

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR THE COMMUNICATOR

September 2014

Upcoming Events

- Club Breakfast: Saturday Sept 13, 8 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- E-Board meeting: Monday Sept 15, 6:00 p.m.: at GCC (**NEW LOCATION!**)
- Program Meeting: Monday Sept 15, 7:15 p.m.: at GCC (**NEW LOCATION!**), Program: year in review
- Food Bank Bike4Food: Sunday Sept 28
- Club Breakfast: Saturday Oct 18, 8 a.m.: Denny's, Greenfield
- Crop Hunger Walk: Sunday Oct 19, 1 p.m. for radio ops: Montague Center
- E-Board meeting, meeting & Program: Monday Oct 20, Program and Location TBD
- E-Board meeting: Monday Oct 20, 6:00 p.m. : Location TBD
- Program Meeting: Monday Oct 20, 7:15 p.m.: Program and Location TBD

DUES are DUE now!

September 2014

DUES ARE DUE NOW!

Dues support the repeaters, the club activities and the Communicator.

General Adult - \$15/year

Family Group membership - \$18 /year

Repeater Patron donation - \$10.00 or more Suggested

You may pay for multiple years of membership.

Mail dues to:

Franklin County Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 773

Greenfield, MA 01302

or to

Howard Field

7 Laurel St.

Shelburne Falls, MA 01370-1512

Make checks payable to **FCARC**.

Please include SASE if you wish to have your membership card or a receipt mailed to you.

Calendar

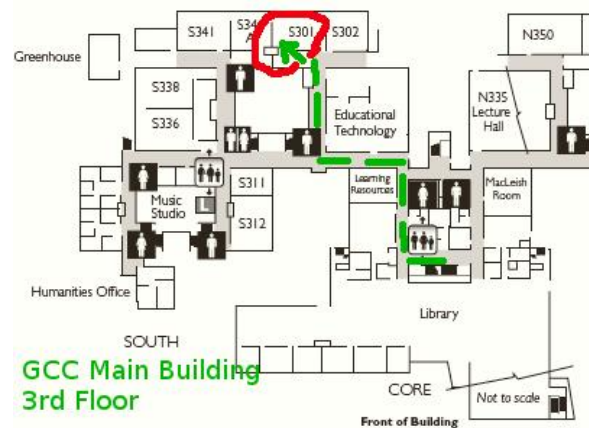
SEPTEMBER 15: E-BOARD AND PROGRAM MEETINGS IN A NEW LOCATION

The September e-board and program meetings will be held at the Greenfield Community College Main Campus in the Engineering Classroom S301 on the 3rd floor of the Main Building. The GCC Main Campus is off Colrain Rd, near the Big Y Plaza in Greenfield. From north or south, take Exit 26 on Rte. 91 for Rte. 2 West, Colrain Rd is first right off Rte. 2 (traffic light here), proceed about 1/2 mile to the College entrance on the left (road construction here as of Sept 2014).



The Main Building is the only multistory building, and is at the far end of the campus from the entrance.

To get to room S301 of the Main Building, take the elevator or stairs to the 3rd floor and follow signs toward south wing classrooms. The meeting program will be the year in review.



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT: WILLBIKE4FOOD:

The Western Massachusetts Food Bank is sponsoring a fund-raising bicycle tour event, WillBike4Food, on Sunday September 28. We will provide communications for this all day event that starts at the Food Bank headquarters in Hatfield, and cyclists follow various routes of up to 100+ miles. Contact Chris Myers KB1NEK at camyers_1@verizon.net, phone: 413-625-0344. Event info is at <https://www.foodbankwma.org/events/bike/>.

Secretary's Report

E-BOARD MEETING MONDAY, July 21, 2014 – BOB DICKERMAN WA1QKT

Thanks to Ron and Elaine for hosting E-Board. The refreshments were very good!

1. Ron K8HSF was nominated for Vice President office that was vacated by Al N1AW. The board moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to appoint Ron Vice President.
2. Bob WA1QKT volunteered for and was appointed to Clerk office.
3. Vacant Director position will be announced, and suggestions for this office solicited.
4. Chris KB1NEK moved that we donate \$30.00 per month to CERT/MRC for Casey Storage rental, because Casey has said they will begin charging CERT/MRC \$130.00 per month for the space. Motion was seconded. In discussion, Chris noted, and all agreed, that the space is a good one, centrally located and accessible at any time (we think) by any board member, and that the \$130.00 rent will constitute a burden on CERT/MRC staff, so we should help with cost. He also said that we could sell equipment to pay for this, and solicit donations to be used for this when members renewed their membership. Bob WA1QKT opposed the expenditure, saying that this would amount to \$360.00 per year, almost 2/3 of club income from membership fees each and every year, saying that we need to conserve cash in we need to repair the repeaters. On vote, 3 were for, 1 opposed, 2 abstained, so the motion passed. (We subsequently realized that this issue should be decided by a vote of members at a regular meeting, since it exceeds the E-board's maximum spending authority of \$200.00. Therefore, the issue will be brought to the members for a vote at the next club meeting.)
5. Chris KB1NEK presented a "Short List of Club Equipment, as of 21 July 2014", and a list of "SUGGESTED ITEMS TO DIVEST". This list will be posted in newsletter and/or website so that members may consider purchasing.
6. Still some wire antennas & masts to be removed from Betty Congdon's place, from Walt W1ZPB (SK)'s station. A large tree fell in her yard in a recent storm, dropping (of course) at least two antennas that were in it's path. Betty said it would be OK to have another work session there after our August 16 breakfast.
7. Board agreed to reimburse Bob WA1QKT and Cindy W1CAD \$100.00 for Field Day food expenses, and to reimburse Carter WA1TVS \$100.00 for Field Day food and RV expenses.
8. Upcoming Public Service Events:
 - 8.1. August 3, Greenfield Triathlon, Rich KB1NOX organizing. Will need to decide battery vs. generator, send Rich old signup list, what radios to use - one for repeater, one on simplex for contact with runner to race organizer.
 - 8.2. August 9, Bridge of Flowers, Chris KB1NEK organizing.
 - 8.3. August 23, D2R2 Franklin Land Trust
9. Sept. 28, Food Bank
10. October 19? Crop Walk Phill N1YPS organizing.
11. Al is soliciting meeting topics for September and October.
12. Next E-board meeting may be at Ron's place again.
13. VE ham radio licensing session in Northfield on Monday, Aug. 26, at 7:00 PM. Al said there are already four candidates expected for this session.

E-BOARD MEETING MONDAY, August 18, 2014 – BOB DICKERMAN WA1QKT

Thanks to Ron and Elaine for hosting E-Board. The refreshments were again very good!

1. Bruce KB1TLX was nominated for Director position that was vacated by Ron K8HSF when Ron moved to Vice President. Although notice was made, no other nominations received from

- membership for Director. The board moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to appoint Bruce Director.
2. Chris KB1NEK presented an updated list of club equipment proposed to be sold. Some price changes were recommended by Al N1AW, and we decided that two items - an MFJ-989 HF manual tuner and a Kenwood TM-271A 2 m mobile radio - should be kept by the club. The updated list of available equipment will be posted on the website and newsletter for members to peruse.
 3. Bob WA1QKT will ask Scott N1LYW for info regarding Clerk duties and forms.
 4. D2R2: Guilford covered bridge closed, but organizers serving lunch at both ends of bridge. Plan is for Bob W1SRB, Carter WA1TVS, Bruce KB1TLX & Jeanne D. at net control in Deerfield, Cathy KB1SNA & Julie KB1WTP at 10 Mile Bridge, Ron K8HSF & Chris KB1NEK covered bridge west, and Al N1AW & Bob WA1QKT covered bridge east. Bruce to move to covered bridge east when Bob leaves at 12:30 PM. Repeater fairly accessible from most locations with lower power and small antennas, but equipment such as J-poles & mobile radios will be used at most sites to improve readability.
 5. Possible future meeting places: GHS may be available, but fee may arise with new building/administrators; Stu KB1MFM classroom; GCC downtown meeting room.
 6. Possible future regular expenses:
 - 6.1. Meeting room expense (because of changes at GHS)
 - 6.2. Storage space expense (FRCOG being charged at Casey Storage soon)
 7. Upcoming Public Service Events:
 - 7.1. August 23, D2R2 Franklin Land Trust
 - 7.2. Sept. 28, Food Bank; KB1NEK will contact organizers
 - 7.3. October 19 Crop Walk Phill N1YPS organizing, will be in Montague.
 8. Dues are due in September! We would like to invite former members back into the fold again, perhaps a mailing to former members can be arranged.
 9. The 440 repeater tower is still down (literally). Al N1AW may put a temporary (low) antenna up until a new tower is raised.
 10. Al will post a link to a new color-coded calendar of events on the website. He is soliciting meeting topics for September and October. Some ideas for speakers were Rob Quinn-O'Connor Red Cross, Tracy Rogers FRCOG Regional Preparedness Program Manager, Matt Wilhelm W1MSW ARRL Contest Branch Manager, Signal Corps speaker, ham radio historian speaker.
 11. VE ham radio licensing session in Northfield on Monday, Aug. 25, at 7:00 PM. Al said there may be 15 candidates for this session.
 12. Possible Technician licensing course: club may teach another course in late September, considering using "short" format with 3 nights and a Saturday; students would have to buy book and read before class started, use classroom sessions substantially for Q&A. Northampton & Easthampton CERT/MRC may be interested. Bruce KB1TLX will check with John Pise KX1X about UMASS students. Will check with Rich AB1RS to see if he would like to administer licensing test. Could be as many as 60 students.
 13. It was noted that Deerfield repeater (owned by Rich AB1RS) is now open, no DCS or PLL.

News, Activities & Articles

VE SESSION, AUGUST 25, 2014

Our August VE session resulted in two brand-new hams and three upgrades. Russ Pasternak will be a new Technician. Amy McNeil will be a new Extra, having taken and passed Technician, General, and Extra tests all in one evening. Her new call is AB1WH. Other new callsigns have not been posted online yet. Upgrading to Extra was John Glezen KB1URV, who got his original Technician license at our August 2010 session. Upgrades to General were earned by Ann McGettigan-Erez KC1CFG, and also by Leon Small KC1BZD, who was originally licensed at our May 2014 session.

NEW DIRECTOR BRUCE FULLER

Bruce Fuller KB1TLX has been appointed by the board to fill out the remaining 1 year of Ron Niswander's term as director. Ron K8HSF was elected FCARC vice-president at the annual meeting in June.

TRIATHLON AUGUST 3RD, RICH STEWART KB1NOX

I along with Chet Chin my alternate were net Control. Chet brought his wife Lisa, and Jeanne Dodge had also joined us. We had two guests come up to assist us with much needed personnel on hand. We had Rich LaViolette KC1AEO come and join us from Ludlow. We also had KB1CWQ Jim Brisbois and his wife join us and they came up from Chesterfield, Ma. Kudos to the both of them.



It was an eventful day. The sky was overcast, with temperatures in the upper 60s and after the swim, the race took to the bicycles and then a light rain began. This made for a slick road and the S turn on Country Club Road where the railroad overpass is located, the road became treacherous. For the first time in numerous years, there were downed cyclists. It only rained for 20 to 25 minutes but riders fell due to the slick road on the south side of the railroad overpass. One cyclist, according to Bruce KB1TLX, lost control his front wheel folded

under and locked, then the rider went over the handle bar and landed on his shoulder and head and scraped his helmet really good, and injured his shoulder, to which end we had to call Christy Moore and have the Ambulance dispatched to the scene. The rider was iced for a few, cleaned a small patch of road rash and he returned to the race. After the race was over and I was home, I heard on one of my scanners that the same rider had an ambulance dispatched to his home and his wife had called because he had passed out and was unconscious. The EMT tech aboard the ambulance described his having fallen during the bike portion of the Triathlon race, to medical personnel at the hospital via two way radio. I hope he is doing better today. There were a total of 6 riders who went down and received only minor injuries on the south side of the Railroad overpass after the light bit of rain. I did see one rider with road rash down his whole right side from shoulder to ankle.



After the first bike racers switched over the foot race course, I had to move Belle KB1NOG and Rich KC1AEO over to the foot race course to complete coverage over there. Once those two had moved Al N1AW moved backwards on the bike course to cover Barton Road. Later we learned that this was to the advantage to several people because the bike repair SAG Wagon was missing and found on Barton Road by N1AW.

My thanks goes out to all who participated: KC1AEO Rich LaViolette, Belle KB1NOG, N1AW Al, WA1QKT Bob, KB1TLX Bruce up from Florence, Ron K8HSF, Chris Dickerman K1SMY, Brothers Andrew and Alex KB1YZA & KB1TKB, Jim Brisbois KB1CWQ, Carter WAITVS, Kathy KB1SNA, Chris Myers KB1NEK, Chet Chin N1XPT, and myself KB1NOX.

BRIDGE OF FLOWERS RACE AUGUST 9TH, CHRIS MYERS KB1NEK



Once again the FCARC provided communications support for the annual Bridge of Flowers Race in Shelburne Falls. We had about 16 members spread out along the course, almost all of them on the long part of it



this year. Another change from previous years was the location of our central control point, which we set up in front of a vacant lot on Bridge St, across from the Arms Library. The location allowed for an ambulance and police vehicle to be parked near our station, to allow for easy communication. We also brought our own radio capable of monitoring or even communicating directly with the EMS personnel and police who were on duty for the race.

Over all, the race went more smoothly than ever before. Coordination between our volunteers and the other race volunteers was friendly and efficient, so we were able to enjoy the nice weather and watch the event.



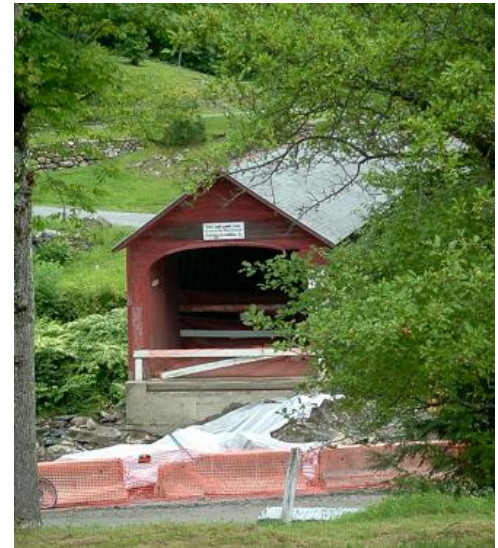
DEERFIELD DIRT ROAD RANDONEE (D2R2) AUGUST 23RD, BOB SOLOSKO W1SRB

FCARC volunteers provided communication for the Franklin Land Trust's (FLT) bicycle tour event on August 23rd. This was an all-day event in which



almost 1300 cyclists followed routes of up to 120 miles over routes that stretched from Deerfield to Brattleboro and Marlboro VT, and as far west as Rowe and Charlemont. Our assignment was limited, but quite essential: we





linked sites along the Green River in Leyden and Guilford VT with the event headquarters in Deerfield. There was no land line or cell phone service available at these remote sites, so we were not just a backup, we were the major communications link.

As in previous years, the lunch stop for all routes was at the covered bridge in Guilford VT. This year, about a week before D2R2, FLT learned that the covered bridge was closed for construction. This resulted in last minute route changes and in lunch sites being set up on both sides of the river. Thus, to facilitate communications between these two sites, as well as with the event headquarters, FCARC set up communications on both sides of the river.



We relayed many messages between Deerfield and the remote sites and the event sponsors were very glad for our help. It was a long day, we were on the air at our net control station from 8:30 a.m. to almost 5 p.m.

FCARC operators participating were, Bob WA1QKT and Al N1AW Guilford East, Chris KB1NEK and Ron K8HSF (Guilford East), Cathy KB1SNA and Julie KB1WPT (Leyden), Carter WA1TVS and Bob W1SRB (Deerfield), and Bruce KB1TLX (Deerfield and Guilford East).





W1ZPB ANTENNA TAKEDOWN SALVAGE PARTY



Walt Congdon, W1ZPB, who died in December 2012, left numerous antennas at his home in Northfield. At the request of his wife Betty, FCARC members descended on Betty's house on July 19th and August 8th after the FCARC breakfasts to remove many of the antennas. It was an interesting and challenging task since there were a number of wire antennas and many of the feedlines were tangled and overgrown with vines.



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 (cmyers1@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 Bob Solosko at w1srb@arrl.net.