

FARA Takes Over Repeater

It's now official. The Framingham Amateur Radio Assn., Inc., became the custodian of the 147.75/.15 repeater September 1, culminating discussions which began in July. The discussions were between FARA's board of directors and the trustee of the machine and other key members of the Framingham Repeater Assn., which had run 75/15.

The Framingham repeater has a history which stretches back to the early 1970s when a band of adventurously amateurs determined the need for a narrowband, FM amateur repeater in the Greater Framingham area. At various times, it has been housed at the homes of operators; on the fire tower atop Mt. Nobscot, and now at its permanent site at state Civil Defense headquarters on Route 9.

According to the board of directors, regular users of the repeater should notice little change, other than the name of the parent body. The repeater is a separate entity within the umbrella of FARA.

The repeater will be run under the auspices of the board of directors and the treasury of the Framingham Repeater Assn. will be maintained separately from FARA funds. The FARA treasury will be used solely to maintain and upgrade the repeater. The repeater call sign will also soon be changing to the club's call, W1FY.

Belonging to FARA won't necessarily make you an automatic repeater member with access to autopatch privileges. Because it is being run as a separate group within the FARA organization and because its treasury is dedicated to its upkeep, separate dues will be charged to have access to the repeater's autopatch codes. The board of directors has established \$10 as the fee for those who use the repeater on a regular basis or who wish to use the autopatch, in addition to the \$10 yearly FARA dues.

Under the terms of the amalgamation of the organizations, current repeater members will automatically become FARA members until

the end of 1984 and they will retain use of their repeater privileges. For 1985, repeater members have automatic access to repeater privileges, provided they renew their FARA dues of \$10. After 1985, the repeater dues will remain fixed at \$10 and \$10 for FARA membership.

Don't think that you have to be a member of the repeater to use it on an occasional basis, because you do not. As it has in years past, the repeater is open for use by anyone, although the chairman of the technical committee, Lew, K1AZE, reminds users that the repeater will become part of any Civil Defense effort due to its location. Because it is part of the Civil Defense communications network and because of its secure location within state CD headquarter, the first priority of the repeater is emergency communications, in the event CD is activated. It's something we all must be aware of. In fact, in an emergency, it is likely many voices that aren't otherwise heard will appear on the machine because of the RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services) status of the CD site.

Until that emergency happens, though, the repeater is free and open to all for use, with the exception of the autopatch facilities.

And, in regard to the repeater, the board of directors has a couple of reminders for new and old users alike. When using the repeater, courtesy should always be observed. This means leaving a space when you are communicating with another station in case someone wants to join the QSO.

It also means waiting for the courtesy tone to sound before picking up a conversation.

When you are mobile and want to let others know you are monitoring the machine, it's best to say something like: "AK1XXX monitoring 75/15 (or 15)."

And, when you are in QSO with other stations, try to remember the order of the roundtable and try to maintain that order. Don't turn a three-way or four-way conversation into a

two-way, if you can help it.

Finally, remember to identify at least every 10 minutes. Federal Communications Commission rules require you to identify at the start of every communication or every 10 minutes during a QSO. Under revisions in the last couple of years, you need not identify the station with which you are in QSO, just your own.

There will be more on this and any questions you may have will be answered at the meeting Sept. 6.

~~KIAZE To Give Talk On Repeater~~

~~At the first meeting of the 1984-~~
85 year, Thursday Sept. 6, Lew, KIAZE, chairman of the repeater technical committee, club director and trustee of the club station, will present a talk on the amalgamation of the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn. and the Framingham Repeater Assn.

During his talk, he will highlight the history of the 147.75/.15 Framingham Repeater and will answer any questions you might have about the merger of the two organizations.

For instance, if you want to know how and why it came about, Lew will have the answers.

You can expect this to be a very interesting evening as Lew is a good speaker. And, while he is discussing the repeater, he will also discuss some of the plans for the machine. But, rather than steal his thunder, we'll leave that to the meeting night. Be sure to come, it will be worth it.

Also on the agenda of the first meeting will be a discussion of our Amateur Operator training classes. According to Chief Instructor Ed, W1NXC, the classes will begin Sept. 15, with registration taking place that day. If you know anyone who would like to take our Novice classes tell them about the registration day. As usual, classes will be held at the club station, W1FY, in the basement of the Danforth Museum, where we also hold our club meetings.

And, also on tap for the first meeting will be a discussion of our Flea

Market and our own Amateur Exam. FARA has been approved as an Amateur Radio Exam site by the ARRL, the body which is now sponsoring such exams.

According to Ed, ARRL has approved our application for the Oct. 28 exam, which will be the same day as our Flea Market. Further details will be available at the meeting.

FARA Radio Exam Request Approved

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has approved FARA's application to hold an Amateur Radio Exam at our Flea Market Oct. 28. The exam will be held concurrently with the annual fund-raising event.

Ed, W1NXC, chief instructor and liaison for the exam, told the newsletter that ARRL had sent him a package of materials on the exam and that package constituted official notification of our approval as the exam site.

It is our first experience with volunteer exams and we will be conducting some planning sessions to ensure that things run smoothly.

Already, the exam team is in place and includes many of the Extra and Advanced Class operators in the club. Already on the team are Bob, KB1EW, president of the club; Dick, W1KUG, treasurer; Ed, W1NXC, chief instructor; Marc, N1BLH, newsletter editor; Mac, W1IGL, and Arnie, K1BPM, part of the technical committee.

This is the core of the exam team, but we will need helpers to monitor the door; handle admission to the exam, and more.

There will be more on this at the meeting, but, it's now up to us to get the information out, so it will be a success. Use local repeaters; tell your friends, who may want to upgrade, and use HF. Registration for the exam will close at the end of the month and we want a strong turnout, so let's get busy.

This meeting will also be special because our YL members will be cooking up some special goodies for all

of us to sample. So, if you want a taste treat come to the meeting, from what we've heard, the goodies will be fantastic.

President's Corner

As you have been reading elsewhere in this newsletter, FARA has had a busy and exciting summer. Now that summer is at an end, the Club season will be getting into full swing at our Sept 6th meeting.

One of the goals of the Club this year is to get more participation from the membership in our activities. As with many organizations, a small number of members do the lion's share of the work. There are many interesting facets of Amateur Radio -- activities, communications and public service -- that are worthwhile and gratifying in which to participate. I expect to discuss more on this subject at the next meeting.

The following Committee Chairpersons have been named:

Lew Numan KLAZE
Station & Repeater Trustee and
Flea Market

Karen Nyman KALBYP
Hospitality

Mark Stern N1BLH
Publicity

Ed Weiss WLNXC
Training

All of these people need your help and support.

Specifically, with regard to training, Ed WLNXC, Jim Boates QALUEH and Mack (John MacLeod) WALIGL have done the lion share in running the classes for the last several years. They would appreciate any assistance by club members in teaching of topics to the novice classes which are every Saturday morning beginning Sept. 15th. Contact Ed if you can assist with the training program.

The FramingHAM Circuit is published monthly by the Framingham Radio Assn., Inc., P.O. Box 3005, Framingham, Ma. 01701. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the club headquarters in the Danforth Museum, Lexington Street, Framingham. Club Station: W1FY/Repeater, W1FY, 147.75/147.15. President, Bob Press, KB1EW, 653-1720; Vice President, Burt Shaffer, N1DDO, 872-4534; Treasurer, Dick Marshall, WA1KUG, 877-0563; Secretary, Ken Horton, KA1GFN, 485-6542; Director and Station Trustee, Lew Nyman, K1AZE, 879-7456; Corporate Counsel, Arthur Marshall, Esq.; FramingHAM Circuit Editor, Marc Stern, N1BLH, c/o the club post box. Contents of the Circuit are copyright FARA, Inc. Permission to reprint is hereby granted, providing the FramingHAM Circuit is credited in full.

Reader Lauds Holliston Fire Effort

A Middlesex Evening News reader had some kind comments about the help shown in Holliston during the recent general alarm fire which destroyed State Lumber. After thanking the many organizations which helped out, the reader singled out some Amateurs by name and all the others who were ready to help out that evening, as part of the Framingham Area Amateur Radio Emergency Net. FAAREN was activated to assist the Red Cross that evening. Congratulations go to Lew Nyman, K1AZE, for his hours as net control; Bob Chin, WB1FHT, first operator at the first scene, and Ken Horton, KA1GFN, who relieved Bob. Also to be congratulated is club member Warren from Holliston.

The reader thanked him for the gallons of hot water for coffee at the fire scene. As FAAREN manager, I'd like to thank every operator who checked-in and remained ready to assist that evening.

To new members who may not know we have an emergency net, it is run every Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. on

the 75/15 Framingham Repeater. Check in and you'll meet us all there. It's fun and instructive.

FARA Picnic Hot, But A Success

Although the weather was hot and muggy, FARA members who gathered at Mac's, WA1IGL, QTH for the annual FARA picnic had a great time.

As usual, the beer was cold and the barbecue grilles were hot and some of the gastronomic creations that appeared on the tables of the picnic-goers were mouth-watering.

The site of the annual event was, as usual, tops, as Mac's yard has more than enough space for both picnicking and the activities that were available that day. There were people using the volleyball net and there were others taking advantage of the shade tree. It was just that kind of event. You could relax and watch or take part in the fun.

Much of the fun, though, involved meeting and greeting old friends and fellow operators, as well as the good food.

Those who were seen at the cookout included our host, Mac, WA1IGL, his wife, Marilyn, and their children and grandchildren; Marc, N1BLH, and his wife, Marjie, KA1HIA and her sister Debbie; Arnie, K1BPM, and his wife, Sue, KA1DUF; Dick, WA1KUG, and his wife, Marsha, KA1JIR; newlyweds Sharon, N1CUJ, and her husband, Chris; George, N1GB and his wife, Carolyn, as well as their first harmonic; Bob, KB1EW, and his wife, Sylvia; Burt, N1DDO, and his wife, Toby, N1DDS; Jay, W1SEB, and his wife; Ken, KA1GFN; Bob, N1BRM; Jeff P. and his guest, Pazit; Lew, K1AZE, and his wife, Karen, KA1BYP; Julie, W1DL, and others.

As usual, we all had a great time, and we can hardly wait for next year's event. It was a lot of fun.

Field Day Update: Poor Bands Cut Score

As if Mr. Murphy hadn't plagued Field Day enough, he must have ordered the poor band conditions we experienced

throughout that weekend in June. They resulted in a slightly lower score than last year.

With 10-meters practically dead and 15-meters spotty, most of our phone and CW QSOs were on 20, 40 and 80.

According to Dick, WA1KUG, Field Day chairman, W1FY made a total of 528 CW contacts and 405 phone contacts. There were also 40 Novice contacts under the call N1BRM. This resulted in a total of 933 contacts for two-day operating event.

The aggregate total for the weekend was 3,682 and included 600 Bonus Points for such things as public relations.

Dick speculated that the poor band conditions had a great deal to do with our score being somewhat lower than Field Day 1983. However, it was still a score of which we can all be proud. There will be a full report at the meeting.

Members Make News, but Josh Is Star

FARA Members Marty, WA1WHU, and Risa, WA1ZKZ, Green, were headline-makers recently on the birth of their first child Josh. The reason the proud and happy parents were in the news was because their son was the second successful New England in-vitro fertilization and the first to a Massachusetts couple.

Josh came into the world in early August and his parents were featured in television and radio news reports and there were several fine newspaper features on the happy family.

Marty and Risa are longtime FARA members and Marty is a distinguished member of the legal community with an active practice in Boston. And, according to recent reports from the proud papa, Josh, the real star, is doing fine and thriving. Now, the next step is a tiny set of earphones and little-bitty code key. Oh, well, maybe next year . . .

A Tip of The Editor's Hat To:

...Marjie, KA1HIA, on her promotion to marketing assistant in the International Marketing Services Department of ComputerWorld International. Marjie has been employed in IMS for a year.

...Newlywed Sharon, N1CUJ, who recently became a Registered Nurse, after having passed the state boards. This was the second happy event in less than a month for Sharon who married Chris Kronick July 22.

...Newlywed Steve Marshall, the son of Dick, WA1KUG, and Marsha, KA1JIR, who became a bridegroom Sunday Sept. 2. He and his new wife Karen are living in Claremont, N.H., where Steve is a fulltime police officer. This has been a busy summer for the Marshalls with graduations and weddings and we tip our hat to them for doing everything in fine form.

...Jimmy, KA1JLT, for upgrading to General.

...Burt, N1DDO, for upgrading to General.

...Henry, WB3HIO, for upgrading to Advanced.

Oops.....

In the pardon us, but oops department, there was a slight miscue in last month's newsletter. Neal Shaffer, son of Burt, N1DDO, and Toby, N1DDS, recently married Esther Ann Pressman, not Pearlman. Somehow, in the rush of getting last month's edition out, that one slipped by us -- if you ever saw my desk, you'd know why. We're sorry for the slip and wish the newlyweds many, many happy years together.

Silent Key Remembered By Many

Although he wasn't officially a member of our club, Leo Maxwell, WA1JYH, who recently became a Silent Key, will be missed by many. "Maxie," as he

was known to his friends, was a great-hearted man who never had an unkind word to say about anyone.

He and his wife had virtually become fixtures at our flea markets during the last few years and they sat many times watching members' tables while we ran about handling various chores.

Our condolences go out to Mrs. Maxwell and their family. Maxie will be missed.

Swap And Shop

FOR SALE: DX-100 low-band rig. Contact Jimmy, KA1JLT, at 481-4988 after 3 p.m. \$25. This is a good beginner's rig and will make some Novice a nice starter station.

FOR SALE: ICOM IC25A, two-meter mini-mobile FM transceiver. Low/high power settings, 25 watts maximum output. Five months old. \$222.22. Call Joe K1GFH, 449-2540.

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-120S. Low-band transceiver. 80-10 meter coverage. CW/SSB. Runs off 13 VDC. Mint condition. \$333.33. Call Joe K1GFH, 449-2540.

FOR SALE: Heathkit SB102 transceiver with matching power supply. 80-10-meter coverage; CW/SSB; semi-QSK. Package includes: matching power supply; SB-600 speaker; HM-102 SWR/Power meter; outboard audio speech processor; desk mic.; spare set of 6146 finals; manuals. \$350. Call Lew, K1AZE, 879-7456.

FOR SALE: SWR Bridge-Power Meter combination, remotable sensor. \$25. Call Marc, N1BLH, on local repeater.

FOR SALE: ICOM speaker-mic for IC-2AT/O2AT series walkies. \$20. Call Marc, N1BLH, on local repeater.

Social Events

Sunday, Sept. 9 -- The CQ Radio of Torrington, Ct., will hold a flea market at the Drop-In Center on East Albert Street, Torrington, Ct. Admission is \$2 and tables are \$7. Tailgating is \$5. The Flea Market runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Talk-in on 147.24/146.85. Free Parking.

Saturday, Sept. 15 -- The 76 Flea Market and Auction from 9 a.m. to noon. An auction will run from noon to 5 p.m. at the Steeres Beach Club, Waterman Lake, Greenville, R.I. Talk-in on .16/.76 and .34/.94.

Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 29-30 -- The Big One: The New England ARRL Convention at Boxboro. It will be held at the Sheraton Boxboro and is being sponsored by the Federation of Eastern Mass. Radio Clubs. Events include fox-hunts; speakers; forums, and a gala dinner. There are also many, many prices.

Sat. Oct. 6 -- The Hoss Traders Tailgate Swapfest in Deerfield, N.H.

Sun. Oct. 28 -- The FARA Flea Market and Amateur Exams.

220 MHz Band Under Attack

According to reports received from both the ARRL and W5YI, our allocation at 220-225 MHz is under renewed attack, this time from the Land Mobile Radio interests. It isn't the first time this 5 MHz slice of spectrum has been under pressure. Most recently, the pressure came from the CB and portable phone industries in the 1970s, which wanted our spectrum for their own purposes.

However, this threat seems the most real and it is quite possible we may lose 2 MHz of our frequency spectrum in the relatively near-term -- two to three years.

Lending credence to this threat are actions which happened at the World Administrative Radio Conference in 1979 and Federal Communications Commission statements. At WARC-79, the Amateur Radio service lost its secondary status

in this spectrum in most of the world. And, the U.S. delegation added its own footnote to the final proceedings stating that this country reserved the right to make frequency reallocations in the 220-225 MHz band.

No one paid much attention to this development until recently when Sideband Technology Inc. of Scottsville, N.Y., asked the FCC to set aside the lower 2 MHz of 220 -- 221-222 MHz -- for amplitude compandered sideband. Its reasoning was that this weak-signal area of our band was lightly populated and wouldn't be missed. In fact, it intimated that its service and Amateur Radio could live side-by-side. They did recognize our narrowband FM band plan for 223-225 MHz.

As further confirmation that this action is being welcomed by the FCC, consider recent statements by FCC spokesmen which noted they are reevaluating the subband and they cautioned Amateurs not to feel comfortable with the allocation because it would probably be reallocated. Their reasoning was that if we didn't want No-Code, we don't need the extra frequency space. Apparently, FCC was going to put the No-Code Amateurs on 220 MHz.

There is plenty of recent precedent for the worry over 220 MHz. Recently, we lost access to 80 MHz of the 2310- 2490 GHz Amateur Allocation. This frequency space went over to the Aeronautical and Space Safety Monitoring Service, which said we couldn't coexist with them. There are also other restrictions coming on our gigahertz allocations, where FCC is putting commercial interests ahead of the public good. Further, Region 3 U.S. shortwave band broadcast stations can now use the 40-meter band for their own broadcasts, as is done in the rest of the world, provided our stations don't broadcast toward the U.S.

A campaign to save 220 MHz has been mounted by K9XI, but whether it will work remains to be seen. It is possible a concerted effort could save the band, but it remains to be seen.
