

FARA Monthly Hybrid Meeting 12/07/23
at McAuliffe branch and on Zoom 7:00 – 8:45 pm

Meeting was brought to order at 7:04 pm by John, KB1VXY.

- **Introduction of Officers present at meeting:**
 - President: John Iwuc, KB1VXY present on Zoom
 - Vice president: Ron Rothman, WO1E present at Library
 - Treasurer/webmaster: Steve Moro, N1MH present on Zoom
 - **Check-ins on Zoom**
 - **K1VEA, Victor and KB1NIP Ellen**
 - **KB1VLS David**
 - **AB2IX Adrian**
 - **WB4ES Barbara**
 - **KC1OXG Bob**
 - **Check-ins at library**
 - **KC1DMM Andy**
 - **KC1LPZ Steve**
 - **KC1HPX Glenn**
 - **W1HNZ Bruce**
 - **Guests: AB1OC Fred Kemmerer, ARRL New England Director and Anita AB1QB**
 - **New license and call sign changes?**
 - New members AB1OC Fred and Anita AB1QB
 - KC1TTM Danielle Babbitt, daughter of Steve Babbitt KC1LPZ, new technician license
 - **Reports:**
 - **Treasurer and Webmaster's Report: N1MH:**
 - **New dues for 2024 already rolling in.** Website doing well.
 - We accepted the minutes for prior meeting.
 - **Repeater Report:** Glenn KC1HPZ reported that Marty Sullaway NN1C has offered to assist us in forming an alliance / understanding with MEMA for use and access to our repeater. Rob Macedo KD1CY has also offered his help. Incidentally the last net was in the rain and things worked well on the repeater.
 - **Echolink report** Andy Boughton KC1DMM said that Echolink is working well
- Other business?**
- **New England Division Cabinet meeting** Saturday 12/09/23 10 am to 12:30 on Zoom, John KB1VXY will likely attend. Others are invited to contact John.
 - **Upcoming contests:**

ARRL 10-Meter Contest 000Z, Dec 9 to 2400Z, Dec 10

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Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 30 to 1500Z, Dec 31

North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Jan 13 to 0559Z, Jan 14

North American QSO Party, SSB

1800Z, Jan 20 to 0559Z, Jan 21

ARRL January VHF Contest

1900Z, Jan 20 to 0359Z, Jan 22

Formal meeting ended: about 7:25 pm

Future meeting planning discussion. John introduced the topic of future club meeting planning by noting that based on his review of the club minutes and records, there were several periods of low participation in the club, from notes in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Similar themes emerged such as that there would be 50 club members but only 10-12 show up at meetings, and a few participate at a high level. John had presented some of this at the 90th anniversary dinner at Ken's Steakhouse. John read parts of a circa 1964 letter from the club records listing why participation in the club was declining, and noted some of the suggestions made back then.

1. Have you fixed an old radio that you would like to talk about?
2. What's on your bench?
3. Have you put up a new antenna, or have questions for the group about your antenna or antennas in general?
4. Do you have questions about operating that you would like to learn more about from other members?
5. Is there a contest that you like to participate in regularly and would be willing to tell us about it and why you participate regularly in it?
6. Is there a favorite net or band that you get on regularly and operate on? Tell us about it.
7. Have you been to a good talk elsewhere? If so do you know the speaker and could you check if they would be willing to give us a talk? See the EMA.ARRL.ORG speakers list. We have heard from many of these already.
 - a. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WHihIdA8SoG7n6wNbuWpYsww6A_qGBEx_xziCnc8I70/edit#gid=1126423911
8. Have you viewed a good Youtube video on a radio related topic that you can suggest for us?
9. In the 1950s, a suggestion was made to use a Toastmaster's approach. The idea is to go around the room and have some of those present talk for a few minutes about their participation in the hobby. All of us could use more practice in giving short presentations!
10. How about a tour of your station? With iPads and cell phones this is easy to do.
11. We need the members to take ownership of the meetings! Again, short, relevant, grass roots learning!

This led to a rich discussion:

- Adrian, AB2IX, suggested reviewing the WMA.ARRL.ORG speakers list in addition to the EMA.ARRL.ORG (note Adrian has presented several talks for FARA and one short play)
- Fred AB1OC suggested national level speakers on Zoom if we are interested including Gordy West, Flex Radio Mike Walker, 5 band DXCC by a local ham (unspecified), Mike Ritz on the history of call signs, K8ZT on State QSO parties, other speakers on SOTA (Summits On The Air) and POTA (Parks On The Air) and others. Fred volunteered to present a talk and mentioned getting started with mobile HF, EME, Satellites (Fred and Anita have done the HF mobile talk with us and showed us his truck back when we had meetings at the Framingham Police Station). He will talk on getting started with satellites.
- Bruce W1HNZ volunteered to talk about antennas on 80 and 160 meters.
- Andy KC1DMM volunteered to talk about his Tarheel Screwdriver Dipole antenna.

- Peter AC1KY volunteered to talk about aircraft tracking with SDR.
- David, K1HT, will look for some DXpedition videos for our usual January meeting on that topic.
- Steve N1MH suggested taking a road trip to the ARRL office in CT.
- John KB1VXY suggested taking a tour of the State Police Museum and Learning Center in Whitinsville. Tom, KB1OQA works there and maybe we could arrange a private tour.
- There was unanimous support to continue the Hot Dog Happenings at Zippity Do dog at 160 Speen Street Framingham, weather permitting.
- Sumner W1VIV suggested a lunch at the Marlborough Super Buffet on rt. 20 (Chinese), where we have been before.
- We can consider working the following contests as a club:
 - ARRL VHF contest weekend of 1/20/24,
 - the North American QSO Party SSB also 1/20/24,
 - Winter Field Day 1/27/24 as a club.
 - Maybe at a home station and set up a schedule for certain hours.

Future meetings: proposal – tentative –subject to confirmation- titles to be submitted

- January 4, 2024: We have viewed a DxPedition video, moderated by David K1HT for several years. We also have held a Show and Tell at this meeting. Sumner W1VIV suggested another CW foot pedal contest.
- February 1, 2024: Peter AC1KY on aircraft monitoring with SDR radios,
- March 7, 2024: Bruce W1HNZ on 80 and 160 meter antennas
- April 4, 2024: Andy KC1DMM on his HF antenna
- May 2, 2024: Officer nominations and Fred AB1OC on satellites
- June 6, 2024: Officer elections and Field Day planning:
- Others potential: KB1VXY on The More Things Change, the More Things Stay The Same in Amateur Radio Clubs (based on a 90 year review of club minutes)

After this discussion we watched Exploring a 1,000,000 Watt FM Tower (part 1) on YouTube from Geerling Engineering. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_u8x8V4YYs