

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association June 2001, Vol. 68, No. 6

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Thursday, June 7

This Month's Meeting

Elections will be held and a dxpedition video will be shown at this month's meeting, see the next page for the location change.

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!)

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(508) 910-5689

by mail

Robert Hess, N1UVA

1 Cold Spring Brook Road

Hopkinton, MA 01748

by internet

circuit@fara.org

President's Message

Last Will and Testament of KA1AXY upon his departure from the Presidency of FARA

To W1RH, I leave the Presidency of FARA, and an almost unused gavel, which has traveled around town in the back of my car for the past three years. I also leave Bob with my heartfelt thanks for having been the best VP and program organizer I could have had.

To K1KTK, I leave the old W1FY license, replaced (finally) with a new one. I also leave Dick with my thanks for handling all those "sticky" situations that are best handled at a Directorial level. Enjoy your well-earned retirement, Dick!

To W1VIV, I leave a length of rope, a socket wrench a bottle of No-Al-Ox. Now that you're no longer Treasurer, you're a full-time member of the tower crew!

To N1LOO, I leave an orange vest (marked "FCC") and a lifetime supply of Diet Coke.

To W1EQW, I leave several disassembled antennas, too long to store in the shack, for "temporary" storage in his barn. Let us know when the floor starts to creak, Jim.

To AA1ON and KB1DXN, I leave a tile cutter, some thin-set mortar, and a set of knee pads. Also the advice, "work one, then do a row of tiles".

To K1UR, I leave a couple of transistors and a variable capacitor, along with the hope that one day, we'll get that radio to pick up more than one station.

To W1NXC, I leave a red pen, a copy of the Gordon West No-Code Tech manual and my deepest thanks for a long string of successful License-in-a-Weekend sessions. Now that I have Saturday mornings free again, I can do some slingshot work over your roof.

To KC1YR, I leave the web site, knowing that it's in good hands (and permission to translate it into Serbo-Croatian for April Fool's).

To KE6DPL, I leave the repeater and its peculiarities (and an offer to help replace parts as necessary).

To N1UVA, I leave a President's column submitted (for once) earlier than the last moment, and my thanks for his long service as Circuit editor and publisher, jobs which he and the rest of his family have done so well.

And, finally, to the rest of you, I hope I leave FARA changed slightly for the better. It hasn't always been easy, but overall, it's been a good learning experience. I promise not to be a stranger, and I leave you with the reminder that "at least I made the clocks run on time".

Peter, KA1AXY

Field Day Planning

If you are interested in helping with Field Day planning please join us in the club shack on Wednesday nights throughout June.

Dick Marshall, K1KTK Retires as FARA Director

By Peter, KA1AXY

As many of you know, Dick is now dividing his time between his homes in Florida and Marlboro. He has asked to resign as Director, and we have reluctantly accepted his resignation. Dick has been a tireless advocate for FARA, both externally and internally. He's contributed in so many ways, it's hard to list them all. FARA has been lucky to have him and we thank him for the time, effort and sense of direction he has given us during his time as Director.

2001 Elections

The 2001 elections will be held at the June meeting. The nominating committee has nominated the following people for this year's elections:
Bob Hess, W1RH:

President
Steve Rosenthal, AA1IZ:
Vice President
Ed Collins, KB1CQI:
Secretary
Peter Simpson, KA1AXY:
Treasurer

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

In Case of Emergency

By Wayne, W1EWL

Medway Emergency Management is looking for hams who live in nearby towns and would be willing to help in the event of an emergency. We understand that your family and hometown commitments come first but in the event of a localized problem we would appreciate any help you could provide. Please contact Wayne, W1EWL (508-533-8746) or John, KB1FHI (508-533-7275) if you are interested.

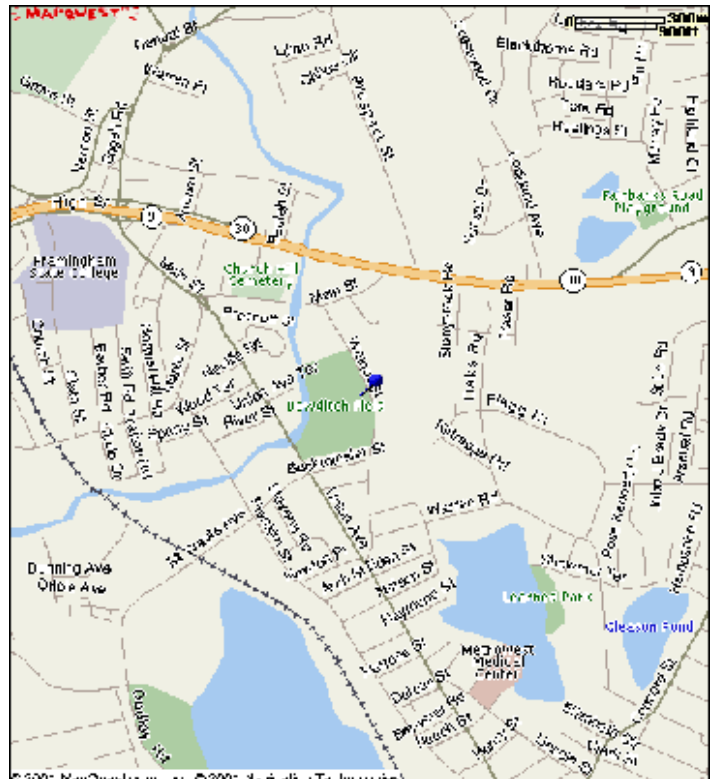
Change of Address

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

Special Location and Time for June Meeting and Officer Elections

The June FARA meeting (with officer elections) will be held at the Framingham Parks and Recreation building at Bowditch Field. Park is in the lot behind the field, off Walnut St.

The location has been changed because several of the current officers will be helping with the annual Road Race, which starts at 7:30. We will hold the meeting immediately after the end of the race. We expect this to be about 8:30. Feel free to arrive early and help out at the race.



Bowditch Field, Framingham

Useful FARA URLs

Main FARA Web site: <http://www.fara.org> (goes to www.qsl.net/fara)
Archives of the FARA mailing list: <http://list.fara.org>
Club info and officers: <http://info.fara.org>
Info on our W1FY packet cluster node: <http://packet.fara.org>
Other interesting ham-related links: <http://links.fara.org>

READ THE CIRCUIT ONLINE... SAVES PAPER AND POSTAGE

Now available as an Adobe Acrobat file
email 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
Student / Retired \$10
Repeater (voluntary) \$10

QSL Card

By Sharon, KC1YR



I've always been a believer in hand-writing my outgoing QSL cards. Computer-generated labels seem so impersonal, after the direct contact of a QSO! However, after massive amounts of QSL cards came flooding from a couple of Worked All Europe contests, I reconsidered.

Boris T93Y, who serves as a QSL manager for several stations, spoke so highly about the label-generating software BV, I finally decided to give it a try. Good decision!

One of the great things about BV is the price: it's freeware (find it on the Web at <http://www.qsl.net/df3cb/bv.html>)

Unfortunately, BV isn't the most user-friendly software to figure out at first. However, I was lucky to have Boris to offer long-distance help. And once you get the hang of it, it's pretty painless: Type in the callsign of the received card, mark the QSOs you want printed, keep doing that until you've gone through your stack of incoming cards, then send the whole pile off to the print queue.

The software accepts a number of different log formats, including CT. Labels can be printed in prefix order, so the cards are already sorted for sending to the bureau. You can design your own label layout pretty easily. Boris even added a note field in for us and input data so the cor

rect operator on Team KC1YR shows up for each QSO.

In my Luddite days, I'd typically answer a pile of contest cards from the bureau over the course of several evenings. I went through my first BV batch in under an hour, including pasting labels onto the cards.

For the ragchewing QSOs I do at my home station, I'm still going to hand-write the cards. But for contest QSLing, it's now BV all the way -- as our latest Worked All Europe QSL card shows (note the space for the label).

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 hand written notes, verbatim, and they will appear in this and future issues of the Circuit. They make for fascinating reading!

Jan. 12, 1934

The 18th regular meeting of the Comm. Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 8:10 pm by president William LaBarr. The secretary's report was read and accepted. After the reading of the minutes, the secretary presented the treasurer's report. Moved by N. L. Thompson to accept report, seconded and so voted.

Moved by Mr. Tedford to donate the sum of \$5.00 to the Civic League for the purpose of defraying expense of light, heat and rent for past year. Seconded and so voted.

The report of Nomination Committee was read by Mr. Tedford and consisted of the following names:

President J. D. McLean

Vice-Pres. C. R. Crosby

Treas. E. M. Parsons

Secretary A. L. Schaltenbrand

Activities Manager N. L. Thompson

A ballot was taken and the nomination committee's selections were elected.

The new officers then took charge of the meeting.

Moved by Wm. LaBarr that the club open a banking account for the convenience of the Treasurer. Seconded and so voted.

President McLean appointed by following committees.

Program Committee: Herbert Blanke, Ted Love

Q.R.M. and Technical Committee:

C.R. Crosby, F. L. Tedford, P. Ruland

Membership Committee: Wm. LaBarr, Wallace Coffin

Publicity man: Bob Cunningham

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

Following the business meeting, a fine talk was given by George K. Bailey W1KH of Weston, New England director of the A.R.R.L. Mr. Bailey gave us a good explanation of the controversy between Magazine R/9 and the A.R.R.L. He extended an invitation to club members to attend a Hamfest to be held Feb. 17, at Hotel Bradford Boston. Time 12:00 p.m. Price 1.25. He also had on exhibition an excellent five meter transmitter.

At the conclusion of the talk, members gathered around for discussion and to examine the National Guard transmitter which we had on exhibition.

Respectfully submitted

A. L. Schaltenbrand, Sec.

FARA Horizons

June 7: Club Meeting

June 23-24: Field Day

June 25: Board Meeting

This month's Circuit sponsored by:

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