

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association September 2019 Vol. 86, No. 4

President's Message: Hard to believe summer will be over on Monday September 23 for this year. The summer seemed to come very late, remember all those cold and rainy days, then it hit us hard with heat for a bit, and now it is on the way out. Soon the leaves will be falling and we can take a look at how our antennas are doing. The center rope of my dipole came down during the summer, perhaps chewed by squirrels, but it works ok, with the center laying on a slightly lower branch.

We operated in the North American QSO Party and entered a score under WIFY. I looked up the scores from last year and I think we will do better than a bunch of other stations. Not bad considering we did not operate the full time.

Given that we had some problems with the SSB station on Field Day this year, I have set a goal of testing and proving we can operate on batteries for at least 4 hours without a glitch so we can do better next Field Day. For the NAQP we just used my equipment on commercial power. So we will have to test the club's equipment. I think there were a couple of issues: antenna and antenna placement, wiring, lack of battery booster, and underpowered unproven radio. Given that we have nine months and only operate for four hours, I think this is a nice little problem to work on over the year. Sumner's, W1VIV, 40 meter CW set up seemed to work ok. It did have a battery booster. It had a sloping dipole slanting down to the southeast which should have been an ok placement, and the library building was out of the way. The antenna placement for the 20 meter SSB station did not work well, I think it was too low and tucked in behind the library building, and was oriented east-west which is not ideal. It may have problems and hasn't been tested, although it did work when we switched the FT8 station over to that antenna. We could blame the bands but Nels, N1UR, Land Rover station did fine on the same band, but their antenna was higher and to the west of the library building. Another issue was that the SSB radio did not seem to be putting out full power so we switched out to Morris' N1AVP's FT450D. We need to test our Field Day radio on full power for 4 hours with an active duty cycle. We were not sure how the batteries and connections were doing, too much wire which we can shorten. Ideally we should use a single band dipole cut for the SSB part of 20 meters, so we don't even need a tuner. The plan is to rewire the set up. We purchased two battery boosters so that should help. Sumner will do a test at home into a dummy load. Then I think we should pick an active contest and try to run 4-6 hours in it and see how things go. I have indicated a couple of contests that will be options later in this newsletter.

Thanks to all the officers and the director, and those in other roles, all who remain in the same positions this year, for all their participation and assistance in keeping FARA alive and active. We have open positions.

We have speakers for September to November. I have a couple tentative ones for 2020. I can always use suggestions. There are many good Youtube talks on Ham related topics. Is there a way to play them at the police station? There is a way to download them first using other software I think? If you know how, let me know.

We can talk about a holiday party. We can keep the default as Carbone's in Hopkinton on the meeting night in November, unless someone has other ideas.

Dues: Going forward, the Board agreed that there will be one flat rate of \$20 per year per person or family, and no separate repeater fee. Paid members will be posted on the web page.

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! Next month, Dave Miscia, KB1YXL will give us a presentation. 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, KC1DM, contributed on the Kid's day and Sumner, W1VIV, contributed on Field Day for our last Circuit. Fred, NV1N, submitted a piece below.

Rag Chew On Air Weekly Club Meeting: I am usually mobile but not within range, how is this going? How can we beef it up? Better night? Better time? Different structure?

Framingham Historical Center: Fred, NV1N, set up a special tour for a group of FARA members of the FHC's "Four Centuries of Framingham History" this past Tuesday September 17, 2019. Fred writes:

"The Framingham History Center invited FARA members and guests to take part in a private tour of the "Four Centuries of Framingham History" permanent exhibit at the Centre Common in The Old Academy, which is normally closed to the public. Nine of us showed up Tuesday evening - September 17th - for the 6:30 P.M. tour. Starting with the Nipmuc Indians we moved through how Salem End Road got its name, a period where households would huddle around the hearth on cold evenings and eat mostly off wooden plates, through the American Revolution, the farm where Crispus Attucks worked as a slave and the life of a local young fifer during the war into the next decades when a young woman started a bonnet manufacturing enterprise and the tableware began looking more refined. Railroad versus stagecoach, how the Centre Common looked in the early days, what it was like to go to school, the Muster Field from the days of the Militia up through WW I and WW II, Dennison, Shopper's World and the impact it had on the downtown area, a happy ending to a lawsuit over the new paper bag design, how the High School came to be known as the Flyer's and much, much more. It gave me an enriched appreciation for how the city came to be as it is now and inspiration not to lose all the good freedoms and innovation that helped bring us to this point. We asked lots of questions, and kept the tour guides on their toes, which they also seemed to enjoy."

-Frederick NV1N

Open Positions: We have open positions for Director of Training, Activities Coordinator, Publicity Officer and Emergency Coordinator. One member has expressed interest in the Emergency Communication position. If I understood Rob Macedo, KD1CY, correctly when he spoke to us about ARES, they are tightening up the requirements and have a number of courses you would be required to take for ARES involvement. There is a column in QST that has covered the required and recommended courses sometime in the past couple of years. 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

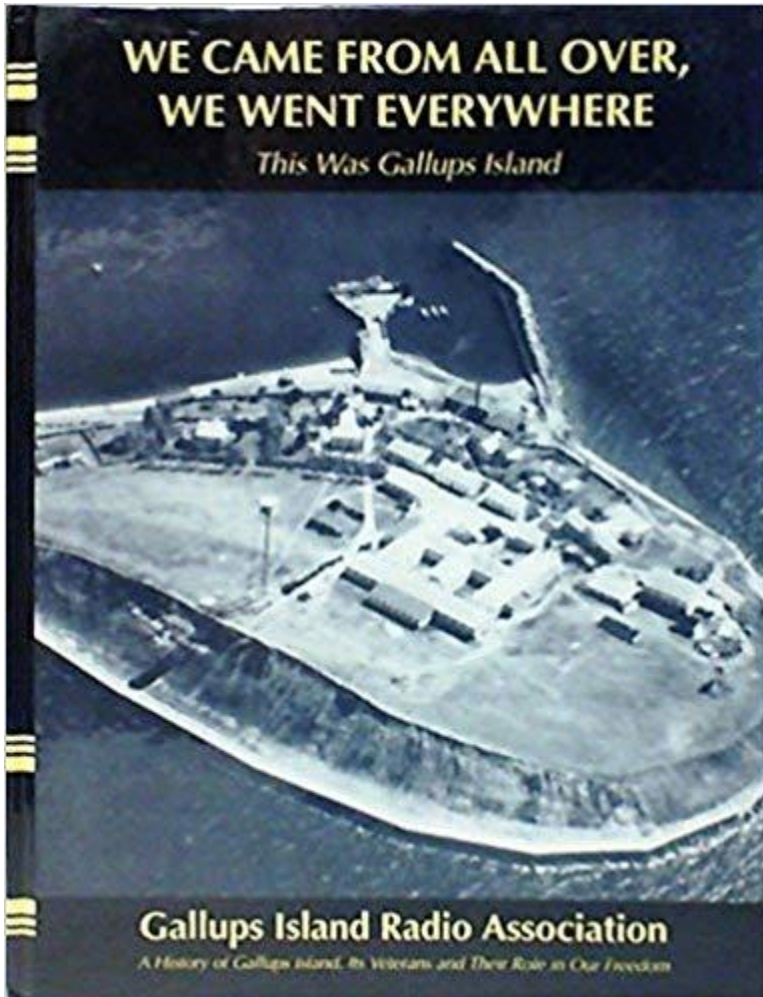
Echolink: The Echolink connection seems to be working very well, I use it almost every week for the Sunday net. We get 1-3 check-ins each week on Echolink for the Sunday night net. I have heard folks from out of area check in on Echolink too at other times of the day.

Nostalgia: I looked at the Circuits from 10 years ago this month and next. Recent topics were grounding, transmission lines, and EMCOMM.

Websites to check out:

<http://yankee6meterssbnnet.blogspot.com/> I log all contacts on the weekly Yankee 6 Meter SSB net here. This net operates every Sunday at 9:30 am local time on 50.272 USB. I am often the NCS, and several club

members check in weekly, Fred, NV1N, Morris, N1AVP, and other well-known local hams.. I had lunch and an eyeball QSO with three regular members whom I had never met while at Boxboro on Saturday.



Gallups Island Radio Association Net: I get on this net most mornings, Mon to Fri on 3.923 MHz sometime between 6:30 and 7:30 am., lately about 7 am, I do a quick in and out check-in. It is not an association, just a net now. While there are no longer any members on the net who trained at the Gallups Island Radio School, the net honors those who did train there and later served as radio operators in the maritime service. It has a nice preamble. The website below is interesting and is kept up by a regular member of the net who lives in MA.

<http://gallupsislandradio.net/>

There is even a book that I have on the school. See picture above. **We Came From All Over, We Went Everywhere: This Was Gallups Island** If anyone wants to borrow it, let me know. It contains lots of letters from the students, along with some history.

https://www.amazon.com/Came-All-Over-Went-Everywhere/dp/1563111152/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=we+came+from+all+over%2C+we+went+everywh&qid=1569106555&s=books&sr=1-1

Memorial to the Gallups Island Radio Training Station >>

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/gallups-island-radio-training-station-memorial>

More on the school: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/gallups-island-radio-training-station-memorial>

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

Classic Exchange, Phone	1300Z, Sep 22 to 0700Z, Sep 23 and 1300Z, Sep 24 to 0700Z, Sep 25
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Sep 28 to 2400Z, Sep 29
Maine QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 28 to 1200Z, Sep 29
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 5 to 2200Z, Oct 6
SKCC QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 5 to 1800Z, Oct 6
Nevada QSO Party	0300Z, Oct 12 to 2100Z, Oct 13
Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 12 to 0600Z, Oct 13 and 1400Z to 2400Z, Oct 13
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 12 to 0500Z, Oct 13 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 13
South Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 12 to 1800Z, Oct 13
**New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 19 to 0200Z, Oct 20
Stew Perry Topband Challenge (CW)	1500Z, Oct 19 to 1500Z, Oct 20
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 20 to 0100Z, Oct 21
**CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 26 to 2359Z, Oct 27
North American SSB Sprint Contest	0000Z-0400Z, Nov 10
**ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 16 to 0300Z, Nov 18

**** We might want to test out our new battery, connections, booster, and a field day radio on one of these contests.**

FARA Meetings Held Recently

General Meeting: September 5, 2019: Adrian Zeffert, AB2IX, presented on Estate Planning for Amateur Radio Operators.

Board Meeting: September 21, 2019

FARA HORIZONS -- UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meeting: October 3, 2019: Dave Miscia KB1YXL. "Fun Things To Do With The International Space Station". Dave Miscia, KB1YXL, has over 25 years of experience working with satellites. From his first job in broadcast television receiving news feeds, to running mobile uplink vehicles, to designing those same vehicles, he's worked with everything from Ku Band high-power transmitters to portable Inmarsat terminals. Since leaving the broadcast business in 2018, he has continued following the things in the sky, especially the International Space Station.

General Meeting: November 7, 2019: Bob Phinney, K5TEC:

Title: "Ideas for attracting youth and families to amateur radio."

Subtitle "Presentation followed by discussion" (group participation expected)

Abstract: Join this meeting to hear about what sparks kids' interests in wireless technology these days and how we might apply that knowledge to get more youth and families into amateur radio and hopefully interested in joining FARA.

Bio: Bob Phinney K5TEC got his amateur radio license from FARA by taking the "License in a weekend" course in 2004 in the basement of the Danforth Library. But he was involved in public service CB communications since the early 1970's, and was president of a REACT team working with Brookline Police during the Blizzard of '78. As a science teacher in Brookline for 38 years and mentoring the youth-run Clay Center Amateur Radio Club for 14 years, Bob has helped nearly two hundred youth achieve ham radio licenses over the years. He now runs a non-profit STEM education center in Natick which has two radio rooms and

offers regular license classes in Tech, General, AE, VE, and Morse Code, as well as workshops in a wide variety of STEM and maker-space topics.

Other likely talks to be scheduled.

- Brian "Wolf" Gudgevich, WO1VES on the SharkRF boxes that connect computers to UHF/VHF radios for some of the digital modes.
- Adrian Zeffert AB2IX will return in February to talk about 3D printing.
- mCHF radio kit

Club Information:

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.

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: Going forward, the Board agreed that there will be one 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/membership-form>

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