

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



# THE COMMUNICATOR

## THE COMMUNICATOR

June 2016

### Upcoming Events

- Club Breakfast: Saturday, Jun 18, 8:00 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-Board Meeting: Monday, Jun 20, 6:00 p.m.: GCC Room S301 Main Building
- Annual Meeting & Officers Election: Monday, Jun 20, 7:15 p.m.: GCC Room S301 Main Bldg.
- Field Day: Saturday & Sunday, Jun 25/26, All day: Poet's Seat Tower, Greenfield
- Club Breakfast: Saturday, Jul 16, 8:00 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-Board Meeting: Jul 18 Mon time & location TBA
- Club Breakfast: Saturday August 6, 8 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- Triathlon: Sunday August 7, 7 a.m.: Nash's Mill Rd., Greenfield
- Bridge of Flowers Race: Saturday August 13, 7 a.m.: Shelburne Falls

- E-Board meeting: Monday August 15, 7 p.m.: Plan for next year, location TBA
- Franklin Land Trust Bicycle Tour (D2R2): Saturday Aug 20, All day: Deerfield – Vermont

## **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, from the floor, 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.

## **Amateur Radio Field Day at Poets Seat, June 25-26**

What are your plans for the last weekend in June? Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June.

What is Field Day? For those who are new, Franklin County “hams” will join with thousands of Amateur Radio operators across the country to practice emergency capabilities by operating under field conditions at Poets Seat Tower in Greenfield.

As usual we will be at Poet's Seat, starting setup about 9 a.m. on Saturday, operating from 2 p.m. Saturday until 2 p.m. Sunday.

What will there be? A voice and a Morse code station will be in regular operation. Demonstrations of other operating modes such as low power transmitting and alternative sources of power, including the use of solar power, are also planned. There will also be a “Get On The Air” station where the public can experience ham radio under the supervision of a licensed ham operator.

Who else will be taking part in Field Day? This event is part of the American Radio Relay League's national Field Day event. More than 35,000 amateur radio operators across the USA and Canada will participate. The Poet's Seat site is a preferred operating location because it gives operators a clear transmission path in all directions. Communications can be maintained with other amateur operators in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont as well as with amateurs outside the New England area. Ham volunteers provide both emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies and non-emergency community services too, all for free.

What else can you do for Field Day? How about manning a public information table with brochures, signs and a smile? Would you like to help with set up and taking down the equipment? There is a need for logistics like making sure folks are supplied with food and

any last minute technology needs. Would you like to be a public information representative? Talk to the public; make sure we have pamphlets and information for the public.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

Every August we assist with communications for the Greenfield Triathlon, the Bridge of Flowers 10K Race and with fund-raising bicycle tour events supporting the Franklin Land Trust. Jeanne volunteered to coordinate the Greenfield Triathlon on Sunday August 7. Al and Bob Solosko will coordinate the D2R2 event on Saturday Aug 20. Howard and Chris will coordinate the Bridge of Flowers event on Saturday August 13. There will be signup sheets and all of the coordinators' are looking for volunteers.

## **Secretary's Report**

### **E-BOARD MEETING SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016 AT GCC, CHRIS MYERS KB1NEK**

Present: Al, Ron, Bruce, Jeanne, Howard and Chris (recorder); also Hal Dyer and Bruce Cowles. Belle arrived after meeting had started.

Discussion of supplies for picnic and Field Day. Anne and Jeanne generally in charge of picnic. Ron has many supplies left over from holiday party, and volunteered to buy additional plates, etc. Ron will buy ice for coolers. Picnic will start around 11. Food should be ready around 12:30 pm. Al will invite Fred Smead.

Motion made to set aside \$200 for the picnic and \$200 for Field Day. Also separate \$75 to pay for the pavilion in Leyden.

Bob mentioned that Keith suggested buying an amplifier for the new repeater unit. Al mentioned he had bought a used amplifier from Chet. There was a discussion of the technical advantages and limitations of such a unit. Al mentioned that this question is jumping the gun. We still need to get the duplexer working, and returned to the new 2m frequency pair that Keith obtained over the winter. That frequency must be put to use by a deadline date.

Bruce recommended forming a sub-committee to focus on the work of getting the repeaters up to full working order. General agreement on the idea. Al nominated Keith to chair the sub-committee. Roy Morgan volunteered. Al and Bob are already involved, so stay on the new sub-committee.

Nominations for club officer were reviewed. Al agrees to another term as president (Al stated that there is a possibility that he might feel a need to step down after the first year of the term). Chris agrees to another term as secretary, and Belle as another term as director. Nominations will be reopened at the time of the meeting. Actual election takes place at the June membership meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting, but only if the person nominated is present and agrees to run.

For Field Day, Anne may volunteer for GOTA station, although we may just invite newcomers to operate on the side band station. Al said he has been trying to get Stu Elliott to bring high school students in. Al will be in charge of CW station. Bob D. will take charge of SSB station. Bruce will act as safety officer, assisted by Hal and Keith. We hope Phill will set up a 6m station. Once again Carter will have his RV. Chris thought Bob Solosko has a heavier duty tent, and will ask to confirm. Chris reported that he had the generator serviced last fall. Al appointed Chris to be the generator committee. We will need a food committee. Carter will do Sunday breakfast. Mostly we need to provide a lunch on Saturday.

There was a side discussion about amount of money the FCARC is holding on behalf of the high school radio club. The numbers were still not clear. High School amount, roughly \$774.

For June meeting, Al still working on a speaker, maybe Tom Holmwood (W1TO), member of YCCC.

Jeanne volunteered to coordinate the Greenfield Triathlon. Al and Bob Solosko will coordinate the D2R2 event. Howard and Chris will coordinate the Bridge of Flowers event.

### **The club's emergency communications group met for the third time Saturday, May 14, after breakfast at Denny's.**

We had a discussion about nets, and particularly the problem faced when the net control operator ceases transmission, for whatever reason. The club briefly had that problem during the Bridge of Flowers Race last summer. Chris talked about a recent digital net, held every Sunday morning. It was originally started by hams in Pittsburgh, and the majority of participants live throughout Pennsylvania. There is a core of operators who rotate net control duties, just as we do with the 2 meter nets we have on the Leyden repeater.

One Sunday, not long before, the net was going great. Propagation was good enough so it was easy to copy almost all signals. One long test message was passed using software compression, and I managed to de-compress it without error. Then abruptly, there was nothing from the net control operator. After a minute or so, another member of the core group asked if the operator was OK. When nothing was heard, he took over and announced that he would pick up control. He finished the net, and a couple of his buddies and he exchanged comments, which ended with a decision from one of them to call the missing net control operator on the phone.

As we saw ourselves last summer, any number of technical or personal problems could make it impossible for a net control operator to continue. A good net will have plans in place to fill the gap. Some nets appoint an alternate net control operator at the beginning of the net. This probably is the best way to plan for the problem, and we should start doing that, in my opinion.

After the discussion, the group broke down to hands on work with hand-held radios, mostly FT-60's. Several had not fully programmed theirs with the MARC channels the club has been using to standardize settings.

When that was done, Chris sent participants outdoors for a test of the settings, using changes of channels. Because the instructions were not clear enough, the test didn't work so well. We also discovered that the steel sheathing on the exterior walls of the East Building at GCC prevent good transmission from indoors. In future tests from that building, we will have to set up an antenna outdoors, and run a cable through a partly opened window.

At the meeting in June, we will demonstrate the controls of the Yaesu FT-8800, mobile radio. Several club members own one, and the club itself bought one a couple of years ago. We generally use the FT-8800 at most of our public service events.

The Baystate Franklin Medical Center also bought an FT-8800 several years ago, and is in the process of running a coaxial cable from the top of the building down to the emergency communication center in the conference rooms on the first floor. Several club members have been advising and assisting in the project. We hope at some point to have the director of security issue volunteer's name tags to several of us so we can test the radio during weekly ARES nets, and get ready to use it in case of a communications black out.

Chris Myers, KB1NEK  
ARES Emergency Coordinator for Franklin County

## News, Activities & Articles

### VE SESSION IN NORTHFIELD MAY 23

The FCARC VE team conducts license exam sessions in Northfield MA on the 4th Monday of February, May, August, and November. More information is available on the Amateur Radio License Exams page on this website.

Gerry Lempicki KA1STZ upgraded to Extra and Peter Brulotte KC1FEN upgraded to General.

### A Special Note

Thanks to our May VE Team; over the last 20+ years I've bought two different Extra Class question pool study guides, but never went through with the study and test. This year I saw the end of yet another question pool looming in the near future, and there was no way I wanted to buy another book! So I buckled down and started to study this spring. This week I met Belle/KB1NOG, Ron/K8HSF, and Hal/KB1SHY in Northfield. They set me up with the exam, and then even saw fit to sign a CSCE for me. Thanks for the time and work that you all contribute for those wishing to upgrade! 73, Gerry KA1STZ/AE

**FCARC PICNIC, MAY 28, 2016 AT LEYDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

For the third year, the FCARC held a picnic for members and friends at the Elementary school in Leyden.



## **Volunteer opportunities with a neighboring club**

Rob Mather (N1XSS)-(Home phone: [802-886-5478](tel:802-886-5478) or [Rob@mather1.com](mailto:Rob@mather1.com)) is looking for volunteers for some events nearby.

### **[June 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 - Covered Bridges Half Marathon](#)**

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

### **[July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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/>

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 ([bdyer582@juno.com](mailto:bdyer582@juno.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)).