

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR
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April 2019

Upcoming Events

- Apr 6 Sat 8:00 am Breakfast, Denny's; 10 am, Field Day QRM Demos & Tests, GCC East Building Room 110
- Apr 8 Mon 6:00 pm E-Board; 7:15 pm General Meeting, GCC East Building Room 110
- Apr 10 Wed 7:00 pm VE License Exam; final of General License class, GCC East Building Room 128. Exam administered by Pioneer Valley VE Team, open to public, see website: <https://pvvet.org/>
- Apr 15 Mon Patriots Day Boston Marathon

March 2019

Secretary's Report

Minutes of FCARC e-board meeting on 11 March 2019

1. Anne hopes to put together a panadapter waterfall display at the GOTA station on Field Day so participants can see traces of signals near our own. Al suggested having a separate receiver connected to a simple antenna, perhaps a wire thrown over the edge of the cliff, to alleviate probable de-sensitizing that radio by signals from our own transmitters. Aaron said he has a suitable display screen.
2. To avoid inter-station interference on FD, several have suggested each station have an HT on to allow notification of other stations when changing bands or when interference is heard.
3. Aaron said he is scheduled to be out of town on FD weekend, on a teaching assignment. If so, we need someone to take over assembling an SSB station.
4. The club owns two multi-band band pass filters.
5. Al said he took out \$20 from sales of used equipment at MTARA hamfest on Saturday, to reimburse himself for the amount he spent to rent a table.

Chris

News, Activities & Articles

New Hams from February VE Session

Three candidates came to our February 26th VE License Exam session at GCC and all of them passed the Technician test. One week later we knew their callsigns. If you hear these people on the air please say hello:

Nicholas, KC1LCD

Matthew, KC1LCE

Kerry, KC1LCF

AL, N1AW

Leyden Repeater & Documentation Update

Recently our 146.985 MHz Leyden repeater had been acting erratically, unpredictably being difficult to receive in some locations. An on-site measurement of output power indicated that power output was often much lower than it ought to have been.

On Thursday March 7th the repeater transmitter was replaced with a spare unit, and power output was adjusted. Several hours later all seems to be working OK but N1AW would appreciate receiving reports from users, particularly from anyone who previously had difficulties.

Some documents about our repeaters that have been updated recently are available on the website. The Leyden repeater has several features that can be accessed using DTMF (Touch-Tone) codes available on keypads of many handheld radios: <http://fcarc.org/Files/PublicRepeaterCodes.txt>.

AL, N1AW

2019 ARRL Field Day is June 22-23

Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

Every year during Field day FCARC, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, has a GOTA, Get On the Air, station. This station is one of my passions in Amateur Radio. The FCARC GOTA normally uses the Greenfield high school call sign (KB1MSU) which is different from the primary Field Day station call sign (AC1L). Our club goal is to help everyone who is interested Get On the Air.

The GOTA station may be operated by any person licensed since the previous year's Field Day, regardless of license class. It may also be operated by inactive licensee and all those holding a technician license. Non-licensed persons may participate under the direct supervision of an appropriate control operator. For the past several years I have had the privilege of working as the GOTA coach/control operator with support from many club members. The GOTA station may operate on any Field Day band and in 2018 GOTA operators made contacts on 2m, 15 m, 20m, 40m and 80m. In 2018 we had a great year with many visitors and 11 operators, 3

of whom got more than 20 contacts. Four of our operators were unlicensed, 7 were technicians or newly licensed, and 2 were under 18. The GOTA operators talked to 95 stations with some as far away as Hawaii and California. Let's beat these numbers in 2019.

Come join us at field day and Get on the Air. Let's not waste one minute of the 24 hours we have available. While many clubs are focused on score our club wants to help more Hams and visitors Get On the Air and have fun with Amateur Radio using the support and assistance of club members to help them get started. Sign up for time to operate at the GOTA station, come watch, and bring your friends. We will try to make sure everyone who comes gets a turn. See you on field day June 22, 2019 to June 23, 2019. There is always lots to do and see. GOTA!!

Anne, N1YL

NEEDED : HF Radio Gear

Currently there is a general radio class entering its last week, if anyone has any HF gear in good repair that they want to sell or donate to the class members I am sure it would be most welcome.

Items that are donated will be entered in to a free lottery for class members. Items made available for sale will be presented to all on a first come first served basis.

Please contact me, Aaron Addison via kc1cxx@arrl.net

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>