

# FramingHAM Circuit

February, 1985 Vol. 54, No. 2

Installing phones isn't hard  
if you follow Ed, Mac's advice

By now you've probably realized that last year's big shakeup in the phone company changed things forever. Well, they certainly have. Now, we have many phone companies competing for our long-distance dollars or telling us how we can own and install our own phones. And, maybe you've been thinking about it, but are wondering what to do.

At this month's meeting, two of our members will tell you everything you may want to know about telephones and installation, and more.

John MacLeod, WA1IGL, and Ed Weiss, WINXC, two phone company employees, will be the featured speakers when we hold our next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday Feb. 7.

During their talk, they will attempt to answer all the questions you may have about phone installation, wiring your house for extra phones, repairs you can do, as well as any other questions you may want answered.

If you remember last year, John and Ed talked about divestiture -- the court-ordered breakup of Ma Bell -- and answered our questions about what the new structure of the local and national phone companies would mean for us. If their talk this month is anything like last year's, it's something you won't want to miss.

## Meeting highlights many topics

If there's one thing you can say about the February meeting, it's that it marks the halfway point of the winter or it seems to and because it does, we will have a variety of topics to discuss meeting night.

Among the topics likely to come before us will be a discussion of how the Equipment Search Committee,

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headed by Trustee Lew Nyman, K1AZE, is doing in its look for upgraded equipment for W1FY. Also, it's likely we'll have a discussion of the progress of the scholarship committee -- George Blakeslee, N1GB, chairman -- in its search for recipients for the Crosby Scholarship awards.

And, with Flea Market coming up, it's probable that we'll have some preliminary words about it from Lew, K1AZE, also chairman of the fund-raiser. We'll also probably have some discussion of upcoming events for the FAAREN net, as well as a report from Education Committee Chairman, Ed, WINXC, about how our Saturday morning radio course is doing.

Finally, Treasurer Dick Marshall, WA1KUG, will be available to take reservations for the March banquet, which will undoubtedly also be on the agenda for the meeting. As you know, if you would like to attend, you must make your reservation before the banquet. It's \$10 per person. And, Dick will also be available to collect club and repeater dues. They are due now.

So, it looks like the meeting will be a busy night. In addition to the talk for the evening, the agenda is also pretty full. So, see you there, Feb. 7.

As usual, the meeting will be at the club's headquarters, W1FY, in the basement of the Danforth Museum. Use the Lexington Street entrance between the library parking garage and the

museum. Parking is available at the garage.

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The Framingham Circuit is published monthly by the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn., Inc., P.O. Box 3005; Framingham, MA 01701. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month from September to June at club headquarters in the Danforth Museum, Lexington Street, Framingham. Club activities include the Framingham Flea Markets, Field Day and the Crosby Scholarship. Club Station: W1FY. Repeater, W1FY/R, 147.75/15. President, Bob Press, KB1EW, 655-1710; Vice President, Burt Shaffer, N1DDO, 872-0543; Treasurer, Dick Marshall, WA1KUG, 877-0563; Secretary, Ken Horton, KA1GFN, 485-6542; Station-Repeater Trustee and Director, Lew Nyman, K1AZE, 879-7456. Corporate Counsel, Arthur Marshall, Esq. Framingham Circuit Editor, Marc Stern, N1BLH, in care of the club post office box. Contents of the Framingham Circuit are copyright FARA, Inc. Permission to reprint is hereby granted, provided the Framingham Circuit is credited in full.

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Last meeting: Quick, to the point At one of the shortest business meetings on record -- 15 minutes -- FARA members covered a number of important topics in January. The meeting began with an introduction of

new operators present and was then followed by a Treasurer's report. Dick, WA1KUG, noted the current paid membership of the Radio Association is 135 and 60 of those are also members of the repeater.

Dick then reminded all those attending to get their reservations in early for the banquet. We hope to have a large crowd that evening -- March 31 -- but we need the reservations. According to President Bob Press, KB1EW, a phone squad will also be used to help bring in reservations.

With this business out of the way, Bob then moved onto a question about the club station equipment upgrade. In answer to a question from the floor, Bob noted a board of directors meeting is planned on the equipment acquisition and there would be more forthcoming this month. As the brief discussion continued, one person mentioned he had heard the FT-757GX, one of the rigs which may be considered as W1FY's HF equipment, has had some problems with its finals and it was noted this should be considered when the final decisions are made.

Moving on to the Flea Market, the board noted that since last year's pre-registration plan worked out so well, it would be repeated this year. In fact, the pre-registration letters to Flea Market sellers will probably be going out at the end of this month.

Jon Weiner, K1VVC, long active with the Flea Market, then suggested ways we could increase the income from the event for the Crosby Scholarship. Among his and other suggestions were possibly increasing admission prices; selling tables outside; increasing the number of tables inside, and selling tables in the basement. One member suggested we search for a new location, but it was

decided that it was to our advantage to remain at our current location -- the Civic League building.

We then heard a report from Education Chairman Ed, W1NXC, who noted that we will be filing notice of our exam at the Flea Market with the ARRL. Assisting Ed on the Volunteer Exam Team this time will be Lew, K1AZE, and Marc Stern, N1BLH.

Ed also noted that our classes have been successful and that most of those studying for their Novice licenses had passed the exam. The general portion of the class schedule began Jan. 5.

With the end of Ed's presentation, the club adjourned and we heard Ted Danglemyer, one of AT&T's experts on Electrostatic Discharge, give us a talk on the dangers of static. It certainly opened our eyes to what that zap can do to solid-state devices.

At the end of Ted's talk, we adjourned to coffee and pastries which, during January, were provided by Marjie Stern, KA1HIA, member of the hospitality committee. Thank you Marjie for putting the refreshments together.

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W1FY/R Report

It's finally happened. W1FY/R, the Framingham Repeater is now using a single antenna for transmit and receive. A new set of cavities, which were tuned by Arnie Zunick, K1BPM, a member of the Technical Committee, has been put in place. Without them, we would not have been able to successfully move back to the high-gain Phelps-Dodge Stationmaster at the repeater site.

The installation took an entire Saturday afternoon recently, with Lew, K1AZE, trustee, Bob, KB1EW, Arnie, K1BPM, and Burt Shaffer, N1DDO, assisting in the work.

As the result of the work, the repeater's sensitivity has been enhanced and some of the clipping problems which had been experienced in the past are gone.

There is still work left to be done, but the Technical Committee deserves a Tip of the Hat for the work it has done so far.

In this month's W1FY/R Report, Lew has some comments about some of the features with which the machine is equipped. So, take it away, Lew.

"Our repeater, a microprocessor-controlled machine, has some very useful features. One important function which is available to all users of the repeater is the ability to allow the user to test a Touch-Tone (R) pad.

"If your transceiver or walkie is equipped with a Touch-Tone (R) pad, all you have to do to determine if tones are okay is punch up any row or column of digits, one-at-a-time.

"Rows must always be pressed from left to right, with the exception of the bottom row. That row must be pressed from right to left. Columns are pressed from top to bottom.

"After each row or column is pressed, the repeater will respond with an 'OK' in Morse code. If you don't hear the 'OK' then you may have a bad digit or your tones may be either too loud or too soft and would thus require some adjustment.

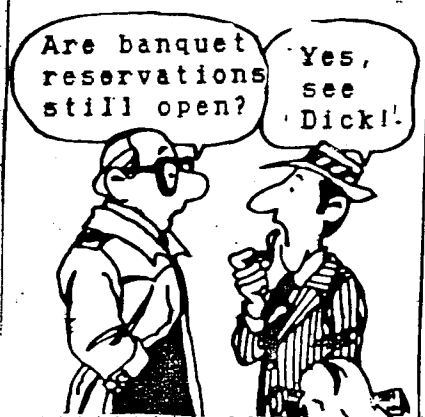
"Finally, ALWAYS IDENTIFY with your station call sign and indicate your intentions before beginning any test on the repeater."

Lew

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Class Notes

Although this year's class of students is somewhat smaller than other years, they are among the most

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seen. According to Ed, seven of the students have already passed their Novice exams and are either awaiting their new calls or have just received them.

With this as background, Ed launched into the Tech/General section of the course and not only are all the new Novices studying toward their upgrades, but three others have also joined the class to work on their upgrades. Like the Novice classes, which began last September, the Tech/General candidates attend classes every Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. at the club station.

These students fill one of the three rooms normally used by the club, and, filling a second, are three Novice candidates, who are being instructed personally by Jim Boates, WA1UEH. This isn't the first time Jim has led a second group of students on the road to their Novice tickets. In past years, Jim has conducted small Novice classes, while Ed has put the Tech/General students through their paces.

Under Ed's guidance, it is likely that the Tech/General students will be ready to take our license exam, scheduled for April 14, the day of the big Spring Flea Market.

Ed has another note for those thinking of taking the exam, there

has been a change in the way it will be handled. With the first exam last fall, walk-ins weren't permitted. The upgrade candidates had to register with us 30 days in advance. However, the ARRL -- our Volunteer Exam Coordinating body -- has changed its rules somewhat and now permits walk-ins. Walk-ins will be permitted on a space-available basis, with pre-registrants being given first preference. So, Ed notes, it's still a good idea to pre-register 30 days in advance (use the new Form 610, include a copy of your license and a \$4 check payable to ARRL/VEC).

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Wellesley set to start Novice class

If you have a friend or know of someone who would like to study for their Amateur Radio license, there's a new Novice course kicking off, sponsored by the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society. Since our own Novice class has officially ended, with the exception of the students Jim, WA1UEH, is teaching and since we are already several weeks into Jim's class, the Wellesley course is a good opportunity for someone seeking a license and looking for a course.

Dick Weissel, WA1HRV, a member of FARA and father of Mike, KA1IKW, and Gary, KA1JWE, both graduates of our classes, and Nels Anderson, K1UR, president of WARS, will be handling the class, which will begin Monday evening March 4.

For further information, contact WA1HRV at 655-2366 or K1UR at 872-5259.

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Upcoming Amateur Exam schedule

March 16 -- There will be an Amateur Radio exam at Ryan Hall in the Ireson Building, 493 Western Ave. (Route 107), Lynn, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The building is at the

Lynn Hospital complex. Sponsored by the 19/79 Amateur Radio Assn., the 610 form and \$4 checks payable to ARRL/VEC should be mailed to Ralph Gandolfo, KA1E, 18 Murdock Drive, Peabody, MA 01960 (advanced and extra); or Ralph Kalustian, WA1DVR, 36 Columbia Rd., Arlington, MA 02174 (novice and tech/general). The deadline is Feb. 13.

March 30 -- There will be an Amateur Radio exam at Worcester Polytechnical Institute March 30. Contact KE1D for further information. Make checks payable to ARRL/VEC and send them to George Stannard, KE1D, 3 Whitney Drive, Paxton, MA 01612. Deadline for pre-registration is Feb. 30.

April 14 -- There will be an Amateur Radio exam at our FARA Spring Flea Market April 14. Contact Ed Weiss, W1NXC, for further information. Make checks for \$4 payable to ARRL/VEC and send them to Ed via Box 3005, Framingham, Ma. 01701. Walk-in registrations accepted, although preference will be given to pre-registered candidates.

A tip of the Editor's Hat to . . .

. . . Arnie, K1BPM, Lew, K1AZE, Bob, KB1EW, and Burt, N1DDO, for their long hours at the repeater site when they installed the new cavities for the repeater. This work has increased the sensitivity of the machine.

. . . Ed Weiss, W1NXC, and Jim Boates, WA1UEH, for giving up their Saturday mornings to train new operators.

. . . All the newly passed Novices.

(If you have any news or notes concerning FARA members and their achievements, drop a line to the Framingham Circuit, in care of the club box, P.O. Box 3005, Framingham, 01701. We'll be happy to list them here.)

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Swap & Shop

For Sale: Icom IC-751 solid-state, microcomputer-controlled HF transceiver. Like-new, mint condition with original cartons and manuals. Package includes the PS-35 built-in power supply; SM-6 mic; speech synthesizer. This is a fantastic buy at \$1,150. Contact Arnie, K1BPM, at 577-2738, days.

For Sale: Like-new MC-35 high-impedance hand mic for Kenwood transceivers. Noise-cancelling feature. \$25. Contact Marc, N1BLH, on repeater or drop a note to the club box.

For Sale: Heathkit Electronic Design Experimenter board. Features include a signal generator, variable 1-15 VDC power supply, two 60 Hz signal sources of 15-30 VAC, breadboard, 100 ohm/1Kohm potentiometers. Factory assembled and tested. \$40. Contact Marc, N1BLH.

For Sale: Mattel Intellivision video game, four cartridges, coax and RF modulator. \$50. Contact Marc, N1BLH.

For Sale: Digital voltmeter with documentation, mint condition. \$25. Contact Marc, N1BLH.

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Social Events

Feb. 17 -- The Algonquin ARC will hold its annual electronics flea market at Marlboro Junior High School. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. for seller setup; for buyers, doors open at 10 a.m. General admission will be \$1 and tables will be \$7.50 before Feb. 9 or \$10 at the door. Food will be available. Talk-in on 146.01/61 or on 146.52 direct. For table reservations and more information contact the AARC at P.O. Box 258, Marlboro, MA 01752.

Feb. 23 -- The Norwood Amateur Radio Club will hold a flea market at Norwood Junior High South from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. General admission

will be \$1 and tables are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Refreshments will be available. Talk-in will be on 146.295.895 or on 146,52 direct. For more information, contact the Norwood Amateur Radio Club at 20 Hemlock St., Norwood, MA 02062 or call 762-5184. Handicapped facilities are available.

March 31 -- The annual FARA banquet will be held at the Medfield VFW Hall. Reservations \$10 per person. Send checks, payable to FARA to Dick Marshall, W1KUG, 37 Lyman Road., Framingham, MA 01701 or to the club box, 3005, Framingham, MA 01701.

April 14 -- New England's largest and greatest semi-annual electronics Flea Market will be held by FARA. It will be at the Civic League building and more information on the Flea Market and the Amateur Radio exam planned during the event will be forthcoming at the February, March and April meetings.

April 21 -- Celebrating its 54th year in Amateur Radio, the South Shore Amateur Radio Club of Braintree will hold an indoor flea market at the Viking Club, 410 Quincy Ave., Braintree, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be 8-foot tables available for \$10 each, which includes one free admission. Pre-registration is required. Make checks payable to the South Shore Amateur Radio Club. Confirmation will be sent and there will be no cancellation refunds after April 17. Doors will open to vendors at 9:30 a.m. and for the public at 11 a.m. Admission is \$1. For further information, contact Ed Doherty, W1MPT, 236 Wildwood Ave., Braintree, MA 02184, or call 843-4431 in the evening.

June 22 & 23 -- Mark your calendars now for Field Day weekend.

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Editor's Note

While I was listening to a repeater the other evening, I heard a

group of operators discussing two important items, the first was about the attack on our spectrum at 220 MHz and the second was about the Michigan Repeater Council's implementation of 20 KHz repeater spacing. Which one do you think gained more comment? The repeater spacing, of course. It seemed as if few of the people in the roundtable that night wanted to think about 220 MHz or even get up in arms about it.

I don't know about you, but I was infuriated by the "head-in-the-sand" attitude exhibited by these Amateurs. Rather than talk about the potential loss of 5 MHz at 220, they sat around talking about repeater spacing and what it would mean for Amateurs.

Granted I know this is an important issue, but it's one we can deal with later. The more important issue is the continuing erosion of our frequency spectrum. Like it or not, we're losing band space. We've lost about 80 MHz of spectrum at 2300 MHz with nary a whimper, even though it is allocated to us in the rest of the world, and the Land Mobile Communications Council and Sideband Technology, Inc., are eyeing our allocation at 220, and the FCC is planning to take away half -- 1 MHz -- of the top band, 160.

It's time for us all to wake up to this REAL threat to our avocation. The FCC, dominated by commercial interests now, would seem to like nothing better than to divide up our spectrum between paying interests. After all, making money with radio spectrum is what it's all about, isn't it? It seems to be the current crop of FCC commissioners, favor the high-powered commercial lobbyists over Amateur Radio and the public good.

Of course, the commercial people, despite any protestations to the contrary, favor this stance. Af-

ter all, the only way the public good can be served -- in their opinions, at least -- is if people pay for the right to use the airwaves, isn't it? That's the thinking of the commercial services. But, aren't the radiowaves a public resource, which must be used for the common good? If you follow the commercial people's line of thought, the only good use for a resource is to make it profitable!

Don't think it can't happen because, as I have noted above, it has and may continue in the future, until the 400,000-plus U.S. amateurs are crowded into a narrow slice of whatever band, remembering about the good old days.

The solution, then, is to take the blinders off and look around. Become active and concerned about Amateur issues by following what's going on in Washington. Look closely at "Happenings" in QST and try to look at copies of either WestLink Report of W5YI (I have copies of the last 35 or so issues).

The commercial people have high-paid, high-powered lobbyists continually pressuring the FCC and Congress to have their way and we have only a few staffers of the ARRL in the halls of power. It's time for us all to act!

Respond to FCC proposals and then respond to the responses. Give your input to the FCC.

Just imagine what 400,000 united voices would mean! It would make the commission sit up and take notice. ARRL just doesn't have the resources to handle all our work and we must defend ourselves by using the tools of the power-brokers.

You can do it individually or in groups or we can do it as a club and individuals -- there are thousands of clubs across the nation, imagine the clout the clubs alone would have. But, we have to act. Don't

think "Joe will do it" because Joe's waiting for you and others. And, don't think that if we keep quiet, it will all go away, because it won't. And, most importantly, don't think you don't count, because you do, as witness our effort to end "no-code." We can move mountains when we're aroused.

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#### News and notes

For those planning on going to the HamVention in Dayton, there's a special HamVention airfare, the "W5YI HamVention Special" on Piedmont Airlines. You will get 33 percent off the regular airfare if you are flying to the big ham confab in Dayton -- April 26-28. A special, toll-free number -- 800-334-8644 -- has been established. (W5YI Report)

The movement toward 20 KHz two-meter repeater spacing is heading east. The Michigan Area Repeater Council has adopted 20 KHz spacing, rather than using the "ARRL-East, non-inverted 15 KHz plan." The 20 KHz plan is popular in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, British Columbia and Arizona. Texas is also considering it. For the record, this type of spacing will effectively CUT the number of existing repeaters by about 30 percent. Supporters of 20 KHz say it will help end interference. (W5YI)

March 24 is Ham Day. Sponsored by 73 Magazine, the purpose of this event is to increase public awareness of Amateur Radio. During Ham Day, 73 wants all operators and clubs to invite at least one person into their shacks and give them a demonstration of what ham radio's all about. The events is keyed to one-on-one interaction. The magazine believes this will have more impact than message fairs and other functions where visitors can't get really involved on a more personal level. (73 Magazine)