

The FramingHAM Circuit

Editor: Marc Stern, WA1R

January, 1994

The Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

FARA January Meeting

Wouldn't you know it! Just about the time we all get used to writing 1993 on checks and other things, it's time to turn another page on the calendar and climb another year toward the next millenium. Oh well, time does march on and we are now into January, looking forward to another active year for FARA.

This month we are in for an interesting talk by Ed Weiss, W1NXC, on home electrical safety. This is an especially important topic as we are in the season when lots of us use lots of electricity for things like lighting, heat, and cooking. And, even though many of us consider ourselves experts on the topic of electricity and electrical safety, we can all certainly use refresher courses and updates from time to time. That's exactly what we'll get at our meeting on Thursday Jan. 6, when Ed will talk about electrical safety.

Ed has given this talk to many radio clubs in the area through the years. Ed's style and wit make learning about electrical safety both fun and entertaining. His talk is a great way to kick off the new year. As always, the meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the basement of the Danforth Museum. Following the presentation, food and beverages will be served in the Club Room Annex. Prospective hams are very welcome.

Observations

In the absense of our President, Martin Bayes, I will attempt to give a retrospective of the year 1993 for the Framingham Amateur Radio Association. The most significant aspect of the club continues to be our membership. We have a varied, dynamic group of people in our club including persons of all ages and interests. One thing we continue to be proud of is the level of interest, support and participation that you continue to provide. That makes the events I'm about to summarize much better.

The increased level of participation was perhaps, most evident in our contest results. We participated in several contests including the ARRL DX Contest, CQ Worldwide, the 10 Meter Contest, Field Day, and the Massachusetts QSO party (which we actually won). The thing I am most proud of is that in each case, we had several members of the club participate. This makes each of these "team efforts" that much more special. We anticipate involving more club members in 1994.

We also had a number of FARA social events which were very successful including the Club's 60th Anniversary Dinner, a Club Picnic, and two pizza parties. Additionally, the licensing classes on Saturday morning, the Flea Markets, the VE sessions, and the Public Service contributions that club members made via their involvement in the ARES Unit (including assistance during the March blizzard, the Marathon, Flag Day, the Public Safety Fair, and various walkathons, etc.) continue to make this club distinguish itself.

Unfortunately, with a club of this many members, we have sad news to report. We lost our longtime treasurer, Bob Gettys, N1BRM, and one of the club's top DX'ers, Carl Getter, W1MIJ, who was on the DXCC Honor Roll. They both were wonderful hams and will be missed.

FARA continues to have a club shack that we can be very proud that is available Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings for members to operate, learn, or just come down and talk about radio. The club is purchasing a PK-232 Terminal Node Controller so that there will be a "user friendly" packet setup at the Shack. We anticipate that we can provide lessons for packet beginners when the TNC is installed.

We look forward to better things in 1994 and we thank all our members for our continued growth in 1993.

73, Lee Gartenberg, KA1USL

W1MIJ Is Silent Key

Carl Getter, W1MIJ, of Natick, a 50-year Amateur and longtime member of FARA and of the Framingham Repeater, became a Silent Key suddenly last month. Long an active operator, W1MIJ was one of the top DX'ers around. Carl worked them all (including finally getting Burma) and had worked something on the order of 360 countries or so.

What makes Carl's achievement more interesting is the fact that he worked with less-than-optimal conditions for years. True, he had a kilowatt amp and tri-band beam, but, he was also in an area that was less-than-conducive to 20-over-9 receive and transmit signals. Add to this the fact that for the last few years, his tri-bander had about a 2.5-to-1 match and you can see that Carl's achievement was quite something. His operating skill overcame the shortcomings of his QTH and equipment. Whenever there was a "new one" on a band, you can be sure that W1MIJ was there to work the station at the start.

But, Carl was much more to us than a top DX'er. He may be remembered best for his DX'ing, but, to many of us locals he was an Elmer and/or friend. (Ed. note: I counted myself lucky to have Carl as one of my Elmers. He challenged me to take a chance and move beyond what I considered my limits. He pointed me in the right direction, and, in doing so, helped me to grow as an Amateur.)

A person with a ready wit, Carl was always pleasant and quick with a story. He was also one of the first to step forward when help was needed. He will be missed by many.

W1MIJ leaves his wife Elaine, KA1RLQ, and son Rick of San Jose, Calif.

To honor Carl, the board voted at its last meeting to establish an award to a club member who achieves the DX Honor Roll. The Carl Getter Award will be given to mark the achievement. The board could think of no finer tribute to W1MIJ.

It's January, Time to Pay Your Dues!

I'm usually not in the nagging business, and I really don't want to be, but, it's that time of year and your dues are due. Remember, your dues provide a goodly share of the operating budget of both the club and the club's repeater and it takes funding to keep both the club and the repeater running smoothly (no, the Postal Service won't simply send out this newsletter free because of our collective good looks, they like to be paid).

So, here's the monthly nag note: **PAY YOUR DUES** now.

The dues structure:

Regular dues: \$10 (student or retiree \$5)

Repeater dues: \$10

FARA Club Directory

"It's a smash!" says *The New York Times*

"One of the greats!" says *The Portland Oregonian*

"It's OK, Too!" says Mel Frobish

What are the critics raving about (or at least someone somewhere may be mildly interested)? What's Mel excited about (if you knew Mel, you would know that this is excited!)? It's the latest FARA Club Directory. It's full of the names, addresses, calls, and phone numbers of all FARA members, making it a great club resource.

You can obtain your own copy of the latest edition of the FARA hit by coming to the next meeting. It will be available at the January and February meetings. After that, we will mail out those that haven't been picked up (each directory will have a standard club mailing label). If you want to share a volume that the critics have said has "great characters," but a "very dry plot" then pick up your copy of the Club Directory. They are fresh of the press and available at a radio club near you, now.

FARA Classes to Resume

Following successful completion of FARA's fall educational program, the Education Committee is about to launch a Tech theory class. Ed Weiss, W1NXC, and Wayne Ledder, W1EWL, have run successful winter/spring Tech theory classes for the last several years and this year will be no exception. If you know of someone who wants to get ready for the Tech license exam or who wants to upgrade from Novice to Tech-Plus, have them contact Ed for further information. There will also be information available at the Club meeting on Jan. 6. Ed is also looking for helpers, so sign up at the meeting.

Learning to Use the Shack

FARA is a lucky club. Not only do we have an excellent club station and location, but the board, through the last several years, has seen to it that the equipment has been upgraded to the state of the art. The nice thing about the shack, too, is that it is getting used by club members.

That exact purpose -- club members using the equipment -- is one of the reasons FARA established its club station. It is a nice feature the club has to offer. It's an offer that is open to any club member who comes over when the shack is open. If you would like to use the equipment, come over and operate that's all there is to it. If, you're new to the club and the hobby, though, you probably will want some orientation and we are there to help. At this week's meeting, there will be a sign-up sheet for anyone who would like an orientation to the shack and its equipment. It should take some of the mystery out of all those gadgets on the operating desk, especially for new hams. This orientation could stretch over a couple of sessions, if enough people sign up and it is open to any club member.

HAM-erick

*Don't let code phobia hobble you
If you can't copy high speed C.W.
There are nice folks on phone
So you won't be alone
Just have fun and don't let it trouble you*

-- Sumner Weisman, W1VIV

(Ed. note: W1VIV is our resident limerick author and regular contributor to The Circuit. WA1R)

(Ed. note: As The Circuit was going to press, we received this message from KC1YR regarding "vanity call" signs. It looks like that favorite call that you have wanted for years (your original, for instance) may soon be obtainable. Read on!)

"Vanity" call signs

The FCC has released its Notice of Proposed Rule Making, in PR Docket 93-305, to permit amateurs to choose a "vanity" call sign. Individuals as well as trustees of club stations would be eligible to request an available call sign from the block assigned to their license class or a lower license class.

A fee would be required. The Communications Act specifies a fee of \$7 per year for amateur service vanity call signs, and allows the Commission to require payment of small fees in advance for a number of years not to exceed the relevant license term. Fee issues would be resolved under a separate FCC rule making proceeding, and a vanity call sign system would not be started until then, the FCC said.

The applicant would provide a list of up to 10 total call signs desired. The FCC would assign the first available requested call sign from the applicant's list. If none of the desired call signs was available, the applicant's current call sign would be reassigned.

Call signs of lapsed or deceased licensees would not be available for reassignment for two years. A call sign relinquished under the vanity call sign program would be available for reassignment immediately.

The FCC said that even with its new automated licensing process it did not expect to be able to offer amateurs on-line access in order to check for call sign availability, and asked for comments on how such a service could be provided. The FCC said its eventual goal is to accept license applications electronically.

The comment deadline for this NPRM is March 7, 1994. Reply comment deadline is April 7, 1994.

Club Information 1993-94

President	Martin Bayes	W1/G4DZC	435 0564	Before 9 p.m.
Vice President	Lee Gartenberg	KA1USL	877 6692	"
Secretary	Marjie Stern	KA1HIA	879 2087	"
Treasurer	Bev Lees	N1LOO	626 2012	"
Director	Lew Nyman	K1AZE	879 7456	"
Training Officer	Ed Weiss	W1NXC	881 2301	Before 6 p.m.
Testing Director	Dick Marshall	WA1KUG	877 0563	Before 9 p.m.
Publicity Officer	Sharon Machlis Gartenberg	KC1YR	877 6692	"
Emergency Coordinator	Marc Stern	WA1R	879 2087	"
Scholarship Chairman	Dick Cosma	KD1BF	879 1381	"
Newsetter Editor	Marc Stern	WA1R	879-2087	"
Club Station (W1FY):			879-8097	

Meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month in the Basement of the Danforth Museum on Lexington Street. Business meetings take place two Mondays before the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. The Club net meets on Sunday events at 7:30 p.m. on the W1FY repeater to practice emergency operating procedure and to pass on news of the latest happenings. Club Repeater: 147.75/147.15 MHz.

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First Class Mail