

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR

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June 2017

Upcoming Events

- Club Breakfast: Saturday, Jun 17, 8:00 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield-10:00 am Franklin County Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Group at GCC
- Jun 19 Mon 6:00 pm E-Board; 7:15 p.m. Elections & Annual Meeting at GCC Hammond Studio **Program: Understanding Inductance, Capacitance and Reactance**
- Field Day: Saturday & Sunday, Jun 24/25, All day: Poet's Seat Tower, Greenfield
- Club Breakfast: Saturday, Jul 15, 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 6, 7 a.m.: Nash's Mill Rd., Greenfield
- Bridge of Flowers Race: Saturday August 12, 7 a.m.: Shelburne Falls

- Franklin Land Trust Bicycle Tour (D2R2): Saturday Aug 19, All day: Deerfield – Vermont
- E-Board meeting: Monday August 21, 7 p.m.: Plan for next year, at GCC
- Aug 28 Mon 7:00 pm VE exams @Northfield Unitarian Church

Notice of Election of Officers at the June annual business meeting of the FCARC, Inc.

The following offices are up for election, Vice President, Treasurer, and one Director. The Election list is: Joe Henefield, KB1WVO, for Vice President, Howard Field, N1LUP for Treasurer and : Ron Niswander, K8HSF for Director. 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 24-25

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.

Club Breakfast

Every month we have breakfast at Denny's Pantry on a Saturday morning. Come join us, Anne KC1CRS, sent along these pictures from the May Breakfast.



Secretary's Report

E-BOARD MEETING SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2017 AT GCC, Bob WA1QKT

E-Board Meeting Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6:00 PM, at GCC

1. Leyden 2m repeater antenna fix: \$1400.00 voted in previous meetings still available for this. At our next full meeting (Monday, June 19) we will ask members to vote for one of two antennas, so that an antenna can be purchased:
 1. Hustler HS3-14448, a 3 dBd gain antenna that is more rugged (wind 160 mph) and more expensive (about \$400.00 + mounting kit about \$200.00), and has a 3 to 6 week lead time, or
 2. Hustler G7-144, an identical replacement for our existing Hustler G7-144, a 7 dBd gain antenna that is less rugged (wind 100 mph) and less expensive (about \$200.00 + top mount \$), and is in stock, with 0 week lead time
2. Upcoming meetings:
 1. Saturday, May 27, will be our picnic at Leyden Pavilion, 11:00AM to 3:00 PM, meal at 12:30 PM.
 2. Monday, June 19 will be our annual meeting, with elections. Ron K8HSF will run for director. Howard N1LUP will run for re-election as treasurer. JoeKB1WVO will run for vice-president. Bob W1SRB and Al N1AW will give a presentation on Understanding Inductance, Capacitance and Reactance.
3. Our annual Field Day (Saturday and Sunday June 24 & 25) was discussed. Chris KB1NEK has arranged for Greenfield permit for Poet's Seat tower. Saturday food will be sandwiches provided by club, coordinated by Jeanne KC1DCQ and Anne KC1CRS. Carter WA1TVS will provide Sunday breakfast in his RV. Antennas and stations (CW, SSB, GOTA, 6 m / VHF) expected to be fairly similar to last year's. One change may be to hang the SSB 20 m Moxon farther south, away from the tower, to reduce interference from GOTA and 6 m stations. We need to ask Bob W1SRB if he will submit notice to the Greenfield Recorder.
4. Chris KB1NEK proposed canceling the Tuesday ARES net, due to the low number of members checking in. A counter-proposal was that the net be held earlier, at 8:00 PM, to increase participation, and was agreed to. Further, Bruce KB1TLX said he would convey

a notice about our nets to other clubs (HCRA and MTARA) if someone would write notice, Bob WA1QKT volunteered to write notice.

5. Upcoming Public Service Events for summer
 1. Greenfield Triathlon, August 6, coordinated by Jeanne KC1DCQ and Rich KB1NOX
 2. Bridge of Flowers, August 12, coordinated by Howard N1LUP and Chris KB1NEK
 3. D2R2, August 19, coordinated by Al N1AW and Bob W1SRB
6. Jeanne KC1DCQ reiterated that the technician license class is scheduled at GCC East Bldg. on Oct. 10, 12, 17, 19, 21 (Tuesday & Thursday nights, ending on Saturday).

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob WA1QKT Clerk

Emergency Communications Meeting Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 10:00 AM, at GCC - Bob WA1QKT

1. Professional emergency communications systems are changing. New digital trunking radios P25 that local professional emergency services are expected to be moving to are expensive (\$1K to \$2K), which will complicate the changes. Professional radio coverage in Monroe is said to be poor, so if we can make amateur radio work there, it might be valuable in the Hard Knox exercise in October. Hard Knox will involve Mass National Guard, Northwest Mass. Incident Management Team, the Franklin County Multi Agency Coordinating group, and local first responders and officials in towns along the Deerfield River.
2. Baystate Franklin Medical Center (BFMC) 2m amateur radio feedline has been installed, just needs connectors and testing. Chris KB1NEK and Roy K1LKY plan to do this. FT-8800 radio will be located in one of the conference rooms near the main entrance. Several members volunteered to be screened by BFMC security, and to occasionally go to BFMC to participate in a monthly net. It was noted that Mercy Hospital already participates in a Tuesday 7:30 PM 146.94 MHz Mount Tom net, and we may want to check in to that.
3. After the next club breakfast (Saturday June 17), we will test simplex VHF range, to assess our capability in emergencies in which repeaters are not available:
 1. Jeanne KC1DCQ & Bob WA1QKT will be at GCC
 2. Joe KB1WVO will be at Berkshire East in Charlemont
 3. Chris KB1NEK & Bruce KB1TLX will be at Rowe

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob WA1QKT

News, Activities & Articles

VE SESSION IN NORTHFIELD MAY 23

I had no indications of anybody who planned to take an amateur radio license exam at our May 22nd session in Northfield, and after checking that none of our other usual volunteers had heard of any candidates I cancelled the session, with notices on the FCARC.org website and the FCARC Facebook page.

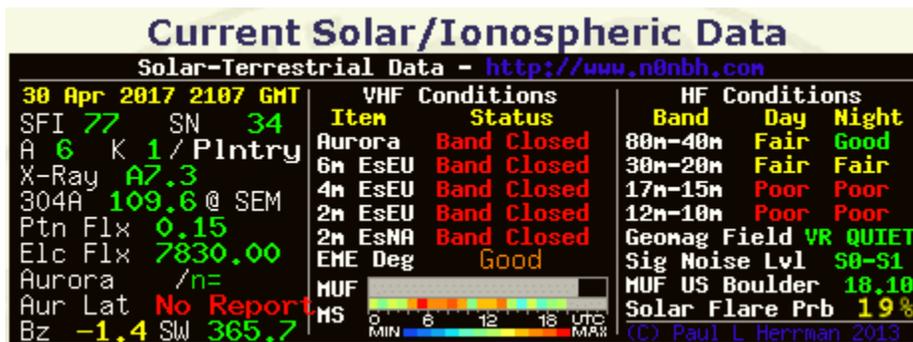
Unfortunately one person who had been thinking of upgrading contacted me later. I felt bad about it, but it is clearly stated on our website that we reserve the right to cancel if we don't know of at least one candidate in advance. I wrote to this person to point out that there was a VE session coming up later that week in Holyoke.

Our VE sessions take place on the fourth Monday of February, May, August, and November. Our next one will be on August 28th.

AI - N1AW

Radio Propagation Forecasting AI - N1AW

About six months ago I added a page to our website that displays a summary of current solar and ionospheric data. The URL is <http://www.fcarc.org/propagation.htm>. If you go to this page you will see a display like this...



... and below this is an explanation of some of the items that are of most interest to an amateur radio operator. By the time you read this there should also be a permanent link to "Propagation" on the website main menu.

A few other websites are useful for predicting radio conditions. The Space Weather website provides maps showing near-real time MUF (<http://www.spacew.com/www/realtime.php>) and near-real time critical frequency (<http://www.spacew.com/www/fof2.html>). At the Australian site ips-geo-warning@listserver.ips.gov.au you can subscribe to numerous e-mail lists that provide warnings of events that may affect radio wave propagation – I subscribe to the ips-geo-warning list that gives advance warning of radio disturbances.

Retailer Replacing RadioShack in Northampton

If you are reading the Communicator then you might be interested in knowing that BRW Electronics/Steren Electronic Solutions is working on renovating the former RadioShack in Northampton for a new electronics store. The store is located next at 242 King Street, next to AutoZone. BRW recently closed their Greenfield store, which also was a former RadioShack, (the owner of BRW was a RadioShack franchisee) so this brings an electronics retailer back into the area. A spokesman at their Brattleboro store recently said that although they don't have a specific date yet for the opening it is expected to occur in "a couple of weeks." If you want to call Brattleboro and suggest items you would like to see stocked in the new store the phone number is 802-257-5229.

Joe Henefield KB1WVO

FCARC Nets

Please join us on our Franklin County Amateur Radio Club 2 meter nets,

held on the KB1BSS repeater (146.985 MHz, – offset, PL tone 136.5 Hz)

Tuesday 8:00 PM: ARES Net – *brief net dedicated to emergency communications*

Thursday 8:00 PM: Information Net – *informal talk about almost anything*

All are welcome! For more information, please visit www.fcarc.org

Thanks & 73,

Bob WA1QK

FCARC PICNIC, MAY 28, 2016 AT LEYDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





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 (bdyer582@juno.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).