

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association October 2001, Vol. 68, No. 10

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Thursday, Oct 4

This Month's Meeting

This month Paul, K1XM and Charlotte, KQ1F will bring their presentation on the Federated States of Micronesia. Check out this month's QSL card for a short background.

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

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President's Message

The horrific events of the past month have brought out the best in many Americans. Hams are not excluded from this group. Many Amateur Radio operators from Massachusetts volunteered to help provide communication in New York City, working in less than desirable conditions. Our own Vice President, Steve, AA1IZ, volunteered to spend a week but was turned down because the organizers had already collected enough volunteers. I have been told that the number of Hams offering their assistance numbered in excess of 400. Perhaps other FARA members were among those volunteering their services.

Locally, Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, and his group at the MEMA bunker remained on alert throughout the crisis. At the same time, the SKYWARN guys were watching the formation of a tropical storm down south and the possible impact of this storm on New England. This is what Ham Radio is all about and this is why we are privileged to have valuable radio spectrum assigned to our class of service. I know Tom can use all the help he can get. Please call him if you want to get involved with Amateur Radio related activities at the Bunker. FARA members Karen, K1KEB, and Dennis, KE6DPL, have been very active in Tom's group for years, as have other FARA members.

Marc, WA1R, will be starting up his weekly emergency net again. We'll announce it on the web site and on the reflector. This, along with the FARA Net, is a great chance for you to exercise your radio on a weekly basis and is really a nice way for new, microphone-shy, hams to get on the air. FARA public service activities organized by Bev, N1LOO, Jim, W1EQW, and others, always require radio operators. Again, another fine way to get new Hams on the air. And - can you believe it? - this stuff is fun!

The bottom line here is to remember your public service responsibilities as an Amateur Radio Operator. A day or two a year at the Bunker or providing communication for a marathon or parade is a good way to remind the public that our radio frequencies are used not only for fun and worldwide good will but also for the good of the populace.

Many of us may not be flying in airliners for some time and I'm sure few, if any of us, have a trip planned to the islands of the South Pacific. This month's world-class, dxpedition presentation by Paul, K1XM, and Charlotte, KQ1F, will take us to the islands of the Federated States of Micronesia without leaving the ground. We are very fortunate to have Paul and Charlotte here this month, along with all of their expensive presentation equipment. Why not join us this Thursday and take a trip to the Pacific?

Bob, W1RH

October Upgrade Classes

By Ed, WINXC

Last call for the October upgrade classes! Sign up now for General or Extra License "cram" courses to be held at the Club shack on Saturdays, 9:30 am to noon. No text required-No fee-Anyone who wants to upgrade to General or Extra and who plans to take the exam at the coming flea market Nov 4 should attend one or more of these classes.

Do you know the frequency limits for the General class licensee for the 12, 24 and 30 meter bands? Are you up to date on the new RF safety standards for all Ham operators? How about Thevenin's theorem? Are you familiar with mosfets? How about the characteristics of a three terminal regulator? Can you tell the difference

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between an Nor Gate and an Or gate ?
Come to the classes for the answers and a lot of other material that may just come in handy when you take the big test on November 4. These classes are primarily intended for those who have 5 wpm credit (or higher) but codeless Techs are welcome also, although you will have to eventually pass the cw requirements to obtain a higher grade license.

NOTE: If you are studying the code , make sure you have the latest code tapes-The ARRL has lowered the character speed to 15 wpm, from 18. This may make a slight difference in the test (if you are used to the 18 wpm character speed). The Morse Academy software can be easily adjusted to accommodate the slower rate.

Shop Online?

Use amazon.fara.org and help out the club. FARA receives a small percentage of your order.

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!

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

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 WIFY packet cluster node: <http://packet.fara.org>
Other interesting ham-related links: <http://links.fara.org>
Shop at Amazon.com and help FARA: <http://amazon.fara.org>
Fara's online discussion forum: <http://forum.fara.org>

FARA's Forum

FARA now has an online discussion forum. Check it out on forum.fara.org. Here the top 5 topics being discussed this month:

- 5) Membership Retention
 - 4) DirectPC Setup for Sale
 - 3) See Everyone Tomorrow! (FARA Picnic)
 - 2) Emergency Net???
 - 1) Sunday Night FARA Net
- Get in the forum and post your views on these topics and more!

Fall Flea Market November 4th Volunteers Needed

Bev is looking for 30+ people to help at the flea market. Shifts usually run 2 hours and include anything from helping vendors in/out to collecting money at the doors. You will receive a free admission to the flea market (a \$3 value) for your help and also know you have helped the club with its major fund raiser. Thanks in advance and let my know by phone 508-626-2012 or email b-blees@juno.com.

Going to a flea market this month? Help publicize the FARA Flea Market by bringing some of our flyers. Ask a club officer for a stack of flyers to bring to a local ham flea market or event.

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

FARA Picnic

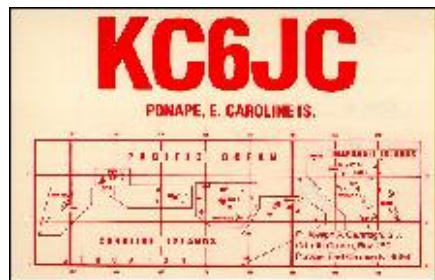
Pictures by Steve, AA1IZ and Sharon, KC1YR

A good time was had by all at this years FARA Picnic. Sharon has posted many more pictures on the club web site.



QSL Card

Write-up by Bob, W1RH



This month, we have two cards from the Federated States of Micronesia which is the presentation topic at this month's FARA meeting. I have included two QSL's for this DXCC entity because of the different prefixes reflecting the country's recent history.

Spanish and Portuguese navigators explored the Caroline Islands dating back to 1525. Spain claimed sovereignty over the Caroline Islands until 1899 when Spain sold the islands to Germany. In 1914, Japanese naval squadrons took over possession of the Carolines, Marshalls and Marianas. The US occupied the islands in World War II, ending Japanese administration. In 1947, the United Nations created a Trust Territory which included what is now Micronesia and the United States accepted the role of Trustee. In 1978, following a Constitutional Convention, the people of the islands voted to form a Federation under the constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia. This included what are now the states of Kosrae, Ponape, Truk and Yap. The constitution was implemented in 1979. Thereupon, the United States entered upon a period, lasting until 1986, of orderly transfer of governmental functions consistent with the terms and intent of the UN Trusteeship Agreement.



V63X is the call sign from Paul (K1XM) and Charlotte's (KQ1F) 1998 expedition and reflects the current prefix for the Federated States of Micronesia.

KC6JC is the call sign of a well known catholic priest, Father Joe Cavanagh (Cav) who operated for years on Ponape in the Eastern Caroline Islands. His card shows a nice map of the area. The KC6 prefix (assigned to the United States) was used during the period of US Trusteeship and continued to be used for a period after 1979 until the call signs were changed to the V6 prefix. I worked Cav in 1989. Cav's call sign was changed to V63JC soon after I worked him.

Paul and Charlotte have a presentation this month, blending ham radio with under water diving, showing the beauty above and below the surface of the Federated States of Micronesia.

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

March 9, 1934

The 22nd regular meeting of the Commu

nity Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Pres. McLean. The secretary's report was read and accepted.

Pres. McLean announced that in order to present moving pictures, our first meeting of April would have to be changed from Friday the thirteenth to Friday April 6.

The secretary read a letter received from the Minneapolis Radio Club concerning the A.R.R.L. Dr. Crosby was appointed chairman of a committee of two to visit Mr. George Bailey and talk over the details of the letter.

Activities Manager Thompson announced two contests with prizes. The first contest to be won by the first man in club to obtain his license and get on the air. The second to go to the first amateur to build up a five meter transmitter and receiver, get it on the air and have it at a club meeting for inspection. It was voted that all club officers with the exception of the secretary be excluded from the contests. Because of the number of members who wanted new handbooks, the secretary was authorized to purchase ten at the special club price.

There being no further business before the meeting, it was adjourned by unanimous vote. After the business meeting, the raffle committee took charge and several pieces of apparatus were raffled off.

Respectfully Submitted

Alfred Schaltenbrand

Sec.

Correction: the five meter amateur contest will be decided by a point system. Appearance, neatness, etc. to count.