

The Framingham Circuit

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K1AZE

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President's Message

Hooray! Sunspot Cycle 23 does appear to be heading our way. Although it may be hard, if not impossible to notice on a day-to-day basis, it is noticeable from week-to-week. And that's good news for all of us, especially those of us without SUPER-STATIONS. When I jumped back into this hobby about five years ago, after a considerable absence, it seemed like I could work the world on 10 meters with just a half-wave dipole only 12 feet off the ground and running about 80 watts. For those of you new to the hobby, you're in for a real treat in the coming years. The world is indeed at your fingertips. With a little bit of luck from Mother Nature, maybe 10 meters will open up a little for this years ARRL 10 Meter Contest on December 13 & 14. With better propagation days ahead, it's not a bad time to start working on that license upgrade to the next level.

And speaking of upgrades, FARA was once again instrumental in getting new hams off on the right foot with its latest License-In-A-Weekend class. Thanks again to Ed Weiss, W1NXC, for pulling together the team of instructors and Dick Marshall, K1KTK, for the testing team to make it all happen. There are nine very happy new hams because of their efforts and the efforts of their teams. Some of the students did poke their noses into the club shack between classes to see ham radio in action. The ARRL November Phone Sweepstakes was that same weekend and FARA members were operating the club station.

Hope to see you at the next monthly meeting on December 4. 73

Jim, W1EQW

Thursday, Dec. 4

This Month's Meeting

Marjie, KA1HIA

This months meeting will feature Larry Ober, W1MW, ARRL Section Manager for Eastern Mass. Club members are encouraged to bring any questions that they may have regarding League activities.

Submitting Material to the Circuit

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

by phone
(508) 435-2055 (before 9:00PM please!)

License-in-a-Weekend Graduates Another Class

by Ed, W1NXC

Director of Training

With the completion of another License in a Weekend class Nov. 14-16, FARA continued the tradition of adding to the ranks of Technician class licensees-this time nine out of a class of twelve received their Tech call signs-only five days after taking the exams !

Here are the names and call signs:

N1ZWD Dick Holmes

N1ZWE Andrew Otto

N1ZWF Rene Souza

N1ZWG Jon Isabelle

N1ZWH Chris Mauro

N1ZWI James Billings

N1ZWJ Ayres Hall

N1ZWK Julia Christo

KA1SQA Debra MacGregor* (upgraded to Tech Plus from Novice)

A special thanks to instructors, Dennis KE6DPL, Jim W1EQW, Lee KA1USL, Pete KA1AXY, Karen N1XAK, and also to Dick K1KTK, supervisor of the exam session on Sunday, for their contribution to the success of the 5th License in a Weekend class.

160 Meters

Martin, AA1ON

Last Fall, immediately prior to the CQ World Wide SSB contest, I put up my first serious antennas for 160M.

The transmit antenna is a 1/4 wave sloper, a little over 140 feet of wire. This is attached to the center of a 50 ohm feedline run up the side of my tower to about the 75 foot level. The shield of the cable is directly attached to the tower at that point (I used a coax socket mounted on an aluminum plate, clamped onto the tower leg over a stainless steel shim). The wire slopes down towards my house (pointing towards Europe!!) and is about 15 feet above the ground at its end.

For receive, I installed a Beverage antenna. While these antennas do not have gain (in fact they actually have negative gain over a dipole), they do have a good front to back and front to side signal ratio. Since the main problem hearing signals on 160 is QRN (atmospheric interference), the ability to eliminate interfering signals improves the signal to noise ratio and therefore readability of signals.

My yard is well configured for a Beverage. It is a long narrow yard (550 feet). The long axis of the yard points towards southern Europe and my house is located at the north eastern end.

Several types of Beverage antennas may be used. The simplest, a single wire Beverage, consists of a single wire, run between 5 -10 above the ground in a straight line. It is fed (via an impedance matching transformer) with coax at one end and the other end is generally terminated by

in the two directions, NE and SW, in which the axis of the antenna lies. By just switching from one cable to the other, either Europe or US and Pacific can be selected. It is therefore immaterial which end this antenna is fed, and I feed it at the NE end, about 10 feet from the road and 100 feet from my shack.

The wires are 14 gauge insulated, run between fence insulators mounted on 14 inch long wooden spreaders, nailed to trees about 10 feet above ground. The impedance transformers are mounted in plastic boxes at the two ends of the antenna.

I still have to install one 10 foot post (where there is a missing tree) to make sure that the wire runs more level, but the performance of the antenna is excellent. The ability to null out US stations and hear weak DX signals is amazing.

Note that this antenna is also not very expensive !!

I managed to work over 80 countries during the 160 M season. The band is most active during the winter months, when QRN is lower and signals stronger (few thunderstorms in Northern Hemisphere and longer periods when both ends of propagation paths are in darkness). While running full power does help, you can't work them if you can't hear them !!!

The high points of the season for me were 160 Meter CW contacts with

ZS8IR (Prince Edward & Marion Islands), EMIKA (Antarctica), TOOR (Reunion) and VKOIR (Heard Island). Receipt of the card from EMIKA, about 3 weeks ago, gave me Worked All Continents on 160M.

I'm looking forward to the shorter days.

Get Your Web Site in The Circuit!

Robert, N1UVA
Editor

Starting next month, The Circuit will be featuring the URL's of members personal web sites. So, if you have your own web site please drop me an e-mail with the URL and a short description would be helpful too. Your web site will then be linked from a special page on the FARA web site.

Hamerick by, W1VIV

Is Ham Radio your avocation?
Are you loaded with good information?
Well, if you're a competitor
Why not help out the editor
And write for the club's publication!

Preview

Look here next month for the next installment of Sumner's SSTV adventures

Welcome to New Club Members

by Martin, AA1ON
Club Treasurer

FARA is very happy to welcome the following new Club members:
Mary Dewar, N1ZNP Berlin
James Billings, N1ZWI Natick
Rene Souza, N1ZWF Framingham



Happy Holidays from the Framingham Circuit

Memo

To: FARA
From: Lew, K1AZE
Results of Montgomery Amateur Radio Club Elections

To all of you yankees who said I would become flea market chairman of this radio club down here in Alabama, you were wrong. Although they run a big hamfest here (240+ tables), I cleverly avoided being selected as the chairman. The way I did it was to be elected club president! The club president designates someone else to do it. So, tonight we had club elections, and someone nominated me for president. I was unopposed for the position. It's hard to believe they would want a yankee running their radio club. Someone must have found out I had experience. I already have a hamfest chairman for next year and a field day chairman who volunteered himself tonight.

The new officers take over in January. It should be an interesting year coming up. I will let you all know how things are going down here as time goes by.

Editor: Lew is a past president of FARA, flea-market chairman, and a Life Member of FARA. (The rotor attached to the club yagi on the roof belongs to Lew and we have no intention of giving it back, ever.)

Help Wanted

Second Notice

Ham or Technical person to help with minor assembly of nicad battery packs. This would be part time work that could be done in your home at night, weekends, etc. I will furnish all parts. Assembly would involve placing batteries in plastic box, and soldering in 3 parts and some contact wires. Other minor assembly of simple devices optional. This would be an excellent way to make some significant income on your own time. If interested please call:

Dwight WB0GUA at JMS Innovative Tech, INC.

(781) 431-7794, or (800) 297-0809.

If I'm not in please leave your name and call back number with my business manager Shannon.

For Sale

The club is selling a Heathkit HW101 HF tranceiver on behalf of a Framingham resident. The club will receive 50% of the proceeds of the sale. The unit has been tested at the club and works fine. It covers 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters with a power output of about 150 watts (checked !!!).

\$150 (a dollar a watt ?) for more information or to see the radio contact aclub officer or visit the shack.

Clegg 2 meter mobile transceiver, older vintage, \$40 or best offer for info call 508-653-2729

FARA Horizons

Dec 4: Monthly Meeting

Dec 22: Board Meeting