

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR

THE COMMUNICATOR

January 2018

Upcoming Events

Jan 13 Sat 8:00 am Breakfast, Denny's

Jan 13 Sat 10:00 am Franklin County Amateur Radio Emergency
Communications group, GCC Hammond Studio

Jan 22 Mon 6:00 pm E-Board; 7:15 pm General Meeting, GCC Hammond Studio

Feb 3 Sat Sleigh Bell Race Radio Ops report at 9:00 am (*)

Feb 12 Mon 6:00 pm E-Board; 7:15 General Meeting, GCC Hammond Studio

Feb 17 Sat 8:00 am Breakfast, Denny's
Feb 17 Sat 10:00 am Franklin County Amateur Radio Emergency
Communications group, GCC Hammond Studio
Feb 19 Mon President's Day
Feb 26 Mon 7:00 pm VE exams, Northfield Unitarian Church

January 22 General Meeting

Puerto Rico Experiences - Tracy Rogers

Tracy Rogers will be the speaker at the January 22nd FCARC meeting. Tracy is known to many FCARC members. She is the current Chairperson of the Northfield Select Board, and she is the Regional Preparedness Program Manager of FRCOG. Her sons Alex and Andrew are hams and members of FCARC.

Tracy is also the Deputy Team Leader of the Northwest MA Incident Management Team, and she went with this group of local emergency managers to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. The team provided administrative support for the Central Island Coordination Task Force and the Puerto Rico Urban Search and Rescue Team, coordinating commodities, food, and water to isolated towns. The team worked 12-hour shifts daily for two weeks. Tracy will tell us about some of her experiences on this trip.

- AI N1AW

Minutes of E-board meeting 18 Dec. 2017 – Chris Myers KB1NEK

1. Several people suggested we change time of e-board meetings on those nights when there is no regular members meeting. Current practice is to meet at 7 PM. This makes it necessary for Jeanne to stay later in her office, which we use for meeting space. Consensus was to meet at 6 PM for all future e-board meetings, whether there is a general meeting or not.
2. For future meeting topics, Joe suggested things to attract new hams, such as practical skills (attaching connectors to cables) or using Echolink for hams to practice talking around the world even before they get a general license. Anne uses Echolink regularly for YL nets, and agreed to write up an article on the subject.
3. Joe and Jeanne have been talking about better organization for public service events. They suggest no one should have to coordinate more than one time a year, and that each time a new person should assist as a co-coordinator.
4. The old canopy frame cannot be fixed. A motion was made and passed to buy a new one, so that we would have two available as needed, especially for Field Day. Chris offered to buy one in the spring when stores start stocking them again.
5. The 440 repeater is working. However, there is no squelch tail so it is hard to tell if no one is using it. Keith says we now have permission from the frequency coordinators to change to

an output of 448.275 MHz. In order to do this, we have to find someone to change the duplexer settings. Offhand, we do not know anyone who can. We have to ask contacts in other clubs for names of possible technicians who have the equipment and skill to do it.

6. Al is concerned about commitment to teach another technician class in the spring. He said he needs to cut back the pressure of his own work load. To do that we need others in the club to step up and offer to teach some of the topics.

News, Activities & Articles

Greenfield Winter Carnival Annual Sleigh Bell Race

Saturday, February 3rd, 2018, Yikes a new year soon.

The Greenfield Winter Carnival Annual Sleigh Bell Race. Meet at the Hope and Olive Restaurant. Because of last year's UHF frequency disaster, and the new Court house, This year I am going to test for use of simplex. I think it would be best if we used the FCARC club simplex frequency of 147.435. Please have your handhelds and mobiles set up with a channel for the **147.435 Simplex**.

I will begin setup and taking in people for radio positions, at 8:00 AM. The Race Start time has traditionally been at 10:00 AM. The race traditionally takes about 90 minutes for the last runner/walker to make it back to the Hope and Olive Restaurant Start/Finish line.

Richard KB1NOX stwricha@aol.com

New Year's Day – FCARC Public Service

On the first day of 2018 the FCARC once again provided radio support for the Sawmill River 10K road race in Montague, MA. The race was first held in 1988, and is sponsored annually by the Town of Montague Department of Parks and Recreation. The race course starts in Montague Center heading north, turning west on Ferry Road, and then heading south, through farmland and paralleling the Connecticut river, finally connecting with it at the 3 mile mark, and then shortly taking a sharp turn to the north for the final 2.5 miles, mostly uphill. This January's edition took place in very cold conditions – at the time of the start at 10 a.m. the temperature was about 6° F – which kept the field small. About 60 runners competed, down from about 180 runners last year.

The FCARC fielded 12 operators for the event. Once again KB1NOX, Rich Stewart, and N1AW, Al Woodhull were at the front and rear of the race respectively, KN1NOX riding in the lead car with the race director, and N1AW in the sag wagon behind the last runners (walkers). Others operators stationed on the course were Kip Williams, AB1UU, Jeanne Dodge, KC1DCQ, Erica LaForme, KC1IJJ, Anne Kring, KC1CRS, Keith Rowley, KU1N, Justin Norman, KC1HEG, Ted Schiff, KC1IJL, Cathy Mitchell, KB1SNA, and Gary Weber, KC1BHX. The net control station assumed its usual location in the attic of the Community Center, formerly the Grange building. Net control was Joe Henefield, KB1WVO, with Karen

Bierwert, KC1IJH, as assistant net control.

Despite the cold weather, it was a beautiful sunny day, and a great way to start the New Year, on the air for public service. The Club, and the race director, Jon Dobosz, send a hearty "Thank You!" to all who turned out to volunteer.

Remember, there will be numerous opportunities to serve at other public events during the course of the year. The next opportunity comes up soon – the Greenfield Winter Carnival road race in February. More details will be available at the next club breakfast and meeting.

73 and see you all soon.

Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL)

Anne KC1CRS

Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) membership applications are available at the following link:

http://www.silverwolfenterprises.co.za/yrlr/attachments/YLRL_MEMBERSHIP.pdf .

Membership runs annually from January to December. YLRL is open to women from all over the world with amateur radio licenses. This organization provides a website, a newsletter, scholarships, and support for female hams. Check out the website.

<http://www.ylrl.org/> . Check out the nets available. <http://www.ylrl.org/index.php/ylrl-nets> .

Jeanne KC1DCQ and Anne KC1CRS have participated in the Echolink net Thursday evening at 20:00 (8pm) Eastern (0000 UTC Summer and 0100 UTC Winter). The net is held through the ALARA Conference Server, Node 286905. Net Control is Catherine AC4YL or Melanie AG4YL. The Thursday night net has excellent participation and frequently does educational activities re: topics such as antennas, contesting, digital, Parks on the Air, logging software etc. Anne has also participated in the Yankee Lassie's Net on Wed am at 8:30 ET year round on SSB 80 meters 3.912+/- to talk to other YLs in New England and NY.

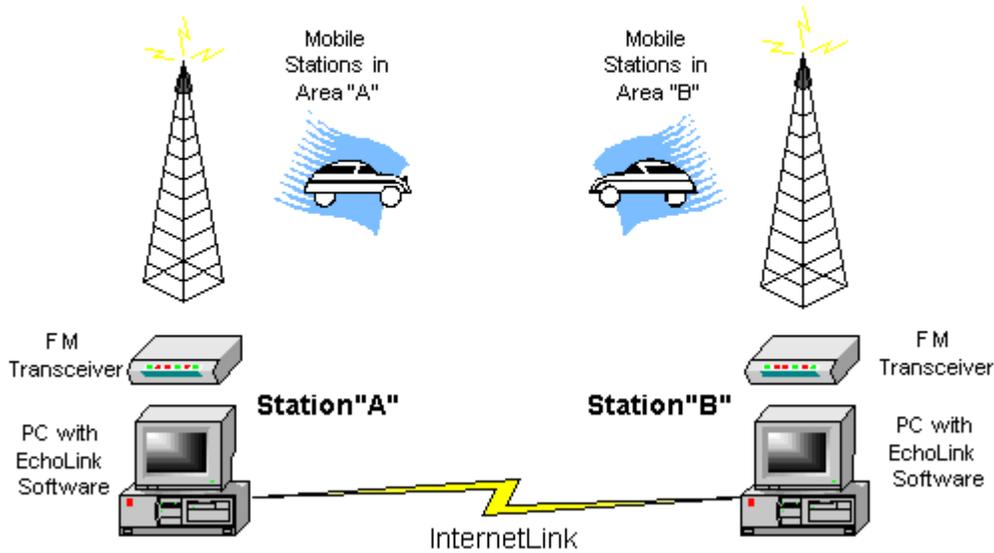
Echolink

Anne KC1CRS

Free EchoLink[®] software lets licensed Amateur Radio stations use streaming-audio technology to make contacts over the Internet. It allows for both individual contacts and nets with radio operators all over the world. There are currently more than 200,000 validated users worldwide in 151 nations with about 6000 hams online at any moment according to <http://www.echolink.org/> . Mobile stations can connect through a repeater that has an internet connection to EchoLink[®] to any EchoLink[®] user who is either online or using a mobile radio through another EchoLink[®] enabled repeater or EchoLink[®] linking ham radio station. As there are no band restrictions on EchoLink and radiocontact through EchoLink[®] is UHF Or VHF FM or simplex, linking a newly licensed technician armed with either a handheld radio, an IPAD, a laptop, or a smart phone with Internet can gain access to the world just a few days after they get their license. I have enjoyed a Thursday night YL net on the Australian Ladies Conference Node 286905 Thursday evenings at 8pm EST as well as several worldwide nets. I have also enjoyed individual contacts with hams both inside and outside our

club. By leaving EchoLink® on KC1DCQ had a nice surprise when a ham operator from Japan contacted her and shared information about his life and experiences.

Linking Example



Accessed from: <http://www.echolink.org/> January 2, 2018.

EchoLink® is not a new concept but with is easier to use with better Internet options in most areas. See ARRL article from Feb 2003 QST by Steve Ford WB8IMY “VoIP and Amateur Radio” for more technical information.

ARRL New England Division “Cabinet” Meeting

By Joe, KB1WVO

Al, Ray Lajoie, Jeff Bail in Springfield



On January 6, Tom Frenaye, K1KI, convened representatives of interested amateur radio

organizations from the New England states at the Springfield Sheraton hotel. Al Woodhull, N1AW, and Joe Henefield, KB1WVO, attended the meeting on behalf of the FCARC. Tom conducts the meetings a few weeks prior to each of the ARRL Board of Directors meetings, held in January and July of each year. The ARRL Board meets next on January 22 and 23 at headquarters in Newington, Connecticut.

The purpose of these informal “cabinet” meetings is for New England hams to discuss issues pending before the Board, and to provide feedback for K1KI to bring to the attention of the Board. The most important agenda items for this meeting were: 1) granting Board of Directors voting rights to the ARRL President and Vice Presidents; 2) a discussion of the purpose and implementation of a Code of Conduct for board and staff members, with specific reference to the recent censure of a Board member; 3) the imposition of a “no public discussion of dissenting Board votes” rule; 4) the use of arbitration to resolve Board-related disputes; 5) the secretive process by which the Board qualifies, or disqualifies, individual members running for various ARRL elected positions; 6) a proposal to modernize the Technician license mode and frequency privileges (the exact proposal that the Board of Directors will discuss later in January and hopefully submit to the FCC is given below); 7) the support, or more accurately, the non-support given by the ARRL to the National Traffic System; 8) the need for a new kind of entry-level license; and, 9) the need and the methods to bring new (and young) enthusiasts into the field of amateur radio.

The general sense of the group in attendance, it is fair to say, regarding items 1 through 5 was in favor of greater transparency for the members of the actions of the Board, and K1KI certainly understood the positions taken by the group, and while not agreeing with everything, Tom can be expected to fairly present the views expressed to the Board later this month.

The meeting also included a presentation by Mike Miciukiewicz, K1MJM, on the recent deployment of some 20-plus hams to assist in the early disaster relief effort in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Mike spent 20 days on the ground in Puerto Rico, and the slides of pictures and text and his narrative provided a powerful description of the devastation wrought by the storm and the almost total rending of normal everyday life. If you ever have a chance to see Mike’s presentation, don’t miss it.

As in the past, the group took a break for lunch and rag-chewing, and before the close K1KI auctioned off various ARRL publications, with proceeds going, by vote of those present, half each to ARRL’s education efforts, and to HAM AID, the ARRL program that purchases and pre-positions and directly delivers disaster relief radio gear to wherever it is needed. HAM AID provided the emergency radio gear used in Puerto Rico.

In the February issue of the Communicator we hope to provide information on the results of the Board’s meeting at the end of this month.

Draft Technician License Modernization

Currently Techs have HF access only in CW mode on 3525-3600, 7025-7125, and 21025-21200 kHz, even though CW knowledge and capability is no longer required for any license. Such limited mode and access privileges do nothing to attract new hams or provide growth opportunities in radio operating. The proposal that will be presented to the Board grants additional privileges for Technicians to operate in HF with RTTY, digital, and voice modes as follows:

RTTY/digital: 3525-3600, 7025-7125, and 21025-21200 kHz (the same frequencies as current CW privileges)

Phone: 3900-4000, 7225-7300, and 21350-21450 kHz (narrower frequency privileges than those available of General licensees.)

If approved by the Board, it is safe to assume that it will be some time before the FCC addresses the issue, and success is not a given.

VLF News

AI, N1AW

There is activity on our new 2200 and 630 meter bands, especially the latter at 472 Khz. Many amateur radios that can receive the AM Broadcast band can tune below 540 Khz in order to listen here. I have heard stations in eastern MA on 474 Khz.

If your rig cannot transmit on these frequencies there are converter kits available to enable transceiving. But it also should not be very hard to homebrew a rig. To make an existing antenna resonate on VLF you probably will need to rig up a loading coil. Here's an example made by a German ham.



Two local groups are sponsoring a 630 Meter Challenge event, now at the halfway point. There are several reports in the January 2018 issue of the HCRA (<http://www.hcra.org/zb/jan18.pdf>), including a map showing contacts KK1W has made with stations as far away as Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Texas. At least a half dozen HCRA members seem to be active on 630 meters.

FCARC 2017 Field Day

AI, N1AW

As usual, official results of June Field Day came out in the December issue of **QST** (page 77). The official results are the same as were posted on our website in July:

2017 ARRL Field Day

Call Score Class QSOs Mult GOTA Participants

AC1L 3934 2A 974 2 KB1MSU 23

QSOs: HF c.w. 618, phone: 356 (HF: 243, GOTA: 79, VHF: 34)

QSO points: 3184, bonus points: 750, total: 3934

Of about 400 entries in Class 2A (two transmitters, using emergency power source) we are 73rd, not too bad. I see four other Massachusetts groups in class 2A with better scores than us, all of them in Eastern MA. Our total score was a little less than last year, but we actually had a better QSO score (points from actual on-the-air contacts) than last year. The score contributions of our GOTA (Get On The Air) and VHF (6 meters) stations are the best ever on our Field Day history web page (<http://www.fcarc.org/FDhistory.htm>).

Upcoming Hamfests

AI, N1AW

Are you looking for an opportunity to buy or sell some radio gear, or just to talk with some hams you don't see very often? There are a couple of events coming up soon:

Springfield VT, Saturday February 10. Connecticut Valley FM Association, VFW Post 771, Springfield, VT. Free admission, info at <https://www.facebook.com/cvfma>.

Chicopee, MA, Saturday March 10, Mt Tom Amateur Repeater Association Hamfest, Castle of Knights, Chicopee, MA. Info at <http://www.mtara.org>. The FCARC has had a table at this every year for quite a few years. We have some surplus and donated club equipment to sell, and it's an opportunity for club members to sell their own stuff while helping the club. I expect we'll do it again in 2018. We will be looking for volunteers to help. Expect more information in next month's **Communicator**.

CQ Magazine

AI, N1AW

CQ Magazine is having some problems. A year or two ago some issues came out late; more recently subscribers have not received printed copies of the November and December 2017 issues. Those two issues will probably never be printed. **CQ** has apparently promised they will get back to regular publication with the January 2018 issue. Meanwhile I understand that they are making the digital version of the unprinted issues of the magazine available online .

On the <http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/> web page there are links so anyone can see the digital version of the unprinted issues. They also promise that they will extend the subscriptions of print edition subscribers by two months.

CQ was my introduction to ham radio when I was first getting interested – it was sold on the news stand of the same store which supplied the newspapers for my paper route, and when I went in to pay the wholesale price of my papers I could then spend \$.35 for a copy of **CQ**. **QST** was also sold there for the same price but at age 12 I found it too technical. But by the time I was actually on the air as K1BOW several years later I subscribed to both magazines.

Many years later I found **CQ Magazine** not technical enough, and I tired of editor Wayne Green (W2NSD)'s continual sniping at the ARRL. He always found something to disagree with in the ARRL. And I was not interested in contests, which **CQ** sponsored and devoted many pages to. But recently I have come to appreciate the value of an alternative source of news about amateur radio (see other article about the ARRL in this **Communicator**) and I have decided to subscribe again to **CQ**.

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: Joe Henefield, KB1WVO (joehenefield@comcast.net), Treasurer: Howard Field, N1LUP (howfield@comcast.net), Secretary: Chris Myers, KB1NEK (camyers1@verizon.net), Director: Belle Dyer, KB1NOG (bdyer58@mtdata.com), Director: Ron Niswander, K8HSF (reniswander@gmail.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).