



The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association, August 20, 2026 Vol. 93, No. 3

President's Message: We have completed another year from September's update on DMR from Dom Mallozzi - N1DM, through Field Day 2026. Many thanks to all the officers and key participants who have elected to remain in their roles, including Sumner Weisman - W1VIV as director, Ron Rothman - WO1E as vice president, Steve Moro - N1MH as treasurer and webmaster, and Bruce Rusch - W1HNZ as clerk secretary. Also thanks to Glenn Axelrod - KC1HPZ, Andy Boughton - KC1DMM and Marty Sullaway - NN1C for their work on the repeater. Also thanks to Steve Hewlett - W1NIV, and all the net controls, and to Steve Moro N1MH for hosting Field Day at his house. We also need to recognize all who presented at the meetings, went to and participated in the meetings, checked into the nets, and submitted materials for this newsletter, etc. It takes all these contributions to keep the club moving forward. You may remember from my brief presentation at the FARA 90th Anniversary dinner that this club almost collapsed twice, once in the 1960s and again in the 1970s, but resurfaced to continue. This last year's level of participation shows that we are invigorated now. Let's keep it up. Please contact me regarding any questions, concerns, ideas, submissions, presentations etc. so we can keep moving forward.

CLUB ACTIVITIES SINCE LAST CIRCUIT

May 7, 2026: Club officer nominations. Also>>

Thursday May 7, 2026, Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, spoke about "74 Years of Being a Ham".

74 Years of Being a Ham

By Sumner Weisman, W1VIV



June 4, 2026:

- Club officer elections. Current set of officers all agreed to stay on and were voted in unanimously.
- We also had a Field Day discussion and watched a couple of Field Day videos related to the very large W3AO Field Day operation.
- **Field Day Special-** Rol K3RA, Leader of W3AO Field Day Operations >>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSKTeNGJtm0&t=192s>

- **Best and worst radios for Field Day 7 minutes >>**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gb819DvPVM>

June 27, 2026: ARRL Field Day, operations at the home of N1MH, see photos.

- 69 CW contacts (138 points) on 40 meters, all by Sumner, W1VIV.
- 1 SSB on 40 and 14 SSB (15 points) on 20 meters between 2pm and 6 pm, (Total 153 points).
- Multiplier * 2 makes 306 points.
- Add 100% emergency power (200 points),
- Add site responsibilities (safety = 50 points), and
- Add web entry (50 points) for
- Total of 606 points.

Operator on CW: Sumner Weisman, W1VIV

Operators on SSB who made contacts: John Iwuc - KB1VXY, Paul Evans - KC1ZPS, Megan Tsai - KA1AKS, Mirian Deacutis - KB1YLJ. First time HF contacts for KC1ZPS, KB1YLJ and KA1AKS!

Visitors/assistants: Andy Boughton, KC1DMM, Steve Moro N1MH, Peter AC1KY, and others

UPCOMING FARA MEETINGS / ACTIVITIES

September 10, 2026: Steve Hewlett, W1NIV, will present on “A Primer On VHF Contesting”.

October 1, 2026: Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP, will present on “The Journey from Polar Explorer to Aurora” video with live Q&A by the author. FYI, The Aurora™ is the new FlexRadio.

November 5, 2026: John Rokicki, KC1VMZ, will present on “APRS, Emergency Communications and Net Central”.

December 2026: Likely a dinner on a Saturday.

ARTICLES

Why Volunteer - Stephen M. Babbitt – KC1LPZ

HamXposition 2026 is over and its success was made by many Hams that chose to volunteer. Everyone benefits when our fellow Ham Brothers and Sisters make the events enjoyable and worthwhile

Now I am going to surprise you by making the case for why you should *not* volunteer. It can be hard enough to care for your family and loved ones, pay the bills, handle unexpected expenses, and still give your best to the people who depend on you. Volunteering means giving time and energy without being paid, so it can seem like something better is left to someone else—someone who must have more free time. Passing on volunteering can feel sensible. As they say in the military, “Never volunteer,” and there may be some truth in that. You and I could probably think of many more reasons to stay uninvolved if that is your goal. So, if you are convinced volunteering is not for you, stop reading now. I mean it. But if you are even a little curious about why so many people do volunteer, please keep reading.

Many people do volunteer work, and you may have wondered why—and how—they find the time. That is a great question, so let me share a few reasons.

Even before I retired, I worked as a Big Brother, teaching Winter Survival Camping to several inner-city kids that lived in deplorable housing projects where a few of my buddies and myself tried to make things a bit better for a few boys to view the world better, improve their self-image and self-worth by joining us in accomplishing some real success, having fun where a few of these youths were otherwise most likely predisposed to drugs and other despicable behaviors that would place them into the criminal justice system or early death. I am not going to state we cured every boy we worked with, but a few did lift themselves out of the Project mentality and that was gratifying to me and my buddies. I am not going to mention having a

flat tire on the Mass Turnpike during a late Friday afternoon rush hour timeframe was enjoyable, but even when things did not go as planned, it turned into a positive learning experience where all of us cooperated to get back on the road to reach our destination in the Berkshires. I suspect some of these boys may have experienced the yelling and arguments that followed in their own home environment when things did not go right, which is often the case in real life. Back in my twenties, the group I hung around with did a lot of public service volunteering and the bonding between and among us grew very strong into life-long friendships. We were not paid nor did we receive any real recognition for our efforts. It was just gratifying helping others by sharing some of the fun we were having, enjoying the great outdoors in the wintertime. Maybe like most guys in their twenties we could travel up north, ski, get drunk and not give a damn about anything or anybody and at times we did just that. On the other hand we also enjoyed sharing what we had so giving to either our younger siblings or other kids that may benefit by being exposed to the beauty around us in Western Massachusetts. Like I said earlier my buddies and I certainly enjoyed escaping the jobs we had in the inner city and somehow, we had a good balance between what we did for ourselves and what we shared with others.

Isn't it true that when we get married, and have children we are constantly seeking to find that delicate balance between what we do for others versus satisfying our own needs. Since time is finite all of us struggle with how we spend our time, being careful not to waste our time doing something that provides no form of payback.

Being retired I discovered that I am busier now than when I was working full-time. My younger colleagues probably thought senility has struck or I am just exaggerating on the lack of time versus the time consumed working full-time. Finding free time has a far greater value than everything else, even money. Setting aside time to volunteer will probably seem like an oxymoron, too valuable to waste when you may have many other unfinished projects needing attention. Why bother to volunteer when a good case has been made not to do so. Right?

Let me start by referencing Ralph Waldo Emerson, who was known for his essay on Self-Reliance, 1841, where if you want more, you must give more. Before I retired as a salesperson, I implemented Emerson's Law by taking the risk of giving more of myself and reaping so much more than I expected most of the time. Volunteering my time now has similar payoffs. First there is the satisfaction of accomplishment knowing others have benefited from your hard work. Giving is a good thing, especially when you are working with others to accomplish a specific goal.

Within eighteen months of passing my Technician License, I earned my Extra Class License and a thought flashed through my little mind about how these Hams volunteered their valuable time to allow me to take these tests locally without having to go to an FCC Office for these tests. What a great program the ARRL developed and I figured why not reciprocate by volunteering to do this testing stuff. My initial thought was to do a VE session twice a year or at least once every five years to keep my VE status and be done with this payback to reciprocate.

What I did not realize was Emerson's Law was working. The social ties you receive working together with others as a team is a powerful force that Emerson recognized and shared with us. When I volunteered there were many more tasks involved in the Ham Radio exam testing process, particularly for the VEC – Volunteer Examiner Coordinator – let alone just us volunteers grading the applicants' exam. Back when I started as a VE, testing was done manually with pencil and paper. Now most teams are doing their test sessions electronically. Along the way I made all the typical mistakes – maybe more – that all of us go through in the process of grading others. My fellow colleagues patiently helped me through it and before I knew it, I was hooked as a VE looking forward to each month's exam session as my confidence grew along with the relationships formed with these other VE colleagues. Emerson's Law has taken effect because we enjoy working together knowing we are having an impact growing our Ham Radio population one test taker at a time. All the other hassles of getting up early, taking my morning meds, making a strong cup of (ambition) coffee seemed insignificant to the pleasure of making a real contribution to the Ham Radio Community.

This same group dynamics takes place no matter what activity you decide to volunteer for. The City of Marlborough and the Town of Hudson share a semiannual Hazardous Waste (HazMat) day in the fall and spring where we ham radio volunteers direct traffic helping these residents to the proper disposal station that accepts their household hazardous waste. Every HazMat session we get better getting more cars through the waste disposal facility per hour and we are proud at minimizing the residents' wait time, often receiving many thanks from them as they exit the facility in their vehicles. We make the process look easy as traffic is directed from one section to another. The satisfaction for us is getting more people through efficiently and, again, the teamwork between all of us continues to build.

Personally, I would volunteer for the Boston Marathon, but I know my limitations. I cannot stand on my feet for several hours at a time any longer. Volunteers at the Marathon tell us about the strong relationships that have been formed from the intense teamwork and preparation they have gone through.

No matter what activity you chose to volunteer your time, you will not be alone, set adrift to fend for yourself. You will build great relationships with your fellow ham radio colleagues, lasting relationships with fond memories and a real sense of accomplishment. You will not regret it. I guarantee it.

Stephen – KC1LPZ

ODDS AND ENDS

Baystate Marathon: Sunday, October 18, 2026. Terry M. Stader, KA8SCP, MEMA Region 1 RACES Officer, ARRL ARES Eastern MA District Emergency Coordinator for Region 1 RACES notes that they are looking for ham radio operators, approximately 25 volunteers. operational time period is from approximately 0700 until event completion (estimated 1400). The map and course description can be found at

<https://www.baystatemarathon.com/course-map-description>. Race info may be found at

<http://baystatemarathon.com> Signup sheet: <https://volunteersignup.org/4AALJ>

Ham Radio Friday Lunch: Gene Balinski, K1NR, notes that there is a weekly Ham Radio Friday Lunch, which changes venues each time. The one for Friday 08/21/25 will be at the Dudley Chateau, 20 Crest Rd., Wayland (Cochituate), MA 01778 MENU HERE: <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/6c601920-118f-4e8d-9bc9-81402048e8a7/RevisedMenu111825.pdf>

From August QST Magazine >>



[Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, photo]

A Shirt Fit for a Ham

Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, was at a fair in Framingham, Massachusetts, when he came across T-shirts for sale bearing the town's nickname, "The Ham." He couldn't resist buying one to wear to the next meeting of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association.

From Sumner - W1VIV and Steve - W1NIV >>



License upgrade: Paul Evans, KC1ZPS, to General Class

Presentation: Jonathan Slawsby, W5GI, on Buying Your First Radio at HamXposition

Zippitty-Do-Dog Hot Dog Gatherings: June 6 and August 1, 2026

PHOTOS

Figure below left: Sumner W1VIV operating CW, Steve N1MH supervising the operation.
Figure below right: Andy KC1DMM lugging battery, John KB1VXY setting up SSB table.



Figure below left: Sumner W1VIV and Steve N1MH breaking for lunch
Figure below right: Andy KC1DMM setting up batteries, Peter AC1KY taking pictures



Figure below left from left: John KB1VXY, visitor Megan KA1AKS and Sumner W1VIV admiring the height of antenna
Figure below right from left: Peter AC1KY, Steve N1MH and John KB1VXY doing last minute checks.



Figure below: John KB1VXY working with Megan KA1AKS to make contacts on 20 meter SSB



OTHER

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.

FARA 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 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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