

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association May 2001, Vol. 68, No. 5

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President's Message

Isn't it nice to see the green grass and the flowers again? Spring is here, and with it comes FARA Night Out! If you haven't marked off May 19th on your calendar yet, put a big "X" there, and send a check for \$17 per person to Sumner Weisman. We'll be gathering at the Bella Costa for dinner and the usual tall tales.

Also coming up, Field Day! I haven't seen many people at the shack on Wednesday nights for the planning sessions. We'll be doing a Field Day appropriate to the number of people who show interest, so it's up to you to show up and determine what kind of an effort it will be. Remember that we now have our own tent!

It appears that we have succeeded in changing the trustee name on the WIFY license. Dennis Brothers, KE6DPL, is the new FARA trustee. Dennis and Karen do a lot of volunteer work down at the MEMA bunker, and he's been the repeater maintenance guy for the past several years. Thanks to Dennis for taking on the formal trusteeship.

The clocks in the shack are now more likely to show the correct time. I have retrofitted all three wall clocks with "quartz" movements. The attempt to have a WWVB "atomic" clock in the shack failed, due to low signal strength. It may still be possible with a remote antenna, but that's a project for some other day.

Last, but not least, I'd like to ask you all to make a special effort to attend the May club meeting. Our Special Service Club status has just been renewed, and our ARRL Club Coordinator and Section officials will be there to make a presentation. We will be having refreshments afterwards, so bring your favorite soft drink or cookies. FARA will be providing cake and coffee. This should be an exciting (and maybe somewhat surprising) meeting!

Thursday, May 3

This Month's Meeting

Art, W1RZF, will be here to talk about the W1QSL bureau. Here's how those QSL's get to your mail box.

Peter, KA1AXY

New Licenses & Upgrades Earned at FARA Flea

By Jim, W1EQW

The VE testing session at the March 25th FARA Flea Market netted a total of 17 newly licensed hams and upgrades. The session served 28 candidates. The VE team administered 32 exam elements of which 19 received passing grades. This resulted in 6 new Technician licenses (brand new hams), 1 Technician w/hf, 7 Generals, and 3 Extras. Twenty-eight candidates was a significant increase from the last FARA FLEA held on November 5, 2000 which served seventeen candidates.

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:

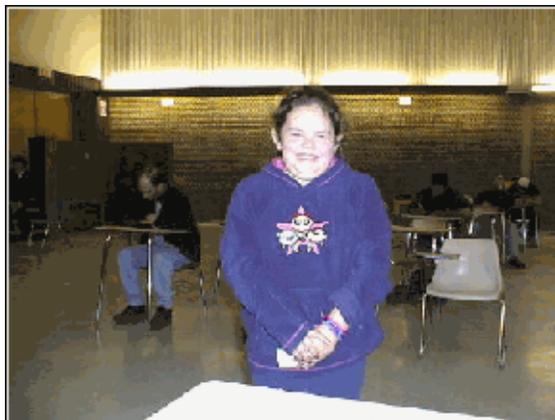
(508) 435-2055 (before 9:00PM please!)

College:

(508) 910-5689

by mail

Robert Hess, N1UVA
1 Cold Spring Brook Road
Hopkinton, MA 01748



"One smile says it all!"

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Congratulations to our new hams and upgrades, and they are:

Phillip Aschoff, KB1GNR Tech
Charlotte Brace, KB1GNS Tech
David Bardfield, N1DDD Gen
Stephen Cloutier, AA1YA Extra
Jeanne Dalzell, WA1PAN Gen
Megan Gentry, KB1FCA Gen
Joseph Hersey, KB1GMV Tech w/hf
Carmine Iannace, W1EQX Gen
John Kittross, K3DBU Gen
Leo Laskin, N1VYF Extra
James Lester, AA1XZ Extra
Michael Miglorino, KB1GNQ Tech
Jennifer Russo, KB1GNP Tech
Wilfredo Silva, KB1GNO Tech
K. David Stahl, KB1GNN Tech
Alexander Syriac, KA1VWX Gen
Steven Tatro, KB1FDS Gen

The VE team did a great job in the registration and the administering of the exams. The VE team consisted of: Ed, W1NXC; Jim, WN1A; Leo, WA1HAM; Peter, KA1AXY; Martin, AA1ON; Larry, AG1C; Kevin, N1JMY; and Jim, W1EQW.

FARA NIGHT OUT - May 19, 2001

Bella Costa Restaurant

This is always a fun night, and an opportunity to relax in the company of your FARA friends. Depending on attendance, we will offer either a buffet or choice of Veal Parm, Chicken Breast or Baked Fish. Price approx \$17 per person, contact Sumner, W1VIV for the details and to make your reservation.

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

View USGS Maps and Aerial Photo Images On-line

I found this and thought I would pass it along.... Very handy! Topo maps (and aerial photographs) on line:
<http://mapping.usgs.gov/partners/viewonline.html>
Use "TopoZone"

German Powerline Communications - RFI Feared

Germany's upper house of parliament has given the green light to powerline communications. This may be bad news for short wave reception and maybe AM reception too in light of this technical report commissioned by the European DX Council:
<http://users.iol.it/pmo/plc.htm>

MA QSO Party

Don't forget the Mass QSO Party on the first weekend in May and sponsored by FARA. We need FARA members to operate from the Club Shack. Contact Bob, W1RH, if you want to operate or put your name on the sign up list at the next meeting.

FraminghamARA-L@qth.net

The FARA email reflector is working well. It provides us with an easy way to reach all our members who have email. You have to sign up so it will reach you, though.
To sign up, send a message to majordomo@qth.net with contents "subscribe FraminghamARA-L". (Without the quotes, of course). The subject can be left blank, the server only looks at the contents of the message. You'll get back a confirmation, follow its instructions exactly, then you're on the list!

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!

FARA Takes Down Another Tower Photos by Peter, KA1AXY

FARA members participated in the take down of a tower in Wayland, earlier this month, that was donated to the club. More photos are posted on the club website.



Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)
Regular FARA \$15
Student / Retired \$10
Repeater (voluntary) \$10



eQSL Card

By Robert, N1UVA



This month's card also goes along with this month's meeting in that someday it may make QSL sorting a thing of the past, so read below to find out why.

Although, they are seen as non-traditional and even controversial by some hams the "eQSL" card is a new way to QSL fellow amateur operators. The only site right now offering eQSL's is at www.eqsl.cc. Eqsl.cc currently has over two million cards in their database. The "big" idea was that eQSLs should not be sent around from person to person via e-mail, but should be available at any time through a web-based exchange system and a central database. The central database ensures that all cards are legitimate. Someday you may even be able to file for your WAS or WAC awards with a click of a button instead of the traditional validation process. Big contestors will be able to 100% QSL and just think of being able to immediately get your QSL from that rare DXpedition!

To create your own eQSL there are three different styles to choose from. There are many stock images you can use or you can use your own scanned image for five dollars, which is about the only charge you will encounter on the site.

This month's card from Hans in Bergen, Norway uses a free stock image. If you haven't yet checked out eQSL cards, go to www.eqsl.cc and set up your own account, you may already have some cards waiting for you!

I have seen many PSK 31 operators end their conversation with me saying that their eQSL has been sent. This month's "eQSL" is no exception and was received while I was working PSK 31, under the club call, WIFY, at the special JOTA station that was set up at Nobscot Scout Reservation last October.

The Circuit is in need of QSL cards!!! If you would like to share your favorite QSL card, which could be your own, with the club, please send it my way! A caption or story would be appreciated also.

Don't let not having a scanner keep you from sending in your favorite card. Many FARA Members have access to scanners, including Bob, WIRH.

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, WIRH's XYL, has transcribed the handwritten notes, verbatim, and they will appear in this and future issues of the Circuit. They make for fascinating reading!

December 22, 1933

The 17th regular meeting of the C.A.R.A. was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Pres. Wm. LaBarr.

The report of the secty was read and accepted. Following the reading of the minutes the roll was called by secty.

Moved by Mr. Blanke to send out written notice of the next meeting and annual election of officers. Seconded and so voted.

Moved by Mr. Tedford to give the Secty free membership during term of office, and to be retroactive. Seconded, so voted.

Report by Mr. McLean on intention of F.C.C. to take action against over modulation.

Report of Radio Shack of Brattle St., Boston to offer a prize for any contest the club may wish to have.

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

Following the business meeting the small group in attendance enjoyed some excellent movies presented by Mr. Blanke of the program comm. thru courtesy of G.E. Co.

Resp. Submitted

C. R. Crosby

Secty.

FARA Horizons

May 3 Club Meeting

May 5-6: MA QSO Party

May 19: FARA Night Out

May 28: Board Meeting

This month's Circuit sponsored by:

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