

F.C.A.R.C. Inc.  
P.O. Box 773  
Greenfield, MA 01302



FIRST CLASS MAIL



# THE COMMUNICATOR THE COMMUNICATOR

July 2015

## Upcoming Events

- Triathlon: Sunday August 2, 7 a.m.: Nash's Mill Rd., Greenfield
- Bridge of Flowers Race: Saturday August 8, 7 a.m.: Shelburne Falls
- Club Breakfast: Saturday August 15, 8 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-Board meeting: Monday August 17, 7 p.m.: Plan for next year, location TBA
- Franklin Land Trust Bicycle Tour (D2R2): Saturday Aug 22, All day: Deerfield – Vermont
- VE license test: Monday August 24, 7 P.M.; Northfield Unitarian Church
- Club Breakfast: Saturday September 19, 8 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-Board And Program Meeting: Monday, September 21, 6:00 p.m.: GCC Room S301 Main Bldg.

# July 2015

## Calendar

### **PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

In early August we will assist with communications for the Greenfield Triathlon and the Bridge of Flowers 10K Race. Later in the summer we expect to assist with fund-raising bicycle tour events supporting the Franklin Land Trust as we did last year.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE: GREENFIELD TRIATHLON, BRIDGE OF FLOWERS 10K, D2R2**

August is our big month for public service events.

- The **Greenfield Triathlon** takes place **Sunday August 2nd**. The event will be back on its traditional route this year, now that the Eunice Williams Covered Bridge has been repaired. Meet at Greenfield Swimming Pool on Nash's Mill Rd at 7 a.m.

Our support is very important for this event. A signup list will be available at the July 18th breakfast at Denny's or contact Richard Stewart by e-mail, [stwricha@aol.com](mailto:stwricha@aol.com), or phone him at 413-863-2657 to volunteer. Event info is at: <http://www.greenfield-triathlon.com>.

- The **Bridge of Flowers 10K Road Race** is next, on **Saturday August 8th**. See below
- ... and later in the month we'll help with the Franklin Land Trust's **Deerfield Dirt Road Randonee**, a bicycle tour event on **August 22nd**. Contact Al Woodhull N1AW, [aswoodhull@yahoo.com](mailto:aswoodhull@yahoo.com).

### **BRIDGE OF FLOWERS RACE**

The annual Bridge of Flowers race will take place Saturday, August 8 in Shelburne Falls. We need volunteer radio operators to provide communications around the course to help insure runner safety. Chris Myers, KB1NEK, will coordinate the club's effort. A net control station will be set up at 6:30 AM, on Bridge St, across the street from the Greenfield Savings Bank. Volunteer radio operators should arrive at 7, in order to find parking space nearby.

Bridge St will be closed off from Main St to the Iron Bridge. Volunteer radio operators should park at the small lot just uphill from the People's United Bank, or the larger lot behind the block of businesses starting at the Greenfield Savings Bank. Please do not try to park near the net control station. We will be allowed space for only one car.

The short race begins at 8:15 and the 10K race at 9 AM. More information about the race, including a color map, can be found at its web site: <http://www.shelburnefalls.com/10k-road-race/>

This year the race may be managed differently from the past. The Northwest Mass. Incident Management Team has offered to help with its management, in return for being able to use it as an exercise for its people. For those of you unfamiliar with the NWMIMT, it is made up of fire chiefs and others who aim to provide better overall management of significant large scale disasters. This winter, for example, its members spent two weeks at Hanscom Field, in

Bedford, MA helping with the management of road clearing equipment brought in from out of state to assist after the series of heavy snow storms. Three years ago it deployed to Long Island to assist after Hurricane Sandy.

Working with the NWMIMT may be a challenge, but a good exercise for our own future ability to assist in disasters.

## **Secretary's Report**

### **E-BOARD AND PROGRAM MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 15 2015 , CHRIS MYERS KB1NEK**

#### ***E-Board Meeting***

Present: Belle, Al, Bob S., Bob D., Howard, Ron, and Chris (taking notes)

1. Al reported on the work done on the repeater site on Rocky Mount in Greenfield. The 2m duplexers that were at Casey Storage were moved to the shed at Rocky Mount. The old 10m transceiver and the receiver part of the old 440 system have been removed.
2. Al proposed buying a microphone for the new Yaesu DR-1X repeater. Ron suggested a limit of \$75. Motion was made, seconded, and passed.
3. Sue Urquhart, KB1EZO, gave the club her FT-757, a 160 to 10m transceiver, possibly dating from 1986. She also donated a Ten-Tec manual tuner, and an MFJ SWR bridge. Stu Elliott wants our help selling old radios belonging to the high school club. Stu wants to buy smaller, more up to date transceiver for the school club. He may not have any permanent space in the new high school building for radios. Al suggested taking all our old, unneeded equipment to the NOBARC hamfest in August.

#### ***Regular meeting***

1. A slate of club officers was unanimously reelected: Ron Niswander, K8HSF, vice-president, Howard Field, N1LUP, treasurer, and Bruce Fuller, KB1TLX, director.
2. Motion was made to study the confusing status of the club clerk position. Up to now it has not been an elected position, but has been one appointed by the e-board
3. Howard gave a treasurer's report: in January the balance in the bank was \$2,618. The current balance is \$2,250. Expenses have included \$270 to the FRCOG for a share of the cost of storage at Casey. The club has also purchased the new LDG-100 auto-tuner to replace the LDG-1000 tuner we sold in the fall. We also spent \$500 for the Yaesu DR-1X repeater, which supposedly will have a list price of \$1,700 from now on.
4. Before the end of the month, we will move all equipment out of Casey Storage and into the new container located at the jail. This container was purchased by FRCOG with grant money, and will not cost anything for the space.
5. There was a discussion of the new Yaesu DR-1X repeater, which Chris has programmed and tested at home. Amy asked if we want to invest some time and effort to put together a controller. She is offering to do the work, and even to donate some of the parts, Keith mentioned that a chip for a controller interface can be bought for only \$25. Members encouraged Amy to start on the project when she has the time.
6. Plans for Field Day were discussed. Al will put up a G5RV antenna in a new position, from the top of the Poet's Seat tower, sloping down to the west, in order to try to minimize interference from the other stations. Chris volunteered to help organize food for Saturday lunch.
7. The club will participate in the Greenfield Triathlon on Sunday, Aug. 2 and the Bridge of Flowers Race, Saturday Aug. 8. The Franklin County Land Trust bicycle tour (R2D2) will probably be August 22, but we need to check. The Food Bank bicycle tour (Bike4Food) will be Sunday, September 27. Chris offered to coordinate the Bridge of Flowers Race, and the Bike4Food tour. Al offered to coordinate the R2D2, since Bob Solosko will be out of town this year on that day.

## News, Activities & Articles

### VE SESSION IN NORTHFIELD, MAY 25

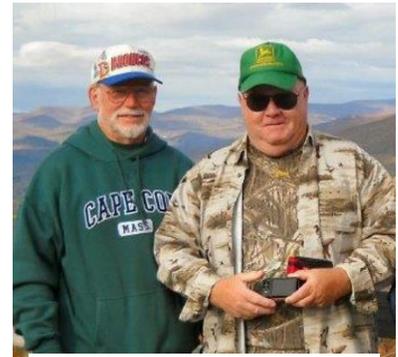
At the May VE session two candidates upgraded their license class. Roy K1LKY upgraded to Extra and Brad KC1DQX upgraded to General.

### NEW COMMUNICATOR EDITOR

This issue of the Communicator is a joint effort by Bob and Jeanne. Bob is retiring from editing the Communicator and Jeanne KC1DCQ will be stepping in.

### DICK PEETERS AA1XU, SK

Richard G. Peeters AA1XU, of Greenfield passed away on Monday June 8, following a period of declining health. An obituary appeared in the **Greenfield Recorder** on June 12th, and may be seen [online here](#). He was 72. Dick and his wife Jan AB1JY frequently attended FCARC breakfasts, and Dick was a frequent volunteer at the club's public service events such as the Bridge of Flowers Road Race. He was also active with amateur radio groups based in Vermont, notably the Green Mountain Net.



Dick Peeters with Phill Grant

### MISSING OR MISPLACED

Yaesu FT-60 accessories: I cannot find several items:

- a homemade cloning cable
- a battery pack for AA alkaline batteries
- an adapter for connecting old-style 2 plug speaker microphones to a 4 conductor speaker/mic jack

These could have been misplaced or possibly loaned to someone at one of our events a year or more ago.

Any clues? contact Al N1AW, [aswoodhull@yahoo.com](mailto:aswoodhull@yahoo.com) or 773-3522.

### REPEATER NEWS

the new 440 repeater is now operating at what will probably be the normal power rating, I boosted it from 5 W to 20W recently. Still to be done, adding a preamp for the receiver, possibly an external power amplifier.

### FIELD DAY, JUNE 27-28, 2015:

**Preliminary Results:** Operating as AC1L, the FCARC's 2015 Field Day operation had ten operators keeping the HF SSB station on the air, four operators working the HF CW station, and four operating on 6 meters. Additionally, one newly licensed ham and two unlicensed guests made contacts on the KB1MSU Get-On-The-Air station.

Our QSO total was slightly lower than last year: 689 CW contacts and 271 voice contacts, for a total of 3298 QSO points. Last year we scored 3740 QSO points. Bonus points are still to be counted.

To compare with scores from past years look at the [FCARC Field Day history web page](#).

**AI Woodhull N1AW:** Thanks to everyone who participated. Although our total number of QSOs was lower than last year we did pretty well, and the bonus points may put us ahead of last year. I'm particularly pleased to see how many total hours we kept both stations on the air. Considering the weather, the generator problems for the CW station, and the time we spent welcoming visitors and visiting with each other I thought this was a pretty good weekend. I note also that several people who put a lot of effort into preparation and support did not get on the air much or at all but their efforts were important: Carter barely got on the air, but he kept us fed, supplied with caffeine, and warm and dry. Chris and Ron also did a lot of running around and general support work.

**Bob Dickerman WA1QKT:** We were very lucky with rain – we had no heavy rain during setup or teardown. Keith KU1N and Ann KC1CRS's pneumatic antenna launcher, with Keith launching, was a huge help for raising the SSB 40 m dipole; the dipole was raised to the highest elevation in recent memory. We operated entirely on 40 & 20 for simplicity and best band activity, although we had capability to tune antenna on 80, 15, and 10 m. Heard CW single-frequency interference on 20 m once when both SSB and CW on 20 m, this was no big deal. Heard overload SSB interference from GOTA a couple of times when we were on the same band - I think it was 20 m, but forgot to take notes – we just changed bands to avoid interference. I think attenuator helped, too, for one of these interferences. All in all, interference was a minor problem, I think. Bruce KB1TLX and Silas KC1BTV got on the air on HF SSB Field Day for the first time. Jeanne KC1DCQ, Roy K1LKY, Bob W1SRB, and AI N1AW also filled in the log during the day, and Carter WA1TVS and Belle KB1NOG took over the night shift. No problem with logging that I am aware of. I got on Phil N1YPS's 6 m station, and made 2 contacts; the 6 m band was very quiet compared to, say 40 m. I was surprised to hear that Phil made a foreign QSO. In retrospect, I guess we should have checked 10 m on the SSB station. Sunday morning tried to copy a W1AW bulletin on SSB, but it was mysteriously unheard. Chris K1SMY helped bring our SSB QSOs up to 200 just before closing. Cindy W1CAD and I helped to revive the tradition of pizza for lunch on Sunday. Thanks to Chris KB1NEK, Bruce, AI, Carter, and Anne for the lunch and breakfast and PIE! Thanks to everyone who visited, helped with setup and teardown, and/or operated, and thanks to Carter WA1TVS for the use of his RV.

**Bruce Fuller KB1TLX :** Not my first Field Day, however my first operating experience for Field Day. Thanks to Bob Dickerman who coached me a lot until i got use to listening intently and speaking quickly, was a great help. Thank you W1QKT for your patience. I believe the high light of the stations logged was the one from E. Ont., Canada.

**Keith Rowley KU1N:** I had a lot of fun shooting the W4SSY spud gun Anne and I built and the shock and awe reactions from observers. AI Mason, aka Clark Kent of CW, taught me a better system of attaching the bullets eliminating the need of a swivel on the end of the fishing line and also using the same loop slip knot to pull the strings/ropes up. This was better than having a typical knot tied. I spent most of my time with Anne and the GOTA station which experienced a significant amount of interference from the SSB and CW stations, a broadcast station, and rain forcing shutting down. Anne and I were impressed with how well the group works together as a team. We had a great time.

**Ann Kring KC1CRS:** What an opportunity field day was for everyone to see the use of many antennas and how relatively quickly each was set up and taken down. I especially was impressed by Al's extraordinary effort to set up an antenna down the cliff face at Poet Seat and Bob's homemade foldable Hex Beam. I was also impressed how the whole team worked with a clear yet different leader on the set up for each antenna.

What a great opportunity to experience some of the equipment and weather related challenges we might run into in a real emergency. The cold rain down the back of my neck and puddles moving in around the electrical equipment added to the excitement and certainly improved my story after the fact.

All the hams were unbelievably supportive of us newbie's. Bob and Al are outstanding mentors assisting others on the air. Chris D and Silas have real talent and great radio voices on the air. It was great to hear Belle on the air.

I am most thankful for Carter's bathroom during the pouring rain. It was amazing to me how good a scrambled egg, turkey burger, and pizza could taste when tired. Kudos to Carter for the use of his RV and safely driving up to Poet Seat.

While the interference run into on the GOTA station was challenging at times it was all a learning experience. The religious program received on the GOTA station on Sunday directed at us wayward Catholics was actually scary and hopefully can be explained logically. I guess I have my homework to do before next year.

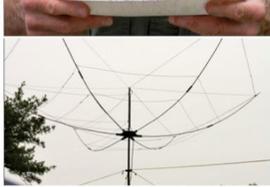
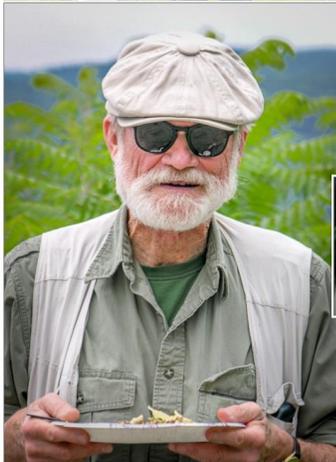
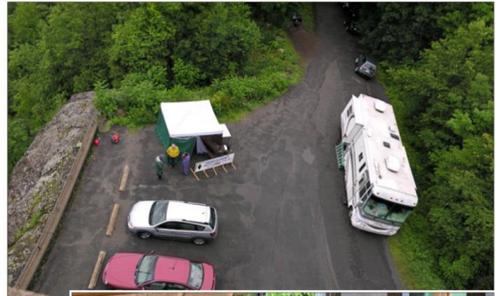
I hope we will have a bigger public draw on the GOTA station next year. Perhaps we can make it easier for first time users and new hams to get contacts (more power and less interference on the GOTA antenna).

Thank you for the fun, adventure, and camaraderie. Special thanks to all those who prepared all the equipment, ported it, set it up, and most of all took it home wet and dirty to clean it up for next year. Thanks to the Al's, Carter, both Bob's, Phill, Chris M, Ron, Roy, Bruce, Keith, and Dick Burnham.

**Phill Grant N1YPS:** We were told of high winds and hard rain headed towards our field day festivities. Well, that happened Saturday evening into the early morning hours of Sunday. The 6 meter beam survived and the radio was warm and dry in Carter's (WA1TVS) RV.

Six meters USB and CW (thanks to N1AW) was active both days. We made 22 contacts from New Hampshire to Florida, and eastern MA to Wisconsin. I was scolded on the air by someone claiming I "CQed" on the international SSB DX frequency of 50.125mhz. HOWEVER, I made contact with CT1HZE (exch. 1D DX) from Portugal on 50.125 MHz! I don't think 50.125 is off limits on FD. Six meter SSB band plan goes from 50.1 to 52.05, then picks up again at 53.0 to 54.0 MHz Most SSB contacts on field day seem to be from 50.130 to 50.2 MHz Another frequency that some become protective of is the "DX Window"; 50.110 MHz

My thanks to everyone, especially our leaders, who made a rainy weekend an enjoyable one.



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THE COMMUNICATOR is an informational publication for members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. Officers: President: Al Woodhull, N1AW (n1aw@arrl.net ), Vice President: Ron Niswander, K8HSF ([reniswander@gmail.com](mailto:reniswander@gmail.com)), Treasurer: Howard Field, N1LUP (howfield@comcast.net ), Secretary: Chris Myers, KB1NEK (camyers1@verizon.net ), Director: Belle Dyer, KB1NOG (bdyer58@mtdata.com), Director: Bruce Fuller KB1TLX, perkinsdowns@yahoo.com. This is your newsletter! Amateur radio information of general interest, club member project descriptions and doings, radio applications to other activities, corrections, or suggestions are all welcome. Individual submissions make for variety! We need more writers! Send submissions to Jeanne A.Dodge [j.anndodge@gmail.com](mailto:j.anndodge@gmail.com)