

# The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

May 1995, Vol. 62, No. 5

## The May Meeting

May Meeting - Thursday, May 4th, 7:30pm,  
basement of Danforth Museum, Lexington St, Framingham.

The expanding interest in Island on the Air (IOTA) activities has led us to the choice of topic for this months meeting. Mario I2ATE and his father Gino I8MOR will give a presentation on their recent trip to the Fromagio Island group (IT8). No matter how you slice it, this expedition (run twice a year) is always a major success.

## Presidents Column

Thanks to the efforts of a lot of people, the Spring Flea Market was an excellent event. The weather, while not quite perfect, cooperated reasonably and attendance was good. The final figures for expenses are not yet complete, but the outcome seems to have been pretty good. The tailgaters section was run for the second time and went much more smoothly this time. The food concession was pretty good, and in-flight corrections should mean that tea will be available next time round !!!!! The organizational efforts of Lew K1AZE were, as we have become accustomed to, fantastic.

The exam session went very well with excellent pass rates (more to follow).

Our efforts to organize the Massachusetts QSO Party have continued with visits to Hampden, Franklin County and the Mount Tom clubs. Response to the event has continued to be excellent and we know of at least one team entry from the western part of the state. The Fall River Club will be on the Vineyard and at least one group and perhaps two will be active from Nantucket. Sharon KC1YR, Lee KA1USL and I may have to fight for 1st place on Nantucket !!!!! It appears very possible that all MA counties will be active over the weekend. Following a posting of our Nantucket expedition information on the Slovenian packet cluster (by KC1YR via Internet), we were amused to see the information reported in the weekly Italian Internet DX news sheet. They apparently pulled it off the Italian cluster to which the Slovenian system is linked. At least they got the PO Box for FARA correct (as opposed to QST which substituted 305 for 3005 to make for a confusing postal situation).

Attendance at the last club meeting for the 3YOPI expedition video was outstanding, we lost count at about 45. The video lived up to expectations with spectacular footage of the visit to Peter 1st Island. Recent discussions by the ARRL DX Advisory Committee have been focussing on the criteria for accepting a new location for DXCC credit. Recent expeditions to Scarborough Reef in the South China Sea have

fueled a controversy, particularly since the first expedition took place from a scaffolding platform balanced on rocks that seemed rather wet. A more recent expedition completed about two weeks ago actually operated from rocks rather than from a platform. Meanwhile the DXAC has come up with rules that, when paraphrased, put a lower limit on the size of a new country and mention its ability to support human habitation. Fortunately these rules are not imposed retrospectively, or Peter 1st might not pass the habitability test !!

The date for the annual club picnic has been set as Sunday, August 20th, again at the YMCA Harrington Center in Boylston. Make a note in your calendars !!!

The shack is slowly returning to its former fully operational state. The building work continues to drag on, but we hope that this will not prevent us from putting antennas up soon.

Conditions on the bands have been pretty good with the solar flux ranging from the 70s to the high 90s. Some excellent DX has been around and I had the fortune to pick up a couple of new ones last week on 20 and 17 M. 40 M continues to have excellent DX propagation. W1FY now has about 160 countries confirmed, perhaps it's time to apply for, DXCC. 1995 Callbooks are now available at the shack for member use.

Looking forward to seeing lots of people at the May meeting  
73 Martin W1/G4DZC

## Field Day

The first organizational meeting for this years Field Day will take place in the Club Shack on Saturday morning May 13th at 9:30. Everyone who would like to help with our 1995 plans is very welcome to attend. We are waiting for final confirmation of the Bose site. Hopefully this will be all set within the next week or so.

## Repeatequette

Lew Nyman, K1AZE  
Repeater Trustee

*[This is a reprint from an earlier newsletter. The board felt that it was time to print it again - Ed.]*

To Our Newer FARA Repeater Users:

First let me welcome you to our 147.15 repeater which is located at the MA Emergency Management Agency (formerly the state Civil Defense) bunker on Rt. 9 eastbound in Framingham. I plan to give a talk on repeater usage at an

upcoming meeting, but allow me to pass along some very brief comments now on the use of the repeater.

**Auto Patches:** We don't discourage making phone patches. Phone patches should be limited to important calls only. Casual phone conversations are discouraged. Auto patches should never be used when a telephone is available and especially to circumvent toll charges from a telephone. Always identify yourself and state your intentions prior to accessing the dial tone. Keep your call brief.

**Beep tone:** Always wait for the beep tone to be heard between transmissions. It serves two functions. One is to allow for breaking stations to come on, the other is to allow the repeater to reset its timeout timer which currently set for about 1.5 minutes.

**Kerchunk Feature:** The repeater microprocessor has what is called an anti-kerchunk feature. This feature will inhibit the repeater from keying up if someone is rapidly clicking his mike button only after the the repeater has been in the idle state. The proper way to activate the repeater from an idle state is to hold down the mike button for at least two seconds and then state your call sign.

**Lengthy QSOs:** Long winded QSOs are discouraged during busy time periods such as commute times for obvious reasons. Always acknowledge a breaking station and allow the station to gain access to the repeater. When you wish to break into a busy repeater, do not use the word *break* unless it's an emergency. Always use your call sign.

If you have any problems while using the repeater, call for a control operator. If you have any questions regarding repeater usage feel free to call me either on the repeater or at home and I will be glad to assist.

### VE Session of April 9, 1995

Dick Marshall, WA1KUG  
Director of Testing

3/4ths of the Matlin family now have their tickets. Nick, N1TIM, upgraded to Tech-Plus, mother Holly earned her Tech-Plus and is now N1UWJ, brother Gabriel earned his No-code Tech and is now N1UWI. Adam KB2RYU upgraded to Advanced and is now KE1BG.

The exam was Sunday, April 9th, the paperwork was sent to the ARRL on Tuesday, April 11th, and everybody had their new calls on Wednesday, April 19th. Fantastic turn-around time!!! Nick was able to call the FCC and get the calls by phone. Wonder how long the paperwork takes to catch up!!!

The following VEs and helpers ran the sessions:

W1NXC	Ed Weiss
W1VIV	Sumner Weisman
WA2BWV	Rick Kushnick
N1DGT	Paul Bacchiochi
N1JFO	Brian Lees
K0KWN	Ron Lundeen
KA1JIR	Marsha Marshall (non-VE handling registration and bagels)

In addition, many of our other VEs offered their services if required.

The next firmly scheduled VE session will be at the Field Day site on Saturday afternoon, June 24th, some time after the site is up and running. A tentative time to plan for would be 3 o'clock in the afternoon, but the exact time will be announced later. We will also probably run a session on National Exam Day, May 13th.

### Ham-erick by W1VIV

Said young John, who sounded quite bored  
As he shut of the rig and ignored  
A Martian CQ  
That was barrelling through,  
"It's the postage I just can't afford!"

We still have lots of room for additional VEs. If you are General or higher and 18 or older I'll be glad to get you set up to be a VE.

FARA should be very proud of our VEs. They do an outstanding job and make my job much less hectic. It is very gratifying to receive the postcard from the League that says

that all paperwork is in order and has been forwarded to the FCC. So, a big thanks to the Gals and Guys from me.

### Congratulation to Hal and Shanie!

April 18th Hal, WN1TKD, and Shanie, WA1WGX, became great-grandparents. Alexis Champagnie Alman was boarn in Oregon arriving at 5:15 a.m and weighing at 8 pounds plus . Alexis and her mother, Karen, are doing just fine. Her father Russ, KZ8F, was one of FARA's first scholarship recipients. He holds a Masters Degree in Communication. As a young boy he won he CQ Novice Roundup and had passed his Extra Class by age 13. Russ's father, KO8T (Hal & Shanie's oldest son) placed 10th in a ARRL international CW contest not too many years ago.

### "P-3 HURRICANE HUNTER PLANE ON DISPLAY -- AND A TOWN MEETING!!!

Jim Weckback, W1EQW

An article written by Glenn Field for "The Prevailing Winds", Spring, 1995 issue; SKYWARN Newsletter of the National Weather Service; Taunton, MA;

Every two years, the NOAA P-3 Hurricane Hunter plane (which has flown into many of the major hurricanes this century) makes a trek up and down the East Coast. In 1993,

It attracted 1,000 visitors at the Otis Air Force Base in Massachusetts, where a town meeting was held.

This year, the plane will be on display for the public between 5:00 PM and 6:30 PM, Monday May 22, 1995 at the Quonset Airport in Rhode Island. I have been told that all of the Providence TV stations will attempt to do their weathercasts live from the scene on that day. Then, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, there will be a town meeting held at the Wickford Middle School in North Kingstown, RI, just a mile or two from Quonset.

The town meeting will feature introductions by various state and local elected officials, presentations by Dave Valles and myself from the Taunton NWS, by TV meteorologist Gary Ley, and then the feature presentation by the National Hurricane Center. If the new director is selected in time (to replace the retired Bob Sheets), he will come. If not, the featured speakers will be Ron McPherson, Director of the National Meteorological Center in Washington, D.C. and Max Mayfield from the Hurricane Center in Miami."

### Petition threatens W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 34 ARLB034

A petition for rule making before the FCC would eliminate all one-way transmissions such as code practice and information bulletins on the amateur bands below 30 MHz, including those from W1AW.

The FCC has assigned file number RM-8626 to the petition, which was filed by Frederick O. Maia, W5YI, publisher of the commercial newsletter the W5YI Report. The petition seeks to eliminate the rules that permit one-way information bulletins and Morse code practice in the amateur bands below 30 MHz. The effect of the petition would be to silence W1AW bulletin and code practice transmissions, among others.

Maia calls the FCC rule that permits certain one-way transmissions on the amateur bands "a very permissive category and taken in its broadest context, permits just about anything to be transmitted that is even remotely associated with the Amateur Service."

Maia says that code practice is now available on computer software, and information bulletins about Amateur Radio can be had on various computer on-line services.

Comments on the petition may be sent in the form of a letter (sample shown below) to the Secretary, FCC, Washington, DC 20554. The file number, RM-8626, should be shown prominently at the top. An original and five copies is preferred, but single copy comments will be accepted.

A copy should also be sent to Mr. Maia's lawyer, Raymond A. Kowalski, Keller and Heckman, 1001 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. The deadline for comments on the petition is May 4, 1995.

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RM-8626 ..

<your header>

<date>

Federal Communications Commission  
c/o Secretary, FCC  
Washington DC 20554

Dear Commissioners:

As an amateur radio operator and ARRL member since (insert date), I write to oppose the petition by Frederick O. Maia, W5YI, in RM-8626 that would eliminate the rules permitting one-way transmissions such as code practice and bulletins by the American Radio Relay League's station W1AW.

The ARRL's code practice transmissions are responsible for many U.S. citizens to get the necessary training to pass the code requirements of FCC amateur license examinations. Additionally, the information bulletin transmissions are a valuable source of instant news events and other matters pertaining to the amateur radio fraternity. The one-way services are non-discriminatory in that they are available to all, members and non-members alike.

Mr. Maia's petition is frivolous and self-serving. Elimination of the one-way transmission rules is designed to enhance his business of licensing and publishing his W5YI Report newsletter. He assumes that all prospective applicants and present licensees have computers, and that those who have computers are able to afford on-line services subscriptions.

Please reject Mr. Maia's petition.

Sincerely yours,  
<your name>

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Copy to: Raymond A. Kowalski, Keller, and Heckman  
1001 G Street NW  
Washington DC 20001

### FARA Horizons

- May 6/7: The MASS-QSO party! See you on the bands!
- May 13: National Exam Day - Take a VE to lunch! - actually, call Dick, WA1KUG for info
- June 24: VE Session - it will be held at the Field Day site sometime in the afternoon.
- June 24/25: Field Day - 7 weeks to go! Everyone has something to contribute - what will you do?
- Saturdays: Listen to 147.15 on a regular basis and you'll often hear about getting together for breakfast!
- Sundays: Don't forget to participate in one of FARA's three nets.