



# The Resonator

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

Volume 1, Number 2

www.flarc.net

February 2016

Thanks for all your positive feedback with the re-introduction of the club newsletter. As always, the best content comes from you so please keep your ideas and contributions coming!

### From The President

Dear FLARC Members,

I am working with the Council and Committees to identify Special Events that will interest club members. The next will be "Bug, Key and Mic Night" on Friday, 19 February. Bring in your favorite stuff for Show and Tell (do you have "Cooties"? hi hi).

After that we will have a 18 March presentation on the Navassa DXpedition by W2GD. The schedule of events for the first half of 2016 are available elsewhere in the newsletter and also check our website at [FLARC.NET](http://FLARC.NET) for updates.

We would like to see greater member participation in FLARC events in 2016 but recognize this takes time away from friends and family. So for 2016 we will organize a few FLARC events at family-friendly locations during warmer weather. For example at a

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### Member Profile

NAME: Marco Iapicca

CALL: KC2ZMA

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

My dad has always been a handy man and I grew up helping him around the house. From an early age, I began loving hand tools. He had an Oldsmobile that he used to work on and it was at that point that I knew that I was going to be automotive technician. I got interested in computers and electronics with my brother. The first computer I ever used was an 1983 Commodore 64. I've been a techie all my life. I started working in the automotive field back in 1993 in service garages. I started working at Mercedes Benz-Prestige Motors in Paramus back in 1999 and stayed there for nine years. I now work in West Nyack as a Prestige new vehicle pre-delivery inspection technician.

*How did you get interested in ham radio?*

It was through one of my co workers back in 1999. One guy had a huge antenna on top of his VW and I asked him, "What is that?...Is it a CB radio?" He told me it was "amateur radio" and said to "get into ham radio because it's a gentlemen's radio". I did mess with CB radio and FRS radio systems, but then got into ham radio. In 2008 I started to study and understanding more of what it was all about. I did pass the test and got licensed as a Technician in 2010. I took the test at BARA and ever since then I have talked to and met great people at the ham clubs I have joined and the many hams I have talked to on the air.

*What parts of the hobby most interest you?*

Computers, software defined radio (SDR), digital voice systems. The technology part of ham radio.

Street Fair and/or Public Park. This will provide activities for spouses and kids while we are on the air. The response of our members to these events will determine whether or not we continue in this direction.

Finally, I am happy to report that Ed (WX2R) has placed an order for FLARC 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary QSL cards and Van (W2DLT) has placed a initial order for FLARC logo polo shirts.

73 de W2KBF, FLARC President

### Club Shirts Are Available!

Yes, they're available! And they're easy to order. Check out Van's handout at the February meeting or go to the club web blog or the bulletin boards at the clubhouse for the details.

Go to [www.hamthreads.com](http://www.hamthreads.com)

Order the shirts or other items you want with either the regular FLARC or 60th anniversary logo.



60th Anniversary Shirt Logo

Note: **RED** is the primary and preferred club brand standard apparel color.

### 60th Anniversary Activities

The club has a number of events planned around our 60th anniversary--check out the master calendar elsewhere in this issue. Highlights so far are the 31 March meeting of the Fair Lawn Sunrise Rotary Club, the 12 June River Road Street Fair, the 22-23 April National Parks on the Air at Great Falls Historic Park event station in Paterson and....

### Really...Save The Date

As you heard at January's meeting, 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.

### Bequeaths and Donations

Planned gifts usually imply the family donation of amateur equipment to the club when someone has become a Silent Key. But it can be more. Club members might consider making a gift through a will or trust; gifts that help provide *lifetime* income to the club. Consult with your lawyer, estate planner or tax advisor if you feel such a gift is worthy.

### FLARC MEMBER SURVEY

A big thanks to all who participated in our January interests survey. Well over half the club membership responded and the Publicity Committee has some actionable information.

Here are some of what you told us:

- 45% operate most on HF, 27% on VHF and 18% UHF. 9% are currently not on the air.
- 61% say that they come from a technical background;
- 84% are willing to share their expertise, knowledge and skills with others in the club;
- 79% of those not already involved on a committee would be willing to volunteer or assist the club;
- and 15 members offered to be upcoming program speakers.

#### Primary Member Interest In Club Participation (Scores over 30%)

Field Day	61%
Volunteering and community outreach	45%
Computers and ham radio	42%
Dxing	39%
Building antennas	39%
The club as a social gathering	36%
RACES/ARES/MARS/CERT	33%

Some of the most often topics of interest included SDR, antenna design/small space adaptation, all things digital (All star network, dongles and software, Raspberry PI, radio propagation, traveling with ham radio, CW operation, pico balloons, microwave and data communication, emergency communication and message handling.

## The Club

Fair Lawn ARC is the friendliest ham club around with five operating stations in a permanent clubhouse. Visitors and guests are always welcome.

### 2016-2017 Officers

President	Karl Frank	W2KBF
Vice President	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
Treasurer	Don Cassarini	N2PRT
Secretary	Randy Smith	WU2S
Trustee	Skip Barker	KD2BRV
Trustee	Dave Marotti	N8MAR
Trustee	Steve Wraga	WA2BYX

### Committees

<i>Field Day</i>	Steve Wraga	WA2BYX
<i>Speakers</i>	Lowell Vant Slot	W2DLT
<i>Publicity</i>	Ed Efchak	WX2R
<i>Publicity</i>	Susan Frank	W6SKT
<i>Publicity</i>	Jim Cooper	W2JC
<i>Publicity</i>	Lowell Vant Slot	W2DLT
<i>Publicity</i>	Karl Frank	W2KBF
<i>VE Liaison</i>	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
<i>VE Liaison</i>	Pete Senesi	KD2BMX
<i>Education</i>	Gordon Beattie	W2TTT
<i>Education</i>	Rachel Weiss	AJ4WD
<i>Education</i>	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
<i>Education</i>	Lowell Vant Slot	W2DLT
<i>Education</i>	Ed Efchak	WX2R
<i>History</i>	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
<i>History</i>	Lowell Vant Slot	W2DLT
<i>History</i>	Ed Efchak	WX2R
<i>History</i>	Rosalyn Roimisher	KD2GKA
<i>Fair Lawn Town/CERT Liaison</i>	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
<i>W2NPT Trustee</i>	Paul Cornet	W2IP

**GET INVOLVED!**  
**Join One Of The Committees**  
**Above or Create A New One!**

## On Flarc.net

Check out the blog for an interesting series of DXing tips by KQ2M (who has 340 confirmed). Well worth the read.

## Member Profile (continued)

*What does belonging to FLARC mean to you? How do you/can you better contribute to the club?*

I would really like to teach topics around the technology part of ham radio. Topics like SDR, digital voice systems, and digital data systems. I'd also like to share what I know about DMR, System Fusion, DSTAR and P25.



**Marco at his shack.**

*What else can you tell the club about yourself and/or ham radio?*

Well, I live in Oradell with my girlfriend Katie who I've known for 16 years. I'm really close to my family and that's really important to me.

My hobbies are watching *The Walking Dead*, and spending time with Netflix, and Hulu. I listen to NPR and watch a lot of PBS. I used to be a lot into video games until ham radio took over!

*What other ham related clubs or organizations do you belong to?*

I belong to BARA, Bergen County FM Association, and the Chestnut Ridge Radio Club in addition to FLARC.

I'm an ARRL member as well.

## On The Road With Gene/WO2W

Hello to all FLARC Members from the west coast of Florida.

My wife and I had a good trip driving down. I brought a dual band uhf/vhf radio with me and set up in the living room of our apartment. I have made contact with two local Bradenton clubs but, neither one has any kind of permanent setup.

But, about in early January I drove up to Tampa for a small ham fest; about 70 minutes from the apartment QTH. The sponsoring club had about 20 tailgaters selling the good, the bad and the ugly of radio equipment.

Tampa ARC(W4DUG) has a full operating station. The club has three towers with a full array of antennas and six operating stations. Like us, they are also celebrating a milestone this year with their 65th anniversary. I got a chance to meet the board members and they were very nice. We talked about half an hour and then they offered me their station to use. One of three board members was from Wayne, NJ about 15 years ago. I've sent along some pictures of their operation...quite nice. (Ed note: the club website is at [www.hamclub.org](http://www.hamclub.org); check out their Facebook page as well).

Hope to make contact with everybody at some point.  
73's (WO2W) Gene & Ruth Ottenheimer



**W4DUG Interior and Tower Array**

## Amazing and True:

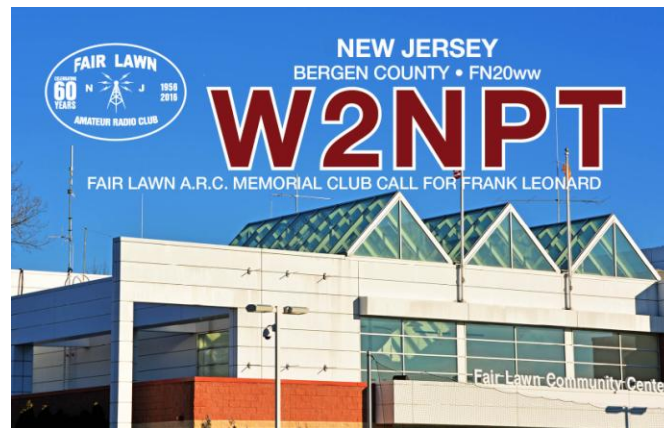


Thanks to  
Joseph Koskovics  
Willoughby, Ohio

Write to: Pluggers  
P. O. Box 29347  
Henrico, VA  
23242

Back in the day, for a pluggers to be involved in "social media," he first had to pass the ham radio license exam.

## 60th Anniversary Commemorative QSL



**W2NPT Commemorative QSL**

The club's commemorative QSL card is now available for all QSO's made on the club station and for club contests. Let's spread the word (and the card) around.

## MASTER EVENT CALENDAR

February 19	Bug, Key and Mic Night
March-4	FLARC Business Meeting
March-18	W2GD/Navassa DXpedition (hosted by Van, W2DLT)
March-31	FLARC Presentation @ Fair Lawn Sunrise Rotary
April-1	FLARC Business Meeting
April 22-23	National Parks on The Air/Great Falls Event (Paterson)
May-6	FLARC Business Meeting
May-30	Memorial Day Parade
June-4	FLARC Business Meeting
June-12	FLARC/River Road Street Fair
June-25-26	Field Day
July -1	FLARC Business Meeting
July-4 or TBD	Fair Lawn Fireworks
	<i>Upcoming Events</i>
TBD	60th Anniversary Frank Leonard Memorial Lecture
TBD	Portable Day w/BARA
TBD	W1TP Enigma Presentation w/FL Library
TBD	FLARC 60TH Anniversary Special Event Station
August / TBD	NJ QSO Party
TBD	Fair Lawn Street Fair (May)
TBD	Fair Lawn Street Fair (October)

### Tech Talk/Randy WU2S

#### Yaesu FTM-400XDR First Impressions

All commercial amateur band radios sold today are not so much radios as they are computers with a radio frequency power amplifier attached. Because of this, modern radios provide us with an astonishing array of capabilities in compact, efficient packages. The downside to this collection of wonders is the need to learn to operate a very complex computer system in order to get the radio to do the things we want. It is not uncommon for a ham to spend several weeks or months configuring a new radio, programming its memories and learning to operate it successfully.

Yaesu's new FTM-400 XDR mobile rig dramatically reduces the complexity found in most rigs. This dual-band (2m and 70cm) radio does come with the expected 200 page manual, but very little of it is needed to get on the air. After unboxing the radio, my first steps were to put some PowerPoles on the DC leads and make an antenna jumper cable for the radio to antenna patch panel connection. That done, the next step was to get familiar with the few hardware buttons on the control head. I wasn't looking forward to reading the entire manual before getting on

the air, so I quickly found several useful videos on YouTube

One push of a button reveals this radio's most astonishing and helpful feature – a full-color high-definition touch screen with soft buttons. Yaesu's careful design of the user interface (UI) removes all the angst from programming this radio. While there are many functions to setup, the UI makes all of this painless. Most of the settings are spelled out in whole words, not the terse abbreviations found hidden in the depths of other radio's programming menus. I bought this radio to try out the new digital voice mode System Fusion, or C4FM. There are a growing number of C4FM repeaters in the area thanks to Yaesu's aggressive marketing and sales incentives. I tried it out on a Tuesday night net on the Chestnut Ridge RC repeater and found the audio to be clear and more pleasant sounding than DMR or D-Star. A great rig!

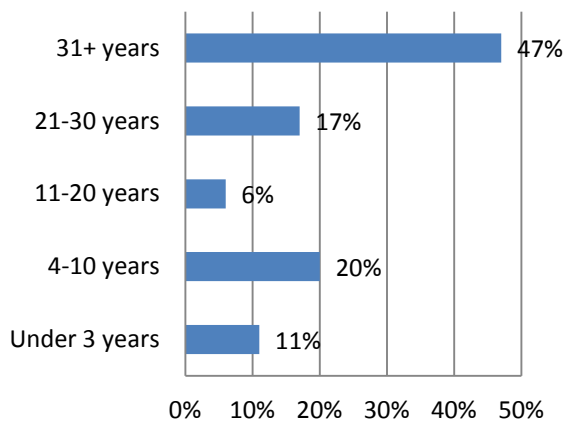


## FLARC Club Factoid

In our recent member survey we asked about how long you've been licensed.

Here's what you said:

### How Long Have You Been Licensed?



Save The Date!-- 22-23 April

## 60th Anniversary Retrospective: The Club Newsletter-- A Look Back

With the re-introduction of the newsletter and it's nifty title, Paul (W2IP) sent along a copy of the club's letter dating back to the early 1980's. It was then called *QRZ* and was apparently issued monthly. The introductory page is reproduced below; the full newsletter is available on the club's website--go to the blog page and scroll down.

As Paul mentioned in passing it along, "It was rather crude compared to today's standards but it worked on no budget".

Hi there fellow FLARC members  
I hope youve all had an enjoyable summer so far, can it really be almost over?  
Several significant (really?) dates are coming up fast, the first annual FLARC dinner/pizza bash is Friday Sept. 3, 1982, and the 4 week troubleshooting course begins on sept. 10. I hope you will all be able to attend both. Rob will be announcing the final field day scores at the dinner, with the final count of 80/40 vs. 20meter contacts being sooooo close. Place you bets on which station won and come find out the results. Three of us have gotten our slides back so we will be able to show field day pix at one of the meetings in the next few weeks.

This is the part I hate to write, long time member Lou W2LXS will be leaving us bound for Yale grad school (chen najor) about the time this hits the press. Rob N2WT will be leaving for Antarctica in mid-October and will be gone for approx a year and a half. Tom and Alan are heading back to Putgers next week, with Alan continuing onto South America in the Spring where he will take part in an archaeological dig.

Rest of Luck to each of you.

KENWOOD REPORT: Status-Skred Radio a la Field Day  
No TX No Rx  
Awaiting purchase order number  
from town.  
Expect turnaround time to be three weeks according to Kenwood.

Ed (WX2R) was a newsletter contributor from around 1988-1992. "I can't recall if was called *QRZ* by then", he said. "It had a mix of the usual club-related stuff and we looked to add things like book reviews about all things amateur radio". "We had contributors writing on upcoming events, training classes, and operating the club stations on Friday nights."

The publication at that time was usually four pages done on WordStar word processing software and copied at a print shop in Hackensack. With a distribution of about 120, it was mailed to members and friends and had a monthly or bi-monthly publication cycle.

But some things never change--*The Resonator* has the same operating budget as *QRZ* back in the early 1980's--zero.

\*<http://wp.me/p3S055-af>

## 5 February 2016 Meeting Notes



**Karl (W2KBF) leads the February meeting and models the new FLARC polo shirt**

President Karl (W2KBF) called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The members rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer Don (N2PRT) distributed several checks for expense reimbursement.

Secretary Randy (WU2S) called the roll of officers and trustees, noting that all were present and that there was a quorum for club business.

Treasurer Don (N2PRT) read the current financial report. The members present applauded the current state of the treasury. He asked all members to send in their annual dues as soon as possible, or give their dues and the information sheet to any of the club's officers. Skip (KD2BRV) moved to accept the report as read and Larry (WA2ALY) seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

Secretary Randy (WU2S) noted that the minutes from the January meeting were emailed to all members and that they had also been published in the first edition of the club's newsletter, The Resonator. There were no questions or corrections to the minutes. Skip (KD2BRV) moved to accept the report as published and Jim (K2ZO) seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

## 5 February 2016 Meeting Notes

The Technical Committee report was given by Randy (WU2S). He mentioned that the three mesh nodes have been upgraded to the latest AREDN 3.16.1.0 beta firmware. This upgrade raises the RF link speed to as much as 130 Mbps. The new firmware also records the node's geographic location. Randy said that sometime in the next month he will provide a temporary Internet access for the nodes so that their location could be uploaded to an AREDN mapping server. Ron (KC2TBD) asked how far the mesh nodes could reach. Randy explained that currently the farthest connected mesh node is about one mile away, but they are capable of connecting at 40 or 50 miles as proven by the Southern California AREDN group.

President Karl (W2KBF) gave a short description of the Paterson Great Falls National Park and an introduction to the Publicity Committee report.

Jim (W2JC) presented the Publicity Committee report. He said the committee selected 22-23 April as days when the club would like to hold a special event at the Paterson Great Falls National Park as a participant in the ARRL's National Parks on the Air program. Jim reported that the committee's meeting with the park ranger went very well. The ranger offered us enthusiastic support. 22 April coincides with Earth Day, when many people are expected to visit the park and will be around to see and interact with our ham radio activity. Several environmental groups will be present to do some cleanup of the park. The FLARC operation will look something like Field Day. Susan (W6SKT) reported that the club was offered space in the park's gift shop if there is bad weather. Jim (W2JC) noted that the committee would like to issue a special QSL card that would feature a picture of the Great Falls. The park ranger offered to release an official photo to us for this purpose.

## 5 February 2016 Meeting Notes

Jim told the members that the club is arranging to use Logbook of the World for recording QSOs as required by the ARRL. Jim (W2JC) asked the members for volunteers to make the special event possible. He reminded all to read the club newsletter *The Resonator* on the FLARC website. Jim noted that the Fair Lawn Library may partner with us for the Frank Leonard Memorial lecture series.

Jim quickly described other activities of the Publicity Committee:

- Planning for a special event station on October 1 and 2 to commemorate FLARC's 60th anniversary
- Planned speaking engagements to the Rotary and the Lions clubs
- Participation in the Fair Lawn River Road street fair on June 12
- Planned formation of an Education Committee in March or April
- The member survey results will be available in the near future.
- The FLARC blog at [blog.fairlawnarc.org](http://blog.fairlawnarc.org) has more information about the Paterson Great Falls National Park and a reference to a National Parks request for public comments on a draft of improvement plans.

Larry (WA2ALY) asked if there is an admission fee to the Great Falls park. Jim (W2JC) said that admission for all is free. Tony (N2SIQ) asked if the frequencies for the park event would be published. President Karl (W2KBF) said he would ask Ed (WX2R) to send the information to the ARRL once a decision is made.

President Karl asked for a vote by the members present to approve the proposed dates of 22-23 April, 12 June and 1-2 October special events. The members voted unanimously in favor of those dates. Secretary Randy (WU2S) noted the dates for the official FLARC calendar.

## 5 February 2016 Meeting Notes

Ron (KC2TBD) asked if anyone made contact with Fair Lawn High School. Jim (W2JC) said that is a matter for the Education Committee when it is formed. Members are asked to volunteer to help this new committee.

President Karl (W2KBF) said that a special National Parks on the Air QSL card would be a good idea to use in promoting FLARC. He said that 250 cards would cost about \$80 if printed by the local printer who just finished our new 60th anniversary QSL cards. Gordon (W2TTT) moved that we order 500 cards and spend no more than \$200. Jim (W2JC) seconded the motion. After a short discussion, the motion passed.

The Publicity Committee report continued with Van (W2DLT) demonstrating the embroidered shirt from Ham Threads. Van distributed a flyer with information about how to order apparel and which colors and logos to select. Both the standard FLARC logo and the special 60th anniversary logo can be placed on shirts and hats. The information is also on the club website. The cost of the shirts includes a 20% club discount. See <http://wp.me/p3S055-aE>

Van (W2DLT) noted that we now have commitments from a number of speakers:

- Navassa Island DXpedition talk on March 18
- Rich W2VU editor of CQ Magazine – no date set
- KQ2M on working DX – no date set
- Nobel Laureate Joe Taylor – no date set

Van said that we may use either the Fair Lawn Library or the Community Center auditorium for larger crowds.

Jim (W2JC) mentioned that the club calendar is at [calendar.fairlawnarc.org](http://calendar.fairlawnarc.org) and that it is updated frequently.



## 5 February 2016 Meeting Notes

President Karl (W2KBF) asked if there was any more old business to discuss and heard no calls for any.

President Karl (W2KBF) opened the discussion on new business by calling attention to the club's two old generators. He said we may want to replace one with a modern portable generator in light of the special events we will conduct this year. He said we are considering a Honda EU2000i as a possible replacement. There ensued a short discussion about the merits of a new generator. Gordon (W2TTT) moved that the club purchase not only a new Honda 2000 generator but also the optional triple fuel kit and the bridging kit with expenses not to exceed \$1500. Fred (W2ABE) seconded the motion. After a short discussion of the two optional kits, the members present unanimously approved the motion to purchase.



Van (W2DLT) models the new FLARC polo shirt

**Newsletters Don't  
Write Themselves!**

**Become a Contributor--  
No Experience Necessary**

## 5 February 2016 Meeting Notes

In further new business, Jim (W2JC) said that there will be a Technician license training class at the end of February at the Red Cross building in Fairfield. There is more information on the FLARC blog. See <http://wp.me/p3S055-ao>

Steve (W12W) requested that the Technical Committee investigate the possibility of purchasing a Flex 6300 SDR radio. Gordon (W2TTT) supported this request. President Karl (W2KBF) directed Randy (WU2S) to start the research.

President Karl (W2KBF) asked if there was any more new business and there was none.

President Karl W2KBF noted in closing that Paul (W2IP) is registering W2NPT with Logbook of the World and that Jim (W2JC) and Tom (N2ST) agreed to serve as official data loggers for the club's QSOs.

He said that the Education Committee needs volunteers to get it started. Rachel (AJ4WD) and Gordon (W2TTT) volunteered for the committee.

Treasurer Don (N2PRT) asked again for members to get their 2016 dues and information form to any of the club's officers as soon as possible.

Having no other business, President Karl (W2KBF) asked for a motion to adjourn. Gordon (W2TTT) so moved and Bill (KB2OCJ) seconded the motion. The members present voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy (WU2S), Secretary