

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR THE COMMUNICATOR

December 2016

Upcoming Events

- Holiday Potluck: Monday Dec 12, 6:00 p.m. : Shelburne Senior Center
- Club Breakfast: Saturday Dec 17, 8:00 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-Board Meeting: Monday Dec 19: GCC Hammond Studio
- New Year's net: Wednesday Dec 31, 11:50 pm. : 146.985 MHz
- Dec 31 Sat 9:00 am Public Service: Sawmill River 10K, Radio Ops report at 9 a.m. (12/31; 1/1 is Sunday)
- 11:50 pm New Year's Eve net on KB1BSS 2m repeater
- Club Breakfast: Saturday, Jan 14, 8:00 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-Board Meeting: Monday, Jan 23, 6:00 p.m.: at GCC Hammond Studio
- Program Meeting: Monday, Jan 23, 7:15 p.m. Topic: Building Simple Antennas

December 2016

FCARC Holiday Party:

It is a club tradition to have a Holiday Potluck Party instead of a regular meeting in December. We will continue that tradition this year. This will be a true potluck - bring what you like, a few people may be asked to make sure that important dishes are provided. Following our Holiday Party tradition we will have our annual auction of radio and electronics stuff. Auction items may be personal, with a club contribution of a percentage of the sale price, or they may be donations to the club or surplus club-owned equipment.

We will have the party at the Shelburne Senior Center.

FCARC NEW YEAR'S NET

FCARC New Year's Net: On the air on the 146.985 KB1BSS repeater, starting at 11:50 p.m. on December 31st.

Secretary's Report E-Board and Program meetings, Monday, November 21, 2016

FCARC e-board meeting

1. Al said he had tracked down the original repeater Hustler 19.5 ft, commercial grade antenna. DX Engineering has one in stock for about \$1,000, plus shipping by motor freight, at least \$100 more. Chet doesn't remember being involved in the placement of the current antenna. He recommends replacing the feed line at the same time. We replaced the current feedline three years ago for about \$650, including labor. That feedline is high quality.

Bruce Beleveau said the antennas put up on Rocky Mt. were made by Comtelco. The 2m one is 3 dB. Designed to withstand winds of over 100 mph. The next lower Hustler made by Hustler is about 15 ft long, uses UHF connectors instead of N type as in the most expensive one.

Keith asked about the listed ERP of our set up in the records of the New England Repeater Coordinating group. Ron suggested the NERPC might have information on what antenna we actually have.

[After the meeting, I checked prices and rating for three Hustler antennas;
HX6-14448, 6 dB gain, 19 ft, 140 mph wind rating, price \$1,000
G7-144, 7dB, 15 ft., wind rating not listed on New-Tronics website, price \$200
G6-144, 6dB, almost 10 ft, 100 mph wind rating, price \$140]

Belle suggested postponing replacement of feed line. Chris volunteered to contact NoBARC,

Keith volunteered to contact friend who works for the railroad, and Al to MTARA. Howard says we have over \$2,000 in the treasury, not counting what belongs to the High School or the VEC account. Howard said for cable replacement cost was \$196, labor \$492.50. Chris urged having a separate bracket for the upper part of the antenna.

Al mentioned we still have not been able to get to the Greenfield repeater because the water department is still working on the underground tank. He has persuaded the DPW to give us another key for Keith to use to get into the shed.

The 440 repeater still doesn't have the coverage we expect.

For future meetings, Bob Solosko will do antenna modeling. For January we might do a project to build something

Dec. 12 at the Shelburne Senior Center we will have holiday party. Anne, Jeanne, and Ron volunteered to help coordinate food and utensils. Everything will actually be pot luck. Howard reminded us that Bob Besette, who just turned 100 years old. Howard said we could use plates and silverware from the Senior Center, which Howard will make sure gets washed, with help from Chris. Al said he would put a map on the web site.

Joe will coordinate the Saw Mill River Run on Dec. 31 in Montague Center. Rich Stewart may again coordinate the Greenfield Winter Carnival race.

We might get Bruce to lead project for folding J-pole. We might ask him if he could do it on a Saturday after a breakfast.

We are planning to do a class for technicians license. Jeanne said it is important to set a date so that GCC students will see it on their calendars for winter term. Winter term starts last Thursday of January. We had talked about end of February or beginning of March. Feb 27, Mar 1, 6, 8, and 11th. Al said March 11 is Mt Tom Flea Market. Try March 6, 8, 13, 15, and 18. Then spring break is weekend of March 20. March 18 is date of club breakfast, but we can start class a half hour after typical end of breakfast. Jeanne says students will register with the school. Jeanne said her contact (Alice) would make the class official. Community Education is open to anyone, not just GCC students. Jeanne said we could probably choose one of the classrooms in the East Building, most of which have projectors. Course will be announced on GCC website and catalog.

Jeanne asked for pictures and brief write up about Fox Hunt.

Bob Dickerman announced he has filed report to the Secretary of State required for non-profit corporations

News, Activities & Articles

FCARC Fox Hunt, Saturday November 12, 2016

THAT SLY FOX

This year's annual November fox hunt was held on a beautiful sunny day following the club's monthly breakfast at Denny's Pantry. The hunters gathered excitedly in the Cherry Rum Plaza parking lot north of Denny's, equipped with their most prized hunting gear. Shortly after 10:00 AM they were able to get their first direction fix on the location of the fox's den. The hunters appeared to quickly hone in on the general direction of the den, advancing toward the central area of Greenfield. However, as they began to close in on the fox's territory somewhere in the vicinity of central Greenfield, the fox seemed to have created an elusive location for his den providing him with protection from the hunters.

As a couple hours passed and the fox began to feel hungry, he allowed his guardian to pass on a clue as to his den location in hopes that a hunter would show and the fox might make a meal of the hunter. The hint of many historic monuments close to his den did not appear to help as Greenfield has many historic monuments. Maybe this hint was actually intended to confuse the hunters!

As the hunt time closed in on the three hour mark, hunt team Emcomm consisting of Jeanne, KC1DCQ, Paul, KF7GWC, and Erika Laforme appeared in Green River Cemetery, closing in on the den. There were monuments as far as the eye could see. As they searched for the den, hunt team Keith, KU1N, and Ann, KC1CRS, and hunt team Al, N1AW, and Bob, W1SRB, arrived within the fox's territory at the cemetery. Al proceeded into the woods adjacent to the cemetery with determination to outfox the fox. As hunt team Phil, N1YPS, and Rich, KB1NOG, arrived on the scene followed by hunt team Chris, KB1NEK, and Aaron, KC1CXX, it was announced that Al, N1AW, had in fact outfoxed the fox.

A great time was had by all hunters sharpening their skills and techniques, says the fox.

Sawmill River Race in Montague, New Year's Day Eve

For many years we have provided communications for this 10K road race which begins and ends in the center of Montague. A road race in winter can be tricky for runners as well as volunteers; in the past we have had to deal with icy road conditions that made it difficult for both runners and volunteers. It can be a challenge, but we can also be helpful and challenges help prepare us for emergencies. The Montague Recreation Department really depends upon us for this one.

Greenfield Winter Carnival Sleigh bell Race

The first weekend in February is still two months off, please put this in your calendar. This is another one we do every year where our help is really appreciated. More information will be come out in the January Communicator.

Sad News we lost Bill Boutwell... N1EWK

GREENFIELD - Willard R. "Bill" Boutwell, 85, of 18 Freeman Drive, died Monday (11-28-16) at the Soldier's Home in Holyoke.

Private services and inurnment following cremation, will take place at the convenience of the family in the Massachusetts Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, Agawam. Military honors will be provided by the Elite Patriot Honor Guard of the USAF from Westover AFB, Chicopee.

Visiting hours are omitted. In lieu of flowers, condolences are suggested to his wife Betty in care of their address listed above or in care of his daughter at gail_therrin@yahoo.com

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the McCarthy Funeral Homes of Greenfield and Turners Falls, Guest book and condolence message available at www.mccarthyfuneralhomes.com

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).