

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR
THE COMMUNICATOR

October 2018

Upcoming Events

- Sep 30 Sun WB4F (Will Bike for Food), Hatfield to Vermont
- Oct 6 Sat 8:00 am Breakfast, Denny's Pantry
- Oct 6 Sat 10:00 am Franklin County Amateur Radio Emergency Communications group, GCC Hammond Studio
- Oct 9 Tue 6:00 pm License Class, GCC
- Oct 11 Thu 6:00 pm License Class, GCC
- Oct 14 Sun 2:30 pm Crop Walk, Greenfield
- Oct 15 Mon 6:00 pm E-Board; 7:15 pm General Meeting at GCC Hammond Studio.
- Oct 16 Tue 6:00 pm License Class, GCC
- Oct 18 Thu 6:00 pm License Class, GCC
- Oct 23 Tue 6:00 pm License Class, GCC
- Oct 25 Thu 6:00 pm License Class and VE License Exam, GCC
- Nov 10 Sat 8:00 am Breakfast, Denny's Pantry
- Nov 10 Sat 10:00 am Fox Hunt, Franklin County Amateur Radio Emergency group members invited
- Nov 12 Mon 6:00 pm E-Board; 7:15 pm General Meeting, GCC Hammond Studio

Club Meeting notice:

On October 15th at 7:15pm we will have a presentation on WINLINK and the NTS given by Greg Bennett KC1CIC. Given that Greg is from Hull MA we will be doing this presentation via Skype. Greg serves as the Assistant Section Traffic Manager (ASTM) for the National Traffic System in Eastern Mass. I would appreciate if there are questions that you have in advance to forward them to me (rangerfriday@gmail.com) so we can forward them to him in advance of the presentation.

September 2018

Secretary's Report

FCARC DRAFT Minutes of meetings on 10 September 2018

Present for e-board meeting: elected officers, Aaron, Al, Belle, Howard, Joe, Ron and Chris (recording secretary). Also present were Anne, Becky, Carter, Erika, and Keith

1. Chris asked if there is enough interest to provide radio coverage at a shelter drill that will possibly take place in November at the Mohawk Regional High School. A number of us participated in such a drill in the spring of 2017. The consensus was a willingness to participate, especially if the date does not conflict with the already scheduled Fox Hunt on Nov. 10.
2. Another license class is scheduled for October 9 to the 25. So far 5 have signed up through GCC, including two youngsters. Recently Aaron talked to a Boy Scout group, and told them about amateur radio and the upcoming class. Scouts get a merit badge if they take and pass the technician test.
3. For the upcoming license class, the volunteer examination team is planning to try a new paper work process, using the Laurel team instead of the ARRL. Jeff Bail, NT1K, has been giving tests in Hampden County under Laurel sponsorship, and is happy with the switch. No fee is required for Laurel to process test papers. So students in the class in October would pay GCC a fee of \$15, which would not then be transferred to the club to send to the ARRL.

The VE team still needs to settle on procedures and locations for all future regular test sessions.

4. Aaron and others plan to attend the NEARFEST and sell club surplus equipment. It is held on Oct. 12 and 13. Al also mentioned the Nutmeg fest in Connecticut later in the fall.
5. Becky will put together the next Communicator. Send any useful material to her by the 25th of September. Notices of upcoming events should be sent even sooner, to guarantee the details are properly entered in the Communicator.
6. Aaron reported on an extensive conversation he had with Section Manager, Ray Lajoie, over the weekend. He says that Ray praised the work the club has been doing. He also mentioned that the league is anxious for more detailed reporting from the section. Ray would like us to report actual hours and number of participants at our events.
7. We batted around ideas for programs at general meetings. Several who attended the hamfest at Boxboro mentioned interesting speakers we might want to invite to come to Greenfield. Al mentioned a talk on the history of the novice license. Anne mentioned going to two or three talks about attracting younger people into the hobby. She mentioned the club in Nashua, NH that has hands on experience in their training classes.
8. Several club members attended a discussion about WINLINK at Boxboro. Chris talked about his own experience using WINLINK, and suggested it might be appropriate for a session after a club breakfast.
9. Chris expressed concern that we still have not established another channel to seek permission to use GCC facilities.

[A quick correction for last months minutes 'Jeff Bail, NT1K is NOT the Hampden County Radio Association president anymore. That is a position he retired from in June of 2017.' --Editor]

News, Activities & Articles

The ARRL recognizes the importance of using social media outreach. In fact the ARRL itself has a presence on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.
(<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-social-media>)

FCARC is looking for members (even if you are brand new to the club) to help us with our social media outreach efforts. If you are a whiz at Instagram we would love to hear from you! If you would like to help with our Facebook and/or Twitter accounts we'd love to hear from you too.

Please reach out to Aaron Addison, FCARC president, or Rebecca Addison (k1bky@arrl.net), current admin for the Twitter account, if you can help out.

Thanks!
Rebecca Addison, K1BKY

Upcomming Ham Fests and conventions:

NEAR-Fest XXIV
October 12 & 13, 2018
Deerfield, New Hampshire

Nutmeg Hamfest And Connecticut State ARRL Convention Sponsored by the Meriden Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Sunday, October 21st, 2018
Sheraton Four-Points Hotel
275 Research Parkway
Meriden, CT 06450

NEEDED : WILL BIKE 4 FOOD EVENT VOLUNTEERS

We will again this year provide communication assistance for The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts fund raising event on September 30 th. At a meeting that I had with the Food Bank organizers, they requested our assistance in areas that have poor or not cell phone coverage. The routes are unchanged from last year which will require us to cover the area in Vermont, extending through Leyden, Colrain and Shelburne. In addition there is a small area in Whately and Williamsburg which includes the water stop in Williamsburg.

Net Control will set up at the event HQ located at the Lion's Club Pavilion in Hatfield same as last year. The 100 mile route begins at 7am, but will not arrive in the Vermont area that we cover until sometime after 8am. The Whately area will not need coverage until later in the morning, possible 10am or 11am. These times will be better determined in the next week. We will need volunteers to cover the above route areas

and net control. We may also have riders with the Food Bank volunteer route monitors and at the Williamsburg and Guilford water stops.

Submitted by Ron Niswander K8HSF

**-- Please Contact Ron if your available to help, his contact information is on the FCARC.org site.
Editor --**

The Ares Corner
[www.arrl.org/ares]

About Anderson Powerpole connectors

If you remember from when studying for your FCC license “When normal communications systems are not available, amateur stations may make transmissions necessary to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property [47 CFR 97.403]. This provision of emergency communications is regulated by Part 97, Subpart E of the FCC's rules.”

Why all this background? Its just to say, the time may come when you need to cooperate with others in an emergency. Having a standard type of power connector is just one part of the larger puzzle that is emergency communications.

Anderson Powerpoles provide a relatively unique method to make power connections in a standard and what I like to call a fool resistant method. Each connector, can attach to another without a specific polarity or “gender” the connectors are universal, and when you attach one to another it can only connect one way. The Ares national group recommends connecting them as in the top image below. More details are available here [<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/TrainingModules/Technical/Anderson%20powerpole.pdf>]

Next month I will write briefly about how to do the install, and crimping your own connectors. The the month after I hope to do a simple project with you, showing some of the uses of the connectors in a real world application.



Aaron, KC1CXX

THE COMMUNICATOR is an informational publication for members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. Officers: President: Aaron Addison (kc1cxx@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 (bdyer582@juno.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).

Back issues of the Communcicator are online at <http://www.fcarc.org/commun.htm>