who sends in a log with at least 25 QSOs will get a certificate. The goal is to work stations anywhere in the world - and their goal is to work New England stations, so you'll be very popular!

Last year we had logs from 871 stations from around the country and world. There were 295 stations from New England on the air! The full rules are here -> <https://neqp.org/rules/>

The full 2022 results were posted a couple of weeks ago - <https://neqp.org/2022-new-england-qso-party/>

This next weekend is the 2023 NEQP. Please get on and make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log! Thanks!
73 Tom/K1KI

Member Contributions

A Ham Radio Memory

By Sumner Weisman, W1VIV :

Sometimes I like to look through my old log books. There are lots of wonderful memories stored there for future enjoyment. Here is one of them that I recently rediscovered. In 1967, I was on SSB in a QSO on 20 meters, and I happened to mention that I live near Boston. Immediately, I received a call from Jorge, HC2LJ, in Guayaquil, Ecuador. He told me that his wife is an American from a suburb of Boston, and would like to speak to her parents there. In those days we had phone patches, so I quickly phoned her parents, and they had a fine conversation. It worked out so well that we set up a regular schedule for weekly phone patches between Guayaquil and Boston. The reason for all the communications was that his wife was pregnant, and she wanted to have her baby in a Boston hospital. A few weeks later, we had a cordial visit to our home from the proud parents, along with the beautiful new baby. They brought a large, handsome wall tapestry from Ecuador for a thank-you gift. Meetings like this could only occur through the magic of ham radio.

Photos

- **Joe, N1JIW**, writes that this Geochron digital clock was the Holiday present he bought for himself, (figure to left below)
- **Bruce, W1HNZ** finished first in Middlesex County and ninth in the state of MA in the 2022 New England QSO Party. The class was CW, Single Operator, High Power. Club submission was under the YCCC. (figure in the middle below)
- Sumner, W1VIV, was 14th place NE, 8th place MA, 2nd place Middlesex County. (figure on the right below)



KC1OXG Circuit Update – 04/30/2023

New equipment: ICOM IC-705, Yaesu FT-891, LDG Z-II Pro II Tuner and Yaesu Wires-X HRI-200.

While I still use and like my Xiegu G90 HF radio, I'd have to say the Icom IC-705 is quite probably my favorite radio. I can play HF, VHF and UHF with it. I love playing QRP radio and this radio scratches that itch perfectly. Having this radio brings me full circle with my VHF digital voice modes. Now I can make contacts via DSTAR, DMR and Fusion. There's something about digital voice I really enjoy. Also, I intend to bring the IC-705 on QRP POTA activations (via FT8 and/or Voice).

I bought the Yaesu FT-891 for POTA voice activations. While I still haven't done a POTA activation, I look forward to it. I figured Cochituate State Park will be my first attempt. I have used the FT-891, once, to check into the Yankee net on Sunday mornings. I need to make it back in there, but I have to say my wife and I like sleeping in on the weekends, so that's the reason I haven't checked in the past several weeks.

I got the LDG Z-II Pro II Tuner to be used with the IC-705 and FT-891 radios and it works perfectly. Out of the box the tuner is very easy to use. I have not dived into the advanced functionality of the tuner but will do so at some point. I also intend to experiment with building and playing with random wire antennas and think the tuner will be a good fit.

After watching Steve KC1QAY buy and configure his Yaesu Wires-X HRI-200, I had to buy one. To be honest, it wasn't too difficult to setup. This is not to say I didn't stumble a couple of times, but luckily Steve KC1QAY helped me climb out of some holes. I have the HRI-200 connected to an Intel NUC computer and to my Yaesu FTM-400. That said, my FTM-400 is now a permanent fixture on my desk serving separately as a VHF/UHF analog/APRS transceiver and a Wires-X digital node station. While I can hit the Pepperell (WA1VVH – 446.525 Mhz) repeater, I prefer using Wires-X digital node station with my Yaesu FT3D so I can move around the house, yard and some short distances from house (i.e., short walks). When the Wires-X digital node station is up and running, people are more than welcome to connect to my room (KC1OXG-ROOM2). I typically have it on when checking into the Wolf-Den Sunday Tech Net.

Furthest Contact (to date):

I've been wanting to get an Australia QSO for some time but can't seem to make it. Looking at the below contact I'm getting closer. Per Walt (YouTuber on Coastal Waves and Wires channel) I may try getting Australia with my FT-891 (SBB) on 20 meters (14.235 to 14.255 Mhz). There's a Southern Cross Net usually on 14.240 and has a net control that helps US stations get through the pileups and make contacts.

Date	Time	Call	Band	Frequency	Power	Mode	Grid	Country	Operator Name	Comments	Status
3/9/2023	20:12	3D2USU	10m	28.074	18W	FT8	RH82rh	Fiji	Fallen King activity	Xiegu G90 18W - PackTenna Mini Antenna - Sloper Configuration	Unconfirmed by 3D2USU on QRZ, but observed QSL on ClubLog

Kit Build Projects

Just bought the following kits from QRP Labs with some Sci-tech Amateur Radio Society (STARS) members: QDX - Digital Transceiver and 50-ohm 20W Dummy Load kit. While I'm a little nervous to build the QDX,

after listening to STARS members build/play radio stories, I can't wait to build and play with it. I'll start with the dummy load, then move on to the QDX. The QDX will be my most complicated build after the following builds: Elenco FM Radio Kit (Amazon purchase, built before getting a ham license), STARS 40M-10M EFHW Antenna (STARS Group Build, BTW this is an awesome antenna) and STARS 70cm Uda Yagi Antenna (STARS Group Build, spearheaded by Steve KC1QAY).

Club Nets:

- FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, output frequency 147.15 / input frequency 147.75, - 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

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.

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