

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR

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June 2013

Upcoming Events

- Annual Meeting & Officers Election and a talk by Jim Mullen, KK1W about The World Radiosport Team Championship: Monday June 10, 7:15 p.m. : Greenfield High School
- Club breakfast: Saturday June 15, 8:00 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- Field Day: Saturday and Sunday June 22 and 23, all day: Poet's Seat Tower, Greenfield
- Club breakfast : Saturday July 13 8 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-board Meeting: Monday July 15 7 p.m.: Plan for next year, Location TBA
- Triathlon: Sunday August 3 7 a.m.: Nash's Mill Rd., Greenfield
- Bridge of Flowers Race: Saturday Aug 10 7 a.m.: Shelburne Falls
- Club breakfast: Saturday August 17, 8:00 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-board Meeting: Monday August 19, 7 p.m.: Plan for next year, Location TBA
- VE license test: Monday August 26, 7 p.m.: Northfield Unitarian Church

June 2013

Calendar

ANNUAL MEETING & OFFICERS ELECTION: MONDAY JUNE 10, 7:15 P.M. : GREENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

At the upcoming June club meeting, we'll have the nomination and election of club officers and Jim Mullen, KK1W will make a pitch for volunteers to help test sites for next year's World Radiosport Team Championship contest, which will take place in a number of sites in New England.

Nominations and Elections: If you are an active member of the club (dues paid or a new ham enjoying a complimentary membership year) you should have received a nomination form in the US mail recently, with a return envelope. The offices of Vice President, Treasurer, and one Director are elected in odd-numbered years. The incumbents for VP and Treasurer, Al Woodhull N1AW and Howard Field N1LUP, are running for re-election un-opposed. Bob Solosko W1SRB has declined the nomination for re-election as a director. Cathy Mitchell KB1SNA was nominated for director but has declined. Ron Niswander K8HSF was nominated for director and has accepted the nomination.

Officers and Members: Current officers are listed at the end of this newsletter. Current members are listed on the club website at www.fcarc.org/members.htm.

The World Radiosport Team Championship: According to their website:

"The World Radiosport Team Championship is held every four years and consists of approximately 50 two-person teams of amateur radio operators competing in a test of operating skill. Unlike most on-the-air competitions, all stations are required to use identical antennas from the same geographic region, eliminating all variables except operating ability.

"The WRTC2014 Organizing Committee will be conducting a capability and training test for the WRTC2014 stations and volunteers during the July 2013 running of the IARU HF Championship. The goals of the 2013 Station Test are:

- Expand the pool of experienced teams for station set up
- Evaluate proposed site locations for radio quietness and equality
- Confirm logistics and procedures to set up and tear down a large number of stations
- Gather log data under competition conditions to share with WRTC 2014 competitors

"This will be the final test before the full running of the WRTC 2014 competition in July 2014. The plan is to set up and operate as many as 30 stations during the test."

Tom Frenaye, K1KI, the ARRL division manager for New England is one of the organizers of the effort to determine what sites will be the best for the event. Jim Mullen, president of the Hampden County Amateur Radio Association is leading the effort in western Massachusetts.

FIELD DAY: SATURDAY AND SUNDAY JUNE 22 AND 23

FCARC will participate in Field Day on June 22nd and 23rd at Poet's Seat in Greenfield. The objective of Field Day is work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions, as might occur under emergency conditions. The club will receive points for each QSO, with bonus points received for operating in a conspicuous public place, using an emergency power source, publicizing the event and for operating a Get-On-The-Air station (GOTA) for new hams or non-hams. The club will be operating using Dick Burnham's AC1L call in the 2A category with two stations for making Field Day QSOs (one for CW and one for SSB) and a separate GOTA station for giving non-licensed folks a chance to get on the air under the supervision of a licensed ham. Any licensed amateur may operate either of the Field Day QSO stations within the restrictions of their license and folks with Technicians licenses may operate and make contacts as long as a General or Extra is with you to supervise as Control Operator.

Field Day operations officially start at 2 PM on Saturday and end at 5 PM on Sunday, but club members will be at Poet's Seat starting around 9 AM on Saturday to set up the equipment, antennas and facilities.

All are welcome to drop by at any time during the Field Day weekend just to visit or to operate one of our CW, SSB, VHF or GOTA stations. But if you can give a little more time, volunteers are needed. We need help before the event planning and organizing to feed Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as Sunday breakfast and lunch. We need help putting up antennas and setting up stations on Saturday morning, and packing it all up again on Sunday afternoon.

Please join us!

Secretary's Report

E-BOARD MEETING, MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013 – BOB DICKERMAN WA1QKT

- Al N1AW announced that 4 students from Technician class passed license test. We are expecting two others, who were not able to take test at final class session, to take it at regular VE session.
- Regular VE session is Monday, May 27.
- Al is interested in helping with Franklin Land Trust D2R2 bike tour Saturday August 24. Has up to 180 km route, 1000 riders maximum. Al is just gathering information on this at this point. Other events in the season are the Greenfield LightLife Triathlon Sunday August 4 and Shelburne Falls Bridge of Flowers Saturday August 10, and possibly the WMAC Savoy Mountain Trail Race Sunday August 18, which Rich AB1RS has been asking for help for in past few years. Also, Rob N1XSS has asked for help for events in VT.
- Al would pass Greenfield Triathlon radio organizing job to new volunteer, if possible.
- Election of officers will be at June meeting, we will not have any races or membership ballot if there are no new candidates for the positions. Richard AC1L solicited nominations for us again this year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR MAY 20, 2013 FCARC MEETING – BOB DICKERMAN WA1QKT

We met in the GHS cafeteria. Al N1AW brought coffee. The meeting was brought to order at 7:15 PM by Chris KB1NEK.

(Note that construction has begun at GHS, so we had to park on the north end of the school, which is the side closest to Silver Street.)

Howard N1LUP gave a treasurer's report, in preparation for the vote on the repeater repair bill, below. We started May with a balance of \$2178.04. Activity up to May 20 left us with a balance of \$2090.16.

We next considered payment of the bill to repair the 2 m repeater. Al N1AW and Chris N1EWK were at the tower when the WPVQ radio engineer offered to have their professional climber, who was at the site that day on WPVQ business, replace the feedline with some parts available at the site. No price was quoted at the time, but Al and Chris decided to have the work done, because noise problems had been getting worse, there were suspicions that the coax was to blame, we might be required to use a pro anyway on their tower, and it was a good opportunity to put the issue to rest. When the old feedline was removed, marked corrosion of the center conductor was found, even quite a distance down the cable - evidence that water had entered the cable. The new coaxial feedline is a version of LMR400 that is impregnated with water-proofing compound. The associated connectors were also replaced, and some connector adaptors were eliminated. The repeater has been working very well since the repair; the crackling and popping sounds that intermittently plagued weak signals before the repair have disappeared. A motion to pay the \$690.00 bill was made and seconded, all present voted in favor, none were opposed, so Howard will pay the bill.

The next topic of the meeting was organization for our upcoming Field Day. Field Day will be held on June 22 and 23 this year.

Bob WA1QKT reported that the license commission will meet May 21 (since that time, a FD permit for Poet's Seat has been received. Our thanks to Scott N1LYW and the licensing commission).

Phill N1YPS will bring his ICOM IC-706 so that he can operate a 6 m VHF simplex station, and, if we bring an 2 m antenna for him, he will set up for 2 m simplex also. We will ask newer hams if they want to make simplex 2 m and 440 FM (as well as 2 m SSB) contacts in first couple of hours of contest. Phill is going to try a new configuration this year, with a radio shack at the top of the tower.

Bob checked the trailer. The tires need air. Regarding towing, Bob reported that Gary KB1WTR will not be able to tow and Bob was unable to reach Gary KB1AKU by landline. Howard said he would ask his sons about towing.

Regarding food, Cindy W1CAD has agreed to organize Saturday lunch. Requests were made for some vegetarian fare, salads, and potato salad without bacon.

We agreed that we will try to make some digital (PSK31, etc.) QSOs this year, which, like CW contacts, are worth 2 points each. We may try to use the software logging feature in FIDigi on a single laptop PC, and move the laptop between CW and SSB stations, if all the radio and interface hardware is available at both stations.

7 people attended the meeting.

News, Activities & Articles

TECHNICIAN CLASS AND VE ACTIVITY, MAY 2013, AL WOODHULL N1AW

The Technician License class taught by Belle KB1NOG, Bob WA1QKT, Chris KB1NEK, and Al N1AW had a final brief meeting for review and last minute questions on May 16, followed immediately by a VE session in which we were aided by Barbara KB1NOH and Dick AA1XU. Four people took the exam, and all four passed, with all scoring over 90%.

In an amazingly short time the ARRL and FCC had processed the exam papers. The new hams are KB1ZYW Harold Kelly, KB1ZYX Walter Stephaniv, KB1ZYY Frances St.Sanot-Stephaniv, and KB1ZYZ Hussain Hamad.

Less than two weeks later we held our regular 4th Monday in May VE session at the Unitarian Church in Northfield. Two of our new Technicians, Harold KB1ZYW and Hussain KB1ZYZ came back and upgraded to General class, even before their Technician licenses had arrived in the mail. Also upgrading to General in this session was Jake Emond KB1VFN.

Frank Smith, KB1YYY also came to the session to upgrade to Extra. Frank passed his Technician and General tests in our November 2012 VE session.

VEs participating were Belle KB1NOG, Cindy W1CAD, Chris KB1NEK, Dick AA1XU, Les KJ1W, Ron K8HSF, and Al N1AW. That seems like a lot of people, but it really helps to have extra hands grading the answer sheets and keeping track of the paperwork. The Northfield Unitarian church is currently undergoing renovations in the large room where we normally hold VE sessions, but they provided an adequate alternate space upstairs. We appreciated the help provided by Tammy Pelletier who showed us the space and the location of tables and chairs beforehand so we could set up quickly and efficiently.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS SUMMER 2013

It's not too soon to think about whether you can help with public service communications during the summer. FCARC has supported two events in past years and another may be added this year:

The Greenfield Triathlon will take place on Sunday August 4. The Eunice Williams covered bridge is not going to be ready yet, so the double route used last year will be used again. They have asked for our help. Event info is at <http://www.greenfield-triathlon.com>. The Bridge of Flowers 10K road race in Shelburne Falls will be on Saturday August 10. Info: <http://www.bridgeofflowers10k.com>.

NEW in 2013: The Franklin Land Trust has asked if we can help with communications for the Deerfield Dirt Road Randonnee (D2R2), a bicycle tour that starts in Deerfield and loops

through Vermont. This event may have up to 1000 riders on Saturday August 24. The website is <http://www.franklinlandtrust.org/randonnee.html>. We are in the process of determining what kind of support we can offer.

Several other events need amateur radio volunteers. Contact Rob Mather, N1XSS, Robmather@mather1.com for these events in Vermont:

Covered Bridges Half Marathon, Sunday June 2nd in Vermont. Event info is at <http://www.cbhm.com/>

The Vermont 100 Endurance race is July 20 and 21. See <http://www.vermont100.com/>

The Vermont 50 MT Bike or Ultra Run is September 29. See <http://www.vermont50.com/>.

INVITE A KID TO FIELD DAY, DAN ROMANCHIK, KB6NU

If you've been around ham radio for any length of time, you'll notice that ham radio operators like to complain. One of the most frequently heard complaints is, "Kids aren't interested in amateur radio anymore." While I'm not so sure that's true, I do know that now is the time for you to do something about it.

How? Invite a kid to Field Day.

Invite them to help you set up antennas.

Show them how you power the rigs with a generator, or even cooler, by charging a battery with a solar panel. Let them sit in front of the rig, show them how to make contacts, and log for them. To make it easier for them, make up a cheat sheet with the callsign spelled out phonetically and the exchange, also spelled out phonetically. Let them operate for as long as they're interested. When they're done, thank them on contributing to your club's total score.

Answer every single one of their questions.

This may not win them over immediately, but I can assure you that it will make an impression on them. To increase your chances of success, find a kid that's already technically inclined. Invite a bunch of them from the high school's robotics team, for example.

If you don't have any plans for Field Day, then make some. Then, go find that kid. If you don't, then you don't have any right to complain that there are no kids in ham radio.

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.