

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR

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January 2013

Upcoming Events

- Club Breakfast: Saturday January 19, 8:00 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-Board Meeting: Monday January 28, time 6 p.m.: Greenfield High School
- Program Meeting - Cancelled: No meeting this month
- Sleigh Bell Race: Saturday, February 2, 10 a.m.: Greenfield
- E-Board Meeting: Monday, February 11, 6 p.m.: Greenfield High School
- Program Meeting: Monday, February 11, 7:15 p.m.: Greenfield High School, Program TBA
- Club breakfast: Saturday, February 16, 8 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- VE license test: Monday, February 25, 7 p.m.: Northfield Unitarian Church

January 2013

Calendar

THE SLEIGH BELL RACE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, GREENFIELD

The annual Sleigh Bell Race is part of the Greenfield Winter Carnival. Again we have offered to provide radio coverage over the course for runner safety. This year the race headquarters will be inside the Hope and Olive Restaurant, where we will also set up the equipment for running the net. Another change for this year will be the use of the club's 440 repeater, near the Poet's Seat Tower on Rocky Mount. This may require a little more attention to equipment and procedure, since the 440 band is even more of a line of site propagation than 2m. However, since several of our members have spent a lot of time in 2012 getting the 440 repeater working again, we ought to give it a good workout.

Chris Myers, KB1NEK, will coordinate the event. If you have questions or want to volunteer, call him at 625-0344, or ask him on one of the weekly nets.

JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING

There will be no program meeting during January.

Secretary's Report

E-BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012– BOB DICKERMAN WA1QKT

1. 440 Repeater status: seems to still be working using one antenna atop tower and duplexer and repaired duplexer coaxial connection cable; new squelch tail has been noted, may re-deploy 10 m link, may need to bolt down duplexer and apply cable ties to feedline as it is now loose on tower near top.
2. Chris KB1NEK asked about potential for non-licensee emergency workers to use Citizens Band (CB) radios; noted that AM and SSB now available for some time, radios are inexpensive, we haven't listened too much recently on CB bands, but seems like it might be worthwhile to investigate this.
3. Holiday/Christmas party December 17th - no volunteer to coordinate and organize - we will "just show up" with minimal organization, and just coordinate food/drink/paper plates amongst members we have happened to talk to.
4. Board voted to sell IC-2200 from Bert N1IUM estate to Bob W1SRB for \$30.00.
5. Al N1AW is organizing emcomm for Sawmill River Race January 1, will meet at 9:00 AM at Montague Grange, same place as usual, race at 10:00 AM; considering using 440 repeater for this event, some loaner 440 radios available.
6. Chris KB1NEK is organizing emcomm for Sleighbell Race in Greenfield February 2, will meet at bottom floor in back of Greenfield Library as usual; considering using 440 repeater for this event, some loaner 440 radios available.
7. Considering sale of some other of Bert N1IUM's equipment at MTARA Flea to get higher prices.
8. There will be no January club meeting, only the E-board will meet on January 28 at GHS.
9. Next Technician License Class may be held starting in March 2013. KB1NEK has tried to contact some members of first class who haven't yet been licensed, but no response yet. We will consider changing the class presentation and duration to optimize students' chance of success.
10. February 25 VE Session will be led by a new leader; Al N1AW will be absent during that time.
11. A memorial service for Walt W1ZPB will be held December 29 at 1:00 PM at St. James Church in Greenfield.

12. Holiday Potluck on December 17 in lieu of regular meeting, no regular meeting will be held in January, just E-board meeting Monday January 28 at GHS. Next regular meeting will be February 11. Program topics being considered are antenna building session, homebrew showcase, a talk by Fred Smead, a talk by Red Cross. April meeting may be a Field Day overview and planning session.

News, Activities & Articles

HOLIDAY POTLUCK MEETING: MONDAY DECEMBER 17, 6:00 PM

About 20 folks attended the annual Holiday Potluck that was held in the Greenfield High School Cafeteria on December 19th. There was food, an auction and good times.

Many interesting items were auctioned, and Jake KB1VPN again took home much of it. The auction netted \$308.00 to the club to support future club activities.

There was also a 50/50 raffle netted won by Bob W1SRB.



Enjoying the pot luck



A few of the auction items



Looking over the auction items



Carter WA1TVS, the auctioneer, and Jake KB1VPN



Cindy W1CAD



Who wants to bid on this HT?



AI N1AW and Carter WA1TVS



More auction items



Bob WA1QKT with his new SWR meter



Julie KB1WTP recording the auction results

THE SAWMILL RIVER RACE: TUESDAY JANUARY 1 – AL WOODHULL N1AW

The annual Sawmill River 10K Road Race in Montague Center benefited from publicity in a runners' magazine and attracted 166 participants for the 2013 run, up from 130 last year. The weather was moderately cold, about 25 degrees, but roads were clear and everything went well and on schedule, with no emergencies.

The FCARC also had one of the best turnouts of volunteers we have had recently. We were able to staff sixteen sites along the route where radio operators had been requested. In addition we supplied an operator to ride with the race director in the lead car, a sag wagon driven by another ham operator, and two volunteers at net control. Two of our ham volunteers were also qualified EMTs, although thankfully their knowledge in this area was not necessary.

In no particular order (but noting those who came from outside Franklin County to help us), participants were Dick AA1XU, Carter WA1TVS, Chris KB1NEK, Howard N1LUP, Andrew KB1TKB, Chris K1SMY, Bob WA1QKT, Alex KB1YZA, Cathy KB1SNA, Julie KB1WTP, Bob W1SRB, Dan N1VFN, Mike KB1YXD (Keene, NH), Richard KB1NOX, Rob N1XSS (Chester VT), John KB1NOH, Karen KB1MQD (Springfield VT), Eric N1QKO (Ware MA), Belle KB1NOG, and Al N1AW.

Note: the Vermonters who came down to help us do a similar thing, but on a grander scale. They provide communications in Vermont for two Super-Marathon runs and bike races (50 and 100 miles!) in July and September. They need lots of volunteers for this, we will probably hear from them again.



Checking in and getting assignments



Al N1AW
FCARC Race Organizer





Karen KB1MQD and Rob
N1XSS from Vermont



Cathy KB1SNA, Julie KB1WTP



Runners checking in,
coming and going





The winner at the finish line – no other runners in sight



The other runners finally arrive at the finish

DICK BURNHAM, AC1L, HONORED BY GREENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

A plaque honoring Dick Burnham, AC1L, was recently put up in Greenfield High School. The school puts up plaques to honor former principals, teachers, and students, especially students who later become teachers.

The plaque honoring Dick reads:

Richard C. Burnham graduated from GHS in 1938, and went on to the Chicago School of Aircraft Instruments and then three years in the U.S. Army Air Force. He worked at Farr's Garage, Chauncey Wing & Sons and at Bete Fog Nozzle, Inc. for the past 61 years.

Richard has been married to Mildred Turner (also Class of 1939) for 65 years and they have three children. Carol-Class of 1965, Dale, Class of 1968 and Margo, Class of 1971. While Richard was in high school he was the Student Manager for the Baseball team and some of his cherished memories were traveling with the team. At graduation he was designated Class Secretary, a position he still maintains. As an only child, he felt that the daily interaction with classmates was very important. His favorite class was Social Studies. He was the only one who regularly read the daily newspaper. His favorite teacher was Mrs. Nichols (wife of Coach Ump Nichols). She let him sort things out and he went from a first quarter mark of "D" to a last quarter mark of "A".

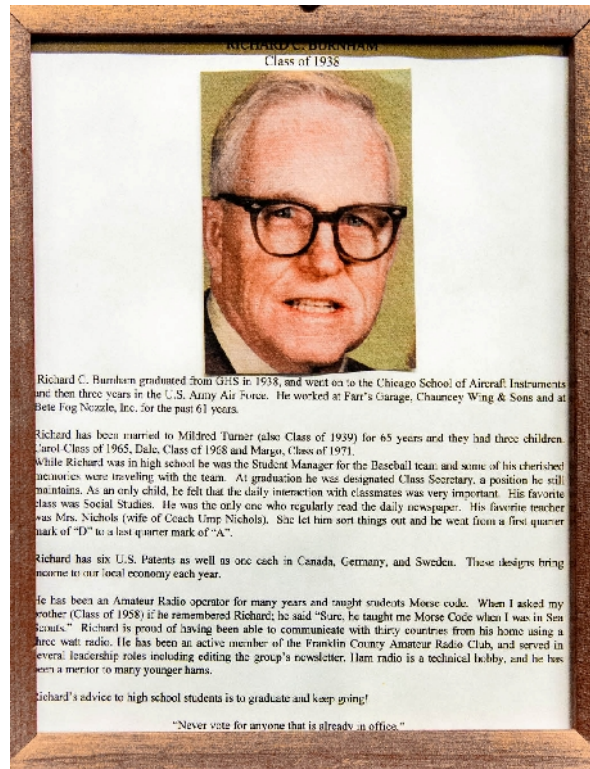
Richard has six U.S. Patents as well as one each in Canada, Germany, and Sweden. These designs bring income to our local economy each year.

He has been an Amateur Radio operator for many years and taught students Morse code. When I asked my brother (Class of 1958) if he remembered Richard; he said "Sure, he taught me Morse Code when I was in Sea Scouts." Richard is proud of having been able to communicate with thirty countries from his home using a three watt radio. He has been an

active member of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, and served in several leadership roles including editing the group's newsletter. Ham radio is a technical hobby, and he has been a mentor to many younger hams.

Richard's advice to high school students is to graduate and keep going!

"Never vote for anyone that is already in office."



THE COMMUNICATOR is an informational publication for members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. Officers: President: Chris Myers, KB1NEK (camyers_1@verizon.net), Vice President: Al Woodhull, N1AW (n1aw@arrl.net), Treasurer: Howard Field, N1LUP (howfield@comcast.net), Secretary: Bob Dickerman, WA1QKT (rld@dickermanelectronics.com), Director: Belle Dyer, KB1NOG (bdyer58@mtdata.com), Director: Bob Solosko, W1SRB (w1srb@arrl.net)

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 Bob Solosko at w1srb@arrl.net.