

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR

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November 2017

Upcoming Events

- Nov 18 Sat 8:00 am Breakfast, Denny's Pantry
- Nov 18 Sat 10:00 am Fox Hunt, Franklin County Amateur Radio Emergency group members invited, meet at north end of Cherry Rum parking area
- Nov 20 Mon 6:00 pm E-Board; 7:15 pm General Meeting, GCC Hammond Studio, Program: Digital Modes, Chris KB1NEK
- Nov 27 Mon 7:00 pm VE exams, Northfield Unitarian Church
- Dec 4 Mon 6:00 pm Holiday Potluck Shelburne Senior Center
- Dec 16 Sat 8:00 am Breakfast, Denny's Pantry;

Dec 16 Sat 10:00 am Franklin County Amateur Radio Emergency
Communications group, GCC Hammond Studio
Dec 18 Mon 7:00 pm E-Board, GCC Hammond Studio

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. Membership runs from September 1 to August 31 each year.

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 a receipt mailed to you.

November FCARC Program: Digital Modes

Digital Modes will be the program for the November 20th FCARC meeting. Chris KB1NEK has been experimenting with digital modes for emergency communications, for which detailed information needs to be transmitted reliably. We expect a few other club members who have experimented with other digital modes which support short contacts with weak signals may participate.

The November 20th meeting will start at 7:15 pm at our usual location, the Hammond Lounge, room E132 in the East Building of GCC. Directions can be found on our website at www.fcarc.org/directions.htm

Holiday Pot Luck ...

- AI N1AW

... will be at 6 p.m. Monday December 4th at the Senior Center in Shelburne Falls, same location as last year. We have done well with a true potluck, but if you would like you can let AI, N1AW what you plan to bring or ask for suggestions.

We will have a real auction this year; we have had many items donated to the club. Do you have something you would like to get rid of? Please plan on taking part in the auction.

Public Service Event: Crop Walk - Richard Stewart KB1NOX

The 2017 Crop Walk was organized by Mr. Steve Damon of Gill, Ma and his sister Cathy along with the minister of the 2nd Congregational Church on the town Common of Greenfield, right next door to the Town Hall. The walk took place on Sunday October 15, 2017 beginning at 2:30 PM. Radio volunteers for this event were: Rich, KB1NOX, Howard, N1LUP, Joe, Kb1WVO, Chet, N1XPT Carter, WA1TVS and Jeanne, KC1DCQ

This CROP Walk was the first event for the 147.120 repeater.



E-board meeting Monday, October 16, 2017 - Chris Myers KB1NEK

Jeanne raised the concern that our public service events this year have not been as strong as in the past. She said only five participated this year at the Crop Walk in Greenfield. She suggested a couple of members of the e-board should talk about long term solutions, and volunteered to do it. Joe volunteered to help.

Howard has secured space at the Senior Center in Shelburne Falls for this year's holiday party on Monday, December 4.

Howard gave the following financial report: The current club balance is back up to \$2,548, including \$1,182 in recent donations prompted by the fund raising letter Chris sent out. The major part of the donations was contributed by a single individual. In addition the club has recently sold \$647 worth of equipment donated to the club. We have received \$238 in dues for this year.

Al presented e-board members with a list of other equipment we have recently received from Dick Burnham, AC1L, and the estate of John Ragle, who recently passed away. We have been offered radio equipment belonging to Harry Dunning, who passed away a month ago. Chris, Belle, and Al plan to look at that equipment in a couple of weeks.

We discussed possible programs for future membership meetings. Stimulated by the recent Red Cross request for amateur radio operators to help in Puerto Rico using WINLINK, Al asked Chris to make a presentation at the November meeting on WINLINK and related digital text modes for radio.

At the full membership meeting, Jeanne volunteered to be the "Fox" for the fox hunt after the club breakfast on November 18.

Al mentioned that the Hampden County Amateur Radio Club plans to put on another class for new licensees soon, but will make it more of an educational approach than in the past, where they concentrated on helping people memorize answers to the test questions. Al also said the HCARA is sponsoring a contest to use the newly opened low frequency bands. They are offering a prize of \$100 for the ham who makes the longest distance contact on one of these bands up until March. See the [HCARA web site, www.hcara.org](http://www.hcara.org) for exact details

News, Activities & Articles

FCARC Technician License Class at GCC

- Al N1AW

In October we conducted a Technician Amateur Radio License Class at GCC. It was presented under the auspices of GCC's Lifelong Learning program which is widely advertised throughout our area. We presented four evening classes, each three hours long and covering approximately two chapters of the ARRL License Manual each evening. These were followed by a Saturday morning review session and a VE License Exam session in early Saturday afternoon. Eleven students signed up for the class, one dropped out after the first session and ten others followed through. Of these eight passed their Technician test, and we expect one other who could not attend the Saturday session will find another opportunity soon to pass the test.

Jeanne KC1DCQ is a member of the GCC faculty. So she made the arrangements to have our class listed as a GCC offering and was listed as the teacher of record. Others assisting in teaching were Belle KB1NOG, Bob W1SRB, Roy K1LKY, and Al N1AW. For the VE session Anne KC1CRS, Keith KU1N, and Ron K8HSF assisted teacher-VEs Belle and Al.

As a side effect of making the arrangements for the class, Jeanne learned that Alyce Stiles, Dean of GCC's Workforce Development and Community Education, had previously held an amateur radio license. Alyce was interested in regaining a license, and the first thought was that she might sit in on some of our classes for review and then take the license exam with our students. But then we learned that her license had expired slightly less than two years ago, and she could still take advantage of the two-year grace period during which an expired license can be renewed. At the very last minute, on the very day of expiration of her license, the renewal went through. So we hope we will see Alyce KB2WCA on the air or at some of our events.

Our newly licensed Technicians are:

Rebecca Addison, KC1IJG
Karen Bierwert, KC1IJH
Kyle P. Dragon, KC1IJL
Erika LaForme, KC1IJJ
Trevor Meservey, KC1IJK
Theodore M. Schiff, KC1IJL
Jesse J. Sinclair, KC1IJM
Mark Wasielewski, KC1IJN

Our policy is to give a free year's membership in the club to hams who obtain their first license at one of our VE sessions. Welcome to FCARC!

November Fox Hunt Tradition Continues - AI N1AW

In the world of sports reporting any event becomes a "classic" after it has been repeated for a few years. On November 18th, following our breakfast at Denny's, we will continue our classic Fox Hunt tradition, revived six years ago after a hiatus of several years.

The fox-box will be escorted to its hiding place by Jeanne, KB1DCQ, while the rest of us finish our breakfast. At 10 a.m. hunters will convene at the north end of the Cherry Rum parking lot to listen for the sound of the fox, on the same frequency as our Leyden 146.985 MHz repeater. Extra fox-hunting gadgetry, including directional antennas, will be available to loan to participants who are new to this activity.

In 2015 it took an hour and a half for the first hunter to find the fox in the Leyden Wildlife Management Area just over the Greenfield town line. In 2016 it took three hours, many frustrated hunters were milling around a wooded area next to the Green River Cemetery. Can anyone do better than two years ago?

Harry Dunning, W2HMD SK

In late August, Harry Dunning, W2HMD, died following a long illness. Harry was originally from New York State, but has lived with his wife, Jane, in Shelburne Falls for many years. He

served on the Shelburne Falls Fire Department for eleven years, and as one of its commissioners for several years. He also served as president of the Buckland Shelburne Community Center.

At several runnings of the Bridge of Flowers Race, Harry offered the use of one of the fire department radios to the club's radio control station so we could make quick contact with the ambulance crew if necessary.

Harry was also a good friend of Bill Campbell, another ham living in Shelburne Falls, who died a number of years ago.

We need Mentors!

Anne KC1CRS is showing Jeanne KC1DCQ some radios, a net to take part in...

We need more mentors; we have new operators, let's help them and encourage them.



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@gamil.com).