

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association July, 2020 Vol. 87, No. 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sorry for the late distribution. First of all, a round of thanks is in order. First a general thanks to everyone who participated in the club's activities, culminating in Field Day. We have finished another year ending with our social distancing Field Day. It has been a strange few months with out Zoom meetings, social distancing, hand washing, "senior hours" at the supermarket, facemasks, etc.

Next some specific thanks. I will probably forget someone but here goes: Thanks to Paul King for his many years of service as President of FARA and then Vice President. I hope we can find someone to take over at VP. Thanks to Victor Anderson (and Ellen) for his many years of services as Secretary / Clerk, and also to Steve Babbitt for being willing to take over that role. Thanks to Steve Moro for his role as Treasurer and webmaster, for keeping the financials in order. Check out the old copies of the Circuit going back, Of course thanks to Sumner Weisman for his many years of service and guidance, his great talk on Korean War Radio, and his willingness to finish out his 3 year Directors term. Thanks to Jim Weckback for keeping the testing process going. Thanks to Dave Miscia, for the excellent talk on satellites, for taking over the repeater responsibilities, willingness to take over as Field Day Manager, QSL manager and badge maker. Thanks to Glenn Axelrod for working with Dave Miscia to decipher the schematic for the repeater and for other technical expertise. Thanks to Fred Beihold for being willing to coordinate traffic passing. Thanks for Richard Cosma for handling the scholarship process and being willing to take over as Publicity Manager. Thanks to Andy Boughton for keeping the Echolink going, for ushering the 501c3 process along, and for his background technical expertise. Thanks to Steve Hewlitt for being willing to coordinate the Sunday Night FARA net. Thanks to all who come to the monthly and board meetings. And of course thanks to Dave Levinson and Nahama for monitoring the repeater and responding any call to it.

We were able to obtain 501c3 status, and hope to see progress on this once we consult with an accountant.

I think we have to plan on using Zoom for some time, we will see. I have not heard from the Police Station about whether they have any idea if the training room will be open. Personally I think the Zoom meetings are ok. We will have to find speakers willing to run Zoom and give a talk. We certainly can watch some Youtube videos as a group and discuss them.

We have about 57 paid members. If you paid for 2020, you will be on the website at <http://w1fy.org/member-list-2020>. Check it out to see if you are paid up.

There is a virtual hamvention coming up, take a look at **QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo**
[https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/.](https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/)>>

"Participate in this ground breaking, virtual international amateur radio expo. Packed with world renowned speakers, exhibitors, and special conference rooms built on a virtual reality platform. Attend from the convenience of your desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Coming to your laptop, tablet, and smartphone on: August 8 and 9, 2020"

Last of all, the NAQP, the North American QSO Party comes in three flavors, the SSB version is the easiest for us to operate as a club. It lasts 12 hours and I think you can only operate 10 of those. We tried it last year and made an adequate showing. It will run from 2pm Saturday August 15 to 2 pm Sunday August 16. We can preregister as a group so whomever is interested in operating, lets get together and send in a list.

SILENT KEY: We regret the passing of a former officer of FARA, Anne Bacchiocchi, ex-N1ECI.

Former club member, Anne Bacchiocchi, of Millis, became a silent key on July 3, 2020. Her former call was ex-N1ECI. Her husband Paul, ex-N1DGT, survives her. Marc reminds us that Anne was once Secretary of FARA. Also she and her husband Paul were very strong supporters of FARA during the 1980s. They were married for 38 years; they had no children, but they did have cats and loved them all. Anne's beloved cat Cleo passed just the day before Anne's passing. From Marc Stern, WA1R

Obituary. <https://obitree.com/obituary/us/massachusetts/millis/millis-location/anne-bacchiocchi/4256604/>
Anne Bacchiocchi, of Millis, late on July 3, 2020 at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, Boston. She was 65 years old. Anne was the loving wife of Paul W. Bacchiocchi and the daughter of Ernest and Annette (Messier) Allard. She was also the sister of Richard Allard of Pass Christian, Mississippi, and the late Stephen Allard. Services will be announced in the coming days, but memorial donations in Anne's name (and her cat Cleo) may be made to Stray Pets in Need of Natick at <http://straypetsinneed.org/ways-to-help/donations/>

Jim Weckback, W1EQW, writes: "So sorry to hear of the passing of Anne. She and her husband were familiar faces at Saturday morning get-togethers at the FARA club shack. Anne and Paul participated in many of the FARA's activities including contesting, volunteer events, field days, picnics. Condolences to Paul and the rest of the family."

Lew Nyman, K1AZE & Karen KA1BYP, write: "We are very sorry to hear about Anne's passing. Paul and Anne were very good friends of ours while we were living up there. She was a sweet person and we know many will miss her."

Gordy Bello, K1GB, writes: "Hi John: I was saddened to hear of Anne's passing. I remember her and Paul from the FARA meetings, flea markets, Field Days, etc. I also worked with Paul at Analogic for many yeaea."

NEAL LIPSON'S NEW STATION - K1NDF – THE VOICE OF FRAMINGHAM



Ron, KE3KK writes: 7/7/20

Hello All, We finally finished up at Neal's today. Thanks to everyone for your help over the past nine months. It has been quite an undertaking. The pictures show the new SteppIR DB36 up at 70 feet. A double bazooka for 75 meters at about 68 feet. In the shack, Neil has a Kenwood TS-2000X driving an Alpha 87A which can push out 1500 watts. The entire systems talks to Neil. He has a Ham Pad hooked to the SteppIR controller. It tells him what band he is on as well as calling out his frequency as the SteppIR adjusts. He also can control the M2 rotor and Green Heron controller with a Ham Pod. He can press a key and the Ham Pod tells him what direction the antenna is facing. He can key in a new direction and press enter and the antenna will move to the new heading. All this why beeping to let him know the antenna is still turning.

He will soon be adding two 2 meter beams as well as his old 440 beam. Still left to be done is the interface between the rig and the SteppIR controller I am sure I will need the club's help with these. Stop by any time to see Neil's shack and/or listen for him on the air. He would appreciate a visit. He is planning on being on 40 meters tonight.

73, Ron – KE3KK



Upcoming events: North American QSO Party: These three run from about 2 pm on a Saturday to 2 am Sunday morning, running for 12 hours, during which you can operate 10 hours. We entered this last year as a club. If we plan ahead, we can send in a list of stations that will run as Framingham Amateur Radio Association, like they did in Field Day.

- RTTY July 18 to 19
- CW August 1-2
- SSB August 15-16

Officers: see <http://w1fy.org/fara-officers>:

- President: John Iwuc KB1VXY president@W1FY.org
- Vice president: Open
- Clerk/Secretary: Stephen Babbitt, KC1LPZ secretary@W1FY.org
- Treasurer /Webmaster: Steve Moro N1MH treasurer@W1FY.org webmaster@W1FY.org
- Director: Sumner Weisman W1VIV
- Director of Testing Jim Weckback W1EQW testing@fara.org
- Repeater Trustee, Dave Miscia, KB1YXL repeater@w1fy.org
- Traffic Coordinator: Fred Beihold, NV1N traffic@w1fy.org
- Scholarship coordinator, Richard Cosma AA1VI scholarship@w1fy.org
- Echolink coordinator: Andy Boughton, KC1DMM
- Sunday night net control manager: Steve Hewlett, N4NIV
- QSL manager/QRZ Account manager: Sumner Weisman W1VIV, qslmanager@w1fy.org, turning over to Dave Miscia, KB1YXL
- Newsletter editor: John Iwuc, KB1VXY president@w1fy.org
- Field Day Manager: Dave Miscia, KB1YXL
- Publicity Manager Richard Cosma, AA1VI

Meetings: Club meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Framingham Police Station if it is available. Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., April. June. Board Meetings are called periodically. **Due to COVID-19 and recommendations for social distancing and closing of town buildings, meetings at the PD are on hold and will be on ZOOM instead. Members will get an email invitation before the meeting.**

Club Nets:

- FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.75/147.15 - social/chat, emergency preparedness
- Informal Wednesday 7:30 pm Health and Wellness check in net.

Club Web Site: W1FY.org

Social Media:

- facebook.com/faraw1fy
- twitter.com/fara_w1fy

Dues: Flat rate of \$20 per year per person or family, and no separate repeater fee. Paid members will be posted on the web page. You can join/renew/pay online at <http://w1fy.org/membership-form> We have 57 paid members.

Testing: Odd numbered months on the second Wednesday at 7:30PM by appointment only. <http://w1fy.org/license-exams>
Exams on hold while town offices are unavailable.

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