

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association January 2002, Vol. 69, No. 1

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## Thursday, Jan 3

### This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting will feature Steve Schwarm (W3EVE) who will speak about the Amateur Radio's place in the New York City, post September 11, relief efforts.

### 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 *Wednesday*, one week before the monthly meeting.

#### by phone

Home:

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

#### by mail

Robert Hess, N1UVA  
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#### by internet

[circuit@fara.org](mailto:circuit@fara.org)

### President's Message

New Year's resolutions! We all make them, right? We all break them, No? Well, I figure that FARA deserves some New Year's goals from the President (I prefer to call them "goals"...seems more official) and if I put them in writing, we will see those goals happen in 2002.

Goal #1: Improve the repeater system. We're an amateur radio club. We need to communicate. Well, the new 448.025 repeater is almost ready to go. After it runs for a few months, we will link it to the 147.15 system and, perhaps, the 145.27 system. The combination of these repeaters should provide for solid communication within FARA's membership area. The 147.15 repeater needs help. One of our members mentioned to me the other day that it just doesn't work as well as it did 10 years ago. We will find out why and do whatever it takes to bring it back to health.

Goal #2: Improve FARA's focus on emergency response and public service. We're well on our way in dealing with this goal. We need your help, however. This means volunteer operators for our public service projects and emergency nets. Our new Emergency and Public Service subcommittee, consisting of Marc (WA1R), Steve (AA1IZ), Bev (N1LOO) and Jim (W1EQW) have already had their first meeting. You will be hearing a lot from them in the following months. See the article in this issue of the Circuit.

Goal #3: Get our new and inactive Hams on the air and active in the club. We will be conducting training sessions for our new Hams to show them how to purchase and use their radios. We will encourage them to check into our nets and participate in our emergency and public activities. We will continue to improve the W1FY club station and make it more available to all of our members. In short, we want to make our new Hams and inactive Hams feel welcome as amateur radio operators and as FARA members.

Looking back on my three goals, it appears that if we accomplish goal number 1, the rest will happen. Our members are the heart of our Club. Our repeater system is the artery that lets our members communicate, operate nets and provide emergency and public service communications. I look forward to 2002. With FARA's fine compliment of multi-talented officers and members, we can't help but achieve these goals!

Happy New Year!

Bob, W1RH

### Emergency and Public Service Communications Committee

By Steve, AA1IZ

In response to 9/11 and the clear need for FARA to be a contributing club to the call for amateur radio assistance to emergency situations an Emergency Communications Committee has been formed. Chaired by club vice president AA1IZ, Steve, the first meeting took place on December 12<sup>th</sup>. In attendance were club EC, WA1R Marc as well as N1LOO, Bev, and W1EQW, Jim who are both major factors in FARA's public service activities.

There was active discussion as to the mission of the group, it's goals and how they could be achieved. A rough first statement was developed with the intent of revisiting it at the committees next meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**FARA will be able to provide well-trained, responsible personnel and resources for emergency and public service communications.**

*Continued on page 2...*

Each member of the committee will be working on a variety of activities including training, public relations, and marketing (both within the club as well as the communities we serve).

Everyone is invited to get involved with the committee and/or its activities. This is a long term commitment by the club and needs everyone's support.

Meetings will be open. The next meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup> will be at 7:30 pm on AOL Instant Messaging Chat.

Email Steve (sr@ultranet.com) if you are interested in joining the group.

### **Name Tags for FARA Members**

By Bob, W1RH

Thanks to Steve (AA1IZ) and Bev (N1LOO), we hope to have name badges for everyone in the next month or two. These will be nice, color, clip-on badges with your first name and call sign, along with the FARA logo. Badges will be supplied to all FARA members free of charge.

What we need to know is what you want your name to be on the badge. Unless I hear otherwise, I will assume the name on the membership list is correct.

If you prefer something other than what is on the membership list, for instance, "Bob" instead of "Robert" or "Dick" instead of "Richard", etc., let me know (or let me know if you don't want no stinkin' badges!).

### **Sand Blasting 101**

Submitted by Bob, W1RH

As mentioned in the December Circuit, Barry, K1BTF, donated a tower, and other items to FARA this month, including a real, live, stock, Rohn gin pole. This REALLY got Peter, KA1AXY, excited because we always have to borrow a gin pole when we do a tower project - and our crack FARA tower crew does several tower projects every year. The only rub, however, is that the gin pole had been left on the tower and had be

come hopelessly rusted over the years to the point of being unusable. Peter suggested to me that Ed, KB1CQI, who seems to always have the answers in these situations, might just have a sand blaster. Ed told Peter to bring it over. Peter brought it over to Ed's place and wrote me an email informing me that the job was done. When I asked him to describe the sand blaster, this was Pete's reply:

Here's a picture for your mind:

Imagine an old barn. Really old, like 1800's. Dim, lots of cars, piles of carefully sorted stuff, and that "barn" smell...a combination of aged horse pee soaked into the floor boards, bird droppings, mold, old cars and dust. LOTS of dust. Got the smell?

Now, I said dim, but there are spots of fluorescent light, and, towards the back...careful...step over that axle, a four foot high box, sitting on a concrete base, with a plywood door, two hand holes and a Plexiglas window. Home made, by Ed, about 20 years ago. Open the door, and there sits the world's cleanest wire-frame milk crate. In a sandbox. With a light bulb and a piece of 8" duct sticking through the top of the box.

We put the clamp on the milk crate, shoveled some of the sand into the blaster (which is a 3' high can, outside the wooden box), Ed fired up the compressor, and I grabbed the hose. 1-1/2" dia, with a mean looking ceramic nozzle on the end. You put the hose and your hand through the hole, close the door, start the exhaust fan (woefully underpowered, that), and Ed starts the sand flow.

First, I have to say that the sand bouncing off the gin pole clamp HURTS. This is after it's lost most of its energy. You know how it is on the beach, when the wind picks up? Doesn't even compare. Not even to what happens when a helicopter stirs up some sand. However, it does RIP the rust right off. Sparks fly.

VERY impressive. The biggest problem is the sandstorm it generates inside the box. You can hardly see what you're doing, as all the sand is being blown around.

Anyway...what you end up with, is fresh, clean, gray steel. Ready to paint. One pass with the nozzle over the rust and it's gone. Don't know where, because it's blasted into particles so small they become sand-like. The sand didn't even change color.

Ed's painting it. It looks beautiful.

### **Job Opportunity**

This client is an R&D company known as a leader in the development of technologies for wireless long range digital communications, precision radio location and laboratory test systems for wireless communications.

Seeking individuals with a strong background in RF and Analog electronics. Digital experience is a plus. The ideal candidate would have experience with Radio receivers, Direction / Location finding receivers with signal intelligence applications. Cellular telephone base station experience would be a valuable asset for the candidate.

Primary responsibilities will be the design, prototype/bread boarding and test of evolving RF designs. Must be able to work independently as well as function as a key member of an R&D team. This individual will participate in projects from inception through finished product. Additional tasks will include component specification, vendor surveys, test procedure documentation as well as assisting in all aspects of our R&D efforts. This position is for a self-motivated hands on person who is creative, flexible and versatile.

Jim Schipelliti (skip-a-let-ee)  
Eliassen Group Inc, jps@eliassen.com  
781-246-1600, 800-428-9073

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If you would like to change the address on your Circuit label, please email [fara@fara.org](mailto:fara@fara.org). Or, you can call the Club at 508-879-8097

### **READ THE CIRCUIT ONLINE...**

#### **SAVES PAPER AND POSTAGE**

Now available as an Adobe Acrobat file email [fara@fara.org](mailto:fara@fara.org) and we'll set you up!

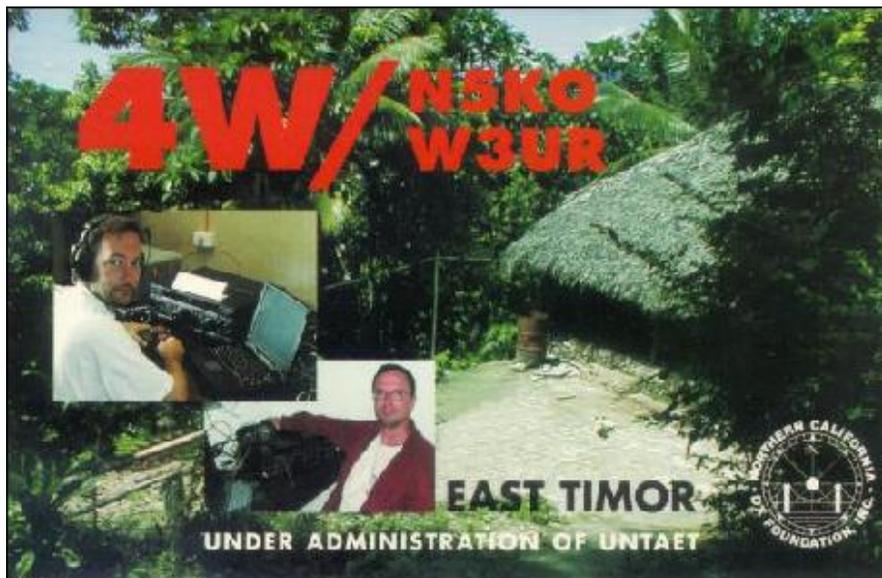
### **Membership Dues**

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

Regular FARA \$15

## QSL Card

Card Submitted by Martin, AA1ON Write-up by Bob, W1RH



Martin, AA1ON, provided this month's QSL for the Circuit. Martin worked 4W/W3UR three times, in 2000. This was the first-ever Dxpedition to the new DXCC entity of East Timor. Martin worked them on 15 meter SSB, 15 meter CW and 20 meter SSB.

East Timor is the eastern part of the island of Timor, which lies between the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. It is an island in the Indonesian archipelago, located about 400 miles northwest of Australia. The eastern part of the island of Timor was a Portuguese colony from the 16th century until 1975. Indonesia then annexed East Timor shortly after Portugal abruptly left. Indonesian rule continued until 1999.

From the back of the card:

On August 30, 1999, the people of East Timor voted for independence as the rest of the world stood by. After the ballots were cast an overwhelming 75%

of the people agreed now was the time. The United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) was then instituted to govern the territory and execute legislative and executive power during this transitional period. Thanks to an earlier than expected decision by the ITU on March 1, 2000, the United Nations was provisionally allocated the 4W international call sign series. This then opened the door for East Timor to be added to the DXCC list. After many months of following the situation and setting the stage in this new fledgling nation the decision was made to lead a team to put on the first Dxpedition to this new DXCC entity.

By resolution, in January, 2001, the Security Council extended the mandate of UNTAET until 31 January 2002, bearing in mind the possible need for adjustments related to the independence timetable.

## FARA - The Early Years

Transcribed by Karen Hess

*The Framingham Amateur Radio Association, formerly called the Community Radio Association, is fortunate to have the notes dating back to the Club's first meeting. Karen Hess, W1RH's XYL, has transcribed the handwritten notes, verbatim. They make for fascinating reading!*

April 27, 1934

The 25<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the C.A.R.A. was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Vice-pres. Dr. Crosby. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer was called on to give a report of the club's finances. The treasurer announced that dues were deficient and members were asked to be more prompt in paying.

Herb Blanke, chairman of the supper committee, was called on for a report. Activities Mgr. Thompson reported that the two contests were still in progress. He also announced that the code class will be continued for those who wish it. The question of discontinuing meetings during the summer was brought up and it was decided to wait until a later date before deciding definitely.

No further business being before the meeting, it was adjourned by unanimous vote.

After the business meeting, two reels of motion pictures were shown by Herb Blanke and then members visited W.M.P., the State Police radio station.

Respectfully submitted

A. L. Schaltenbrand, Sec.

### FARA Horizons

Jan 3: Club Meeting

Jan 28: Board Meeting

Feb 7: Club Meeting

### This month's Circuit sponsored by:

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