

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association July 2019 Vol. 86, No. 3

---

**President's Message:** Finally Summer is here. I hope you checked out your antennas and adjusted them before the leaves came in!

**In brief:** On May 2, 2019, we had our annual pizza party at the Papa Gino's at 104 Boston Post Road, Sudbury, MA which was well attended. We had our June meeting during which we had our elections, announced the scholarship recipients (see below), and prepared for Field Day with a quiz on the rules. John, KB1VXY, and Andy, KC1DMM, presented at the library's Brown Bag Lunch (see below). Andy, KC1DMM, and others participated in the library's Kids Day (see below). We also had some board meetings to address Field Day and other club issues (all are welcome to these meetings). We had Field day on Saturday June 22, 2019 (see below), a post Field Day review on Saturday July 13, 2019 at the McAuliffe Library and are already making changes and plans to make things better for next year. I will be sending out a draft pdf of this newsletter. Please reply to me with any suggested edits. I will eventually submit the final version to Steve Moro for the website.

## **FARA Scholarship Recipients:**

- Rebecca "Becky" Weisman: Graduated from Framingham High School 2019. Spending the summer working at Wegman's, plus two weeks in Italy. Starting at Westfield State University in September.
- Cameron "Cali" Wierzbanski, KC1KNQ: She is a student at Olin College in Needham, who got her tech license with us.
- Victoria Anderson: Daughter of Victor and Ellen Anderson.

**Speaker suggestions and ideas for the Circuit.** We are always looking for suggestions for topics and outside speakers and contributions to the newsletter. Especially if you have a connection to the speaker. Also we invite any home grown FARA member volunteers to give a talk at our meetings! Let me know if you would like to give a talk or a demonstration. Similarly, feel free to submit an article, or pictures, or a question to me for the newsletter. The older Circuits used to have a section where people could submit pictures, station news, license upgrades, antenna projects, new gear, rare DX, etc., for the newsletter. Please send them to me! Andy contributed on the Kid's day and Sumner contributed on Field Day for this Circuit.

**Rag Chew On Air Weekly Club Meeting:** I am not usually mobile but not within range, how is this going?

**Open Positions:** We have open positions for Director of Training, Activities Coordinator, Publicity Officer and Emergency Coordinator. If you are interested in any of these or have a suggestion for a nomination, please inform one of the officers or Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, the Director.

**FARA Members Email:** 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 by going to [http://w1fy.org/subscribe-to-fara\\_news](http://w1fy.org/subscribe-to-fara_news)

**Echolink:** The Echolink connection seems to be working very well, I use it almost every week for the Sunday net. We get 1-3 check-ins each week on Echolink for the Sunday night net.

**Nostalgia:** I reviewed the April, May, June and September 2009 Circuits. There was discussion of whether the club would have a "picnic" Field Day. I could not determine if one was held that year. Since I have been a

member, I know that we have had a short afternoon Field day since 2012 and that model seems to be working. (I heard that one local club this year does not try to keep score, they just want to make more QSOs than hotdogs consumed!) There were plans for license upgrade classes for the Fall, and a CW training in April of 2009 sponsored by Sumner W1VIV, and Ed Weiss W1NXC (SK).

**Brown Bag Lunch, June 7, 2019:** John KB1VXY and Andy, KC1DMM, presented **An Introduction to the Fascinating Hobby of Amateur Radio** at the main branch of the Framingham Public Library. The presentation was recorded (they didn't tell us until we got there). The presentation began with a demo of John and Andy talking on 446.00 MHz, using standard procedures, and pointing out we could use our phones, but when phones don't work, we have a backup, and so could the audience. The talk was followed by a remote demo of a QSO using Andy's equipment. This video was shown the day before Field Day on the Framingham Public Cable. We donated a copy of Technician Class 2018-2022: Pass Your Amateur Radio Technician Class Test - The Easy Way (EasyWayHamBooks) 2nd Edition, by Craig Buck K4IA. Also the ARRL Technician Class license manual. Many of the slides were borrowed with permission from the Wireless Society of Southern Maine, combined with Sumner's slides from our Framingham Town Meeting presentation.

- Brown Bag Lunch Series: >> <https://framinghamlibrary.org/news-events/brown-bag-learning-series/>
- Video of presentation>> <http://207.172.210.8:5002/CablecastPublicSite/show/1760?channel=1>
- Slides >> [https://framinghamlibrary.org/uploads/pages/doc/Brown\\_Bag\\_060719.pdf](https://framinghamlibrary.org/uploads/pages/doc/Brown_Bag_060719.pdf)

**Kids Day:** Andy, KC1DMM submitted the following:

June 15, 2019: FARA and the Framingham Library Homework Center sponsored an Amateur Radio Kids Day event at the library on June 15. Many thanks to N1MH, K1VEA, KB1NIP, W1VIV, KB1YXL, KB1VLS, P. Collins, and KC1DMM for making this event a success! Five students from the Homework Center participated. Each student learned the Morse code for their name and made a successful 2M contact which included sending the Morse code for their name. Three students also attempted 20M contacts. Due to conditions, only one 20M contact was successful. We received positive feedback from the students. The only complaint was from a Red Sox fan who took issue with our "Whiskey One Foxtrot Yankee" call sign. Steve, N1MH added: "He preferred 'Whiskey One Foxtrot Red Sox.' He was not happy when I said that it was really not the same thing. "

**Websites** to check out: QRZ Gridmapper. Find Hams near you. <https://www.qrz.com/gridmapper>

**Field Day, June 22, 2019:** We had a successful Field Day at the McAuliffe branch of the Framingham Public Library on Saturday June 22, 2019, and our results have been submitted. We had a follow up meeting on Saturday July 13, 2019, to review our operation and consider suggestions for next year. Sumner, W1VIV wrote the following summary: See photos at <http://w1fy.org/photos>

**FARA's Field Day at the Library: June 22, 2019.** Our radio club, W1FY, was quite active this year on ARRL's annual Field Day. We had a 20 meter SSB station (KB1VXY and others), a 15/20 meter van (K1UR and K1NR), a 6/20 meter FT8 (digital) station (KE3KK), and a 40 meter CW station (W1VIV). Check next December's QST to see how our score compared to other stations.

We are already planning a stronger effort for next year. You are invited to join us in the planning and in the operation of our Field Day station. It's never too early to start. This is what ham radio is all about – getting out in the field and working other stations. It's good training, a good test of our equipment, and also lots of fun.

Interestingly, both ARRL Field Day and FARA, our radio club, started in 1933. Today, according to QST, Field Day is the single most popular ham radio on-the-air meeting in the U.S. and Canada. More than 40,000 radio amateurs participate.

**Upcoming Radio Events:** From WA7BNM website. <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 20 to 0559Z, Jul 21
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 20 to 2100Z, Jul 21
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 3 to 0559Z, Aug 4
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 10 to 0400Z, Aug 11
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 17 to 0559Z, Aug 18
Hawaii QSO Party	0400Z, Aug 24 to 0400Z, Aug 26
W/VE Islands QSO Party	1200Z, Aug 24 to 0300Z, Aug 25
Kansas QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 24 to 0200Z, Aug 25 and 1400Z-2000Z, Aug 25
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 24 to 0400Z, Aug 25
World Wide Digi DX Contest	1200Z, Aug 31 to 1200Z, Sep 1
Colorado QSO Party	1300Z, Aug 31 to 0400Z, Sep 1
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 1 to 0300Z, Sep 2

### **FARA HORIZONS UPCOMING EVENTS**

September 5, 2019: Adrian Zeffert, AB2IX, will return for a talk, this time on Estate Planning For Amateur Radio Operators.

Other likely talks to be scheduled.

- David Miscia, KB1YXL, on Slow Scan TV from the Space Station.
- Bob Phinney, K5TEC, on getting youth involved in amateur radio.
- Brian "Wolf" Gudgevich, WO1VES on the SharkRF boxes that connect computers to UHF/VHF radios for some of the digital modes.

## Club Information December 2018

**Officers:** see <http://w1fy.org/fara-officers> (No change to officers this year)

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

**Meeting:** Club meetings are normally held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the Framingham Police Station. Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., April., June.

### Club Nets:

- FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.75/147.15 - social/chat, emergency preparedness
- Wednesday Roundtable Ragchew: 7:30 pm, growing.

**Traffic passing:** Fred Biehold, NV1N, is very active in this activity. Contact Fred if you need help with this.

**Club Web Site:** W1FY.org

### Social Media:

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

**Dues:** Regular membership \$15, student / senior \$10. Repeater fee \$10 (optional)

You can join/renew/pay online at <http://w1fy.org/membership-form>

**Mail Address:** Framingham Amateur Radio Association, PO Box 3005, Framingham, MA