

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR THE COMMUNICATOR

May 2016

Upcoming Events

- Club Breakfast: Saturday May 14, 8 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-Board meeting, Saturday May 14, 9 a.m.: Hammond Studio, GCC
- The **Emergency Communications Group** meets at 10 a.m. at GCC Hammond Studio.
- Program: Monday May, CANCELLED –see Calendar below
- VE session: the 4th Monday in May is the 23rd, VE session as usual in Northfield.
- FCARC Picnic: Saturday May 28: Leyden Recreation Department's pavilion at the Pearl Rhodes Elementary School, Leyden
- Club Breakfast: Saturday June 18, 8 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-Board meeting: Monday June 20, 6 p.m.: Greenfield Community College
- Annual Meeting, Officers Election & Program: Monday June 20, 7:15 p.m.: Greenfield High School: Program - Program: Demo of N1MM Logger by Matt, W1MSW
- Field Day: Saturday & Sunday June 25/26 all day: Poet's Seat Tower, Greenfield

May 2016

Secretary's Report

E-BOARD AND PROGRAM MEETING Monday, April 11, 2016 AT GCC, CHRIS MYERS KB1NEK

1. Al has reserved pavilion in Leyden for May 28 for club picnic. It is the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. Al will take care of gas for stove and other necessities for grilling. Ron has supplies left over from winter holiday party. Anne will organize the rest of the food contributions, mostly pot-luck choices. Consensus was against trying to set up a ham station again this year. Last year was not so successful.
2. Chris promises to get permit for Field Day. We still need an over-all coordinator for it. No volunteers. Carter as of now will provide his RV. Al would like another person to coordinate the GOTA station. Anne is willing. She mentioned interference last year from main SSB station, mostly when on the same band. Bob D. suggested just having unlicensed people take a turn at the main SSB station, instead of having a special station. Al will supervise the CW station, and Bob D. will take the SSB station, the same as last year. Keith mentioned that Sunday morning a local AM broadcast station came in loud and clear on every band of the GOTA station. It may have been because the antenna was sloping down hill in the direction of town, where the AM station is located. Al suggested inserting a trap into the antenna line for the GOTA station, to tune out the interference.
3. Al mentioned a note from Bruce Beleveau on the repeater problem. Bruce suggested he might have an spare 440 duplexer he could give us. We would like to do work at the water department shed before the town begins its repair project in the tank this summer. There was extended discussion of how to tune the duplexer for the new Yaesu 2m repeater.
4. Keith and Anne have been hearing a lot of interference on the 440 repeater. Chris says receive tone squelch blocks the sound of the interference. Keith and Anne are not so sure that works for digital modes.
5. Chris mentioned reverberation or echo that sometimes can be heard on the 440 repeater.
6. Al has been testing new Yaesu repeater, and is trying to get it connected to old 2m controller. We want to get it working on Rocky Mountain in Greenfield, along with the 440 repeater.
7. Al mentioned inviting Tom Holmwood to speak about contesting. He belongs to Yankee Clipper Contest Club, and has spoken to other clubs. Al invited him for the third Monday in June, which is also the date for elections.
8. We need coordinator for the Greenfield Triathlon in early August. There were no

takers. Howard volunteered to help coordinate the Bridge of Flowers race. Bob Solosko and Al will take care of D2R2 race.

9 Al turned over \$700 for the High School club, which we will hold in the FCARC treasury until Stu Eliot gets an account. The \$700 was from the sale of High School club equipment.

10. Al mentioned he has taken some old parts and equipment from the Boutwell house. It is up for grabs

FCARC PROGRAM MEETING,

From Deerfield to Tulsa; from Ham Radio to TV News

Our speaker at the Monday April 11 FCARC meeting was Tony Russell, KC0IKK. Tony is now a television news reporter in Oklahoma, but he got his start in ham radio as a student at Eaglebrook in Deerfield. He was a member of our club when he lived here. He will tell us how his ham radio hobby led to his interest in reporting.

There is more info about Tony and awards he has received on [the website of Tulsa TV](#)



[station](#)

[KOTV-TV.](#)





News, Activities & Articles

FCARC ELECTIONS: NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Notice of Election of Officers at the June annual business meeting of the FCARC, Inc. The following offices are up for election, President, Secretary, and one Director. All of the present officers have agreed to run for their present positions. President: Al Woodhull, Secretary: Chris Myers, and Director: Belle Dyer. At the annual business meeting nominations may be made from the floor. Any person that may be nominated for one of the positions must be present at the business meeting and agree to accept the position.

Per the Corporate By-laws the above notice of elections and those running must be published in the Newsletter prior to elections so that members are notified of the elections and who is running for the offices.

Skywarn training

There has been an addition to the Skywarn training schedule that may be more convenient to central and western Franklin County residents than the one scheduled for Monday May 16th in Orange. The current NWS schedule now lists a session at UMass (Morrill Science Center II - Room 222, 627 N Pleasant St, Amherst) on Tuesday May 17th from 7 to 9:30 p.m., RSVP not required.

As of the last E-Board meeting several people were planning to attend the Skywarn session in Orange. In the normal course of things we would have had an E-Board meeting on Monday May 16th, and those present agreed to move the E-Board meeting to GCC on Saturday May 14th at 9 a.m., after the breakfast and before the Emergency Communications Group meeting at 10 a.m.. Assuming that some who had already planned to go to the Orange Skywarn training may still want to do so, my opinion is we should continue with the plan for a Saturday E-Board meeting (note there is no Monday full club meeting in May since we will have a Saturday picnic instead.

FCARC Picnic May 28th

We will have a Saturday picnic instead of a Monday meeting in May. The location will be the same as the last two years, the Leyden Pavilion behind the Pearl Rhodes Elementary School in Leyden. Save the date: Saturday, May 28th.

As in the past this will be a partial pot-luck - soft drinks, hot dogs, burgers, etc., will be provided, but other items - deserts, salads, whatever you feel like bringing will be welcome. When we get closer to the date a food coordinator who can offer suggestions will be announced, but uncoordinated pot-luck is OK.

Activities may include a mini flea market, local fox hunt, a demo portable HF station. Want to sell or trade something, show off a mobile rig, or test your Pixie? Bring it along.

VE session: the 4th Monday in May is the 23rd, VE session as usual in Northfield.

New FCC Rules Make Re-entry Easier After Long License Lapse

Al Woodhull, N1AW

We have another VE session in May, on the 23rd. The April Communicator reported the callsigns of those who obtained new licenses or upgraded at our February session. (The FCC took longer than usual to process those applications and the information was not

available in time for the March Communicator).

In April Brad KC1FEM was noted as a new General. There is a story to this. Brad was originally licensed 50 years ago as a Novice. Like many Novices he eventually improved his code speed to 13 words per minute and passed the written test to graduate to a General license. (At that time the Novice license was good for only one non-renewable year). But life and military service got in the way and sometime in the 1970s his license expired.

Fast forward to last year. The FCC recently adopted a new policy on expired licenses. For many years the policy had been that an expired license could be renewed during a grace period of two years after it expired, but that after two years a previously licensed person would get no credit for previous exams - a person who previously held an Extra Class license would have to pass again the Technician, General, and Extra class license exams to get back Extra privileges. But the new rule is that a previously licensed individual only has to pass the Technician exam and submit proof of previously holding a higher class of license to be relicensed at the higher level. Having a paper copy of the original license would of course be sufficient proof of having been previously licensed, but other possibilities exist. The FCC is now well enough computerized that for some years back they can find proof of a license in their database. For some years earlier than that the FCC can do a search of records - that is said to be possible but slower. But before a certain date even that is not possible.

But the FCC allows another form of proof. Before the Internet there was a thick magazine called the Radio Amateur Callbook Magazine, published quarterly, that listed the names and addresses corresponding to every FCC-issued call sign. It was a thick book, like a phone book for a city the size of Springfield. Amateurs bought copies to obtain addresses for mailing QSL cards. But like old phone books, old Callbooks were not generally kept long after newer editions came out. (Not that young hams would buy all four editions each year, as it was quite expensive for a young person with a paper route). By the late 1960s Callbook listings included the class of license as well as names and addresses, and the FCC will accept a photocopy of such a Callbook listing as proof of being licensed with a particular class of license.

Brad's case was the first time our FCARC VE team was asked to deal with a case like this. Finding an old Callbook in a library is unlikely, but a search on the Internet will come up with a number of sites where scanned Callbooks can be found. Not every issue, not even one issue for every year can be found online. But Brad found a site that listed him as WA1ISJ in 1967, with a General Class license. So with two screen captures of this listing, Brad came to our February VE session, passed the Technician test, and received his General class license soon thereafter. About a month after receiving his KC1FEM call he requested and received a custom call. When you hear W1BCC on the air tell him you read his story in the Communicator!

There may be another story like this soon. N1AW has been in touch with another Franklin County former ham that let a General Class license lapse in the 1980s. He has expressed interest in being licensed again, possibly as soon as our May VE session.

Save Some Dates!

It's that time of year again to save some dates for radio. For over 27 years Amateur Radio Operators have been providing communications for these local road races to benefit local charities and our communities. I would like to thank each and every one of you that have been doing this year and year out. These thanks come not just from me, but from every committee member I meet with during the year.

June 5th 2016 - Covered Bridges Half Marathon

First is the Covered Bridges Half Marathon, Sunday June 5th We will most likely need 6 to 10 radio operators this year, an increase over the past few years. <http://www.cbhm.com/>

July 16th and 17th 2016 - Vermont 100 Endurance Race

The Vermont 100 often called the "Big One" is a 100-mile foot race across some of Vermont's most beautiful landscape. During this event we provide emergency communications for the participants and race coordinators for over 30 hours. <http://www.vermont100.com/>

September 25th 2016 - Vermont 50 MT Bike or Ultra Run

The third and most active day is the Vermont 50, leaving from Mount Ascutney Resort we support close to 1000 participants riding, running and walking these 50 miles. <http://www.vermont50.com/>

For more information about the above events please contact Rob Mather- N1XSS
Home phone: [802-886-5478](tel:802-886-5478) or Rob@mather1.com

FCARC MEMBER AT THE BOSTON MARATHON

After 28 years as a medical volunteer at the Boston Marathon, this was my last. Next year I will be officially doing communications as a Ham Radio Volunteer. This year (as I have for many years) I was part of the Western Ma Medical Team-Course Medical 12 (which is 18.3 miles-in Newton).

We treated 131 runners. There were a total of 35 volunteers who were part of the team this year. This included the Hydration Stations before and after the Medical Station-each of which has an assigned Ham. There are also two assigned Ham's for the station. Who are kept busy working with triage to communicate needs, sending in statistics and conveying the needs of the station.

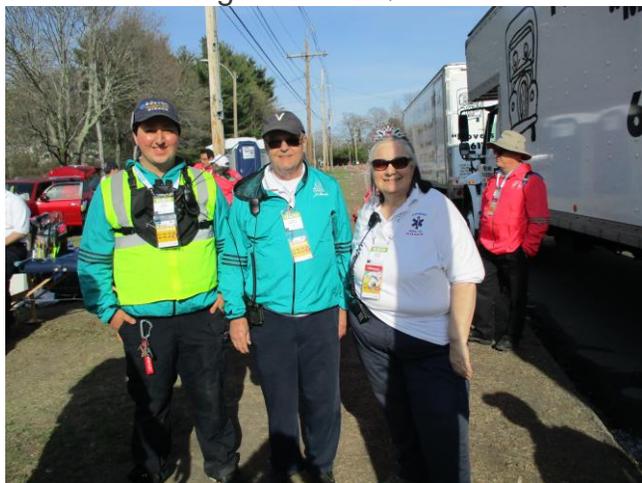
Ham's provide an support role at the marathon and that has changed over the years. There is now : Boston Athletic Association Communications Committee for Amateur Radio. This Committee membership is drawn from public safety, BAA, private ambulance services and commercial communications providers. Six Amateur Radio volunteers were selected to represent, manage and serve the almost 300 volunteers who provide communications for the BAA on event day.

To quote the Committee "Prompted by the tragic bombing in 2013 and a subsequent increase in public safety concerns, the BAA formed a Communications Committee late in 2014 with a mandate to review and improve the entire communications program at the Boston Marathon.

Security and operational challenges had increased, requiring Amateur Radio to function in a highly-structured environment, one following guidelines of the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System (ICS)”.

I'm including a photo of the two Ham's who were stationed with the medical station and myself (like last year, I wore my radio and monitored, my primary role was medical, but it gave me some excellent training in working with the other Ham's and learning about communications at such a large event.

Jeanne A. Dodge KC1DCQ



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).