

1 FramingHAM Circuit

September, 1986, Vol.53, No. 9

2 Popular Forecaster to make return visit

One of the more popular speakers of recent memory will be making a return visit when the new club season kicks off Thursday, Sept. 4, at 7:30 p.m. That speaker is Tom McGuire, forecaster-in-charge of Boston's National Weather Service office at Logan Airport.

If you remember his last visit and talk, Tom filled us in on severe weather spotting, with particular emphasis on tornadoes and thunderstorms. This time, though, he will be discussing another type of weather occurrence in our area, hurricanes. He recently gave this same type of talk at a radio club meeting on Cape Code to rave reviews.

Tom is particularly interested in talking with Amateur Radio clubs because he considers the interaction between ham operators and the Weather Service invaluable in times of severe weather. In fact, Tom has been working with the Section Emergency Coordinator, KB1PA, in establishing an Eastern Mass. Skywarn Network.

So far, the Skywarn Network has links with the RAIN net; the Police Amateur Radio Team of Westford, and the Cape and Islands area. The Western Mass. section already has a wide-ranging net under the leadership of WB1HHH.

In the future, it's likely we will see further involvement between the Amateur community and the Weather Service office for a simple reason. Tom is also a ham. Now a Novice, he's working toward his upgrade and expects it soon.

Look for more digital work in weather transmission, by the way, as both Tom and KB1PA are trying to establish a packet network to move weather information to Logan and other Weather Service sites.

Also at the meeting, look for preliminary discussions on the Flea Market, Banquet, Simulated Emergency Test, Sweepstakes, and more.

It looks as if the 1986-87 year will be a busy one for all of us.

3 President's Corner

(Well, here we are with summer, or a bad facsimile of summer behind us and fall rapidly approaching. The oncoming change in seasons brings excitement at the prospect of FARA Meetings, flea markets, hamfests and other activities related to our hobby.

As your president, I will direct all my efforts toward FARA and hope that many of you who have not had the opportunity to work for the benefit of the club will now come forth and help the club reach new heights. Year after year, the same people do the same work load and it would be great to see more participation by other members.

But, speaking of activities, the picnic committee did a fine job of putting together this summer's July outing. Toby and I missed it due to our long cross-country trip, but we heard it was a great time. Bravo to Judy and Ted Gruber for doing such a fine job. Their enthusiasm is a perfect example of how we can get involved.

In closing, I hope that we can continue to attract new members and establish new and innovative ideas so that the excitement keeps flowing. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Bob Press, KB1EW, for a job well done as our past president and for his dedication and great leadership. Thanks Bob!

73, Burt, N1DDO

4 Clouds, rain fail to dampen Breezy picnic

Although the day dawned warm, humid and, later, rainy, most of the precipitation held off long enough to permit FARA to hold its annual summer outing at the Breezy Picnic Grounds in East Douglas.

Committee Chairpeople Judy, KA1NPT, and Ted, WB1ECE, Gruber spent a great deal of time setting up the event, beginning with the initial presentation at the May meeting.

At that time, it was decided to await a second presentation in June with more facts and figures and Judy and Ted dove back in and presented the information that was requested.

Although they checked several caterers, the decision was made to use the same one who catered last year's popular event at Hopkinton State Park, the DownTown Deli. And, like last year, the Deli crew came through with a fine meal.

That meal was matched by the fine setting of the picnic site. Breezy Picnic Ground is situated on a hillside at a lake in East Douglas, in the Blackstone Valley. It is dominated by a waterslide and the picnic area itself is clean, neat and grassy. There's also softdrink-refreshment stand and small bathhouse. The whole area gradually slopes to the lakeshore.

As noted, the day was warm and humid, but that didn't deter the 60 members and guests who traveled to the site. At the site, everyone had a great time. Young and old alike used the waterslide and others sat and chatted at the picnic benches.

Fortunately, the rain held off most of the day and the Deli crew was able to serve the meal and everyone was able to enjoy it. However, about mid-afternoon the rains weren't to be denied and the skies opened up for a time. But, since most of the picnic-goers were about to depart, we can safely say that FARA's record of events not being cancelled by weather is still safely intact.

A tip of the hat to Ted and Judy and the Deli crew for the meal.

5 Field Day somewhat disappointing, but fun had by all

With the band conditions at their low point, FARA set off in late June to participate in Field Day with some major changes. First the club tried all wire antennas, which seemed to work out reasonably well, except on VHF and packet where pre-cut beams and verticals were used; and second, the club's class was changed from 3A to 4A because we used four stations.

Several Field Day meetings were held to plan the annual event and there was also an antenna-cutting party and planning was carried on through a large part of May and June.

Despite the planning, though, Murphy took his toll. For example, the 15-meter station's radio had problems and the 40-meter radio's tuning section was fried. As a result, we effectively lost any contacts on 15 meters because there was no spare rig available for that band. Fortunately, on 40 Dr. Ken Manuelian, K1ZYW, an avid CW op, volunteered his rig to fill in the hole created when the 520SE that was being used went away.

Finally, Murphy had a hand in turning some of the theory in the antenna handbooks into mush as the quads and delta loops we tried failed to perform correctly. The result was that they were quickly recut to inverted Vees and worked reasonably well.

Packet, VHF and the Novice station (KA1NOI, son of Wayne Ledder, W1EWI.) worked well with their antennas. Eight was also in good shape.

In the best shape, though, was FARA's own chef extraordinaire, Dick Marshall, WA1KUG. As usual, his culinary creations were out of this world and kept many operators happy during the 24-hour event.

Anyway, the results of Field Day, which will be detailed in the December QST, were down from 1985, where we scored more than 3,900 points. This year, it looks like we'll be in the 3,100-3,200 point area.

Again, thanks to all who participated and helped out. Without your assistance, Field Day again would not have been the event it was. Overall, it was a success, given the band conditions and Murphy. *The FramingHAM Circuit is published monthly by the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn., Inc. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at the Danforth Museum, Union Avenue and Lexington Street, Framingham, at 7:30 p.m. Club repeater: W1FY/R, 147.150 MHz. Club Station: W1FY. Classes held September to April, Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.*

- Officers
- President.....Burt Shaffer, N1DDO
- Vice President.....Don Morse, KA1MLM
- Secretary.....Ken Horton, KA1GFN
- Treasurer.....Dick Marshall, WA1KUG
- Activities.....Marc Stern, N1BLH
- Director-At-Large.....Lew Nyman, K1AZE
- Editor.....Marc Stern, N1BLH

All officers may be reached at their phone numbers in the roster or via the Club's postal box, 3005, Saxonville Station, Framingham, MA 01701.

6 Burt Shaffer, Don Morse new FARA leadership team

The June meeting was highlighted by FARA's traditional annual elections, which were held the night of June 5: Bob Press, KB1EW, past president, presided at the elections as his last official act before handing the gavel over to Burt Shaffer, N1DDO. (According to club bylaws, the new president takes over immediately after the election, as does his slate of officers.)

Before the election, Bob outline the slate of officers— Don Morse, Vice President, KA1MLM; Ken Horton, Secretary, KA1GFN; Dick Marshall, Treasurer, WA1KUG; Marc Stern, Activites, N1BLH, and Lew Nyman, Director-At-Large, K1AZE.

The elections were the first act of the meeting and Bob asked the new slate be confirmed by acclamation, which the club members did. Burt took over at 7:47 p.m.

At that time, the club took up the picnic, which had been tabled at the May meeting. At the May meeting, the matter of the caterer was also tabled and Committee Chairman Ted Gruber, WB1ECE, was instructed to find as many alternatives as possible. After hours of looking, Ted concluded Framingham's DownTown Deli was the best choice.

The committee also chose a "western" barbecue menu, at about \$7.90 per plate.

After some discussion, it was decided, the club would subsize about \$3.90 per plate, the same level as last year, and it would cost \$4 per adult or \$10 for a family with small children. It was also firmly established as club policy that no alcoholic beverages would be provided by the club, but each individual could bring whatever was wanted. Park admission was \$2.50 per person, without use of the waterslide, or \$5 with a special discount for the waterslide. Children were about \$4 with the discount.

The meeting quickly covered the rest of the business at hand, including Field Day and a Treasurer's Report. We then adjourned for coffee and a social hour.

7 License classes to kick off Sept. 6

Once again, the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn., will sponsor radio license classes for the Novice, Technician and General tickets, beginning Sept. 13.

The usual format with the Novice class in the fall session and the Tech/General class in the spring will be followed again this year.

Committee Chairman Ed Weiss, W1NXC, plans and instructors' meeting and registration Sept. 6 with formal classes to begin Sept. 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Classes normally run from 9:30 a.m. to noon Sept. 13 through the second Saturday in December when they stop for the holidays. They resume with the Tech/General module in Early January.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio or currently licensed Amateurs wishing to upgrade can contact any of the instructor staff, Ed, W1NXC; Wayne, W1EWL; Marc, N1BLH; Lew, K1AZE; Dick, WA1KUG, or Mac, WA1IGL. You can also come to the class Sept. 6 to register.

All classes are held at the Danforth Museum on Lexington Street, Framingham.

8 SET/ARES planning session to be held Sept. 10

With the start of the new year and with the Section Emergency Test approaching, it's time for FARA's ARES unit to begin its preparation to participate in the event. If possible, we'll be timing our event to coincide with any events Framingham CD may have planned (they may or may not).

With this in mind and with further organization of the ARES unit in mind, there will be a meeting at 7:30 Sept. 10 at the club station to plan.

Anyone is welcome to come and participate, as well as bring ideas.

So, circle Sept. 10 and come to the ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) meeting.

9 A Tip of the editor's hat to ...

... Lew, K1AZE, for successfully passing his tests for his private pilot's certificate.

... Judy, KA1NPT, and Ted, WB1ECE, Gruber for their successful outing.

10 Swap & Shop

... WANTED: Kenwood HC-10 Digital World Clock. Call, Warren Magee, W1KAN, 186 West Union St., Ashland, MA 01721. 881-2273

... FOR SALE: Azden PCS-3000 with new PCM 369 mic, TouchTone pad, mobile mounting bracket. Asking \$165 for this mint condition rig. Contact: Hal Allman, WN1TKD. 533-8904

11 Social News

Sept. 7: The Fairfield County Hamfest will be held at the Norwalk National Guard Armory, Merritt Parkway Exit 38, Norwalk Ct. Admission is \$3.00. Tailgate is \$5.00 and tables are \$10.00. The event runs from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Sept. 14: The Candlewood ARA will hold a Flea Market at the Elk's Club 346 Main Street, Danbury, Ct. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with setup at 8 a.m.

Sept. 21: The annual Natchaug A.R.A. Giant Flea Market will be held at the Elks Home 198 Pleasant Street, Willimantic, Ct. The event starts at 9 a.m.

Sept. 28: The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society will hold its annual Fall Flea Market at the Wellesley Senior High School parking lot from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Buyers admission is \$1.00 Sellers \$2.00 with car. Take Rice Street or State street off Rt. 16. Ref Avail. Plenty of free parking.

Oct 4: The HOSS TRADERS will hold their its annual fall swapfest at the Deerfield fairgrounds, Deerfield, Rain or Shine. Friday night camping opens at 4 p.m. Friday. Fees will be collected by the Fair Grounds Association. Admission \$2.00, tailgating included. Good food available. All profits benefit the Boston Burns unit of the Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children. Talk-in on .52 direct or 146.40/147.00. Questions can be answered by sending an S.A.S.E. to Joe Demaso K1RQG, Star route box 56 Bucksport Me.

Oct. 18-19: N.E. ARRL convention at the Sheraton, Boxboro RT 111, Boxboro Mass.

Oct. 26: New England's biggest and best indoor electronic, amateur and computer flea market, the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn.'s Fall Flea Market. Hours: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., seller setup at 8:30. Talk-in on 147.150 repeater. For information or reservations, contact Jon, K1VVC, at 877-7466 or make a check payable for \$10 to the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn., 37 Lyman Road, Framingham, MA 01701. Exams scheduled, contact person Ed, W1NXC, make check to ARRL/VEC for \$4.25 and mail with copy of your license to P.O. Box 3005, Framingham, MA 01701.