

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR THE COMMUNICATOR

February 2016

Upcoming Events

- 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.: Ladimer S. Nagurney, "Swedish Radio Museum and What's New in Ham Radio Across the Pond" , 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
- Club Breakfast: Saturday, Mar 14, 8:00 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-Board Meeting: Monday, Mar 19, 6:00 p.m.: GCC Room S301 Main Building
- Program Meeting: Monday, Mar 20, 7:15 p.m.: GCC Room S301 Main Building

February 2016

Calendar

Greenfield Winter Carnival Annual Sleigh Bell Race

Saturday February 6, 2016 Meeting at the Hope and Olive Restaurant

I am asking radio volunteers to please show between 8:30 to 8:45 AM. Please park at the parking lot across the street from the Hope & Olive Restaurant. Please do not park along the side of the street near the restaurant. This comes from the race Director Christy Moore of the Greenfield Parks Department. She asked us not park on the street to check in. The only exception to this would be Jeanne and Carter as they need a cane to assist themselves with walking, so all others use the parking lots across the street from the restaurant.

Registration will begin for the runners at 8:45AM inside the Hope and Olive Restaurant. Things get tight inside, so please be courteous as the runners are sometimes off in another world. After I assign you a position please be ready to head out, park and be patient. The registration for runners will end around 9:50 AM and the race will begin at 10:00 AM We radio people should be able to head out between 11:30 up until 12:00, in case there are stragglers who end up walking. I could still use two more radio people.

If you are in need to head home as soon as possible please email me or call me in advance, to let me know so I can plan to place you in a spot where you can leave as soon as the last runner goes by your position

Thank you for volunteering. Christy Moore and the Greenfield Parks Department really love us and appreciate our willingness to participate. Christy likes knowing about where runners are, and if anyone becomes injured. Christy has in the past, been very active in monitoring the race because of us radio people.

[413-863-2657](tel:413-863-2657)

Rev. Richard R. Stewart

February Meetings

Note because of 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 February 8, the second Monday.

Ladimer S. Nagurney will present "Swedish Radio Museum and What's New in Ham Radio Across the Pond"

He spent part of the last 4 years as visiting professors in Gothenberg, and visited the

Swedish Radio Museum there several times. It has ham equipment from the 1910s to a decade or so ago. Also commercial two way radio, ship, aircraft, and home entertainment systems.

He would morph into new radios from across the pond including the combination UHF transceiver - Cell Phone now selling in Europe, the various Anytone, Albrecht, etc... and talk a bit about contemporary Ham Radio in Europe. I'll bring my Anytone 10M radio with me

VE LICENSE TESTS

FCARC will hold VE License Tests on Monday Feb 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Northfield Unitarian Church. Contact Al Woodhull N1AW for more information.

Secretary's Report

E-BOARD MEETING SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015

FCARC e-board meeting 11 Jan. 2015 - Minutes

1. Chris summarized the main points of ARRL Division meeting in Springfield on Jan. 9, which he attended with Ron.

- League still feels that the FCC is doing a poor job of enforcing regulations meant to prevent RF interference, especially from grow lights. Power line noise is still a problem
- League worried about other users wanting to take some of our 2m band. League officials want to allow national calling frequency (146.52 MHz) to be used for contesting. Some at the meeting strongly opposed this idea, claiming that the calling frequency is important to keep clear.
- FCC considering new rule to prevent consumers from modifying WiFi modems. Some hams modify them for use in mesh networks. FCC is trying to protect these routers from hackers
- Tom Frenaye mentioned league band plan is a general guideline, and specifically allows local variation.
- The military radar on Cape Cod is about to be upgraded, and may require 440 repeater operators in eastern Mass. to reduce power again. Some thought the reason is to be better able to detect small missiles or drones or satellites.

2. Ron mentioned the number of new hams is up, but the league expects ARRL membership to drop because of rise in dues. Also, next Division meeting may take place in a new location, such as Nashua, NH.

3. Tom Frenaye asked about use of drones by hams. One participant told about using one to inspect a tower before climbing up to do repairs. No one has yet figured how to use a drone to drape a rope over a tree limb. The legal issues are still very murky surrounding use of drones. FAA may try to regulate towers less than the 500 feet they now regulate.

4. Al asked about Bruce's request to resign from e-board. Ron said Bruce has health related meetings on Mondays for the next six months. Keith had suggested allowing Bruce to consider himself on a leave of absence. Keith is willing to fill in for him during the leave of

absence. Belle moved to appoint Keith to fill Bruce's position until Bruce is able to return. Passed unanimously.

5. Keith reported he has ordered another DR-1X repeater from Yaesu. It will take a couple of months to deliver.

6. Al brought the club's 70cm duplexer, and an attenuator.

7. Al mentioned that KB1NOX has three signed up for Winter Carnival. Al, Jeanne, Ron, Bob D. added their names.

8. Future meetings - we will invite Lad Nagurney who is a professor. In Europe they market a unit that is both a cell phone and a smart phone. Carter mentioned that Tony Russell, a former student at Eaglebrook, wants to come visit, and talk to the club. He is in broadcast television business in Oklahoma. Al suggested Carter ask him about coming to April meeting.

9. Al mentioned Tom Homewood, member of YCC, who might make an interesting speaker.

10. MTARA hamfest coming up in early March. Al said there is still a lot of equipment in his garage, donated by Al Mason and Stu Elliott. Ron mentioned that at the Division meeting it was reported that hamfests no longer draw such large crowds or so many vendors.

11. Bob D. mentioned that Betty Boutwell called to say she and Bill still have equipment left to give away. Bob thought people could go over there after the next club breakfast.

12. Jeanne asked about other club projects to do after club breakfasts. Amy had suggested a small antenna tuner or an Arduino project.

Al led a discussion about how repeaters work and especially information about ours. Links to Al's repeater talk PowerPoint and the Public Repeater Codes sheet from the January FCARC club meeting have been added to the Repeaters page on the website (<http://www.fcarc.org/repeaters.htm>).



Status of the club repeaters

On the repeater situation, several things are in progress. I am working on getting our older but very good repeater controllers to work with the new Yaesu repeaters. The old controllers support voice announcements and many other features and adjustments that the simple controller built into the Yaesu units lacks. Keith has received word that our second Yaesu repeater is about to be shipped, should be on hand before the next meeting. Al have ordered for himself a Yaesu mobile radio that can take advantage of the digital features of the new repeaters.

The first new Yaesu repeater located at Rocky Mountain in Greenfield for the Sleighbell Race on February 6th. We will have several HTs with 440 MHz capability available as loaners for any volunteers who do not have a radio that works on those frequencies.

Technicians License Class / General Study Group

The Hampden County Radio Association is tentatively planning a Technicians License Class / General Study Group to be held at Holyoke Hospital in April. This would be an accelerated series of sessions as they have done several times in recent years. Classes and study sessions would take place on the evenings of Wednesday April 27th and Thursday April 28th, and in the morning of Saturday April 30th, followed by license examinations on that Saturday afternoon.

News, Activities & Articles

Saw Mill River Race

On a chilly, windy and dry New Year's Day 2016, FCARC fielded a team of 15 volunteers to provide communications support for this year's running of the Sawmill River 10K Road race in Montague, MA. 178 runners finished, with Drew Best of Amherst winning the men's open division in a time of 34:44 and Natalie Mako of South Deerfield winning the women's open division in a time of 39:29.

Belle Dyer served as Net Control for the event, and did a great job of directing the station operators and using their status reports to monitor the progress of the race. Recognition is also due to the operators including Al Woodhull, Rich Stewart, Kip Williams, Hal Dwyer, Howard Field, Bob Dickerman, Bob Solosko, Anne Kring, Carter McDonald, Cathy Mitchell, Jeanne Dodge, Andrew Rogers, Alex Rogers, and Joe Henefield. With more stations to fill than volunteers, six individuals did "double-duty", doubling back from early race stations to staff the back end: Kip Williams, Howard Field, Bob Solosko, Anne Kring and Hal Dwyer. FCARC did a good job and took advantage of decent weather and a popular public event to practice skills that may be called into use in less entertaining situations.

FCARC again provided communication support and helped direct runners for the the Saw Mill River race on January 1st in Montague. Here are some photos of the event taken by Bob Solosko



Emergency Radio Planning Meeting

After the December e-board meeting, three of us began a discussion of how to deal with the lack of active Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in our region. We mentioned several possible reasons, and decided to try to do something locally to fill the gap. Since Jeanne Dodge has access to the conference space at the Business Center in the East Building at GCC, we thought we could go there after the next club breakfast and invite any FCARC member or interested friend to attend.

Jeanne has contacts with students and instructors at GCC who may be interested, and she promised to reach out to them.

The agenda for the first meeting will be to assess the existing state of readiness to use amateur radio in emergencies and to figure out strategies to improve it.

You can contact me, Chris Myers, KB1NEK, at [413-625-0344](tel:413-625-0344), or Jeanne Dodge, KC1DCQ at [413-775-1453](tel:413-775-1453), of Bruce Fuller, KB1TLX, at atperkinsdown@yahoo.com

Breakfast at Denny's Pantry in Greenfield will be at 8 AM, Saturday, 8 February. Afterwards we will go over to the Business Center at GCC to meet at 10:00 AM.

Frandy Johnson shared this with us

Here's a picture of Al, N1AW, doing a Summits On The Air activation Mt. Monadnock last



November. (Picture by N1FJ)

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 (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, KC1DCQ (j.anndodge@gmail.com).