

Board meeting of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

on 04/15/23, 10:00 am to 11:38 am

Members present	John Iwuc KB1VXY, Sumner Weisman W1VIV, Steve Moro N1MH, Bruce Rusch W1HNZ, Glenn Axelrod KC1HPZ, Andy Boughton, KC1DMM
Topic 1: Scholarships	FARA has given many scholarships over the years to deserving area students. The funding for the scholarships came from the FARA flea markets, the last of which was held in 2019. Around that time, we discussed ending the scholarship program but had not resolved the issue due to uncertainties around the future of the flea market. COVID-19 further complicated this decision. Subsequently we decided for a number of reasons to not have the flea market. Since then, we have not requested applications for scholarships. An important factor is that FARA's current expenditures exceed the income from dues. In this meeting we discussed whether we could continue to sponsor the scholarship program or formally end it. In a vote of 5 "for" ending the scholarship program with 1 abstaining we formally ended this program given our current finances.
<u>Topic 2: Special consideration of a gift to a deserving student.</u>	Dan Ringer, AE1DR, who has been a member of FARA for several years and a key player on our VE team since 2016, requested that we consider a scholarship for his daughter Delaney, N1DMR. She was licensed since just before age 10, is graduating from Framingham High School a year early and plans on going to Rochester Institute of Technology this year. Since this request was received before we formally ended the program, the Board elected to consider this as a one time special gift for a deserving and hard working amateur radio licensed youth. We reviewed her extensive resume which reflects her promise and potential for the future. We hope amateur radio will be a part of her future. The board voted 4 "for" a one time special gift of \$500 to come from club funds and member donations, with 2 abstaining. Members including Bruce W1HNZ and John KB1VXY will work on wording of the award, and then determine the notification, timing and delivery of the award.
<u>Topic 3: Field Day (FD)</u>	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 WO1E was unable to attend), so that is still an option. We can

	<p>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.</p>
<p><u>Topic 4: Education and Activity Committee</u></p>	<p>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. John 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. Please sign up.</p>
<p><u>Topic 5: Jamboree-on-the-air</u></p>	<p>Steve, N1MH, noted that <u>JOTA</u>, is an activity linking Boy Scout groups and hams around the world, usually held on the third full weekend in October, (Friday October 20 to Sunday October 22, 2023). We have worked with some local Scouts groups back when we had the shack. We could consider a Field Day like operation to help out the local scouts.</p>
<p><u>Topic 6: 90th Anniversary of FARA</u></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><u>Topic 7: Table at the HamXposition</u></p>	<p>We discussed whether we want to have a table in the Flea area of the upcoming Northeast HamXposition to be held in Marlborough, same place as last year, on Friday August 25 through Sunday August 27. Last year’s tickets for the Flea area were \$30 for one table. We could sell any excess equipment on our club list, and recruit new members, but this is a long commitment to have folks around at the table.</p>