

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR THE COMMUNICATOR

February 2020

Upcoming Events

- Feb 1 Sat Public Service: Winter Carnival Sleighbell Race, Hope & Olive 9 a.m.
- Feb 8 Sat 8:00 am Breakfast, Denny's
- Feb 10 Mon 6:00 E-Board; 7:15 Meeting, Ray Lajoie "Mentoring New Hams", GCC E110
- Feb 24 Mon 7:00 Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner License Exams, GCC E110
- Mar 7 Sat 8:00 am Breakfast, Denny's ... *then...* Mount Tom ARA Hamfest, Chicopee

February 2020

Calendar

PUBLIC SERVICE: Greenfield Winter Carnival Sleighbell Race, Saturday February 1

Erika KC1IJJ

The Greenfield Winter Carnival Sleigh Bell Race is coming up on Saturday, February 1, 2020. We need some people willing to help out with this race. Erika will coordinate our volunteers. She has spoken with Greenfield Recreation Director Christy Moore and relayed concerns we have had in the past; Christy has responded that she really appreciates our being there. She never knows how many volunteers she will have and often they are young (high schoolers). She trusts us and knows we know what we are doing and is thankful to have a link to people she knows will have eyes on her runners.

For those who haven't done this one or don't remember, this is a very short race, only 4 miles. We will meet around 9 to 9:15 am at Hope & Olive - coffee and donuts are available - and then be at positions by about 9:45 am. We expect to use the Leyden repeater. The race starts promptly at 10 am and we should be done by 11 am (the fastest runners are done in like 20 minutes).

If you'd like to get a little practice with your radio, or want to socialize over coffee, or just want something to do on a Saturday morning, please email [Erika, KC1IJJ](mailto:Erika.KC1IJJ). Tell her if you have a preference for a certain position or if you have any questions.

MEETING: ARRL WMA Section Manager on Mentoring, Monday February 10 at 7:15 at GCC

For our February meeting our ARRL Section Manager Ray Lajoie KB1LRL will be joining us to talk about his new plan around mentoring for new hams. Please join us, and bring your questions about this subject or any other that comes to mind.

Secretary's Report

E-Board and Program Meeting, Monday January 13, 2020 at GCC , Chris Myers KB1NEK

E board meeting Notes:

(Note, this contains some corrections to the original draft)

1. Aaron passed out an agenda that included a list of the equipment he had retrieved from the Greenfield Fire Station. This equipment had been loaned by the club to the Greenfield EOC to be used for Vermont Yankee drills and actual emergency use where amateur radio communication was called for.

This list included:

Icom IC-2100H 25N, 2m mobile radio, no longer in production

Icom IC-2200H, 2m mobile radio, no longer in production

Alinco DR-435, 70cm mobile radio, old version, but newer version is still produced

Alinco DR-M06T, 6m radio, discontinued

Kantronics KPC-3, Terminal Node Connector, newer version is still produced

Bearcat BC 950 xlt scanner

Astron 30 A power supply

After this list is published in the Communicator, some of these items will be offered up for auction. The auction will take place on Aaron's website [*more info below*]. Whatever is left will go to various hamfests for sale.

2. A motion was made and passed to reimburse Keith for the \$61.74 he spent to ship the recently purchased club TS-590 back to California for repairs. The radio has been returned and tested by Keith and Chris, and seems to perform as specified.

3. There was some discussion about the possibility of purchasing coaxial cable jumpers to use at the MACC site at GCC. In view of the results of recent testing at that site, it was decided to table the discussion of any additional club purchases.

4. Keith requested Al to give Chris and club clerk, Erika, information needed to log into and update the FCARC website, as well as the information needed to maintain the web address and hosting service.

5. Aaron suggested creating a separate bank account for ARES use. Howard explained that he now has to keep track of three separate pools of money in one single bank account. Besides the club's own money, the account includes \$226 from the VE team, and \$1198 from the High School club, which no longer shows much sign of life. Since license tests are now being done by the Laurel group, it should be possible to dispose of the \$226 from the VE team. Because Al was not present, we decided not to make a decision on this.

General Membership meeting started at 7:15

After the adjournment of the e-board meeting, Mark Foster, from the Shrewsbury EOC team made a presentation on personal emergency go kits, often called Bug out Bags (B.O.B's).

News, Activities & Articles

Surplus Equipment On-Line Auction

Aaron KF1G

The FCARC has some ham radio gear available for sale. So we are holding an auction.

A list of the items is at <https://www.kf1g.net/auctions/>.

Please note items will not be mailed but will be available for pick up at the March breakfast or club meeting unless you contact me to make other arrangements. Payment should be made in cash or check made out to FCARC.

VE Session at GCC, Monday February 24

FCARC and the Pioneer Valley VE Team (PVVET) will be hosting FREE amateur radio examinations for anyone wishing to obtain and/or upgrade their FCC amateur radio license. We do ask that candidates obtain a FCC Registration Number (FRN) and pre-register prior to the exam. Both can be done very easily at the <http://PVVET.org> website. Anyone upgrading must bring a photocopy of their signed FCC amateur radio license to the exam.

When: Monday, February 24, 2020, Exam Start: 7:00pm

Where: Greenfield Community College East Building: Room E110, 1 College Drive 01301
Greenfield MA

Registration: <http://pvvet.org/register>

If you have any questions about the registration, the exam or about the PVVET, please visit the FAQ section of the website, <http://pvvet.org/faq>

Jeffrey Bail, NT1K, is the contact person. Phone is 413-238-1992, e-mail nt1k@nt1k.com.

We continue to maintain the Amateur Radio License Exams page, <http://www.fcarc.org/venews.htm>, on the website, with additional information about exam session procedures and FCC Registration N

Show and Tell for March Meeting

Aaron KF1G

Aaron KF1G, wrote: The FCARC will have a Show and Tell for our March meeting. Do you have something that you have built that you would like to show to your fellow members? Or a new project you want to talk about? News that you want to share? Anything else?

The meeting will be split into 10 minute sessions, please plan accordingly. If you absolutely need two blocks of time please let Aaron know, and reserve two blocks.

To reserve a block of time, please visit Aaron's website at <http://www.kf1g.net> and click show and tell.

Simply fill out the form. But please put your subject in the comments field and I will change the title of the time slot for you.

If you have any questions please reach out to Aaron, rangerfriday@gmail.com

Recent Activities

Photos by Anne, N1YL



FCARC supplied Communications for the New Years Day Sawmill River 10K road race in Montague

Above: scenes from the road....
... and below, net control (it was cold there too).



Because of the problems we had with connecting from GCC to the Mt Tom repeater we conducted some tests of antennas and antenna locations at GCC after the January club breakfast.



New Callsigns

Aaron, formerly KC1CXX is now KF1G.
David, formerly KC1LVL is now K1FA.

HCRA Two-day Technician License Class

The Hampden County Radio Association will present a weekend Tech Class license session over March 21 and 22. Classes run 8 am thru 6 pm Saturday and 8 am thru 2 or 3 pm Sunday with testing immediately after.

Cost is \$35 and includes the book and lunch on Sunday. Bottled water will be available on both days.

Location is the room where the HCRA holds its monthly meetings, the Auxiliary room at Holyoke Hospital. (<http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>).

You must register and prepay for the class so you can get your book before the class begins.

A sign up form will be available at <http://www.hcra.org/licensing-classes/> very soon.

The HCRA is also looking for people that want to help teach the Tech class on Saturday and Sunday, March 21 & 22. If you are interested in volunteering to help teach a class or classes, please contact Vanessa, W1IRL at webmaster@hcra.org

Phaser Digital Mode Transceiver™

from ARRL Contest Update for January 8, 2020

If you like kits, here's an all digital transceiver for Ftx modes. It's described as "single-board, 4-watt SSB radio specifically designed for using digital modes with computers running *WSJT-X* and *FLDIGI* applications." QRP aficionados will recognize the kit's designer: Dave, K1SWL. For more information go to <https://midnightdesignsolutions.com/phaser/> (K7AGE via Twitter)

Progress with an Old Transceiver

AI N1AW and Brad W1BCC

The club auctioned off an old Kenwood TS-830S transceiver at our December Holiday party. AI, as auctioneer, was careful to warn that this is a hybrid, with a vacuum tube final power amplifier using high, potentially lethal voltages. To prevent damage to the tubes careful adjustments are required, a procedure which users of modern transistorized transmitters probably have never had to perform.

Brad, unfazed by the warnings, bid for and won the TS-830. Recently he wrote, "This weekend I finally started playing with the TS-830S. Reminds me of tuning my DX-60 way back in the day. Interesting to note that I've now gone from one 6146 to two.

"Impressed by the receiver. I like the variable band pass tuning. Reasonably stable after 30 mins or so. Stumbled a bit until I learned that CW won't work with the VOX off (duh). As for SSB, I wired up an old 500 ohm CB mic. Looks like it is working. Now trying to find a test partner on 75m. Will let you know."

WXM68 on Frizzell Hill

AI N1AW

Most hams are aware that the National Weather Service has 24 hour weather broadcasts on VHF frequencies that can be received by most 2 meter radios. The nearest such transmitter used to be on Ames Hill near Brattleboro, supported by the Vernon nuclear power plant. After Vernon closed down, the Ames

Hill station also shut down and our nearest weather broadcasts came from a transmitter on Pack Monadnock, not easily received in many parts of Franklin County. But recently the station previously located on Ames hill was reactivated at the WPVQ transmitter site on Frizzell Hill in Leyden - the same place as our KB1BSS 146.985 MHz repeater. The Leyden NWS station is WXM68 and it broadcasts on 162.425 MHz.

It turns out the technician who installed and may get called upon to service the WXM68 weather station is a ham, Brett, KA4ZEO. I happened to meet him on the air when he was putting the weather station on the air for the first time. He is based in Albany. There is a dedicated phone line with which his office can check the status of the weather transmitter. But a week or two ago the phone line was out of service, and Brett called me to ask if the weather station sounded OK here. I was not surprised, I live about a mile down the road from our repeater site and I have problems with my own Verizon landline phone service occasionally.

On that occasion all was OK with the WXM68 station. But subsequently Brett wrote me to say that if a problem with the station is noticed it can be reported by e-mail to alb.stormreport@noaa.gov or a call to 518-435-9571.

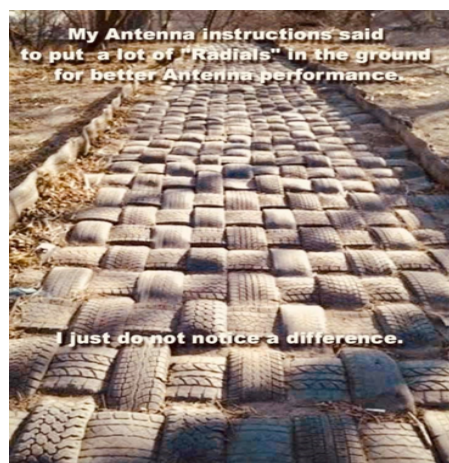
Upcoming Hamfests

Three opportunities to meet other hams, and buy, sell, or just look at radios and radio-related items are coming up:

The **Connecticut Valley FM Association Amateur Radio Swapfest** will take place on Saturday February 1st, 2020 at the VFW Post 771, Springfield, VT. Setup starts at 7:00AM with the main event kicking off at 8:00AM. More information can be seen at <http://www.cvfma.org/>.

The annual **Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Marlborough MA Flea Market** is on Saturday February 15, 2020. Location: Marlborough 1Lt Charles W. Whitcomb School, 25 Union St., Marlborough, MA. For more info go to <http://www.n1em.org>

The big one for us is the **Mt Tom Amateur Repeater Association Amateur Radio and Electronics Hamfest**, in Chicopee on March 7th. We will have an FCARC club table there, we will have some surplus club items for sale, and we invite FCARC members to bring personal items you want to sell at our table - if you will help us staff the table we'll do it commission free, otherwise we ask 10% (the tables are not free). Yes, it's our Denny's breakfast day, but Chicopee is not far, come to the breakfast at 8, leave by 9, and there will still be plenty going on at the flea market if you get there by 10. See the flyer on the last page or download a copy for yourself from <http://www.mtara.org>



THE COMMUNICATOR is an informational publication for members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. Officers: President: Aaron Addison, KF1G (rangerfriday@gmail.com), Vice President: Richard Merriott, KC1JQJ (rcmpilot@comcast.net), Treasurer: Howard Field, N1LUP (howfield@comcast.net), Secretary: Chris Myers, KB1NEK (camyers@protonmail.com), Director: Belle Dyer, KB1NOG (bdyer582@juno.com), Director: Jeanne Dodge, KC1DCQ (j.anndodge@gmail.com), Clerk: Erika LaForme, KC1IJJ (etlaforme@yahoo.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).

*Change of address or missing an issue? Please contact Al Woodhull, N1AW, aswoodhull@yahoo.com
This issue and back issues of the **Communicator** are online at <http://www.fcarc.org/commun.htm>*



33rd Annual



Amateur Radio & Electronics Hamfest

Saturday March 7, 2020

Located

Castle of Knights

1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA 01020

www.castleofknights.com

Directions

From North:

*Take I-91 South to the Mass Turnpike. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. Bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

From South:

*Take I-91 North to the Mass. Turnpike. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. Bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

From East:

*Travel on the Mass. Turnpike toward West. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. Bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

From West:

*Travel on Mass. Turnpike toward East. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. Bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

Castle is on the right for all of the above.

Mail- in Registration Form

Name _____

Call sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (cell preferred) _____

Email Address: _____

of Tables _____ x \$20.00 = _____

Is 120 VAC Needed? _____

Checks payable to: MTARA

Mail to: Brian Mullarney-N1FI, 20 Spring Street, Easthampton, MA 01027

*** The Details ***

Doors Open:

6:30 AM Vendors *only*; help available for loading and unloading

8:30 AM General Admission (8:00AM if Vendors ready!)

Admission:

Adults: \$5.00

Children: under age 12 are *FREE!*

No Tailgating

Handicapped Parking Available

Snack Bar – hot and cold beverages, hot dogs, burgers, etc.

Raffle Prizes – six (6) tickets for \$5.00

VE Exam -10:30 AM

Laurel VE Session *FREE*

Candidates must obtain a FCC Registration Number (FRN) and pre-register at <http://pwet.org> prior to the exam

Additional Information:

<http://www.mtara.org>

Talk-In on 146.94 (127.3 PL)

Table Registrations contact:

Brian Mullarney - N1FI

20 Spring Street

Easthampton, MA 01027

Tel. (860) 478-6790

N1FI@arrl.net