

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association, January 11, 2024 Vol. 91, No. 1 draft

President's Message: Greetings and Happy New Year fellow Hams! We got through our 90th year and are now in our 91st year of operation. Let's hope we get to 100 years and beyond. We had some great presentations this year. We prepared for but got rained out on Field Day but hope to get back out there this year. We celebrated our 90th anniversary at Ken's Steakhouse in October. In December, we may have had our most important meeting of the year in terms of keeping the club moving along, see below. We had several club members volunteer to do presentations in the upcoming months. The Zippity Do Dog outings have gone well and have included members of other radio clubs. Can we try a Buffet type outing this spring? Remember the Marlborough Super Buffet event from several years ago? If you know of a better Buffet type setting let me know. After a quick review of our past and upcoming meetings, there are some photos of our Citation from the Framingham City Council. Lastly I submit some material and pictures about my 99 year old father related to his WWII activity. He was trained as a CW operator but ended up as a tail gunner in one of the most important battles in the Pacific in WWII. While my interest in radio started with his copying those mysterious CW sounds on an AM/FM Shortwave table top radio in the early 1960s, he never talked about his service.

In our December meeting we had a great discussion of what to do with our meetings and many ideas were offered. Here are some of the ideas. You could submit any of the following for the Circuit also.

- 1. Do you have a new radio that you would like to talk about?
- 2. Have you fixed an old radio that you would like to talk about?
- 3. What's on your work bench?
- 4. Have you put up a <u>new antenna</u>, or have questions for the group about your antenna or antennas in general?
- 5. Do you have questions about operating that you would like to learn more about?
- 6. Is there a contest that you like to participate in regularly and would be willing to tell us about it?
- 7. Is there a favorite net or band that you get on regularly and operate on? Tell us about it.
- 8. Have you been to a <u>really informative talk elsewhere</u>? If so, do you know the speaker? 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.

 $https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WHihIdA8SoG7n6wNbuWpYsww6A_qGBeX_xziCnc8I70/edit\#gid=1126423911$

- 9. Have you viewed a good YouTube video on a radio related topic that you can suggest for us?
- 10. In the 1950s, members of this club suggested using a <u>Toastmaster's approach</u>. 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!
- 11. How about a <u>tour of your station?</u> With iPads and cell phones this is easy.
- 12. more, more, more.
- 13. We need the members to take ownership of the meetings! Again, short, relevant, grass roots learning!

Recent activities since last Circuit Vol. 90, #3 in September, 2023

- October 5, 2023: The Why and How of Simple Antennas That Work. By: Bob Glorioso, W1IS and Bob Rose, KC1DSQ. They introduced some basic concepts that are applied to antennas that don't cost a king's ransom to build and work well. Topics covered include: resonance, voltage and current distributions, RF Feedback, end effect, dipoles, verticals, C-poles, wire beams, and stacked dipoles.
- October 28, 2023: FARA 90th luncheon dinner at Ken's Steakhouse in Framingham. See photos on our website. Phil Temples, K9HI, presented an award from the ARRL for our 90th anniversary. Phil serves as the New England Division Vice Director, and an Assistant Section Manager for the Eastern Massachusetts Section.
- November 2, 2023: Harlan Doliner, NE1HD, presented an update on the Coast Guard Auxiliary.
- December 1, 2023: Meeting at McAuliffe Library and on Zoom. Reviewed options for future meetings and we identified speakers and topics for meetings from January to June of 2024. See below. Also we watched a video on Exploring a 1,000,000 Watt FM Tower (part 1) on YouTube from Geerling Engineering. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_u8x8V4YYs
- December 19, 2023. The Framingham City Counsel awards FARA a Citation for our 90th year anniversary. Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, received the award on behalf of the club.
- January 4, 2024: We had a show and tell. Steve, N1MH, showed his Hack RF device and some of the data he obtained at his residence. There is a lot of RF floating around our houses! Bob, KC1OXG, showed us his station and some of the equipment there. We watched a video from our website of the Framingham Radio Club from 1935. Sumner, W1VIV supervised a QLF CW left foot pedal contest. Dave, K1HT, commented on the 3B7M Saint Brandon Ham DXpedition video, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_6BBbe9-Hw

Upcoming activities:

- Jan 27-28, 2024 Winter Field Day. https://hamxposition.org/
- February 1, 2024 Club Meeting: Aircraft Tracking with SDR. Peter Morrison, AC1KY.
- February 17, 2024: Algonquin ARC Flea Market (Marlborough Flea) Saturday, 9 AM until 1 PM at the Lt Charles W. Whitcomb School (formerly Intermediate/Middle School), 25 Union Street in Marlborough, Massachusetts.
- March 7, 2024 Club Meeting: Antennas for 80 and 160 meters by Bruce Rusch, W1HNZ.
- April 4, 2024 Club Meeting: My Tarheel Screwdriver Dipole by Andy Boughton, KC1DMM.
- May 2, 2024 Club Meeting: Club Officer Nominations. Satellite Communications by Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC.
- May 4 and 5, 2024: New England QSO Party
- June 6, 2024 Club Meeting: Club Officer Elections and 2024 ARRL Field Day planning.
- June 22-23, 2024: ARRL Field Day
- August 22-25, 2024: NE HamXpostion. Thursday, August 22, 2024 8 PM (Comedian Justin McKinney) through Sunday August 25, 2024. It will be at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in Marlborough MA. https://hamxposition.org/
- Other: Chinese Buffet lunch or dinner? Marlborough, Route 20 Super Buffet? All you can eat.
 - Lunch: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 11:30 am to 3:30 pm \$12.95.
 - Dinner: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 3:30 pm to 9:00 pm \$17.95.
 - Saturday & Sunday All Day Dinner \$21.95



Left: Framingham City Council Agenda 12/19/23



Left: Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, accepting the Framingham City Council Citation from Mayor Charlie Sisitsky

Below Sumner Weisman, W1VIV and Framingham City Council



How my interest in radio started

From John, KB1VXY

Born in the mid 1950s, and having been brought out to the back yard to see Sputnik and Project Echo (135 foot in diameter metalized balloon acting as a reflector of microwave signals), I was fascinated by technology. But even more by the miracle of invisible radio and TV waves and the glowing tubes that transformed them into sound! My interest in radio began at the kitchen table in the early 1960s. My father was a CW operator and then a tail gunner in the Navy on an TBF Avenger Torpedo Bomber in the Pacific theater of World War II. He was on the USS Kalinin Bay (https://www.navsource.org/archives/03/068.htm), and

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Kalinin_Bay), which was involved in the famous Battle off the Island of Samar (October 25, 1944, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_off_Samar) which was itself part of the Battle of Leyte Gulf. He used to copy CW at the kitchen table off our AM/FM/Shortwave radio when I was a kid in the 1960s. That got me into shortwave listening. After using walkie talkies in the neighborhood, watching my neighbors play on CB, fixing broken radios as a kid, studying instrumental chemistry (molecular bonds act as small antennas), I didn't get my tech license until 2011 (age 56) after the MA tornados. Photos of the USS Kalinin Bay and the memorials at the Seaport area of San Diego follow.

From one of the memorials below:

ADMIRAL CLIFTON A. F. SPRAGUE LED THE THIRTEEN SHIPS OF TASK UNIT 77. 4. 3 (KNOWN AS TAFFY 3) IN A DECISIVE BATTLE AGAINST A VASTLY SUPERIOR JAPANESE TASK FORCE OF BATTLESHIPS, CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS ON 25 OCTOBER 1944.

"WHAT CHANCE COULD WE HAVE WITH 6 SLOW, THIN – SKINNED ESCORT CARRIERS AND 7 SMALL SCREEN VESSELS, EACH ARMED WITH 5 – INCH PEA – SHOOTERS, AGAINST THE 18-, 16-, 8-, AND 5-INCH BROADSIDES OF THE ENEMY WARSHIPS BEARING DOWN ON US AT TWICE OUR SPEED?"

- ADMIRAL SPRAGUE.

SPRAGUE'S DECISIVE ACTION CAME FIVE DAYS AFTER GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR'S SOLDIERS AND MARINES ESTABLOISHED A BEACHHEAD ON LEYTE ISLAND IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.



Title: Photo # USS Kalinin Bay **Description:** (CVE-68) USS Kalinin Bay arriving at San
Diego, California on 25 November 1944 for repair of
damages received in the Battle off Samar a month earlier.
Photographed by Naval Air Station San Diego personnel.
The ship is painted in Camouflage Measure 33, Design 10A.
Official U.S. Navy Photograph, from the collections of the
Naval History and Heritage Command

USS Kalinin Bay (CVE-68) was a Casablanca-class escort carrier of the United States Navy.



Below: Grumman TBF Avenger (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grumman_TBF_Avenger)



Below: My father on the USS Kalinin Bay squatting on left in front row.



Dad on 99th birthday in September 2023, driving to the party in back yard

Next two photos are of the United States Aircraft Memorial, front and back side. CVE 68 was the USS Kalinin Bay Escort Carrier.





The next five pictures are of the Sprague Awards, two of the front side (one with and one

without the bust), and then the three other numbered sides.

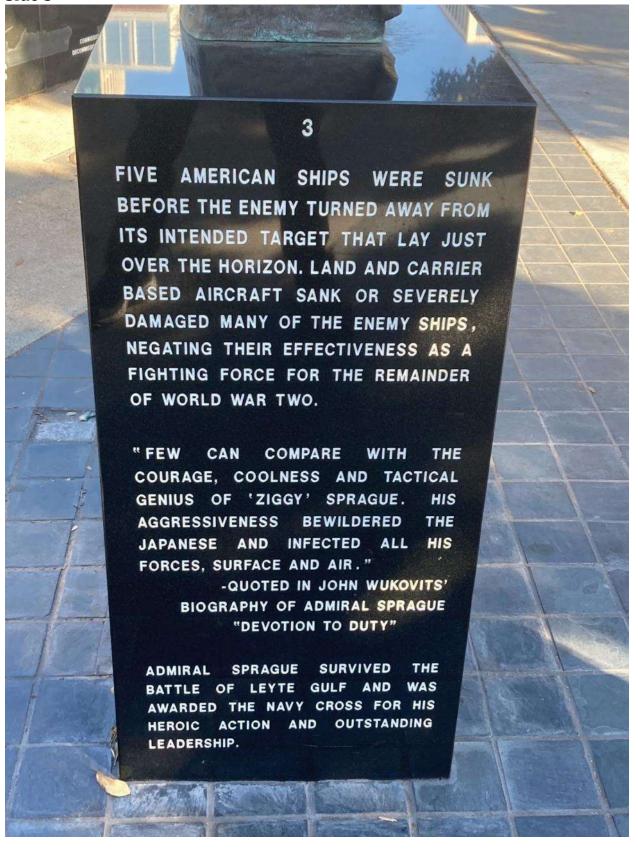




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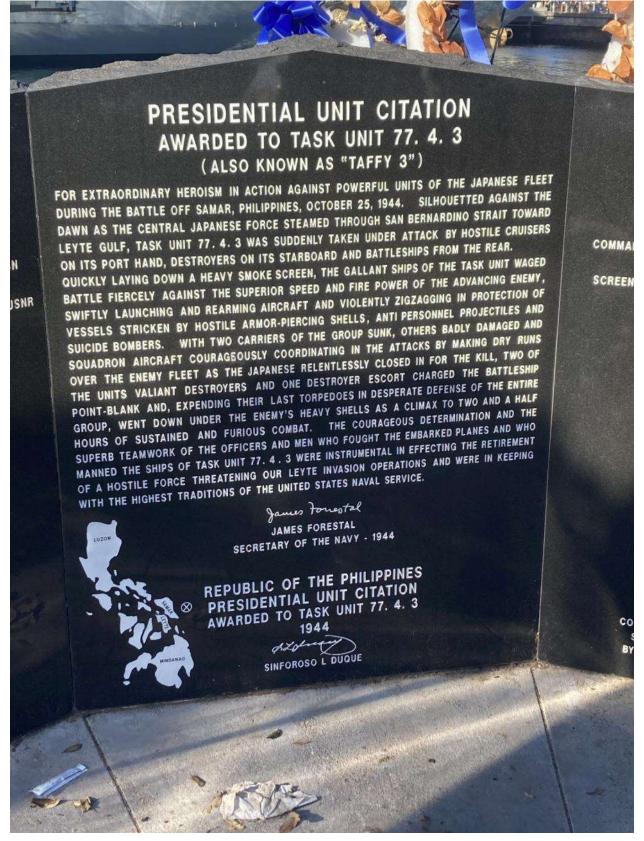
"Thin - skinned escort carriers ... armed with 5 –inch pea - shooters"

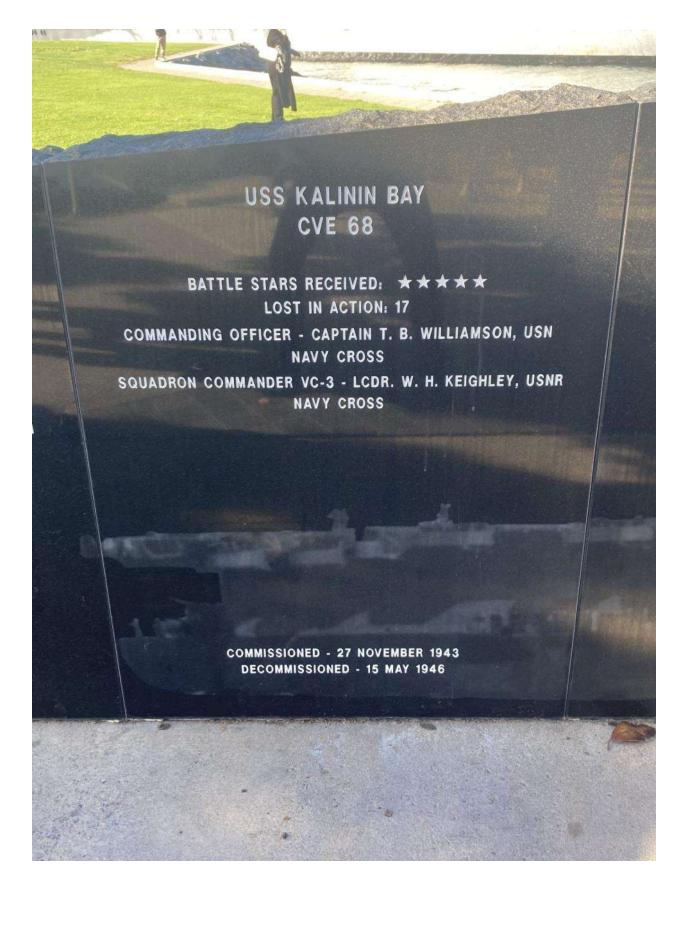
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The next two pages are of the Presidential Citation Award and the Kalinin Bay Memorial

stone.





USS Midway, which was right next to these memorials, two photos of one side.

End section by John Iwuc, KB1VXY

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, usually at either the McAuliffe branch of the Framingham Library. Always check the webpage first. 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.

Club Nets:

- FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, output frequency 147.15 / input frequency 147.75, <u>stay tuned for PL tone.</u> 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/

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 city offices are unavailable.

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

Edits and comments - January 14, 2024

- 1. Thanks to Steve Hewlett, N4NIV, for his editorial assistance.
- 2. Leandra Maclennan, AF1R writes: "There is a very good, detailed description of the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the book *Twilight of the Gods*, by Ian W. Toll, pages 260 to 287. This is the third volume of a 3 book history of the Pacific theater during WWII."
- 3. Glenn Axelrod, KC1HPZ writes: "Thanks for that incredible story mentioning your father's participation in the Battle off Samar. I found an article that gives a lot of information about what was involved in being a radioman/gunner on an Avenger. I share just in case you're not already familiar with it:" https://www.pearlharboraviationmuseum.org/blog/mystery-middle-seat/