

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

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## Thursday, Nov 1 This Month's Meeting

Rich Crisafulli, AB1HD will give a presentation on "Getting Started in PSK 31."

## Submitting Material to the Circuit

Material may be submitted for publication by sending it directly to the editor. This can be done by US Mail, or via the Internet (preferred). The deadline for each issue is the **Wednesday**, one week before the monthly meeting.

**by mail**  
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## President's Message

These are exciting times! The Red Sox are in the World Series, and all sorts of great events have been taking place at FARA! We had a great crowd of almost 30 people at our October meeting to hear Paul Wade, W1GHZ's excellent presentation on microwaves. One more person, and I would have worn my straw hat during the meeting!

As you know by now, we had a successful JOTA at the shack. The kids had a great time, even though band conditions were very bad. Hopefully next year conditions will be better and the scouts will actually be able to work other scouts. I wish to thank everyone who participated and made this possible on short notice.

Plans for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary are coming along and you will be hearing more about it soon. Please let us know what type of bash you would like to have. Meanwhile, have you given any thought to an appropriate logo? So far we have only received one entry. Remember that prizes will be awarded for the best entries, so get cracking on that!

As we move into the holiday season, FARA will again be participating in the Toys for Tots program. We had a great response the last couple of years, and I know you will be generous this time as well.

Our speaker for our next meeting on Nov. 1 will be Rich Crisafulli, AB1HD. Rich will give a presentation on "Getting started in PSK 31". If you ever wanted to operate this digital mode but did not know how to go about it, then come to hear what Rich has to say!

73, Gordy K1GB

## How to Pass the General Class Exam

By Ed W1NXC

Want to upgrade to level II of the Amateur licensing program? Here are some hints, designed primarily to help you pass the FCC General Class exam. Upgrading from the Novice or Technician class to General has significant advantages. You may now operate on specific segments of the 80m, 40m, 20m, and 15m bands, the most popular bands for long distance communication, not previously available.

That's not all, however. The General class also allows operation on 160 meters, 60 meters, 30 meters, 17 meters and 12 meters, along with the identical privileges granted to Advanced and Extra licensees. Upgrading to General, therefore, amounts not only to an achievement, but a giant step forward to enjoying the many facets of Ham radio.

The new General Class pool, effective July 2007, has been significantly revised, and contains questions on topics, like NVIS antennas, 60 meters and logic design. Be prepared to know the difference between NAND gate and A NOR gate!

And yes, there are questions on Morse code, protocols, Q signals etc., even though the code requirement has been eliminated. There is still plenty of action in the CW portion of the Ham bands, and you may even hear the Q signal, **QRQ**, but I rather doubt it! (It means "Send Faster!") and it is one of the questions on the exam(see **G2F10**)

Passing the General exam opens up a lot of new frequencies, i.e., frequencies not previously available to Tech or Novice licensees. There are specific segments in the 40m, 20m, 15m, and the 80m bands where Generals are allowed and you will also have the same frequency privileges that Advanced or Extra operators enjoy on 160m, 50m, 30m, 17m, 12m, and 10m. That is a huge amount of bandwidth!

Continued on next page...

It is important, therefore, to know the precise frequencies for Generals in the so-called "Action bands", 40, 20, 15, and 80 meters. Studies these carefully! Watch out for questions on the 60m band, there are a few distinct differences (for example you can only use USB on 60 meters—that's not true for any other band!) Note also that the 30m band is restricted to CW and that's not true for any other band either!

Note:- Next VE exam session scheduled for Nov 14, 2007 at the Club shack

Learn about more Ham Radio by checking in every week to the FARA Sunday Night Net on 147.15 MHz at 7:30 local time. Listen for the Sunday Night Ham Radio Question of the Week. Can you come up with the right answer? Here's your chance to show your ham radio knowledge.

## JOTA



Boy Scouts invaded the club shack for Jamboree on the Air. Sumner, W1VIV is pictured. Photo by Lowell, KB1FHJ

## FARA Horizons

- Nov: Rich Crisafulli, AB1HD on PSK 31  
VE Session Nov. 14
- Dec: Rick Zach, K1RJZ on 6 meter repeater network in NH and MA
- Jan: Show and Tell Night/QLF Contest
- Feb: Bill Ricker, N1VUX on VHF propagation
- March: Mark Rubin, WB1ARZ and John Ruggerio, N2YHK from W.E.C.T (Worcester Emergency Communications Team).
- April: Scott Anderson, NE1RD on "The 100 pound DXpedition"  
Flea Market April 6!
- May: Pizza Party after Flea Market
- June: TBD/FARA 75th Anniversary Bash! Field Day

This month's Circuit sponsored by:

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### FARA Email Reflector

If you have email and aren't signed up for the FARA email reflector, you're missing out on the last-minute news and updates. To sign up, send an email to Sharon at [kc1yr@kc1yr.com](mailto:kc1yr@kc1yr.com) requesting her to add you to the reflector.

### Shopping Online?

Use [fara.org/amazon](http://fara.org/amazon) and help out the club. FARA receives a small percentage of your order.

### Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)

Regular FARA \$15  
Student / Retired \$10  
Repeater (voluntary) \$10

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**Club Information 2007**

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Meeting: Club meetings are normally held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the basement of the Danforth Museum, on Lexington St.

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 8:30-12:00. Call the club number, 879-8097 to confirm.

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