



The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association, January 3, 2026 Vol. 93, No. 1

President's Message: As we enter 2026, I want to extend my warmest holiday and New Year's greetings to the entire club. Reflecting on the past year, I am incredibly proud of how our club has continued to meet, function, and grow the hobby. From Longhorn Steakhouse luncheons, to Zippity Do Dog Hot Dog Happenings, to the numerous Zoom and live meeting presentations at the library, your participation is what makes this club. Whether you spent the year chasing DX, experimenting with new digital modes, buying and trying out new radios, mentoring our newest technicians, working contests, staying in touch on our twice weekly nets, sending me articles and news updates, your contributions have strengthened our ham radio community. In the coming year, I look forward to

“even more clear frequencies and meaningful connections. May your holiday season be filled with low SWR, minimal QRM, and the joy of reaching new horizons—both on the air and off.” (I borrowed this from AI and I like it.)

Thank you for being a part of FARA. I look forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting on January 8, 2026 where we will continue the tradition of watching a DxPedition video, this time of the Clipperton Island 2024 event, which had to meet a number of challenges.

Club Activities Since Last Circuit

September 4, 2025. Dom Mallozzi, N1DM, spoke about "DMR Update 2025" To view the slides, click [here](#).



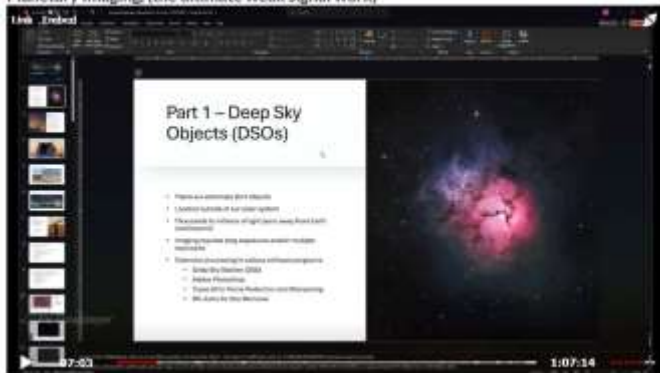
Below: John Iwuc, KB1VXY, FARA President and Domenic Mallozzi, N1DM



October 9, 2025, Bruce Rusch, W1HNZ, spoke about "Now and Then: The World and its Technological Evolution Over Time"



November 6, 2025, Michael Poirier, spoke about "Astrophotography – Deep Sky and Planetary Imaging. (the ultimate weak signal work)"



Upcoming Meetings / Activities

- **January 8, 2026:** Clipperton Island DxPedition, 38th most wanted. TX5S <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztJPjmXoAJ0>



- **February 5, 2026:** Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, will present on "QRP Operations"
- **March 5, 2026:** Tony Immorlica, KC2TV, will present on "Civil Air Patrol Radio"
- **April 2, 2026:** TBA

- **May 7, 2026: Nominations and TBA**
- **June 4, 2026: Elections and Field Day Discussion, video?**

Odds and Ends

Submissions: Please submit articles, selected DX or interesting contacts that you worked, new equipment reviews, ideas for group activities, YouTube videos that you liked, POTA activation dates ahead of time or results, etc., anything you think your fellow hams may be interested in.

FreeDV-Digital Voice for HF: by John Iwuc, KB1VXY. Free DV (See FreeDv.org) is a digital mode for HF. These folks are claiming that it will do for SSB what SSB did for AM. They propose that all HF radios will include this mode in the radio.

Here is a video about FreeDV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vv2ceThcJRg> 6:20 minutes

Here is another: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oONEJRqc9UM> 22:29 minutes

From their website:

“Amateur Radio is transitioning from analog to digital, much as it transitioned from AM to SSB in the 1950s and 1960s. How would you feel if one or two companies owned the patents for SSB, then forced you to use their technology, made it illegal to experiment with or even understand the technology, and insisted you stay locked to it for the next 100 years? That’s exactly what *was* happening with digital voice. But now, hams are in control of their technology again!”

“FreeDV is unique as it uses 100% Open Source Software, *including* the speech codec. No secrets, nothing proprietary! FreeDV represents a path for 21st-century Amateur Radio where Hams are free to experiment and innovate rather than a future locked into a single manufacturer’s closed technology.”

It uses **RADE – Radio Autoencoder**

“Our Radio Autoencoder (RADE) technology is a new approach to sending speech over HF radio. It combines Machine Learning (ML) with classical DSP to send high quality speech over HF radio at SNRs as low as -2dB. The speech signal has an audio bandwidth of 8kHz, but the RADE V1 signal requires just 1500Hz of RF bandwidth. The Peak to Average Power Ratio”

Has anyone tried this mode? I could hear the hash but could not get the software to work correctly.

Pictures

Below: Barbara KC1KGS, Jim WB4EJR, and Leandra AF1R at Zippity Do Dog on New Year’s Eve Trail Event



Steve W1NIV sent in the following Award Recognition. He wrote an article for the July Circuit.



Longhorn Steakhouse luncheon December 13, 2025 see names below.



Front row: Steve KC1LPZ in yellow jacket, Glenn WA2KRS, Paul WA1WYZ on right in blue jacket and his wife Alexandra behind him in the pink jacket.

Middle and back rows from left: Sumner W1VIV and wife Reva, Jim WN1A in back in blue jacket, Marian KB1YLJ behind Glenn, Andy KC1DMM in back, LouAnn KC1EII wife of KB1VXY in green winter jacket, Ellyn - Friend of Steve N1MH in blue jacket, Kevin W1MEX in front in blue jacket, Peter AC1KY in back, Steve N1MH with blue hat, Bruce W1HNZ with cap and wife Karen, John KB1VXY in tan jacket in back,

Regular Meetings: FARA regular 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 the McAuliffe branch of the Framingham Library. We take July and August off. 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!** Nonmembers may request an invitation from president@w1fy.org.

Club Nets:

- FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, output frequency 147.15 / input frequency 147.75, **NOTE: PL tone is now 100.** Social/chat, emergency preparedness, amateur radio questions, Echolink enabled, W1FY-R
- FARA Net: Wednesday 7:30 pm, Informal 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/membershipform>

Testing: Exams on hold. There are many testing options in the area, and we can help you find one.

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