

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR THE COMMUNICATOR

September 2019

Upcoming Events

- Sep 1 Sun (all day) Green River Marathon, Marlboro College to GCC
- Sep 2 Mon Labor Day
- Sep 6,7,8 Fri-Sat-Sun ARRL New England Division Hamfest, Boxboro MA
- Sep 7 Sat 8:00 am Breakfast, Denny's Pantry
- Sep 9 Mon 6:00 pm E-Board, 7:15 pm General Meeting, GCC East Building Room 110
- Sep 29 Sun (all day) WB4F (Will Bike for Food), Hatfield to Vermont

Please note that a full calendar of planned FCARC events for the 2019-2020 club year will be available on the website at <http://www.fcarc.org/activities.htm> by September 1st. This is likely to be updated several times during the year.

Secretary's Report

E-Board Meeting Monday, August 12, 2019 at GCC Secretary Chris Myers KB1NEK

Present: Aaron, Al, Anne, Dick, Erika, Howard, Keith, Ron, and Chris taking notes

1. VE session scheduled for Aug. 26: where to hold it? Aaron reported he has sent about a half dozen messages to various officials at GCC requesting use of space for exams, classes, or regular meetings, and has received no response. Anne reported asking the Greenfield library if we could use a room if we needed to. A room is available for the 26th, but the library has a new policy requiring users to sign a liability waiver. Anne read most of the text of the waiver, and the consensus of the meeting was to avoid such unfriendly legalisms. We decided to publish the exam site as the East Building at GCC, then on the night of the exam we will find a room and put up signs to show the way. We will either persuade Alex Wiltz to open up room 110 for us, or we will use one of the lounges.

Anne agreed to talk to Jeanne to see if Jeanne would make contacts with GCC staff to resolve the long range issue of booking meeting space hopefully for the next year.

2. Al asked to consider permanently switching exam authority from the ARRL to the Laurel VEC, which has a local team called the Pioneer Valley VE Team, headed by team leader, Jeff Bail. The advantage of the latter is almost instant response to exam results from the FCC, plus elimination of collecting money from those who take the test. The consensus was to do this.

The next question Al raised is what to do with about \$200 collected from previous exams given under the ARRL. This money was collected on the understanding that it was to pay for the actual expense of the team giving the test. If we no longer will have to pay any expenses, we should divest ourselves of the money in our bank account. We came to no clear resolution to the question.

3. Al brought up the perennial problem of program topics for future membership meetings. Some of the suggestions made were:

Invite Walter Tibbetts, or similar knowledgeable official to talk about the impending switch of the county wide radio system to the trunked digital one operated by the state police.

Invite Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, from Nashua Area Radio Society, to give a presentation on the successful projects for youth done by his club. These include various science and technology projects, including high altitude balloons.

Invite Jim Mullen, KK1W, and Matt Wilhelm, W1PY, to speak about SOTA activity

Have a do it yourself demonstration night

Ask someone like Jeff Bail to talk about what he learned in the process of buying a new Flex SDR Transceiver.

Have a presentation on internet security.

FCARC Membership Reminder

It is that time of year again to renew your annual membership with the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. To maintain full membership, annual dues are due as of the 1st of September with a grace period to the end of the year. Dues may be mailed directly to me, Howard Field at 7 Laurel St. Shelburne Falls, MA 01370, or catch me at one of the monthly breakfasts at Denny's or at a regular club meeting. Dues are \$15.00 for an adult membership or \$18.00 for a family membership. Checks should be made payable to Franklin County Amateur Radio Club (**FCARC**).

Howard Field N1LUP

Treasurer FCARC

News, Activities & Articles

Greenfield Triathlon, August 4

Despite the worries some had about the modified route of the Greenfield Triathlon, necessitated by the closure of the bridge on Nash's Mill Rd, FCARC's support, coordinated by Erika, KC1IJJ, went off well. Because of rain in previous days the Green River water did not test well enough and the swimming part of the event was cancelled.

The turnaround point for foot and bike racers was at the junction of Green River Rd and Eunice Williams Rd. There runners changed direction by circling in a clockwise direction while cyclists went around them in a counter-clockwise direction. No problems occurred there. Because of closed roads parking was restricted at the Greenfield swim area, and FCARC had a secondary pavilion at the former Polish Picnic Grounds area on Plain Rd.

Bridge of Flowers Race, August 10

The Bridge of Flowers route was changed this year, it became an 8 km run rather than a 10 km run, in order to eliminate worries about runners on the side of busy Rte 112. Chris, KB1NEK, and Howard, N1FUL, coordinated FCARC's support with the Race Committee. The race this year had perfect weather. The event was a success as far as runners and observers were concerned. We had a record turnout of amateur radio volunteers and were able to staff our posts. There were no major radio failures. Overall, this event runs very smoothly and lots of people work very hard. This event is good practice for us as it is an opportunity for us to work cooperatively with other service agencies.

Deerfield Dirt Road Randonee (D2R2) August 17

This was our seventh year assisting the Franklin Land Trust with their big fund-raising event, in which 1500 cyclists rode over eight different routes, the longest of which passed over well over 100 miles of mostly dirt roads. There are a number of check points where event staff provide water, snacks or full lunches to riders; FCARC radio volunteers provide communication between event HQ in Deerfield and remote sites where phone service is not available. Eleven ham radio operators participated. As has happened in the past our operators also were called upon to do some emergency deliveries of supplies and transportation of fatigued or injured riders or riders with broken bikes. FCARC support was coordinated by Bob, W1SRB, and Al, N1AW.

VE Session at GCC, August 26

This is being published too soon after the VE Session for us to know details (we conducted this session using ARRL VEC). Two candidates were successful, Dave passed both the Technician and General Class exams, and Tim passed the Technician exams. We will have details and callsigns on the website and in the next edition of this newsletter.

Some recent pictures

Field day...



Greenfield Triathlon...

(oops, nobody sent the editor any pix of this one)

Bridge of Flowers...



D2R2...



What is wrong with this picture?

A Really Big Antenna in California...

This is W6DSR's 80m through 10m log periodic beam antenna. The longest element is 104' long and the boom is about 75' long. It is mounted on a 100' mast supported by two 80' towers. The rotator is at the bottom. It seems to have taken several years to install this system, and it eventually failed, as seen in this photo. The long story of installing the antenna can be found on W6DSR's website, at <http://w6dsr.com/LP1005AA/index.html>

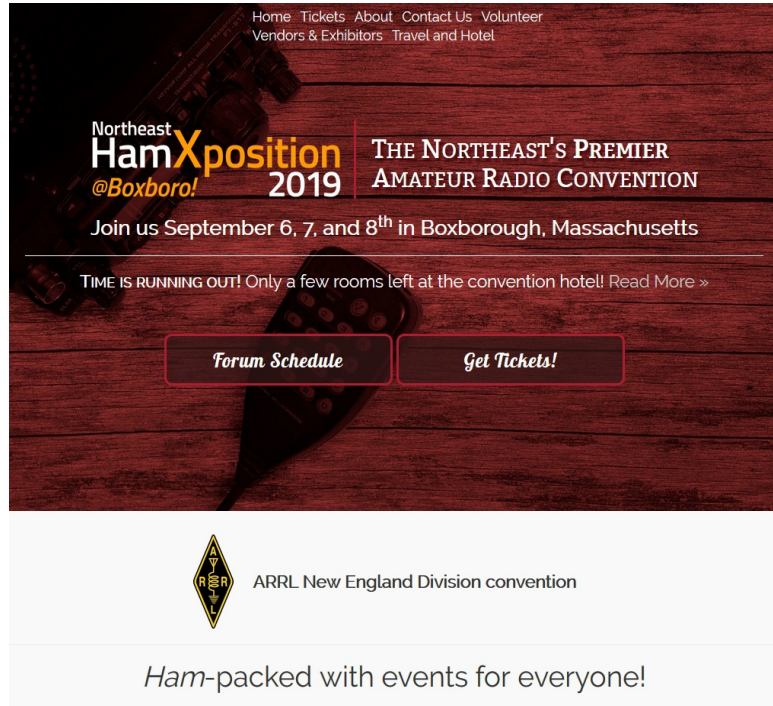
Hint to new hams: you don't really need one of these. If you have the money to even think about it I'd like to meet you.



Boxboro 2019

This year's Boxboro Hamfest will take place on the Friday-Saturday-Sunday September 6-7-8 weekend. Saturday is the main day, although on Sunday there are more talks and the indoor exhibitors are still there, many of the flea market participants come for Saturday only. There is no need to skip the FCARC Breakfast on Saturday, come early, leave by 9 and you can be at Boxboro by 10.

The website is <https://hamxposition.org/>



Home Tickets About Contact Us Volunteer
Vendors & Exhibitors Travel and Hotel


Northeast
HamXposition
@Boxboro! 2019

THE NORTHEAST'S PREMIER
AMATEUR RADIO CONVENTION

Join us September 6, 7, and 8th in Boxborough, Massachusetts

TIME IS RUNNING OUT! Only a few rooms left at the convention hotel! [Read More >>](#)

[Forum Schedule](#) [Get Tickets!](#)

 ARRL New England Division convention

Ham-packed with events for everyone!

As usual, there are door prizes...



Over \$5,000 in door prizes!

Yaesu FTM-7250DR
Elecraft KX2
Hack-in-a-Box

Icom IC-7300

FlexRadio FLEX-6300
Certified Pre-Loved

Yaesu FT DX 3000

West Mountain Radio CLRspkr

Yaesu FT-70DR

Friday DXCC/Contest Dinner

Saturday Grand Banquet

...and many more!

About this issue...

This issue of the Communicator has been edited on a tight schedule and does not have as much content as we would normally like to provide. The October issue will, we hope, not be as thin. But that depends upon some of you, the readers, doing some writing.

Can You Copy at 20 Words Per Minute by Hand?

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

(This is a shortened version of Dan's original item)

About a month ago, this email from the ARRL was sent to the CWOps mailing list from Norm Fusaro, W3IZ:

"I have some exciting news that I want to share with you! The ARRL has reinvigorated the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate program. Several things have changed beginning with our new sponsor, Vibroplex, a legend in Morse telegraphy equipment...

"That's right, each month in QST we will publish the most recent recipients of the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate, beginning with all the 2019 recipients. As a bonus, we are sending all the 2019 CPC holders a new certificate at no cost to replace their older style award.

"The award is available to anyone who copies one solid minute of code during the qualifying runs. Complete program details can be found on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/code-proficiency-certificate>.

"And to make the award available to more people we will double the number of opportunities to copy the CW text. Beginning September 2019, the qualifying runs will increase from twice per week to four times per week."

Almost immediately after I posted this to my blog a friend replied, "How does one copy legibly at 40 wpm?" I replied, "Typing," he countered, "..., it says, 'Legibly copy at least 1 minute of text by HAND...'"

I replied, "Well, I guess you and I are both screwed then. I can't copy by hand at 20 wpm,... I'm guessing that I'm not alone in this regard. ...the ARRL is going to be sending out a lot fewer of these certificates than they think."

I emailed W3IZ for a clarification. He shot back, "By hand is to mean not using a code reading machine." I suggested that he clarify this, both on the ARRL website and in QST. Of course, they haven't yet taken my suggestion, and the website still reads, "Copy one of W1AW's qualifying runs and submit one minute of solid copy (legible)."

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and is one of the presenters on the ICQPodcast (ICQPodcast.Com). Feel free to reply to his CW CQs at any speed you so choose.

NOTE: You can find an image of the new certificate at <https://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Code-Proficiency-Certificate-Vibroplex-768x597.jpg>

THE COMMUNICATOR is an informational publication for members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. Officers: President: Aaron Addison, KC1CXX (kc1cxx@arrl.net), Vice President: Richard Merriott, KC1JQJ (rcmpilot@comcast.net), Treasurer: Howard Field, N1LUP (howfield@comcast.net), Secretary: Chris Myers, KB1NEK (camyers1@verizon.net), Director: Belle Dyer, KB1NOG (bdyer582@juno.com), Director: Jeanne Dodge, KC1DCQ (j.anndodge@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).

This issue can be seen online at <http://www.fcarc.org/communicator/comm201909.pdf> Back issues of the Communicator are online at <http://www.fcarc.org/commun.htm>

What is wrong ... ? the J-Pole antenna is upside down.