



# The Resonator

The Official Newsletter of The Fair Lawn (NJ) Amateur Radio Club

Volume 1, Number 1

www.flarc.net

January 2016

Welcome back to the FLARC newsletter! We'll look to publish monthly to keep members and friends up to date with what's happening in the area's best little ham radio club. Tell us what you think! Be a contributor!

## From The President

Dear FLARC members:

Thanks to the generosity of our club members who volunteered to support our club activities and donated equipment, we begin 2016 as a strong radio club with more members, more equipment and more cash on hand than at the beginning of 2015. But, this would be meaningless if we were not having fun along the way! As I look back on the past year as FLARC President, I have come to the simple conclusion that "Hams Just Want To Have Fun". This is not to say that we will not support Public Service events and Emergency Communications, but that we should find ways to have fun with radio while doing this. You, as members, can help to make the club more fun by supporting club activities, contributing to committees and making constructive suggestions.

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## Member Profile

NAME: Peter Senesi

CALL: KD2BMX

*What do you do/what did you do for a living?*

I worked for the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority for 38 years. I held various positions in my career from provisional Bridge & Tunnel Officer, entry level Maintenance employee, Maintenance Supervisor, Maintenance Superintendent, General Manager and finally retirement in March 2012.

*How did you get interested in ham radio?*

I was bitten by the radio bug in the early 1970's during the Citizen Band radio craze. I purchased a Uniden President Washington base station that was modified to put out 20 watts of power on SSB. Installed a Shakespeare Big Stick Vertical antenna and an Avanti PDL II beam antenna and worked DX around the world on 11 Meters.

In 1974 I took classes at the Hall of Science in Corona Queens to prepare myself for the Novice Amateur Radio Licensing exam, but unfortunately was not very successful mastering the CW portion of the exam. In December 2011, I became aware that the CW portion of the Amateur Radio licensing was no longer a requirement and I prepared for the Technician and General Amateur license. In January 2012 I took the Technician and General Amateur Exam at BARA in the Township of Washington and passed both elements.

One of the Volunteer Examiners talked me into taking the Extra portion of the exam even though I explained to him that I had not studied that material. Needless to say I was not successful in passing the Extra element, however I scored above 50% correct. This encouraged me to study for the Extra portion of the exam and in February 2012 I took and passed the Extra portion of the exam at the Yonkers NY radio club.

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Finally, I thank the membership for entrusting me to serve another term as FLARC President.  
Wishing you a Happy, Healthy and FUN 2016!  
*de Karl, W2KBF, FLARC President*

### **Congratulations To Our 2016 Officers**

Karl Frank (W2KBF), President; Judith Shaw (KC2LTM), Vice President, Don Cassarini (N2PRT), Treasurer, and Randy Smith (WU2S), Secretary. Our new trustees are Skip Barker (KDBRV) and Dave Marotti (N8MAR) joining Steve Wraga (WA2BYX).

A thanks to our retiring trustee, Jim Joyce (K2ZO) for his service to the Board and much success as 2016 BARA President.

Thanks as well to Paul (W2IP) for his many years as the club's Treasurer.

### **The 2015 FLARC Auction**

The Friday after Thanksgiving brought together area hams for the best auction in the New York metro area. We estimated about 170 attendees (KGI estimated about 200) and 32 vendors, both an increase over last year. Total profit to the club was the highest ever recorded according to Gene (WO2W). A post event survey of attendees indicated that about half of all attendees had been to a previous FLARC auction and a clear majority felt that our event was better than others they had previously attended. A big thanks to the following members for their help: KB2DOQ, KC2LTM, KC2OCD, KC2ORX, KC2RSS, KC2TBD, KO2OK, N2PRT, W2DLT, W2JC, W2KBF, W2TTT, WA2BYX, WO2W, WU2S, WX2R, W2XTZ AND W2ABE. Apologies if we've forgotten anyone.

### **The 2025 FLARC Holiday Party**

December 4th marked the 20th consecutive holiday party provided to club members and their families. This year's party, held at the Fair Lawn Senior Center, saw more than 40 club members in attendance. A good time was had by all as the pictures can well attest.

### **Check Out flarc.net**

If you haven't had a chance recently to visit the club website lately, it's worth a frequent look. Jim (W2JC) keeps the site up to date and has the latest information on activities and items of interest for FLARC members. This includes a

blog open to all members so see either Jim or Karl about contributing.

The newsletter is not a substitute for the website--just another way to keep us all up to date and informed as to what's going on in the club.

### **60th Anniversary Activities**

The club will be presenting at the March meeting of the Fair Lawn Sunrise Rotary Club outlining what the club does, its 60th anniversary plans and a bit of club history. Karl (W2KBF) and Ed (WX2R) will be the presenters. We're also following with the Lions Club and the Cosmos Club with planned speaking engagements early in the new year.

The club will be participating at the River Road Street Fair in early May with details to follow.

### **Upcoming Speakers**

Van (W2DLT) is putting together a list of high profile speakers for our anniversary year with John Crovelli (W2GD) kicking off the formal schedule on 18 March on the 2015 Navassa Island Dxpedition.

### **A Thanks To Our 2015 VE's**

A thanks to our volunteers who helped make the 2015 VE sessions fun and rewarding.

#### **Fair Lawn Liaison:**

Gene Ottenheimer WO2W

#### **Fair Lawn Volunteer Examiners:** In alphabetical order

Kai Chen K2TRW

Edward Efchak WX2R

David Henninger N3UXK

Joe Lannuiet K2JK

Robert Merritt KC2ORX

Robert Rogan KC2ZFM

Peter Senesi KD2BMX

Tom Stefanic N2ST

Don White KB2OCW (SK)

If you'd like to be a FLARC VE, see either Pete or Gene.

### **The FLARC Store**

The membership has approved offering a line of apparel with either the regular club or the commemorative 60th anniversary logo. The publicity committee will follow with an email outlining the purchasing process as soon as the setup is ready. Show your FLARC pride!



## FLARC Auction 2015

FLARC 2015 Auction



Have stuff to sell? Let us know and we'll run it for FREE! You never saw such a deal...

## 2015 Holiday Party



2015 Holiday Party at the Senior Center

### New Year's Day Sunrise Rotary 5K Run

A big thanks to the following club members who helped with communications on a chilly holiday:

Steve, WA2BYX

Zach, KC2RSS

Ed, WX2R

Andre, N2JDH

Nancy, N2FWI

Gordon, W2TTT

Jim, W2JC

Karl, W2KBF

## 8 January 2016 Meeting Notes

President Karl W2KBF called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

The members rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Karl W2KBF introduced the 2016 officers and trustees to the members present – Vice-President Judith KC2LTM, Treasurer Don N2PRT, Secretary Randy WU2S, Trustee Dave N8MAR, Trustee Steve WA2BYX and Trustee Skip KD2BRV.

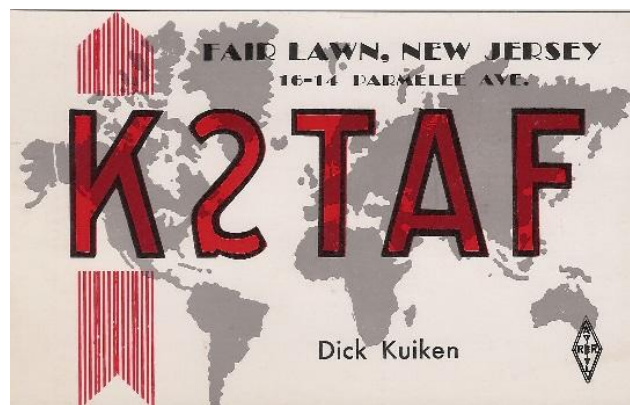
Secretary Randy WU2S noted that all officers and trustees except Treasurer Don N2PRT were present. A quorum of the Council was present in order to conduct the club's business.

President Karl W2KBF offered a summary of the past year's activities and the current state of the club. The club treasury starts this year with about as much money as we had last year in spite of some significant purchases. The annual auction was very successful and netted about \$1300. The club is growing and membership is up a bit. We purchased two new computers. FLDIGI is available at two operating positions. The AREDN mesh nodes have been upgraded and they operate on three bands. The club had a great Field Day 2015 in spite of the rainy weather. There was a good turnout and publicity for the event. We purchased two Motorola DMR radios for 440 MHz and 2 meters. We also purchased a Yaesu FTM400 for use as the APRS station. It has the Yaesu System Fusion digital voice mode. Gordon W2TTT noted that there is a new net for this mode starting on Tuesday January 12 at 9:00 pm. Jim WA2UMP will be the net control on the 146.955 repeater.

President Karl W2KBF continued his state of the club talk. There were a number of special presentations during 2015, including such topics as moon-bounce or EME, and DMR and D\*Star digital voice modes. The club supported a 5K run, the Memorial Day parade and the July 4th fireworks.

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**Newsletters don't write themselves! Send your club related items to [publicity@fairlawnarc.org](mailto:publicity@fairlawnarc.org)**



## A 60th Anniversary Retrospective: Richard R. Kuiken (K2TAF)

An active ham since childhood, Richard was one of the early presidents of the club, serving during the late 1950's and into the early 1960's. A proficient voice operator, the Kuiken shack on Parmelee Avenue was an impromptu meeting place for many local hams according to his son Wayne. "His shack was next to my bedroom and I can remember lying awake for hours to him talking to his many contacts and friends around the world".

The son of Richard R. Kuiken, Sr., the founder of Kuiken Brothers Lumber, Rich was always an active and encouraging Elmer. A recollection by a family friend Jordan Henion (KOJWH) noted that "many hams knew of Rick because of his overwhelming kindness and patience while he put me (and others) on the right (ham radio) path". Henion had put off obtaining his general license for many years (these were the days of the novice and tech/tech+ licenses) and Kuiken would always gently push him to obtain it. When he did pass the general exam, Rich said "It's about time!" in a teasing way, but he was happy to hear it.

Rich also had a hand with his father in the early formulation of the club as the original Fair Lawn Radio Club. His father was one of the founding members of the volunteer fire department and thought that the communications aspect within town was essential in safety coordination.

Rich became a Silent Key in 2014 at the age of 93.

## 8 January 2016 Meeting Notes (Continued)

The past year saw our first participation in the NJ QSO Party with good results. Our relationship with the Borough of Fair Lawn continues to evolve. Over the years, FLARC has at times been part of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and at times part of the Parks and Recreation Department. In mid-2015, the borough decided that we are now part of the Parks and Recreation Department. While our affiliation with OEM lent prestige to our organization, we are fortunate to be permitted to use the facilities of the Parks and Recreation Department (i.e. the Community Center, Senior Center and Field Day site).

New committees have been established and are very active. We have committees for Publicity, Activities, Field Day, and History. We are seeking a person to chair the Education Committee. We can see that many good things have been happening.

The minutes of the previous business meeting were distributed previously to the club members. There were no corrections or discussion. Tony N2SIQ moved to accept the minutes as published and Nancy N2FWI seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

Publicity chair Ed WX2R reported that a club newsletter will be started soon. He said that we have a new W2NPT QSL card for the 60th anniversary. The anniversary design was displayed on a banner next to the club officers. Ed noted that we are starting an education Committee and are looking for a chair and volunteers. We plan to have a presence at the town's River Road street fair. The Publicity committee plans to talk to the Sunrise Rotary and Lions clubs about FLARC activities.

Van W2DLT presented the club's plans for FLARC recognition at this year's events. He arranged with hamthreads.com to provide apparel, such as golf shirts, available with both the FLARC standard logo and the 60th anniversary logo. The price of the shirts includes the member's name and call sign embroidered on the shirt. Other apparel such as jackets and caps are available. We are not yet ready to order shirts. We have to send in the logos with the setup fees.

President Karl W2KBF asked for a motion to spend some money on the embroidery setup fees. Rachel AJ4WD moved that the club spend up to \$100 on setup fees and Nancy N2FWI seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation.

Van W2DLT continued with a list of proposed speakers and topics for this year. He said that Tom Perera W1TP agreed to present on Enigma Cipher machines but we do not have a set date yet. Ed WX2R noted that we want to invite the public to this presentation since W1TP is a well-known speaker with a topic of broad interest. Van W2DLT mentioned that John Crovelli W2GD will speak to FLARC about the Navassa Island DXpedition on March 18.

Van W2DLT listed a number of potential speakers and topics:

- \* The author of the N1MM contest logging software
- \* Tower safety and VHF/UHF contesting
- \* Pete W2IRT on QSL cards and card checking
- \* Top Ten Devices on antennas and contesting
- \* Software Defined Radio (SDR) by Bob McGuire
- \* Frank W2LTL on antennas, low-band operations, beacons and contesting
- \* ARRL President Kay Craigie N3KN

President Karl W2KBF asked the members if there was any old business to discuss. There was none.

President Karl W2KBF moved on to new business by introducing Vice-President Judith KC2LTM. Judith said that FLARC's activities have grown a lot and that it would be helpful to start business meeting at 7:30 pm. This would allow sufficient time for reports to be given during the meeting and for members to meet and hold discussions afterward. Gordon W2TTT moved that future FLARC business meetings start at 7:30 pm. Ron KC2TBD seconded the motion. The members approved the motion.

President Karl W2KBF asked the members if we wanted to use the Memorial Park pavilion and Picnic Area A again this year for Field Day. After a short discussion among the members, Rachel AJ4WD moved that FLARC use Area A in 2016 and Van W2DLT seconded the motion. The motion passed. Secretary Randy WU2S will draft a letter in the coming week to send to the Fair Lawn Recreation Department to reserve the site.

In additional new business, Van W2DLT said that he is driving to Dayton this year for the ARRL Hamvention. If anyone want to ride along, please contact Van Rachel AJ4WD noted that the last General license preparation class had three people sign up but no one showed up. She said that in the future, payment in advance would be required for similar classes to insure a higher level of commitment.

## 8 January 2016 Meeting Notes (Continued) FLARC Website--A Brief Tour

In other new business, Ron KC2TBD asked how the town contacted FLARC about radio support for the January 1 5K race. Ron would have liked to participate, but did not receive adequate advance notice.

President Karl W2KBF noted that OEM, not FLARC was in charge of communications and that FLARC's offer of assistance was not approved until about one week before the event. Steve WA2BYX added that OEM had intended to rely only on CERT for communications, but may have decided to accept the (repeated) offer of help from FLARC when the number of CERT volunteers was less than optimal. Gordon W2TTT and Rachel AJ4WD initiated a discussion about revising or replacing our current safety vests to remove the reference to OEM and to be compliant with current ANSI standards. Jim W2JC suggested making an overlay for the vests. After more discussion, President Karl W2KBF asked to table further discussion on the vests to allow the Council to study the matter.

President Karl W2KBF asked the members about the level of interest in having an event where members could bring in various telegraph keys and bugs for viewing. Several members said that was a good idea and suggested that we include microphones as well. Gordon W2TTT proposed that we call it "Key, Bug and Mike Night" President Karl W2KBF said he will schedule this event.

Dave N8MAR asked who is collecting dues. President Karl W2KBF said that tonight Vice-President Judith KC2LTM is collecting the annual dues.

Having no further business to discuss, President Karl W2KBF asked for a motion to adjourn. Skip KD2BRV so moved and Bill KB2OCJ seconded the motion. The motion passed by universal acclamation and the meeting concluded at 9:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy WU2S, Secretary



The January 2016 Business Meeting in the auditorium.

These days radio club communications is not restricted to just radio contacts -- we need a presence and a forum "on the web" as well. Most members know that we have a "conventional" website located at FLARC.net -- the same website can be reached using <http://FairLawnARC.org> which might be easier to remember for you and for those you tell about our club.

In addition, there is a 'blog' -- which provides a place where current news, information, discussions, "SeekAndSwap", and such can be found. There are two easy ways to find our blog: directly at <http://blog.FairLawnARC.org> or at the main website, select Info "blog" in the menu on the left side. (If you want specific info from the blog, you can choose Events and News, Hints & Kinks, or Swap & Shop to go directly to those topic areas).

The main website contains the basic information about our club, as well as our Calendar of events and info about our License Exams program, our Membership / Renewal form, and Links to other websites of interest. A recent addition is up-to-the-hour propagation information, where you can find the band conditions at any time of day or night (bottom links at left of main page).

At the upper left corner of the main web page you will find "Tweets" (Twitter messages) relevant to ham radio and our club.

The blog is where you will find current news and information, useful links and discussion (if anyone posts!)and . At the upper right of the blog page there is a blue 'button' A short twice-weekly shortwave radio program called *DXers Unlimited*... click the button and you can sign up to receive an email notice whenever something new is added to the blog. On the right side (sidebar) you will find listings of the most recent posts to the blog, the most recent comments (rare, so far), useful links (more up to date than on the main website) and a list of Categories (to help you find all postings on a particular topic of interest).

If you want to post on the blog, you need to Register - which can be done by clicking the *Register link* at the very bottom of the right sidebar, under Meta. This is necessary so that the blog does not get filled with spam posts.

Should you have any questions about our web presence, or suggestions, just email me at: [webmaster@FairLawnARC.org](mailto:webmaster@FairLawnARC.org) DE Jim (W2JC)