

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association June 1997, Vol. 64, No. 6

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Thursday, June 5

This Month's Meeting

Marjie, KA1HIA

Food, fun and radio really come together on Field Day. At this month's meeting, Dave, K1HT, will give you a taste of what's on the plate for this year's Field Day weekend.

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 Saturday following the FARA board meeting.

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

by mail

President's Message

It's hard to believe that this will be my last column as president of the club. This has been a wonderful experience for me, personally, and I hope the club has not done too badly either. Two years ago, I was nervous about taking on this job but Martin helped convince me that I was indeed up to the challenge. Thanks Martin for the vote of confidence.

I also need to thank the other officers for their help in making this an enjoyable time. Thanks to Dennis for taking care of the books and especially for all the technical expertise he brings to the club. He has great experience and know how and the club has benefited from this. Thanks to Anne (and Paul) for getting all our words into a written form that we will be able to refer to in years to come. Dick has offered his experience and sage advise on more than one occasion and even managed to get me to calm down after a really bad day. Thanks. I especially thank Jim for sharing the duties with me. His advise and council made the job easier and more enjoyable. Thanks to all the others that have helped the club in many other ways. This is unique group and all of you make the club work and grow.

Most especially, I thank Brian, Kristi and Andrew for helping to make this easier for me. They all had to make their own dinners at times and do without me at home sometimes but they managed and I thank them for their support and encouragement.

FARA goes on and we have many things to look forward to in the next few weeks. Field day is only a month away and the plans are moving along at a fast pace now. There will be meetings and training sessions throughout June and Dave has a complete schedule in his article. As Dave said last night, everything is moving well from our stand point, if only the weather would cooperate! I look forward to another great showing (third place?) and another fun weekend.

We will be planning a family picnic this summer. The date has not been pinned down but stay tuned for more info. This is a fun time for the whole family, food, swimming, games, canoeing, and more food.

A second round of FARA T-shirts has been ordered and they will be available at the meeting for all those interested. Also, I asked about jackets and they are still available and we can place an order if there is enough interest. The cost of the T-shirts will be \$10 and the jackets are about \$60 each. See me for more info.

And to looking really far ahead, the fall Flea Market is September 28, 1997. Keep the date open as I know we'll need help.

Have an enjoyable summer and see you at the meeting and at Field Day.

Welcome To The New FARA Circuit Editor!

by Rick Commo, K1LOG

This month's newsletter was brought to you by your new FARA Circuit editor, Robert Hess, N1UVA. I would like to thank Robert for stepping forward to take the editorship over. I am sure that he will do a good job! In the same breath I would like to ask for your support of Robert. Like me, he is an editor - not a text

Field Day Plans

by Dave Hoaglin, K1HT

The pieces of our plan for Field Day are falling into place. In brief, we have streamlined the band plan, and we're making some changes in our plans for antennas and towers. As the sketch of the site shows, however, many features will be familiar to those who took part in Field Day last year.

Some highlights:

Station 1, on the hill near the road, will operate on 15 meters and 80 SSB, with some time on 40 SSB. It will have a 50-foot tower, supporting a 15-meter beam and the trapped dipole for 80/40.

Station 2, toward the back of the other high area, will handle 20 meters and 80 CW. It will also have a 50-foot tower, with the 20-meter beam, as well as an 80-meter dipole.

Station 3, just up from the parking area, will again be devoted to 40 meters, mainly CW. It will use the 3-element wire beam.

The VHF station will have a taller tower this year (40 feet), with the aim of contributing substantially more QSOs, especially on 6 meters.

This year we're aiming to have all three HF stations on the air by 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, so that they can check out the band and find a good spot before Field Day actually begins.

These plans may seem ambitious, but we showed last year what we can accomplish with a little teamwork!

Please mark your calendar for the two remaining work/planning meetings, June 4 and June 18 (7:30 at the Club shack).

We'll need help (then and perhaps on Saturday)

days) with such projects as building two more bases for the tall towers and marking and tagging the elements of the beams for quick assembly.

Most important, we'll need as many people as possible to help with set-up, starting on Friday, June 27.

Please let Martin, AA1ON (508-435-0564) or me (508-443-3603) know you're coming.

Field Day weekend is finally at hand.
Time to get on and sweep every band.
Hope you can setup on Friday,
Work hard the next day and Sunday!
Helping FARA be the best in the land!

Field Day Plan by Dave Hoaglin

Flag Day Parade

Once again the town has asked us to help out with the annual Flag Day Parade, this year to be held on Sunday, June 8th. I need about 6 to 8 operators for the afternoon. Our job is to pass information for the marshals of the parades to aid in going the parade going on time and in the right order. This is a great time to give to the town and they really are grateful for all the help. Please see me after the meeting to sign on. Thanks. Bev

Club Elections

The election of FARA officers will occur at this months meeting. The Nominating committee has presented the following slate:

- President: Jim Weckback, W1EQW
 - Vice Pres.: Pete Simpson, KA1AXY
 - Secretary: George Foster, N1XAM
 - Treasurer: Martin Bayes, AA1ON
- Nominations from the floor will be taken at the meeting.

**And More...
FESTOONS OF JOY**

Jim Kaplanm, KG7FU
Submitted by Bob Hess, W1RH

I've recently been introduced to one of the best kept ham secrets ever. Jerry Nichols W7AXN brought a Potato Cannon to a recent Saturday afternoon hilltop affair. The Potato Cannon is a device for launching skywire supports. When Jerry shot a potato about 100 yards over K7TBL's tower and new building I knew I had to have one. Construction is simple. Mine is composed of a 2 foot long 2 inch o.d. piece of Schedule 40 ABS, a 2 inch to 3 inch reducer, a 2 foot long section of 3" o.d. ABS, a female coupler and threaded end-cap assembly. The parts are welded together using black abs cement.

The igniter is a replacement part from the Coleman stove people, intended for a gas BBQ grill. The fuel is supplied from a can of Aqua Net hairspray (unscented). My first few potatoes went this way and that until I got the hang of firing the hip cannon. I use 25lb test monofilament secured to a #8 x 2" screw secured to the potato and pull the antenna wire or stronger line over the tree tops. I am now the proud owner of a full size 75m dipole, up 65 or 70 feet in the trees, thanks to Jerry's wonderful 200 yard potato launcher.

-Editor's note: FARA does not recommend that you try this at home.!

DTV-

THE LOCALCHANNEL ASSIGNMENTS

Submitted by Bob Hess W1RH

The final (don't bet money on this) Digital Television assignments were released by the FCC a few weeks ago. The full document may be downloaded in either WordPerfect 5.1 or as an Adobe PDF file at: www.fcc.gov/oet/headline/fcc97115/Welcome.html

Below is a list of some of the channel assignments in New England:

NTSC	DTV	PWR (kw)	H A A T (m)
2	19	1000	317
4	30	783	354
5	20	1000	299
6	49	1000	283
7	42	907	306
9	59	1000	314
10	51	1000	305
11	57	1000	302
12	13	14.6	305
21	33	71.4	320
25	31	64.6	357
27	29	50	466
28	22	148.5	229
36	21	50	102
38	39	67.7	354
40	15	50	91
44	43	50	329
46	52	50	107
49	48	50	390
50	35	92	213
52	49	50	329
56	41	50	360
60	34	50	308
62	18	50.4	186
64	54	88.6	315
66	23	50	326
68	32	50	249

FARA Horizons

- Jun 4: Field Day Planning Meeting
- Jun 5: Monthly meeting
- Jun 18: Field Day Planning Meeting
- Jun 22: Board Meeting
- Jun 28-29: Field Day