

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR THE COMMUNICATOR

December 2019

Upcoming Events

- Dec 7 Sat 8:00 am **Breakfast**, Denny's; 10 am
- Dec 9 Mon 6:00 pm. Annual **FCARC Holiday Potluck Party**, Shelburne Senior Center, Main St, Shelburne Falls. *(Note: no E-Board meeting this month - next meeting Jan 13, 2020)*
- Jan 1 Wed 9:00 am. **Saw Mill River Winter 10K Race** Montague Center. Volunteers report to Net Control at Montague Common Hall, 34 Main St., Montague Center. •

December 2019

Calendar

No Meeting this month: Holiday Potluck Party instead, Monday December 9, 6 p.m.

Our annual Holiday Potluck Party is a go for Dec. 9th at the Shelburne Senior Center on Main St. in Shelburne Falls. Setup will begin at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Howard N1LUP, howfield@comcast.net if you can help. Party time will be from 6:00 PM to 8:00 or 8:30 PM. In the past we have found that anarchy generally works well for us: bring something you would like to eat, chances are others will like it too. Do you have a piece of ham radio equipment that is surplus to your needs? We will have an auction after the meal. Donations are appreciated, but you can also opt to sell for your own account, with a minimum acceptable bid and a suggested 10% contribution to the club.

Secretary's Report

E-Board and Program Meeting Monday November 11, 2019 at GCC

Chris Meyers KB1NEK

E board meeting Notes:

E-board members present: Aaron, Dick, Erika, Howard, and Chris (taking notes). Others present: Al, Anne, Keith, Richard

Erika reported that she has finally been able to file the IRS return and the information required by the Mass. Secretary of State. She had to pay a total of \$31.50 for the necessary fees. Aaron moved, and the board agreed, to reimburse Erika for that amount.

Anne reported that club shirts and sweatshirts can be ordered prior to Nov. 25, allowing all to be picked up at the store and avoiding mailing costs. Details have been posted on the web site.

Chris mentioned seeing the padlock on the storage container open, and having to lock it again. He will notify the club's contact at FRCOG, Greg Lewis, to be on the look out for problems caused when the lock is not closed firmly enough and the dials rotated to some random set of numbers.

There was a discussion about holiday party. The board asked Howard to request use of the Senior Center in Shelburne Falls on Monday, Dec. 9th. If not available, then the 2nd should be the alternative.

Richard has asked the club to try to get Dick Burnham's old call sign, AC1L issued to the club. According to our guest speaker, Jeff Bail, a club can have any number of call signs but only one of them can be a vanity sign, which AC1L would be. The board asked Al to take the steps for applying with the FCC for AC1L, to be used primarily on Field Day, as we did for many years before Dick Burnham died.

Aaron said he has asked Mark Foster, a trainer for FEMA, to come speak about ready kits.

Aaron reported that Erik Sherman has drafted a three paragraph mission statement, which he can send out once he gets it.

Anne asked about having training materials produced by the Nashua, NH club. Aaron said he has scheduled a conference call with officers of the club to explain how we would use their training videos.

As a suggestion for a future meeting program topic, Al suggested a do-it-yourself show and tell night.

General Membership meeting started at 7:15

Jeff Bail made a presentation on Software Defined Radio, using his own Flex 6400 for most of the examples. Afterwards, Jeff agreed to send a file of his Powerpoint slides to Al for posting on the club's website. It has been posted in the files section. The direct link is:

http://fcarc.org/Files/PDF_SDR_and_Flex.pdf

Aaron added (e-mail to Communicator editor): I would like to thank Jeff Bail for this presentation on SDR t our last meeting, it was very informative and I am sure several of our members will be looking into Software Defined Radio in the future. He put in a huge amount of effort to help us understand the concepts, and what SDR can be used for.

News, Activities & Articles

Update: VE Session at GCC, November 25

Jeff Bail, NT1K

We had 6 people register, 5 people showed up and 7 examinations were administered. We ended up with two new technicians licenses. Aaron made a speech about FCARC, talked about membership and he got their contact information.

The two new hams are.

KC1MGJ – Viacheslav, from Nashua New Hampshire

KC1MGK – Scott, from N. Chelmsford Massachusetts

(Jeff is Coordinator of the Pioneer Valley VE Team, which conducts amateur radio license exams under the auspices of the Laurel VEC. FCARC has asked him to conduct exams in our area on a schedule similar to that which we have used for many years.)

FCARC Membership Dues Reminder

Howard Field, N1LUP, FCARC Treasurer

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 the FCARC Treasurer, Howard Field, at 7 Laurel St. Shelburne Falls, MA 01370, or catch Howard 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).

Dues pay for ordinary expenses, such as the newsletter and the website, as well as extraordinary expenses that come up from time to time, such as maintenance or replacement of our repeater hardware and antennas. Dues-paid members may ask to have the monthly newsletter delivered by US Mail (but, of course, we appreciate your willingness to get it by e-mail, as printing and mailing are not only expensive, it is a lot of work).

New Massachusetts Distracted Driving Law and Amateur Radio Operators

Larry Krainson, W1AST posted this note from Ray Lajoie to the Hampden County Radio Association e-mail list

The outpouring of concern statewide from the Amateur Radio Community regarding the impact of the Distracted Driving Law has gotten the attention of our Legislators on Beacon Hill in Boston. Ray, KB1LRL, and Tom, K1TW, wish to thank all the ARRL members in both Western and Eastern Massachusetts who communicated our concerns so effectively as a community to the Senators and Representatives and staff across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

This afternoon Tom Walsh, K1TW, Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager was contacted by the General Counsel of the Joint Committee on Transportation. After discussing these concerns, Ray and Tom were asked to convey the following guidance to our members in both Eastern and Western Massachusetts sections. This guidance is intended to assure everyone that the new law “permits use of a “federally licensed 2–way radio” provided that “1 hand remains on the steering wheel at all times.”.

Clearly this is good news. We are pleased to receive this opinion in writing which states “that a person may operate a motor vehicle while using a federally licensed 2–way radio or mobile telephone, except as provided in sections 8M, 12A and 13B, as long as 1 hand remains on the steering wheel at all times”.

This statement above appears in the first sentence of Section 13, of the Massachusetts General Laws as referenced in the final bill. Below is the full text as received today from the General Counsel of the Joint Committee on Transportation. It is the best clarification we have in writing at this point that the law will not apply to a 2-way mobile radio operation.

Ray Lajoie, KB1LRL, ARRL Section Manager Western Massachusetts

Tom Walsh, K1TW ARRL Section Manager Eastern Massachusetts

Section 13. No person, when operating a motor vehicle, shall permit to be on or in the vehicle or on or about his person anything which may interfere with or impede the proper operation of the vehicle or any equipment by which the vehicle is operator or controlled, except that a person may operate a motor vehicle while using a federally licensed 2–way radio or mobile telephone, except as provided in sections 8M, 12A and 13B, as long as 1 hand remains on the steering wheel at all times.

Official 2019 Field Day Results Posted

AI, N1AW

Although the ARRL recently has been tightening up their deadlines for submitting contest scores, it still takes a long time for results to appear in QST. The December issue of QST has complete results for the 2019 Field Day – with no changes to the numbers posted on our website back in July. Our scores are on page 67.

What is new now is that now we can see how we stand compared to other participants. In Class 2A (club or group with two transmitters) we are 46th of 358 entries. By comparison, in 2018 we were 36th of 304 Class 2A entries.

Tippecanoe ARA					
W9REG	905	2	17	4,382	IN
Crawford ARS					
W3MIE					
(+N3QQH)	947	2	25	4,334	WPA
Franklin Co. (MA) ARC					
N1AW					
(+KB1MSU)	830	2	24	4,312	WMA
Wooster Quad Club					
N8IW	1,048	2	6	4,268	OH
New Providence ARC					
N2XJ					
(+W2FMI)	931	2	47	4,262	NNJ

Field Day Memories on a Snowy December Day.....



December 16 VE Session in West Springfield

Jeffrey Bail, NT1K

Just letting area hams know that there will be a FREE (that's right FREE!!) amateur radio examination taking place at the West Springfield Public Library on Monday, December 16th at 6:00pm. We will be testing for all FCC amateur radio licenses (tech, gen, extra). This is sponsored by the Pioneer Valley VE Team (PVVET).

Anyone who would like to take an exam will be required to pre-register at our website: <http://pvet.org/register>. It's very easy, secure and only takes minutes. That way you can focus on the exam instead of paperwork (we'll do it for you!). Sorry, we do not accept walk-ins.

If you know of anyone that is looking to obtain and/or upgrade their amateur radio license, please let them know. If you have any questions, please refer to the FAQ section on our website: <http://pvet.org/faq>

Simulated Emergency Test, November 3

Photos by Anne, N1YL

The SET took place on Sunday, November 3rd. We set up temporary antennas in the grassy area behind the East Building at GCC.



To support several 2 meter antennas (a beam, a J-Pole, and a discone) and an 80 meter dipole for near vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) we used fibreglass poles similar to the mast we use for the hex beam on Field Day.



2-meter and HF stations were set up in room E-110.

The Communicator and Other Info Channels

AI, N1AW

I sometimes wonder how many people who read the *Communicator* also look at the website. There is some duplication of material, I don't assume that just because something was posted on the website everyone knows about it. The website is a way to get information out quickly. The newsletter is more suited to longer articles. If normally you only look at just one of these you may miss something.

The website top page is www.fcarc.org. At the top of the page there is a banner with links to several important subpages as well as alternatives for news and discussion. I thought it would be worthwhile to reproduce the links here:

There is a website archive <http://www.fcarc.org/newsarchive.htm> where articles that I think might be of lasting interest are posted when I decide it is time to clean up the site. Articles go back to 2007.

There is an index to back issues of the *Communicator* newsletter at <http://www.fcarc.org/commun.htm>.

The official calendar is the Activities page: <http://www.fcarc.org/activities.htm>

There is an FCARC Facebook group (Facebook login required):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1091163077562307/>

... and also a Facebook page (accessible to anyone): <https://www.facebook.com/FCARCMA/>

... and there is an FCARC twitter account: <https://twitter.com/FCARCMA>



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).

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