

Regular FARA Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2022

Zoom meeting

President Larry W1IZZ called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Zoom meeting is usually available to members at 6:30 PM for a on-line chat.

Twenty nine (29) members were counted by the Zoom software or members sent an email to Charlie K1CB: President Larry W1IZZ, Charlie K1CB, Doug N1OEI, Jay WB4KYW, Marinna W1FX, Geoff W1OH, Lee NQ1L, Mel KC1ELB, George N1GJ, Bill W1WH, Al N1MF, Chuck W1GUR, Frank WQ1O, Harold N1ZTV, Gene KX1C, Jim KB1PEB, Mike KC1HWK, Henry K1WCC, Nelson W1CN, Dan KC1GOQ, Mike K1MUU, Martha K1VJ, Tim W1TCD, Alan WM1N, Tony N1PDJ, Earl W1EEB, Phil KC1JNU, Jeannot KJ6ESZ, Robert W1RDX and one guest, Rob K1UI.

Executive Board Members Absent: Bob KC1FNI, Ralph N1YHS and Glen KC1GKT.

President Larry W1IZZ declared a quorum present.

•**Secretary:** Secretary Charlie K1CB reported that the minutes for March 31, 2022, were distributed via email and posted on the FARA website. Harold N1ZTV moved that they be accepted. Seconded by Earl W1EEB. Motion passed unanimously.

Program: President Larry W1IZZ presented a powerpoint presentation titled "Using WSPR to compare a vertical vs an horizontal antenna". A PDF on the presentation will be sent to all members.

Reports of Officers:

•**Treasurer:** Doug reported via email to Charlie K1CB

1 March 2022 to 31 March 2022 follows:

Opening Balance	\$15,206.46
Income	
General Income	\$200.22
Interest	\$0.09
Donations	\$0.00
Sale of Equipment	\$0.00
Total	\$200.31

Expenses

Post office	\$0.00
Office Supplies	\$0.00
Approved Expenses	\$442.65
Total	\$442.65
Closing Balance	\$15,064.12

•**President Larry W1IZZ announced:**

•Our next FARA meeting is on Thursday, May 26, 7:00 PM.
More information will follow.

•Announced the “Wounded Warriors Soldiers' Ride” on Friday May 13.
The FARA Trailer will be used as the command post.

•That he submitted the ARDC grant for our Emergency Vehicle but he has not hear back yet. The **Amateur Radio Digital Communications** [ARDC] is a non-profit public corporation that awards sizable grants to further amateur radio goals. A \$27,000 grant for equipment for our new Emergency Vehicle was submitted.

•Old radios, needing repair, have been donated to FARA. Some have been sold.

- There will be a Ham Booth at The Eastern States Exposition (The Big E), Sept 16 - Oct 2, 2022. The Big E is America's Premier Exposition and world's only multi-state fair, representing all six New England States. Volunteers are needed to man the booth. More information will follow.

- Bob (called sign needed) donated some Baofeng hand held radios to FARA to pass along to new potential hams that pass their Technician Test.

- 2 Meter Net**— no report. Don N1JCT is putting up some low-profile antennas at his new QTH and if he can hit FARA's K1RK repeater, he will run the 2 m net again.

The Monday night net is used for general topics: conversations, club news, information, and upcoming events and flea markets, along with reviewing FARA's minutes and various ham and non-ham related information. Anyone, mobile, portable or home station, is welcomed to check into the net. The net is held on every Monday evening at 7:30 PM on the club's K1RK 2 Meter repeater. The repeater has a frequency of 146.655 MHz with a negative offset of 0.6 MHz and PL tone of 88.5. All hams are welcome. Feel free to jump in as net control if the net does not open at 7:30 PM. If the repeater ever develops a problem, please QSY to the simplex frequency of 146.655 MHz.

- 6 Meter Net**—Please check into the 6-meter net. This net is held every Wednesday at 7 PM on Ralph's N1HYS 53.010 MHz repeater in Barnstable, MA. The repeater has a negative 1.0 MHz offset with of PL tone of 173.8.

Brian W1HXN is recuperating and if he cannot run the net, Don N1JCT, in the future will run the 6 m net.

- 900 MHz K1RK repeater**— Please key up and use FARA's 900 MHz K1RK repeater anytime, especially on Thursday. FARA's K1RK 927.850 MHz repeater has an input of 902.0625 (-25.775 MHz) and a PL 88.5.

•**ARRL VE Session:** Lee NQ1L reported the ARRL VE Session for April 9th was cancelled due to a schedule conflict at Forestdale Church. The next VE Session will be held on May 14th.

FARA's VE Sessions are held at 9:00 AM every 2nd Saturday of the month. The location is **usually** the basement of the Falmouth Town Hall but because of the Covid 19 the new location is the Forestdale Church on route 130. Please contact ARRL VE chairperson Lee NQ1L at nq1l38@gmail.com if you have any questions.

•**Membership Chair:** Membership Chair Lee NQ1L moved that Martha Pummer K1VJ (Sandwich), Jason Kosek KC1JAB (West Roxbury), Tony Gargano N1PDJ (Pocasset), Chuck Comstock KC1QPO (Sagamore Beach), Sarah Tovet KC1QPQ (Marstons Mills), and Ben Pierce (Non Ham) be accepted into FARA. Henry K1WCC seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

•**Membership Chair:** Lee NQ1L reported that zero (0) potential candidate(s) for membership submitted a written application to this corporation and this is the first meeting after such application has been received.

Lee NQ1L reported a total FARA membership of 164 members for 2022.

All FARA communications are conducted via email. Please notify Lee NQ1L of any changes to your email address and especially when you pay your FARA dues. His email address is nq1l38@gmail.com.

Dues payable via FARA's website under the membership tab or by USPS mail to: FARA PO Box 815 West Falmouth, MA 02574

•**Publicity:** President Larry W1IZZ reported that Ralph N1YHS submitted an excellent article on FARA's new trailer to the ARRL NEW England Division Newsletter. The article starts on page 9: https://14647400368094531743.googlegroups.com/attach/2ca056a396b7/New-England-Beacon-April-2022-1.pdf?part=0.1&view=1&vt=ANaJVrG-7KCI-JPZ-57UhPIgVNL8TJJiMEZ14XOgAXwf_zNdNycETQYdU-QjCGaDau-KmmUB_KDTa0TOFZeNvwlo6vinFLsvv5jCsJc2rmJaUbrDLoa7zKwak

•**Web Master:** President Larry W1IZZ reported the website is constantly being updated.

•**FALMOUTH ARES:** Charlie K1CB reported that the hospital is still off limits because of the covid virus.

If possible, the hospital ARES members meet on the first Saturday of the month in the Maternity Conference room near the Lilly Lobby at 10 AM for the hospital exercise, as well as on the 2nd Thursday of the odd numbered months (except May) at 7 PM, also in the Maternity Conference room near the Lilly Lobby. All are welcome.

Henry K1WCC reminded everyone that the Cape Cod ARES 2 m net is held every Wednesday at 8 PM on the Barnstable 146.955/-0.6 MHz, PL - 88.5 repeater.

Henry K1WCC also invited everyone to join in on the upper Cape ARES net. The net meets on the third Thursday evening of every month on the simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz at 8 PM.

After the 2 m net, Mel KC1ELB invited everyone to join his upper Cape ARES simplex net with a frequency of 446.250 MHz. The net also meets on the third Thursday evenings of every month approx. at 8:30 PM.

Frank WQ1O reported that he is planning an exercise for May 14,2022. More information will follow.

FARA is always looking for members to join the ARES group.

•**Quartermaster:** no report

•**K1RK Repeaters:** all appear to be operating properly but the 2 m Fusion repeater still needs an internet connection.

2 m K1RK (146.655/-0.6 MHz, PL - 88.5)

2 m DMR K1RK (145.2000/-0.600 MHz)

927.850 MHz K1RK (Input: 902.0625 (-25.775 MHz) PL 88.5

•**Club Shack:** President Larry W1IZZ reported our new shack is still “in the works” with the veteran’s group.

•**Field Day 2021:** President Larry W1IZZ ask everyone keep open June 25, 26. Help is needed for a successful Field Day operation. Station Captains, set up and take down crews etc are needed. Paperwork for the Morse Pond School has been completed for ARRL's Field Day event. Since school is in session Friday June 24th, set up will start earlier on Saturday morning. More information will follow.

•**Falmouth Road Race:** keep open August 21

•**Cape Cod Marathon:** keep open 1st weekend in October

•**FARAFest:** no report

•**Nominating Committee:** no report

•**Audit Committee:** Larry W1IZZ summarized the report that Will KB1WLY, Ric KC1RL, and Greg W1KM forwarded to the Executive Board and the membership. (Audit report below)

FALMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
NOTES FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
APRIL 19, 2022

The Audit Committee met at 6:30pm at the home of Treasurer Doug N1OEI. Greg W1KM, Ric KC1RL and Will KB1WLY examined the Club's accounts and offered suggestions for going forward.

The group discussed how the **PayPal account** is managed. Doug stated that he maintains a maximum balance of less than \$500 in the PayPal account before transferring the funds out to the checking account then into the savings account. He said that the bulk of activities is during the membership renewal period and that each member's renewal must be input manually – cannot be imported directly into QuickBooks.

Doug said that PayPal funds are transferred into checking then to savings because the checking account has the required routing number needed to move funds in and out. The funds are ultimately transferred to the savings account as an added measure of safety (rather than interest income) to minimize hackers' ability to wipe out our funds since checking is linked directly to PayPal. PayPal charges a percentage of each transaction. For example, on a \$20 member renewal, \$19.11 is available to the Club; the remainder is the service fee.

Larry W1IZZ and Doug have access to PayPal. Doug has access to the physical checks and can sign for the Club and Henry K1WCC can also sign checks. FARA checks do not need to be co-signed. Currently, Doug takes physical checks for deposit to the bank since the branch is conveniently located. **RECOMMENDATION:** Remote deposits might be more convenient and Doug said that he would consider that. The Committee wondered about the use of **debit cards**. Doug said that he has one and during the construction of the communications trailer he would lend it to Ralph N1YHS for required expenditures. The committee wondered about the controls on the card's use, and whether it might be wise to add additional cards for accounting purposes. The issue, explained Doug, is that cards are issued to a person and not an organization, so there would potentially be many cards in play. **RECOMMENDATION:** attempt to devise a procedure to enhance accountability of any debit card(s) in use.

Additional, brief discussions elicited the following –

RECOMMENDATION: Always use the club's 501(c)3 tax exempt number when making club purchases (debit card or check.)

REVIEW: Greg wanted to be certain that all of the appropriate corporate filings with the State Attorney General's office are up-to-date and said that he will follow-up.

RECOMMENDATION: The Treasurer's QuickBooks software is due for renewal. The Committee felt it would be appropriate for FARA to purchase the current version and future renewals of QuickBooks for Non-Profits for use by the Treasurer. This software is available at a discount from the TechSoup website (<https://www.techsoup.org/intuit>) and the Board should consider this. The 'administration fee' starts at \$75 for one year and five users.

The Committee was completely satisfied with the condition of the books and performance of the Treasurer. The meeting adjourned at about 7:30pm with thanks to Doug for opening his home for this audit.

Respectfully submitted,

The 2022 Audit Committee Greg W1KM, Ric KC1RL, Will KB1WLY (Clerk)

Special Committee Reports:

•**Emergency Communications Trailer Committee:** The next major step is to decide on the naming and lettering for the trailer. Any member with an idea or suggestion, please contact Ralph N1YHS at depsher911@comcast.net.

•**Holiday Get Together:** no report

•**Old Business:** none

•**New Business:** none

•**For the Good of the Order:** none

A motion to adjourn was made by Lee NQ1L. Seconded by Harold N1ZTV. Motion passed unanimously at 8:08 PM.

Minutes submitted by Charlie K1CB, Secretary