

F.C.A.R.C. Inc.  
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Greenfield, MA 01302

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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# THE COMMUNICATOR THE COMMUNICATOR

January 2016

## Upcoming Events

- New Year's net: Thursday Dec 31, 11:50 pm. : 146.985 MHz
- Sawmill River Race: Friday, Jan 1, 9:00 a.m. for radio ops: Montague Center
- E-Board Meeting: Monday, Jan 11, 6:00 p.m.: GCC Room S301 Main Building
- Program Meeting: Monday, Jan 11, 7:15 p.m.: GCC Room S301 Main Building
- Club Breakfast: Saturday, Jan 16, 8:00 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- Sleigh Bell Race: Saturday Feb 6, 9:00 a.m. for radio ops.: Greenfield
- E-Board Meeting: Monday, Feb 8, 6:00 p.m.: GCC Room S301 Main Building
- Program Meeting: Monday, Feb 8, 7:15 p.m.: GCC Room S301 Main Building
- Club Breakfast: Saturday, Feb 13, 8:00 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- VE License Tests: Monday Feb 22, 7:00 p.m.: Northfield Unitarian Church

# January 2016

## Calendar

### **JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETINGS**

Note because of Martin Luther King Day holiday in January and President's Day in February, the e-board and program meetings that would normally take place on the third Monday of the month are scheduled on January 11 and February 8, the second Monday.

- For our January 11th program Al N1AW will talk about repeaters, both general about how they work (it seems that some newer hams don't know all the basics) and particularly about our repeater system, including possible directions we might go as we improve the use of the new 440 MHz Rocky Mountain Yaesu repeater we put into service late last spring and possible ways we may use the second new Yaesu repeater we are in the process of purchasing. Bob Dickerman, Chris, and Keith have been actively discussing options.

- Our February 8th program will be a talk by Lad Nagurney WA3EEC who lives in Amherst and is a Professor of Electrical, Computer, and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Hartford. More info will appear on the web page and Facebook

### **The Sawmill River Race: Friday January 1, 9:00 am**

The Sawmill River Race in Montague will be held on Friday January 1 and the FCARC will again provide communications. Contact Joe Henefield KB1WVO, [joehenefield@comcast.net](mailto:joehenefield@comcast.net) , [617-721-2750](tel:617-721-2750) cell, to volunteer or for more information.

### **Sleigh Bell Road Race**

We have again been asked to provide communications support for the Sleigh Bell Road Race, part of the Greenfield Winter Carnival on Saturday February 6th. The race starts at 10am and pre-registration for the race opens at 8:15am. Radio ops should report by 9:00 am. Contact Richard Stewart KB1NOX, [stwricha@aol.com](mailto:stwricha@aol.com) to volunteer or for more information.

## **Secretary's Report**

### **E-board, Saturday December 19, 2015-Chris Myers KB1NEK**

There was no program meeting in December and the program meeting was replaced by the holiday pot luck and auction (see below).

Minutes of FCARC e-board meeting Sat. 19 December 2015, at Business conference room, East Bldg., GCC

1. Bruce moved that club donate \$100 to the Humane Society, an animal rescue

organization connected to the Franklin County Sheriff's office, in memory of Tom Foxwell, who died earlier in the week. Tom had been a president of the club and a District Emergency Coordinator in ARES, as well as a member of the Franklin County CERT from the time it was formed over ten years ago.

2. A discussion was started on the best strategy for using a new Yaesu DR-1X repeater, which the membership voted to acquire at the meeting held during the holiday party. Everyone agrees it would be useful as a spare, but not entirely in agreement on how best to set it up to be ready when needed.

The Yaesu program requires that a club getting one of these repeaters must keep it actually on the air for a year. The safest strategy would be to place it in the water works shed on Rocky Mount in Greenfield, and operate it on 2m, with minimum power setting. If it works as regular analog repeater on the same frequency pair as the Leyden repeater, without causing noticeable interference, that would be the best plan. If it turns out to cause interference with the Leyden repeater, then we could set it to run digital only.

Keith plans to fill an application to get a new frequency pair from the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC). He is not sure what frequency pair to ask for. Chris offered to research the frequencies in use. If we decide to use the new DR-1X on a new frequency pair, on the 2m band, we would have to get the duplexer already stored at Rocky Mount re-tuned to the new frequencies. No one in the club knows how to do this kind of tuning, so we would have to contract it out. If we re-tune the duplexer, then it would not be of any use if we need to use the new DR-1X on the air from Greenfield, to replace the Leyden repeater if it breaks down.

We all agreed to go ahead and have Keith put in an order for one new DR-1X.

Bruce asked if there is any way we could have e-board meetings on some other time than Monday evenings. We have been meeting on Mondays just before the regular membership meeting as a way to save travel time. No one wanted to change that. Bruce said he has an unavoidable conflict every Monday evening, so will have to resign from the e-board. We agreed not to fill the position until the next meeting.

After the e-board meeting adjourned, Bruce asked Chris to discuss the status of emergency communications. Jeanne, who was correcting final exams, joined the discussion. The three of us agree we could try to pull together regular discussions among local hams interested in emergency communications if we met after club breakfasts. Jeanne asked to have mentoring assistance to help get her on the air. Chris offered to get her a J-pole antenna and install it in her apartment. Chris also mentioned that in recent months he has been trying to help Carolyn Ness, KB1WTQ get on the air.

Jeanne thinks that this activity might be of interest to some students at GCC. She will ask around.

We agreed to spread the word and try to convene a meeting after the club breakfast, February 13

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# News, Activities & Articles

## HOLIDAY POT LUCK AND AUCTION

The annual FCARC Holiday Pot Luck Party and Auction took place at the GHS cafeteria on Wednesday December 17th. As in past years there was much good food and an auction of mostly radio and electronics stuff, with AI N1AW serving as the auctioneer.





## Pixie Project Follow up

Our Fall FCARC Workshop was a success! Ten club members signed up and built an 80m QRP transceiver from a kit, classically referred to as the Pixie 2. Special thanks to Jeanne,



KC1DCQ, for making it possible to have two of the three sessions at the GCC East Building...an excellent venue. I also thank Bob, WA1QKT for helping out in the debugging/operational phase of things. Any reports, positive or negative, from the builders using the Pixies would be a huge asset to the project. *-Phill Grant, N1YPS*

## Nearby clubs

**The HCRA** would like to invite all to its next meeting on January 8th at 7:30 pm at the Holyoke Hospital (<http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>).

Since the first Friday of the month lands on New Year's Day, we've moved the meeting date to January 8th, 2016. There will be no meeting this Friday.

Our guest speaker will be Jeff Jolie (NM1Y). He was part of the DXpedition team that went to Navassa Island and operated as K1N. Navassa was considered to be one of the most wanted DXCC entities due to it's remote location and restricted access to the island. Their DXpedition generated just over 140,000 contacts. Jeff will be giving a presentation about the DXpedition.

HCRA has also invited the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) to join in. They will be holding an area meeting where they will be accepting new members. We also invited area clubs and their members to join in. If you know of anyone who is interested (or not), bring them along. The more, the better. This is a meeting you shouldn't miss.

**The Mt Tom Amateur Radio Association** meets at the Red Cross building in Springfield on Friday January 15th, no information about the program is available at this time

**Jim Bronson K2YSR** passed away on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. He became an amateur radio operator in 1957 and was very active in radio clubs in NJ as well as here in Franklin County until he moved to Kingsport, TN. Betty KB1DCG relates that he helped her get her license.

THE COMMUNICATOR is an informational publication for members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. Officers: President: Al Woodhull, N1AW ([n1aw@arrl.net](mailto:n1aw@arrl.net)), Vice President: Ron Niswander, K8HSF ([reniswander@gmail.com](mailto:reniswander@gmail.com)), Treasurer: Howard Field, N1LUP ([howfield@comcast.net](mailto:howfield@comcast.net)), Secretary: Chris Myers, KB1NEK ([camyers1@verizon.net](mailto:camyers1@verizon.net)), Director: Belle Dyer, KB1NOG ([bdyer58@mtdata.com](mailto:bdyer58@mtdata.com)), Director: Bruce Fuller KB1TLX, ([perkinsdowns@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:j.anndodge@gmail.com)).