

**FARA Monthly Hybrid Meeting 03/07/24**  
**at McAuliffe branch and on Zoom 7:00 – 8:45 pm**

- **Check-ins on Zoom:**

Glenn Axelrod KC1HPZ	Victor Anderson K1VEA
Richard Whalen KC1NXT	David Hoaglin K1HT
Bill Nicholson N1WEN	D Levenson KB1VLS
Bruce Rusch W1HNZ	Joseph Wiesenfeld N1JIW
Stephen Babbitt KC1LPZ	

- **Check-ins at library:**

Steve Moro N1MH	John Iwuc KB1VXY
Sumner Weisman W1VIV	Bob Bosaz KC1OSG
Andy Boughton KC1DMM	Jim Congdon WN1A
Bruce Rusch W1HNZ	Peter Morrison AC1KY
Steve Kondo K1STK	Jonathon Slawsby KC1UAP
Luke Ketner none	Glenn Ghidaleson WA2KRS

- **Member news:**

- Gordy Bello, K1GB, SK
- Martin Sullaway, NN1C, new member
- Steve Kondo, Call sign change - KC1QAY to K1STK.

- **Reports:**

- **Treasurer and Webmaster's Report:** N1MH – The expenses in February were a club contribution to Gordy Bello family and reactivation of cellular data plan used to remotely control the repeater.
- **Clerk Secretary's report:** KC1NXT, Requested acceptance of February minutes. Minutes were accepted as submitted.
- **Repeater Report:** Glenn KC1HPZ. The text below was submitted by Andy KC1DMM.
  - On Tuesday February 27 the Marathon Ham Radio team replaced the W1FY repeater with a newer Motorola Quantar repeater. Thanks to Marty Sullaway and Eric Montague! Access to the repeater now requires a 100Hz PL tone. The repeater is currently working well. I only know of two open issues.

The repeater does not put PL tone on its Station ID broadcasts. This means that radios using tone-controlled squelch do not hear the broadcasts. The club would prefer to change this but that may not be possible. We are still researching. In any case, the current lack of PL tone should not be a major issue. If a user accidentally transmits while the repeater is sending ID, the repeater immediately stops the ID and forwards the user's transmission. The repeater resends the complete ID shortly afterward.

A problem that we have infrequently seen over the last few years unfortunately remains. On occasion after wind and other heavy weather the repeater's receive sensitivity diminishes. We assume that this is caused by some outdoor issue, antenna issue or related. Fortunately the problem usually goes away after several minutes of repeater use. We saw an instance of this problem last week with the new repeater.

Please report any problems to [repeater@w1fy.org](mailto:repeater@w1fy.org)

- **Echolink report** Andy Boughton, KC1DMM
  - There have been two EchoLink station changes.

To trigger transmissions from the EchoLink radio to the Internet we are now using the radio's squelch rather than VOX. This will work more reliably for received radio transmissions with a low audio level.

The EchoLink radio is no longer using tone-controlled squelch. EchoLink users now hear repeater Station ID broadcasts.

Please report any problems to me or [repeater@w1fy.org](mailto:repeater@w1fy.org)

### Other business?

Some questions related to activity related to club responses to Gordy Bello's death, it was decided that the proposal that had been made may be discussed at a later date.

### Upcoming radio activities:

SARL Field Day Contest	0800Z, Mar 9 to 1000Z, Mar 10
<a href="#">+</a> SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest	0800Z, Mar 9 to 1000Z, Mar 10
RSGB Commonwealth	1000Z, Mar 9 to 1000Z, Mar 10
South America 10 Meter Contest	1200Z, Mar 9 to 1200Z, Mar 10
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Mar 9 to 1500Z, Mar 10
<a href="#">+</a> Oklahoma QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 9 to 0200Z, Mar 10 and 1500Z-2100Z, Mar 10
<a href="#">+</a> Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 9 to 1900Z, Mar 10
<a href="#">+</a> Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 10 to 0100Z, Mar 11
Africa All Mode International DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 16 to 1200Z, Mar 17
Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 16 to 0400Z, Mar 17 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 17
Missouri QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 6 to 0400Z, Apr 7 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 7
<a href="#">+</a> Florida State Parks on the Air	1400Z-2200Z, Apr 6 and 1400Z-2200Z, Apr 7
<a href="#">+</a> Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 6 to 0200Z, Apr 7
<a href="#">+</a> Louisiana QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 6 to 0200Z, Apr 7
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 4 to 0500Z, May 5 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 5

- **Near-fest April 25 and 26 Thursday and Friday – note the day change**
- **HamXposition in Marlborough August 22-26, Thursday to Sunday.**
  - Thursday 8/22/24 at 8 PM: Juston McKenney, comedian
  - Friday pm 8/23/24: DX/Contest Banquet Speaker, Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA, on Swains Island W8S DXpedition:

- Saturday PM 8/24/24, Grand Banquet Presentation Speaker Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW, Space Weather Woman
- **ARRL Field Day June 22-23. 2024**

**Upcoming meetings:**

- April 4, 2024: My Tarheel Screwdriver Dipole. Andy Boughton, KC1DMM
- May 2, 2024: Club Officer Nominations. Satellite Communications. Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC
- June 6, 2024: Club Officer Elections and ARRL Field Day planning (June 22-23).

**Other:**

- Schedule a board meeting to address general club issues and program planning.
- Restaurant outing? Chinese buffet? Marlborough super buffet on rt 20, Cherry Blossom in Ashland rt 135? Other?

**End Formal meeting?**

**Bruce Rusch, W1HNZ: Receiving Antennas for 160/80 meters – The Bidirectional Beverage at W1HNZ**