

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

November 2018 Vol. 85, No. 8

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**President's Message:** Since September, we have had three meetings with interesting speakers, Tom Walsh, K1TW, on the Easter Mass ARRL, Joe Dzekevich, K1YOW, on 6 Meter propagation and weather, and Andy Stewart, KB1OIQ, on the BITX40 and uBITX kits, and also two board meetings. We have a Holiday Party planned for our usual meeting night, but at 7:00 pm at Carbone's Restaurant in Hopkinton, MA on rt 85 between rt 9 and rt 135, right near the entrance to Hopkinton State Park. Our next regular meeting is not until January 3, 2019 when we hope to view a Dxpedition video, and have a show and tell (last year this meeting got snowed out!). Bring something interesting to talk about to that meeting! We are always looking for suggestions for topics, speakers and of course volunteers to speak at one of our meetings!

Please feel free to submit pictures, essays, news, license upgrades, antenna projects, new gear, etc., for the newsletter.

If you have ideas for projects, or a contact for finding a shack, or want to be on the new Shack Search Committee, please let me know. A few have signed up.

**On Air Additional Weekly Club Meeting?** What about a rag chew round table club meeting some weeknight on the repeater? I could do Wednesday pm around 7 or 8 pm.

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**Club Meeting:** We held a regular meeting on Thursday October 4, 2018. After our business meeting, Joe Dzekevich, K1YOW, spoke about 6-Meter Sporadic E and Weather Systems

Joe's presentation will use Amateur Radio to explore possible correlations between weather systems and sporadic E clouds to see if they are collocated. While some of the main causes of sporadic E propagation are wind shear, meteor strikes and upper atmospheric tides (ultimately coming from solar EUV energy inputs), radio operators have noticed that sporadic E propagation is also changed significantly by hurricanes and storms. This talk will present specific cases where K1YOW used amateur radio to investigate the effects of weather storms on the formation and/or enhancement of 6-meter sporadic E clouds. The author used DX Maps and earth wide weather model charts combined with operations on 6 meters to examine possible correlations between the location of the sporadic E clouds and the weather storm systems. Initial findings show a high degree of correlation when magnetic field strength is taken into consideration. The presentation has been updated to also include Winter sporadic E. He can be reached at [K1YOW@ARRL.NET](mailto:K1YOW@ARRL.NET).

**Club Meeting,** November 1, 2018. Andy Stewart is president of PART in Westford, is well known for his work on Linux in the Hamshack. <https://ema.arrl.org/andy-stewart-kb1oiq/>

Andy (KB1OIQ) Stewart talked about the BITX40 and uBITX QRP kit radios from India. These very popular transceivers are openly specified for both hardware and software, and have thus encouraged a lot of tinkering. Andy discussed many of the common modifications, as well as his extensive modifications to the Arduino software. Andy has also modified the kit to make it accessible to visually impaired hams. He demonstrated versions of these transceivers, including the sound for visually impaired hams option.

**Members List on W1FY Webpage:** At the Board Meeting in August, we discussed posting an accurate list of paid up and lifetime members on our members list on the webpage starting this January, 2019. As you pay dues, you will be added to the webpage list.

**FARA Members Email:** As you know, we switched from the Reflector to the W1FY members email list. Paid members and lifetime members should be receiving emails from members@w1fy.org. Let Steve or I know if you or anyone else is not getting the club emails. Non-members interested in receiving news about FARA can view the website or get on the separate [news@W1fy.org](mailto:news@W1fy.org) by going to [http://w1fy.org/subscribe-to-fara\\_news](http://w1fy.org/subscribe-to-fara_news)

**Board Meeting:** We met Saturday October 29, 2018, at the main branch of the Framingham Public Library. We hope to hold these quarterly, and more often for special issues. In this meeting we discussed having a holiday party (see below), re-forming a Shack Search Committee (see below), raising identity questions of “Who are we without a shack?” and ways to form a different identity. Ideas such as trying to form an alliance with a local hospital, having booths at local events city (and other ham events) to show off the club, kit building, visiting different member’s shacks once a month, tutoring people interested in getting their technician license using readily available online courses (Youtube has two), etc.

**Nostalgia:** I reviewed the November 2008 Circuit. Rob Macedo, KD1CY, spoke on Amateur Radio’s involvement with the National Hurricane Center. I may try to get Rob to speak on the updated changes in ARES. Sumner, W1VIV, put together a list of call signs and pictures of members to match them up. The Holiday Brunch was being planned. Ed Weiss’ General License course was a success.

**Visit to Providence Radio Association?** If interested, contact Jim Congdon WN1A (cell 978-460-3259 or [wn1a@arrl.net](mailto:wn1a@arrl.net)) to plan to visit the Providence Radio Association. <http://www.w1op.com/> PRA is about 1 ½ hours south of Framingham. Jim was a PRA member during late 1970s & early 1980s. PRA has a meeting EVERY Tuesday evening ... or we might consider other times. They have a SHACK!

### FARA HORIZONS: UPCOMING EVENTS

November 17, 2018 2100Z (Saturday) to November 19, 0300Z (Sunday night), ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest.

December 6, 2018 FARA Holiday Dinner at Carbone’s Restaurant in Hopkinton, MA, 7 pm, Thursday night, same night as usual meeting! Please send email to [president@w1fy.org](mailto:president@w1fy.org) or my private email if you have it stating how many are coming. We have not worked out the meal options / price yet, but figure on about \$25 per person, not including appetizers, deserts or drinks.

December 7, 2018 ARRL 10 Meter Contest, starts 0000Z, Dec 8 (Friday Dec 7<sup>th</sup> pm), to 2400Z, Dec 9

January 3, 2019: January Meeting: Dxpediton and show and tell, bring something interesting from your Shack.

April 7, 2019 Sunday, FARA Flea Market

### Club Information 2018

**Officers:** see <http://w1fy.org/fara-officers>

- President John Iwuc KB1VXY president@W1FY.org
- President Paul King N1VAM vp@W1FY.org
- Clerk Victor Anderson K1VEA secretary@W1FY.org
- Treasurer Steve Moro N1MH treasurer@W1FY.org
- Director Sumner Weisman W1VIV director@W1FY.org
- Director of Testing Jim Weckback W1EQW testing@fara.org
- Webmaster Steve Moro N1MH webmaster@W1FY.org

**Meeting:** Club meetings are normally held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the Framingham Police Station. No meeting in December, instead there will be the Holiday Party.

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

**Club Station:** FARA is actively looking for a new club station. If you are interested in being a member of the search committee, send email to president@w1fy.org

**Club Web Site:** W1FY.org

**Social Media:**

- facebook.com/faraw1fy
- twitter.com/fara\_w1fy

**Mail Address:** PO Box 3005, Framingham, MA