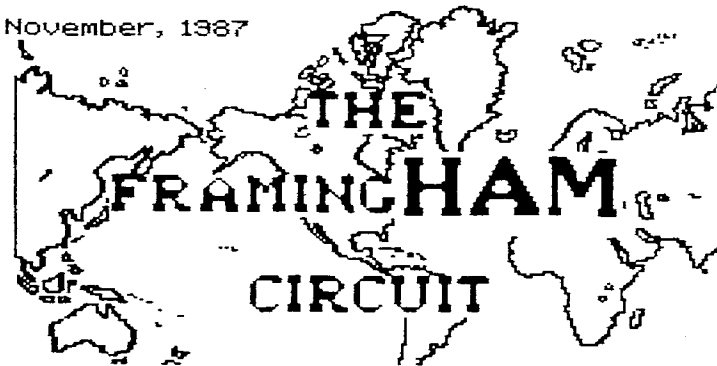


November, 1987



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Meetings

The Club Meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30pm at the Danforth Museum rear entrance on Lexington St., Framingham, Ma.

NEXT MEETING NOV. 5, 1987

Pizza Night

It has been the tradition now for many years that the first meeting night following our Flea Market is Pizza Night. Following the meeting we will all meet at Papa Gino's on Route 30 in the Channell Mall. Come and get to know some of the club members that you haven't met over an 807 or a Coke and a pizza!!!

The President's Message

At the October meeting there was a suggestion that members share with each other some interesting aspect of HAM radio or a facet of the hobby in which they have some expertise. Surely we have enough talent and experience within our club to generate new areas of interest and initiate ELMERING. This would stimulate a new appetite for members to explore things like RTTY, HFDX, ATU, PACKET, SATELITE, and have a hands on taste of these different areas. Let's give a little of ourselves and be an ELMER! It appears that this year we will have a good number of perspective Hams taking our classes. It is with our help that these new HAMS share in our enthusiasm and are made to feel welcome and that help is always available.

It has been called to my attention that some members complain that there is a cliqueness within FARA. This type of clique does exist because only a precious few members do all too much work. So come on join the clique. Your help is very much needed and the clique will welcome you.

73's, Burt Shaffer, N1DDO

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER, 1987 MEETING OF THE FRAMINGHAM AMATEUR RADIO ASSN. INC.

Submitted by Marc Stern, N1BLH

The October meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1 with Burt Shaffer, N1DDO, presiding. Immediately after the opening everyone introduced themselves and welcomed all to the meeting.

Next, Burt welcomed Enzo Rotatori, WA1PYF, past club president to the meeting. Enzo is now out and about after a recent bout with illness. Enzo thanked Burt.

Next, the new Club Newsletter Editor Ted Gruber, WB1ECE, was congratulated on the fine job he did with the first issue of the Framingham Circuit for this year. Ted took over the editorship at the end of the summer.

Moving on to old business, Burt noted there had been a board meeting at which several items were discussed. He brought the items before the club membership.

The items were:

1. Replacing the old tri-bander on the roof of the club station. The reason this is needed is because the old one has bad traps and has taken a pretty good beating by the elements. The board suggested a two-element Butternut Butterfly beam. The reason this antenna was suggested was because of its light weight. The roof cannot support tower sections and we are using masting bolted into the wall of the station roof. This means the antenna can't be very heavy and the board believes this is the best antenna for the purpose. Some suggested that the antenna was particularly critical in tuning. However, the body unanimously passed an appropriation for the new antenna.

2. Creating interest in the club. Burt referred to the emergency vehicle project and then mentioned Vice President Don Morse's idea of providing something special to newcomers or who may have something special to contribute. Don interjected that his idea was to list the interests in the newsletters to let others know what help is available and to alert others with similar interests so that each person might share the interests.

3. Using a mini-auction at the November meeting to help provide a little more input into the club treasury.

4. Using Treasurer Dick Marshall's trailer as the emergency communications vehicle if we can't find a town-owned van or vehicle.

With the report on the board meeting finished, the meeting then turned to the Flea Market and Chairman Lew Nyman, K1AZE, explained the flea market basics for those who haven't helped out before. Lew mentioned this year's setup problems posed by a play the night before our Flea Market. This year's Flea Market features an interesting twist, an "Early Bird" special, where the 100 buyers who pay \$5.00 extra will be allowed in early to see the bargains before the doors open at 10 a.m. this has been tried elsewhere and no one knows how much objection there has been to it.

Lew noted that the Flea Market is our major fund-raising effort and that each Flea Market attracts between

600 and 700 operators. He needs help for just about every job, including people to handle admission, people to handle the sellers, people to handle the talk-in, and people to handle the club table.

A show of hands indicated that many people were interested in helping out and a signup sheet was passed around.

Moving along, Lew noted that after more than 10 years serving as Flea Market chairman that it is time to pass the baton to someone else. He has been with the Flea Market scene since Enzo held the first one about 12 years ago. Lew had been heading it for about 10 years. Now, Lew feels it is time to pass things along to a new chairman, chairmen, or chairpersons. to help the transition or to help any future chairmen, Lew will prepare a "Flea Market Chairman's Kit", which will contain instructions about every aspect of the Flea Market. For example, it will identify when to rent the hall; how to rent tables; how to set up refreshments; table setup, and just about every detail a chairman will need to be successful. It will also detail key dates on which certain things should be completed.

Lew won't be abandoning the new chairman, either. He will be there to answer questions and help out in any capacity that the new chairman will need.

If anyone is interested in taking charge of this

important event, please contact either Burt or Lew.

Moving on to classes, Ed Weiss, WINXC, Chief Instructor, noted that registration for the classes will be Saturday Oct. 3 and that it will be continued Oct. 10. The classes will be in the library basement, rather than the club station.

At the moment, Ed noted he was looking for an instructor for the high-speed (13 wpm) code group for those Techs who need code to upgrade to general. He is also looking for other instructors to lend a hand. There have been some inquiries, too, about Advanced Classes. To the meeting date, 12 people had already signed up for the classes.

In other business:

Burt noted FARA needed a chairman for the refreshment committee. Pete Simpson, KA1AXY, volunteered and is now looking for people to help him out.

Marc Stern, N1BLH, District Emergency Coordinator for weather services, described how the Section Emergency Test would work.

Ted Gruber is looking for someone for his "Person of the Month" column that will be starting in the newsletter soon.

It was suggested that a tearoff coupon be included with the newsletter describing Elmering availability or special interests. These coupons, it was suggested,

would be compiled and published for all club members.

Don Morse noted that if anyone was interested in the auction that operator should call Don.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m. and Activities Officer Marjie Stern, KA1HIA, introduced the speaker of the evening, Thomas Rinoldo, Framingham Deputy Fire Chief and Deputy Director of Framingham Civil Defense. Tom spoke on the new Framingham Fire Department radio system.

Respectfully submitted,

By Marc Stern, N1BLH
Secretary, FARA

WESTLINK NEWS SERVICE

There is a new news service in our area devoted to HAM radio. It is the Westlink News Service. The number is 449-2226. It is in Needham. It is a 10 minute tape that is changed every Friday. It tells the latest happenings from the FCC and ARRL that effect all HAMS. They even have human interest stories. It is informative and also fun.

73, Lance Kisby, KA1OON

HOW TO REPAIR A TWO METER RIG

By Lew Nyman, K1AZE

Sooner or later, every ham is plagued with a two meter transceiver that won't work. The problem may be a

loose connection, a defective part, misuse, or just plain old age. If you possess some basic technical skills you may want to try the following techniques. These methods aren't guaranteed to bring results, but they will give you something to do before resorting to sending the rig back to the factory.

Step 1:

Approach the radio with a confident manner. This will give the radio a mistaken impression that you know something. It will also impress anyone who might be looking, and if it should suddenly start working you will be credited with the repair. If this fails, proceed to step 2.

Step 2:

Wave the service manual at the radio. This will make it assume you understand its circuitry and that you know how to read a schematic diagram. If this fails, proceed to step 3.

Step 3:

In a forceful manner recite Ohm's Law. Before you take this step, be sure you know it. This will prove to the radio that you indeed know something. If the radio still isn't impressed, proceed to step 4.

Step 4:

Jar the rig slightly. This may require anything from a 3 to a 6 pound hammer. However you must be careful not to damage the hammer. If

this step still does not bring results proceed to the next step.

Step 5:

Wave a large screwdriver in a menacing manner. This will show the radio that you know the deadly short circuit technique.

Step 6:

If nothing else works, try taking some ohm meter readings, assuming you own an ohm meter. This should confuse the radio and increase your advantage.

Step 7:

If the radio has no sentimental value and you're sick and tired of fooling with it, try bringing it to the next ham radio flea market in your area. People will always buy junk as well as good stuff.

Step 8:

If you want to make a last ditch effort to save it, and you do not wish to display further ignorance, bring it to any one of your ham radio buddies since they are more knowledgeable than you and claim to be experts. If this step fails proceed to step 9.

Step 9:

Return the radio back to the factory. You should have done this in the first place!

The END

Socket to Them!
or:
The History of the Development
of Electricity

by Dave Barry

Today's scientific question is: What in the world is electricity? And where does it go after it leaves the toaster?

Here is a simple experiment that will teach you an important electrical lesson:

On a cool, dry day, scuff your feet along a carpet, then reach into a friend's mouth and touch one of his dental fillings. Did you notice how your friend twitched violently and cried out in pain? This teaches us that electricity can be a very powerful force, but we never use it to hurt others unless we need to learn an important electrical lesson.

It also teaches us how an electrical circuit works. When you scuffed your feet, you picked up small batches of "electrons," which are very small objects that carpet manufacturers weave into carpets so they will attract dirt. (that will cause the carpet to wear out faster so you will need to buy a new one sooner, but thats another story) The electrons travel through your blood stream and collect in your finger, where they form a spark that leaps to your friend's filling, then travels down to his feet and back into the carpet, thus completeing the circuit.

Amazing Electronic Fact:
If you scuffed your feet long

enough without touching anything, you would build up so many electrons that your finger would explode! But this is nothing to worry about unless you have carpeting.

Although we modern persons tend to take our electric lights, radios, mixers, etc. for granted, hundreds of years ago people did not have any of these things, which is just as well because there was no place to plug them in. Then came along the first Electrical Pioneer, Benjamin Franklin, who flew a kite in a lightning storm and received a serious electrical shock. This proved that lightning was powered by the same force as carpets, but it also damaged Franklin's brain so that he started speaking in maxims, such as "A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned." (Eventually he got so bad that he had to be given a job running the post office, but that's another story)

After Franklin came a herd of Electrical Pioneers whose names have become part of our electrical terminology: Myron Volt, Mary Louise Amp, James Watt, Bob Transformer, etc. These pioneers conducted many important electrical experiments. For example, in 1780 Luigi Galvani discovered (this is the way) when he attached two different kinds of metal to the leg of a frog, an electrical current developed and the frog's leg kicked, even though it was no longer attached to the frog, which was dead anyway. Galvani's discovery led to enormous advances in the field of amphibian medicine. Today skilled veterinary surgeons

can take a frog that has been seriously injured or killed, implant pieces of metal in its muscles, and watch it hop back into the pond just like a normal frog, except for the fact that it sinks like a stone.

But the greatest Electrical Pioneer of them all was Thomas Edison, who was a brilliant inventor despite the fact that he had little formal training and lived in New Jersey. Edison's first major invention in 1877, was the phonograph, which could be found in thousands of American homes, where it basically sat until 1923 when the record was invented. But Edison's greatest achievements came in 1879, when he invented the electric company. Edison's design was a brilliant adaptation of the simple electric circuit: The electric company sends electricity through a wire to a customer, then immediately gets the electricity back through another wire, then (this is the brilliant part) sends it right back to the customer again.

This means the electric company can sell a customer the same batch of electricity thousands of times a day and never get caught, since very few customers take the time to examine their electricity closely. In fact, the last year any new electricity was generated in the United States was 1937; the electric companies have merely been reselling it ever since, which is why they have so much free time to apply for rate increases.

Today, thanks to men like Edison and Franklin, and frog's like Galvani's, we receive unlimited benefits from electricity. For example, in the past decade scientists developed the laser, an electronic appliance so powerful that it can vaporize a bulldozer 2,000 yards away, yet so precise that doctors can use it to perform delicate operations on the human eye, provided they remember to change the power setting from "Vaporize Bulldozer" to "Delicate".

submitted by Peter Simpson
KALAXY

Editorial

I want to thank all of you in the club for your support in getting this newsletter together. The response for my request for items to be published here was very successful. Please continue to send your articles and other items to me. I have also just learned, with the help of Marc, N1BLH, Peter Simpson, KALAXY, and Barry, W1YDL the art of telecommunicating. With our computers I was able to learn how to download the minutes and some articles. This will make getting the newsletter together much easier. If possible I would appreciate having articles that you want printed in the newsletter no later than the 15th of the month. This will facilitate my job.

I hope that you use the questionnaire and send your forms in with information on

how you can help Elmer other people in the club or what you may need help with. All the information will be put into a database and will be available as a printout eventually with information given to us by those of you who send in the forms. Also if you have items to be sold send me the information and I will print it for you in the newsletter.

Keep sending in your articles and anything you find of interest and would like to share with your fellow club members.

I would like the board to consider and perhaps bring before the membership a proposal to institute a yearly award of perhaps \$50 for the best work published in the newsletter by members of the club. This could encompass wide areas of interest to our club members. What do you think about this idea?

73's, Ted Gruber, WB1ECE

I would be glad to be an ELMER.

Area of interest _____.

Name _____

Call _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

I need help with a project!!!

Project _____

Name _____

Call _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

I would like to sell my!

Item(s) _____

Name _____

Call _____

Address _____

Telephone _____