

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR THE COMMUNICATOR

October 2015

Upcoming Events

- Club Breakfast: Saturday Oct 17, 8 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- Crop Hunger Walk: Sunday Oct 18, 1 p.m. for radio ops: St. James Episcopal Church on Church Street in Greenfield, MA
- E-Board meeting: Monday Oct 19, 6:00 p.m.: at GCC
- Program Meeting: Monday Oct 19, 7:15 p.m Speaker: Dennis Markell N1IMW on Historic Ship-to-Shore Radio Stations on Cape Cod
- Club Breakfast: Saturday Nov 14, 8 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- Fox Hunt: Saturday Nov 14, ~10 a.m.: Start at Poet's Seat Tower
- E-Board meeting: Monday Nov 17, 6:00 p.m. : GCC

- Program Meeting: Monday Nov 17, 7:15 p.m.: Topic: Building the Pixie, a Tiny Transceiver (Phill, N1YPS)
- VE license tests: Monday Nov 23, 7 p.m.: Northfield Unitarian Church

DUES are DUE now!

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Dues support the repeaters, the club activities and the Communicator.

General Adult - \$15/year

Family Group membership - \$18 /year

Repeater Patron donation - \$10.00 or more Suggested

You may pay for multiple years of membership.

Mail dues to:

Franklin County Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 773

Greenfield, MA 01302

or to

Howard Field

7 Laurel St.

Shelburne Falls, MA 01370-1512

Make checks payable to **FCARC**.

Calendar

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT: FRANKLIN COUNTY CROP HUNGER WALK:

CROP Walk on Sunday, October 18, 2015

When CROP began in 1947 (under the wing of Church World Service, which was founded in 1946), CROP was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia.

Today, we've outgrown the acronym but we retain it as the historic name of the program. CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith hunger education and fundraising events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by CWS local offices across the U.S.

Place: St. James Episcopal Church on Church Street in Greenfield, MA

Time: Volunteers should arrive at the church on or about 1pm.

Radio: We hope to use our 440 repeater, but be prepared for 146.985.

Contact Phill Grant, N1YPS for sign-up and other details.

Secretary's Report

E-BOARD MEETING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014– CHRIS MYERS KB1NEK

E-Board Meeting Monday, September 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM, at GCC

1. Upcoming Public Service Events

1.1. Bike 4 Food, Sept 27, Chris KB1NEK coordinating, setup at 6:00 AM.

1.2. Crop Walk, Oct 18, Phill N1YPS coordinating. Starting at St. James Church in Greenfield. Phill said will be "all left turns", so safer. Al N1AW said "three lefts makes a right" hi hi. Maybe consider using our new DR-1X Yaesu repeater on 440 MHz for event.

2. Fox Hunt after breakfast Nov. 14.

3. Next VE session (license exams) November 23, 2015.

4. Meeting topics:

4.1. Tonight, "Public Service Events - Lessons Learned", discussion with club members led by Al.

4.2. October 19: Dennis Markell N1IMW, speaking on maritime communications and Marconi Cape Cod station WCC.

4.3. November 16: "Building the Pixie, a Tiny Transceiver". Pixie is a very low-cost (about \$8.00) HF CW (Morse code) transceiver kit that works! Phill N1YPS will present Pixie overview and theory of this simple radio, which is about the size of a matchbox, and has a couple dozen parts or so. This will be a preface to Pixie build session at a later date. About 10 kits will be purchased for build session so that anyone interested may just show up, build a kit, and take it home for their own. We will provide placemats to protect tables, some soldering irons, etc. Other items to be considered are key, stereo earbuds, battery.

5. Al said he, Bruce KB1TLX, and Ron K8HSF visited Bob W1CKT to collect some items that Bob was donating to FCARC, including 2000' of #16 AWG wire, and misc. cables and connectors, and to view 80' crank-up tower that Bob will donate to anyone interested. Amy AB1WH has expressed interest in tower.

6. Jeanne KC1DCQ suggested that it might be good for members to have ID cards for public service events, and will look into making those. Bob WA1QKT mentioned that wearing vests is good too; vests with "Emergency Communications" are best. Bob will ask Cindy W1CAD about last order of shirts and hats.

7. NOBARC flea market: Al and Bob WA1QKT went to NOBARC flea market and sold about \$90.00 worth of FCARC equipment and more than \$200.00 worth of GHS equipment on Sunday, Aug. 30. The GHS sales will help Stu at GHS to raise money

for equipment (perhaps IC-706) for a new, portable, compact GHS radio station. We may go to upcoming Nearfest (Deerfield, NH) and/or Nutmeg fleas to continue sales effort.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob WA1QKT Clerk

Secretary's Report for Monday September 21, 2015 FCARC Meeting, at GCC

We enjoyed blueberry muffins from Belle KB1NOG. The meeting was brought to order at 7:15 PM by AI N1AW.

We started with introductions; of particular note was attendance by new member Adam KC1EJI, who obtained his after attending our August VE session, and Jeff NT1K, who is president of HCRA (Hampden County Radio Association).

The main topic of the meeting was "Public Service Events - Lessons Learned", a discussion with meeting attendees, led by AI, about problems encountered at recent public service events, and what we can learn from those problems.

Suggestions raised by various meeting attendees included:

1. Most importantly, during a net, we should always, ALWAYS, do a periodic (every 15 or 20 minutes) callup of all net operators, else problems will go unnoticed, and the attention of net operators may wander
2. Running two nets on two different frequencies, while partitioning tasks and responsibilities, may add technical challenges, such as r.f. interference at net control
3. We should also be aware of the possibility of r.f. interference at net control from other radio services, such as ambulance
4. Review of basic principles of ICS (Incident Command System) might be useful, especially with respect to interfacing with professional emergency services personnel
5. Radio operators should only relay messages and direct requests to net control
6. Radio operator checkpoints should be associated with street addresses
7. Checkpoint street addresses should be provided on route maps
8. Net control should only interface with event coordinator (vs. direct contact with emergency services personnel)
9. Net control should not provide directions to emergency services personnel; net

control should just provide street addresses of parties needing assistance

10. Net control should not create instructions for emergency services personnel
11. Net control (and net operators) should be provided with a written script
12. Net control should be provided with a checklist for the periodic callup
13. Net control should always be staffed with at least 2 operators, if possible, to allow for liaison and runner functions
14. If operators are to be moved after event startup, the choice of operators to be moved and their route of movement should be carefully considered with respect to the event route
15. For their own protection, operators should be provided with list of emergency telephone numbers/nearest toilet facility/heated or cooled area/water locations and a vehicle for picking operator up if needed
16. Magnetic signs (for vehicles) and vests labeled with "Emergency Communications", hats and shirts labeled with club affiliation, ID cards may help direct those needing communications services to us radio operators
17. Tactical callsigns may be used until end of each contact, but at end of each contact FCC callsigns should be given

After the main topic, several other topics were briefly mentioned.

Party favors (cables and connectors from Bob W1CKT) were offered to attendees. We thank W1CKT for these.

Some surplus equipment is available for purchase from FCARC and GHS. Contact Al N1AW for list.

Nearfest hamfest at Deerfield, NH will be October 17 and 18.

This is a big one.

Jeff NT1K mentioned that the HCRA has been using a Facebook group to good advantage. It has 200 members, and started as an "open" group. Other options are "closed" and "secret". They are considering going to "closed" so that posts won't be automatically sent to all friends, which sometimes might be inappropriate. Jeff also mentioned that he is working to foster cooperation between local radio clubs, and also local hacker clubs. Amy AB1WH mentioned the West River Radio Club, and that the maker and arduino (an open-source hardware and software microcontroller platform) communities are other groups that might be good to collaborate with. The HCRA is selling \$10.00 raffle tickets for a Kenwood TS-590SG HF - 6m 100 W base station rig (retails for \$1700.00). Contact Jeff or the HCRA if you are interested.

More than a dozen people attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Dickerman WA1QKT

Clerk

Reminiscing from Phil N1YPS



From left to right: Phill Grant N1YPS, Dick Peeters AA1XUsk; Frank Hagerty WK1L and Darrel Daley K1KU.

This picture was taken at least 6 years ago at Whitcomb Summit in Florida, MA. We did some DXing and Frank prepared a meal for us... fit for a king. Since then, Frank has moved to South Burlington, VT and Darrel is still active with the West River Radio Club in the Brattleboro, VT area. This photo received from Darrel K1KU, and submitted to the Communicator by Phill N1YPS.

Ham Radio Workshop

Exciting news...FCARC is having a November workshop! Our project will be a QRP 80m CW transceiver built from a kit. The club will supply the kit and venue (likely at GCC), and the builder will supply a 9 volt battery, headphones and a key. Also, a soldering iron or pencil...nothing larger than 25 watts. I have 12 kits on order because that's all the people we can efficiently handle at one time. First signed up - first served! Our first of two workshops is scheduled for Nov. 21st, on a Saturday. Time to be announced.

Contact Phill Grant N1YPS via email at: phill112643@verizon.net or 119 Hoe Shop Road Bernardston, MA 01337.

VE SESSION IN NORTHFIELD, August – AL WOODHULL N1AW

Our VE sessions continue to be quite busy. Interest in ham radio is not dead.

Six candidates came to the FCARC's August VE session in Northfield. Carolyn KB1DBV upgraded from Technician to General, Joshua KC1EJJ earned a new General license, and David KC1EJH, Adam KC1EJI, Scott KC1EJK, and Alec KC1EJL all are now new Technician licensees. Please welcome them if you hear them on the air.

The FCC website was shut down for maintenance during the first week of September, and there was a longer than usual delay before upgrades and new callsigns were posted, which is why this web report is so long delayed.

Amy AB1WH, Belle KB1NOG, Ron K8HSF, and Al N1AW participated as Volunteer Examiners for this session

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), Treasurer: Howard Field, N1LUP (howfield@comcast.net), Secretary: Chris Myers, KB1NEK (cmyers1@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, KC1DCQ (j.anndodge@gmail.com).