

FRAMINGHAM RADIO CLUB

The Framingham Radio Club will be holding its first meeting of the Fall season on Thursday, October 21, 1976 at the Civic League Building, 214 Concord Street, Framingham at 8 P.M.

It will be one of the most important meetings ever held and you are asked to attend.

Since no one wanted to be a candidate for office in June, several decisions have to be made on October 21:

1. Does any one want to accept the nomination for Club President?
2. Will the Club continue to have meetings and plan activities this year?
3. Should the Club attempt to merge with another nearby Club, transferring all its assets to this new group?
4. Should the Club dis-band and cease to exist?

Let your feelings be known and attend this meeting.

Enzo Rotatori W1PYP Director

Jon Weiner K1VVC Past President

893-7800

OPEN LETTER TO THE FRAMINGHAM RADIO CLUB

Dear Members:

Thursday, December 10th, at 8 P.M. is Framingham Radio Club meeting, Athenium Hall, Saxonville, Mass. This is a very important meeting and if you are interested in the future of the Framingham Radio Club you should attend.

For the past 3 or 4 years the Club has had a membership of approximately 50, and our average attendance has been about 12 members. With the exception of the auctions this handful of people have tried to keep the club an active and interesting organization. Even participation in Field Day activities has dropped down to where these same people are all who take part.

Many times we have had the opportunity to obtain high caliber speakers whose subject matter is both up-to-date and of interest to all. It is impossible to ask anyone to speak to an assembled 12 or 15 people, even to ask a speaker from ARRL to come this far for so few is plain insulting.

Ever since World War II, when all other prices have been going up and up, Framingham radio Club dues have remained at a mere \$2 a year. With the cost of a meeting place and the increase of postage rates, this hardly covers the basic operation cost of the club, especially when you consider the percentage of members holding Honorary Membership.

Framingham Radio Club issues an Honorary Membership to anyone who has been a member 10 years continuously. At the present time there are 27 Honorary members, 9 of these pay their \$2 for the privilege of voting. This leaves 18 who have full privileges of the club, with the exception of voting, even to receiving all Club publications at no cost to them.

The time has come to either sink or swim. If the Club is to exist we need your suggestions, ideas and opinions, but MCST OF ALL we need your attendance at our meeting.

The fate of the Framingham Radio Club will be decided at the next meeting by those who are interested enough to attend. WILL YOU BE THERE??

DECEMBER 10, 1964 - 8 P.M.

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John Schmelzer, W1LFM, President
William Monahan, W1SON, Vice President
Russell Gibbs, K1DVJ, Secretary
Leonice Woodward, W1ZEN, Treasurer
Wesley Randles, K1HTK, Activities manager

P.S. If you wish to vote your dues must be paid for 1964-65.

1960's?

IMPORTANT

I feel that it is very important that the committee determine before any sizeable amount of work is accomplished whether or not there will be a strong recruiting program initiated towards getting new members into the club.

If the answer is NO, then a long-range program should be worked out.

If the answer is YES, then I feel that a mailing should be made to all area hams requiring a return from them. This will inform the club committee to some extent as to whether or not new members will be coming into the club. If the returns are poor, then a recruiting program will not succeed.

I would like to know

1. how many individuals received code training from club efforts
2. how many of these obtained a license and
3. how many are at present paid up club members.

Where is the mimeograph machine which was donated to the club by Herb Gordon several years ago?

Are the club certificates still available?

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Here is an expansion of reasons why activity and participation may be low.

1. Interest in the hobby has reduced or disappeared for old timers as clearly evidenced by their failure to turn out at the Dec. 10th meeting or some of them may not have shown up because of possibility of not wanting to be placed on committees or something which would take up their time.
2. Watching television, working nites or overtime could be taking up the time which could be used for club participation.
3. Lack of programs at some meetings.
4. Programs not to their liking.
5. Field Day no longer appealing.
6. Opposition to seeing club continually controlled by only 2 or 3 members.
7. Plain lack of interest in club participation and activities.
8. No interest in affairs if petty and trivial matters consume too much time.
9. Lack of internal activities within the club.
10. Sick and tired of arguing and bickering over petty club matters.
11. Older members have tired of carrying the load.
12. Some members have found other interests, MARS, etc.
13. Loss of club nets.
14. Lack of technical abilities or lack of construction interest.
15. Loss of Hi Mu and loss of general communications to the members.
16. Some have moved out of the area.

If the club is to continue, then some very positive and solid actions must be initiated in an attempt to determine whether or not the general interest can be regained.

THE MOST IMMEDIATE STEPS TO BE TAKEN.

1. Set up a long-range program of activities to be conducted by the club.
2. Set up a steering committee to guide the club in accomplishing the program. This could be the officers, but the committee should be a group who will remain continually active.
3. Set up a revitalization program for the officers to put into effect. The program must be such that new members will be induced to join the club, that it be long-range, not just one or two feeble attempts to promote a couple of ideas, that it be designed hopefully to keep up the members interest and participation, and that there be no large immediate expense to the treasury.
4. If active members, ones who are willing to pitch in and work, are needed, then a program for acquiring new members must be initiated.
5. Explore the feasibility of changing the club dues to
 \$1.00 for all honorary members
 \$2.00 for associate members
 \$4.00 (or \$3.00) for full members
5. Explore the feasibility of incorporating a steering committee.
6. Appoint an editorial staff to rejuvenate the HI MU at least on a yearly basis. Explore the condition of the mimeograph machine. Explore the wholesale price availability of reams of paper, stencils, mimeograph ink, and erradicating fluid from Ray Stevens.
7. The steering committee or activities manager should set up, publicize, and follow through with internal activities such as getting members to participate in ARRL contests (possibly on a competitive basis), participate in ARRL frequency measuring tests (even if the number of participants are small), prevail upon members to utilize the code practice runs made by W1AW, prevail upon members to participate in the ARRL code proficiency runs, re-establish a club net, encourage members to work towards receiving one of the club's certificates, provide code copying certificates (available to club's), and conduct a competitive contest using W1AW as a source of signals.

8. Set up a strong publicity officer, one who will follow through. Club notices should be posted at local radio stores regularly, WKOX Date Book should contain club meeting notices regularly, and writeups should appear in the Framingham News before and after every club meeting or event.
9. A representative group from the club should notify at least one other club that we will have a representation at one of their meetings, then do it, and report back the results and observations.
10. If the membership is to be increased, a committee should divide up the W1-K1 section of the Callbook among themselves, search out the hams that live within 15 miles (approximate) of Framingham, and compile a list of them.
Two things then should be explored. (1) Determine the feasibility of sending them a mailing which will require a return mailing from them asking them if they are interested in joining the club and what they would expect from a club to retain their interest and participation. (2) Set up a long-range plan (at least 3 years) in its entirety. Make a mailing to the list compiled above asking them to attend the kickoff meeting of the rejuvenated club and requesting their support by joining the club. (I will volunteer to compile either of the mailings).
11. Poll the members that are now attending the club meetings to find out what they want from the club.

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LIST OF SUGGESTED CLUB MEETING PROGRAMS

1. Explore the possibility of combining the actual annual installation of officers with a social event of some kind, covered dish supper or banquet. Make a presentation to the outgoing President. Make certificate presentations to the members who may have earned them at this time. Develop a simple certificate of appreciation to be presented to each out-going President at this meeting.
 2. Explore the feasibility of having an old-timers nite as one of the programs, but explore it first in detail and obtain consensus of opinions as it might not be successful.
 3. Combine Field Day meeting and officer nominations into one program.
 4. Once annually -- a speaker from ARRL.
 5. Obtain technical speakers -- preferably geared to the technical capabilities of the majority of members.
 6. One meeting each year devoted to surplus equipment conversions this can be done by an Army MARS member easily.
 7. Devote one program to two speakers with a maximum time limit on each to talk basically and simply about teletype and facsimile.
 8. Obtain films from ARRL, telephone company, and Natick Quartermaster.
 9. Obtain a speaker from the telephone company.
 10. Devote one program to two speakers -- one affiliated with Army MARS (A1QVK) and one affiliated with Air Force MARS (AF1NAY) to explain the operation of these two activities. Put a time limit on each.
 11. Obtain a speaker from Raytheon to talk on basic and simple radar. W1MEG.
 12. Obtain a speaker from Natick Quartermaster to talk about the Army's method of preserving food. W1QVK can get the speaker.
 13. Explore the possibility of W1HJP getting a speaker from the G.E. Co. to talk about the generation and distribution of electric power throughout New England. Don't let Dick do it himself, save him for the teletype program and the next suggestion. Have him bring in an outsider to do it. Too much of one member is bad.
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14. Have WHJP arrange a guided tour through a nearby power plant.
15. Contact Waters in Wayland to see if he will personally speak to the club.
16. Contact Norman Gillen at Valpey Crystal to see if he will speak to the club on crystals. ^{WIPLEX}
17. Contact Frank Parker to see if he will speak on antennas. If not, will he get a speaker from Chu Associates.
18. Get a speaker on computers from C.C.C.
19. Contact someone at T.I.C. in Acton for availability of a speaker.
20. Contact someone at Digital Equipment Corp., in Maynard for a possible speaker.
21. I can contact a ham at Sanborn Co. who can provide us with a speaker.
22. I can contact a ham who was a Navy Commander in W.W. 2 and is a 20-year retired Navy man. I believe that he could find a subject having been associated with radio for many years.
23. Conduct tours (over an extended period of time) through WKOX, WKOX-FM (Jimmy Robbins), through Waters, Sanborn, Valpey Crystal, and the Model Engineering Lab. *TV studio*
24. Get a speaker from the Boston FCC office.
25. The Federal Aviation Agency installation at Nashua, N.H. will give a guided tour of their facility.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FIELD DAY OPERATIONS

1. Set up a committee of 3 so it will stand a better chance of being successful.
2. A generator is available from an Army MARS member if problems arise with the club's unit.
3. Keep 2 and 6 meter operation in one tent.
4. Have one tent for 3-band operation (one transmitter) on 10-15-20 as conditions warrant.
5. Have 40 phone and cw (1 transmitter) in one tent.
6. Have 75 phone and 80 meter cw (1 transmitter) in one tent.

Result -- 5 transmitters, 5 receivers,
and 4 tents. In other words, try to get
results without a tremendous work load in
setting up and taking down.

7. Food.
 - A. Stop the necessity of having each member provide his own meals.
 - B. It should be possible to have the wives of 3 members feed the group. Explore this, provide them IN ADVANCE with the money to buy food and paper utensils for 2 meals (at least). Stop all operations on a predetermined hour and feed the animals. Preparation of food is a lot of work, so the food committee should be given all possible cooperation. If there are any female operators on the Field Day, they should be expected to contribute automatically to the meal situation. A female stranger could tend to never again help out if she found out that her efforts were utilized by a female club member not contributing the meal situation.
 - C. Assess (IN ADVANCE) a reasonable fee from those who will be fed. This will determine the amount of food to be purchased. Supply them with tickets to be surrendered at the appropriate time. (Home-made tickets, at no expense.)
 - D. The feeding must be self-sustaining and not impose upon the club treasury. Tonic and ice and gasoline are another story and should come from the treasury.
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E. The Field Day committee chairman should be responsible for collecting the assessment in advance and be responsible for furnishing the number of people to eat and the money to the food committee -- well in advance of the event. If not, then he has hindered the attempt to improve the program.

8. Each group occupying each tent to be responsible for the erection and dismantling of their tent and their own antennas.
9. The duties of the Field Day committee are basically to insure in advance which bands will be covered, how many operators there will be on hand, and that the necessary equipment will be provided, plus their cooperation with the food committee.