

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

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In This Issue

President's Message

FARA Horizons

FARA VE Support at WRTC

and more...

Sept 4

Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP, and Dennis Egan, W1UC give a talk "Intro to Contesting"

President's Message

Hello.

I hope everyone had a an enjoyable summer.

I enjoyed going to the ARRL Centennial in Hartford; there were some interesting presentations, and I (finally) had the chance to visit ARRL HQ and operate W100AW. As you may recall, the Boxborough fest was cancelled this year so that the people who ordinarily work that show could support the Hartford show. Instead of waiting two years, it appears that Boxborough is back on for next year. (Are they switching to an annual schedule?)

Another activity that took place in our region was the 2014 WRTC (if you haven't already done so, visit <http://onlyagame.wbur.org/2014/08/09/wrtc-radiosport-ham-radio> to hear about it). FARA supported this event by providing a VE session so that visiting amateurs could obtain US licenses (see Jim's comments, below).

In former times, there were active members of FARA who were also avid contesters; there were many occasions when the club station would be utilized for this purpose. Many of these people have either reduced their level of club activity, or have moved away. As a consequence, there isn't as much (obvious) contest activity by the club. This month's speakers will be Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP, and Dennis Egan, W1UC, whose topic is "Intro to Contesting". Come and learn - or be reminded - how contesting can complement your other interests in Amateur Radio, how one goes about setting up a station for contesting, and the process of actually competing (either individually or in a group). It should be interesting.

For our final meeting of last season, we had our long-delayed DXpedition presentation - involving South Georgia Island. In this instance, the delay was beneficial because, in the period between the originally planned showing and June, Dave Hoaglin had visited the region and was able to offer his personal observations.

Shack Update: Access from the new library parking lot has been greatly improved (the space between the stairs and the lot is now stones, and the construction debris has been removed). The heating system has been repaired, so the humidity level is back to normal in the front room - a thorough scrubbing would not be out of line at this point.

-Paul, N1VAM

FARA Horizons

Sept 4:	Monthly Meeting
Oct 2:	Monthly Meeting
Oct 18:	FARA Fall Upgrade Class
Oct 25:	FARA Fall Upgrade Class
Nov 1:	FARA Fall Upgrade Class

This month's Circuit sponsored by:

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Peter Cantara
Assistant Manager
KI1M

224 N. Broadway, Salem, NH 03079
(603) 898-3750, 1-800-444-0047
Fax (603) 898-1041
email: ki1m@hamradio.com

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FARA VE Support at WRTC2014

By Jim, W1EQW

The FARA VE team conducted a FCC exam license session at the World Radiosport Team Championship 2014 (WRTC2014) headquarters hotel in Westborough, MA during the afternoon of July 9. It is customary for the host nation of WRTC to offer an exam session during the week of the competition for anyone including competitors, referees, or any person interested in obtaining a U.S. ham radio license. Many of the participants at the test session received upgrades to U.S. licenses they already held.

The test session started at 1 PM and went till 6 PM. The team administered a total of 23 exam elements for 13 candidates of whom about half were foreign visitors participating in WRTC2014. New licenses or upgrades earned broke down as such: 3 Technician, 3 General, 5 Extra/

The FARA VE team included the following: Andrew, NE1X; David, KG1H; Ed, W1NXC; Eric, KB1PJN; Jim, WN1A; Jim, W1EQW; Willie, KB1MFG.

Many thanks to the FARA volunteer examiners who participated in this session

and supported WRTC2014.

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) is a competition between two-person teams of amateur radio operators testing their skills to make contacts with other Amateur Radio operators around the world over a 24 hour period. All teams use identical antennas from the same geographic region, eliminating all variables except operating ability. WRTC2014 included 59 competing teams from 29 qualifying regions around the world. This is the largest and most competitive WRTC ever.

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edaweiss@cs.com TO SIGN UP

Club Information 2014

President	Paul King	N1VAM		president@fara.org
Vice President	Steve Hewlett	KB1NIV		vp@fara.org
Clerk	Victor Anderson	K1VEA	508-877-8299	secretary@fara.org
Treasurer	Arnold Barnes	KB1RIA	978-443-4110	treasurer@fara.org
Director	Bev Lees	N1LOO	508-626-2012	director@fara.org
Director of Training	Ed Weiss	W1NXC	508-881-2301	EdAWeiss@cs.com
Director of Testing	Jim Weckback	W1EQW	508-435-6487	testing@fara.org
Publicity Coordinators	Joe Weisse	W1HAI		w1viv@rcn.com
Emergency Coordinator	Alex Sayegh	KB1JYD	508-509-0328	
Activities Director	Gordy Bello	K1GB	781-891-5572	k1gb@arrl.net
Scholarship Comm. Ch.	Dick Cosma	AA1VI	508-877-8241	scholarships@fara.org
Newsletter Editor	Robert Hess	N1UVA	860-227-9188	circuit@fara.org
Webmaster	Eric Taylor	KB1PJN	508-653-7778	webmaster@fara.org

Meeting: Club meetings are normally held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the Framingham Police Station

Club Nets: FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.75/147.15 - social/chat, ARES preparedness

Club Station: W1FY, the club station and shack, is open Saturday mornings from 9:00-12:00. Call the club number, 508-879-8097 to confirm.

Club Web Site: <http://www.fara.org>

Mail Address: PO Box 3005
Framingham, MA 01705