

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR
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February 2019

Upcoming Events

FCARC events in February 2019

- *Feb 2 Sat* 9:00 am **Sleigh Bell Race**, HQ at Hope and Olive Restaurant, Greenfield.
- *Feb 9 Sat* 8:00 am **Breakfast**, Denny's Pantry; 10 am, **Antenna Construction Workshop**, GCC East Building Room 110.
- *Feb 11 Mon* 6:00 pm **E-Board**, 7:15 pm **General Meeting**, GCC East Building Room 110.
- *Feb 25 Mon* 7:00 pm **VE License Exams**, GCC East Building Room 110.

Notes on February events:

- Sleighbell Race:
Radio ops report to event HQ at Hope and Olive Restaurant by 9 am. Sign up by email to [Erika, KC1IJJ](mailto:etlaforme@yahoo.com) (mailto:etlaforme@yahoo.com).
- Antenna Workshop:
The FCARC Antenna Build day, February 9th, will begin at 10 am. Please e-mail [Aaron, KC1CXX](mailto:kc1cxx@arrl.net) (mailto:kc1cxx@arrl.net) to let him know if you would rather build a tape measure yagi antenna, or a roll-up J-Pole antenna. We will be building both antennas but there will only be time for each person to build one during the workshop. In addition to letting Aaron know the type of antenna you want to build please tell him the radio you plan to build for - so we can have the right connectors on hand. There is no charge for this workshop.
- VE License Exam:
For general information about VE (Volunteer Examiner) sessions conducted by the FCARC VE Team, see the VE License Exams web page (www.fcarc.org/venews.htm). Please note, that, although walk-ins are allowed, we prefer to be informed in advance of how many examinees to expect, and we may cancel a session if we don't know for sure in advance that at least one candidate intends to attend. We ask you to let us know by the Friday before a Monday exam session. If a decision is made to cancel the session notice will be posted on the [fcarc.org website](http://www.fcarc.org) (<http://www.fcarc.org>).
For questions or more information contact [Al, N1AW](mailto:n1aw@arrl.net) (mailto:n1aw@arrl.net)

Please register for the antenna workshop by Monday February 4th so I can make sure to have the needed parts on hand. - Aaron kc1cxx

January 2018

Secretary's Report

Minutes of e-board on 14 January 2019

elected members present: Aaron, Al, Belle, Erika, Howard, Joe, Ron, and Chris (note taker)

also present: Anne

Aaron reported that a group in Orange has asked if one or more of us would teach a one day tech license class. Later in the meeting, their representative, Randy Platt arrived to talk to Aaron. No one present seemed interested in offering to teach such a class.

Aaron also mentioned a request from the Hampden County Amateur Radio Club (HCARA) to have one or more of us go to one of their meetings to teach a class on radio direction finding (fox hunting). Such a class would not be until their October meeting. Al and Erika expressed interest in doing a presentation.

Al mentioned that the Mount Tom Amateur Repeater Association (MTARA) will again hold a hamfest, on March 9. He said he would contact them about having a table for us to sell surplus club equipment or individually owned equipment. [Al subsequently learned such tables will not be free this year.]

Al reported that Christie Moore, the Greenfield recreation director has confirmed her desire to have ham radio operators again around the course of the Sleigh Belle Race, on Feb. 2. Erika volunteered to organize radio operators if she could get some help with setting up equipment. Chris volunteered to help with the equipment. [As of the info net on Jan. 24, Erika had a list of about eight volunteers, and two more offered to help during the net.]

Aaron offered to lead an after breakfast workshop for making either J-pole or tape measure 2m beam antennas, of the kind used in fox hunts. This can be done after the monthly breakfast on Feb. 9, if there is enough interest.

The idea of checking our equipment used for Field Day came up again. Months ago we talked about doing more this year to reduce interference between stations. Al suggested testing the radios indoors, in an after breakfast meeting. He thinks using attenuators on a transmitter, we can use a receiver in the same building to listen for spurious emissions. Chris suggested setting up an actual portable antenna on a softball field near his house, and testing to see if spurious emissions could be heard on his home antenna, which is about 150 to 200 yards away. Such a test would more closely resemble actual Field Day setup.

The club will offer a general class license course, starting March 25, and continuing for three weeks. He [Al Woodhull] is ordering several General Class Manuals from the ARRL for those interested in teaching the course.

January 25 is the deadline for articles to the Communicator.

Chris Myers, kb1nek

Editors notes in [].

News, Activities & Articles

ARRL to Revise Radio Parity Act Policy

AI, N1AW

(Information from YCCC mailing list and January 24 ARRL Letter)

The ARRL is going to withdraw its recent FCC rule making petition and is asking members of Congress who had refiled legislation to enact the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA) to refrain from seeking to advance that legislation pending further input from the ARRL.

At its annual meeting January 18–19, the ARRL Board of Directors decided that the organization needs to “review, re-examine, and reappraise ARRL’s regulatory and legislative policy with regard to private land use restrictions.”

In order to effectively undertake such a review, the Board adopted a resolution to withdraw its December 18 Petition for Rule Making to the FCC, which sought to amend the Part 97 Amateur Service rules to incorporate the provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA), without prejudice to refiling.

Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, our newly elected ARRL Director for the New England Division, argued against the version being withdrawn during his campaign. The original version would ask the FCC to grant radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities the right to install effective outdoor antennas. But some felt that it still gave too much away to homeowner associations, and it could lead to restrictions that could limit hams to nothing better than a 440 MHZ whip. Our former Director, Tom Frenaye, K1KI, argued that the political power of real estate interests was too great for the ARRL to get Congress to consider a stronger version. Apparently other newly elected Directors agree more with Fred than with Tom.

NEEDED : EVENT VOLUNTEERS

The FCARC needs volunteers for people who are willing to help out with the 2019 Sleigh Bell Run. People are needed to staff race positions and give runner progress reports and make sure any medical needs are forwarded to the correct staff members.

Outreach events like this are an important part of the reason behind Amateur Radio.

Sleighbell Race *Feb 2 Saturday*

Radio ops report to event HQ at Hope and Olive Restaurant by 9 am. Sign up by email to [Erika, KC1IJJ](mailto:etlaforme@yahoo.com) (mailto:etlaforme@yahoo.com).

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>