

F.C.A.R.C. Inc.  
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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# THE COMMUNICATOR THE COMMUNICATOR

March 2020

## Upcoming Events

- Mar 7 Sat 8:00 am **Breakfast**, Denny's; *later: MTARA Hamfest*, Castle of Knights, Chicopee
- Mar 9 Mon 6:00 pm. E-Board(\*); 7:15, Meeting, **Show and Tell**, GCC E-110

## March 2020

### Calendar

**MTARA Hamfest: Saturday March 7 - yes, it conflicts with our breakfast, but if you get there at 10 there will still be much to see and do. We will have an FCARC Club Table – do you have anything you want to sell? See the flier in last month's Communicator or at <http://www.mtara.org>**

**E-Board: Monday March 9, 6:00 pm, at 6:30 Fred Kemmerer from the Nashua Area Radio Society will describe his club's migration to a modern website.**

**Meeting: Monday March 9, 7:15 pm, Show and Tell – Aaron asked for people interested in presenting to indicate interests through his website but there were no takers. But if you have something to show just bring it.**

### Secretary's Report

**E-Board and Program meeting Monday February 10, 2020 at GCC – Chris Myers KB1NEK**

#### *E-board meeting Minutes*

The Communicator was informed by the Secretary that the draft Minutes as originally submitted were unacceptable to some who were present at the meeting. Publication of the minutes is postponed pending discussion and possible amendment at the next meeting.

#### *General Membership meeting started at 7:15*

The general meeting featured a discussion by Section Manager, Ray Lajoie on innovations undertaken by ARRL HQ.

### News, Activities & Articles

#### **Surplus equipment Auction**

The club has several pieces of equipment that are surplus to its needs. The club decided it would be worth trying to dispose of these by an auction. The auction is being conducted on Aaron's website. Aaron has agreed to extend the deadline for bidding on these items for a few days after publication of this edition of the Communicator. The web address for the auction is <https://www.kf1g.net/auctions>

#### **Greenfield Winter Carnival Sleighbell Race**

##### **Erika KC1IJJ**

On Saturday February 1, FCARC provided radio support during the Sleigh Bell Road Race, as part of Greenfield's annual Winter Carnival. This year's air temperatures were more amenable for outside running than past years and over 35 participants showed up to give the 4 mile race course their best effort. I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered to help out – Anne N1YL, Bernard W1BJB, Dick KC1JQJ, Erik KC1JQN, Jeanne KC1DCQ, John WW1JKB, Justin W1JRN, Keith KU1N, Mark KC1JQD, Rich KB1NOX –

It was a fairly quick exercise to practice some of our skills and you helped to ensure the safety of the participants. Also, welcome to Bernard from Amherst and John from Springfield, we hope you'll join us for other community service events.

### Photos from the Sleighbell Race

Anne N1YL



### VE Session at GCC, February 24

Jeff Bail NT1K

More than half the candidates passed the exam. We have 4 new Techs, a person that passed both Tech and General and a new person who upgraded from Advanced to Extra. Any exam where someone passes is a success in my book. FCC response time was about 15 minutes from when the exam was over till licenses were issued. A big thanks to the FCARC for securing the venue and big thanks to all the VEs from around Franklin county that came out to help.

New/Upgraded Calls:

Samuel KC1MSB - New Tech  
Lois KC1MSC - New Tech  
James WA1UWX - Extra (Previous Adv)  
Lindsay KC1MSD - New Tech + General  
Merrick KC1MSE - New Tech  
Michael KC1MSF - New Tech

The session was conducted by the Pioneer Valley VE Team, <http://pvvet.org/>

Times: Exam end time: 8:40pm; FCC/VEC Submission: 8:45pm; FCC Response: 9:01pm

## ARRL HF Band Planning Committee

**Edited by AI N1AW from ARRL Bulletin 5 from ARRL Headquarters, February 5, 2020**

At the Board's January meeting, the ARRL HF Band Planning Committee presented its specific recommendations in graphical form for each HF band and each US license class, with the goal of increasing harmony on the HF bands, particularly between CW and digital users.

The recommendations can be found online in PDF format on the arrl.org web site, at [http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Bandplanning/25%20HF%20Bandplanning%20Cmte%20FINAL%20\(d\).pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Bandplanning/25%20HF%20Bandplanning%20Cmte%20FINAL%20(d).pdf)

"In general, the committee is of the opinion that there is justification for additional space to become available for digital modes, as well as for the operation of digital stations under automatic control," the committee told the Board. "The very changes in spectrum usage that have required our committee's resurgence indicate that digital modes of communication are already increasing in popularity, and the trend is expected to continue or even accelerate. To this end, we have tried to ensure that digital allocations are sufficient for at least a modicum of growth."

The committee also anticipates an increase in automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS). The report further points to "significant use" of modern data modes in emergency communication and said its recommendations provide significant support for the evolution and continued relevance of amateur radio. "Our failure to adapt to these needs could consign amateur radio to the technological scrap heap," the report said.

The committee was revived last summer to consider conflicts between FT and JT modes and other modes. The panel's approach has been to designate distinct assignments for CW, narrowband (NB) data 500 Hz, wideband (WB) data 2800 Hz, and ACDS. For its work, the committee presumed approval of three ARRL petitions to the FCC: RM-11708 (WT Docket WT 16-239-"symbol rate" proceeding), RM-11759 (80/75 meter allocations), and RM-11828 (enhanced Technician privileges). The committee also assumed that users can agree to sharing arrangements within a given allocation-narrowband vs wideband sharing within the ACDS allocation, for example. It also took into consideration how mode usage is regulated or planned elsewhere in the world.

In terms of mode classes, the committee agreed on CW, NB data, WB data, NB with ACDS, and WB with ACDS. The committee said it considered these mode classes incompatible and that they should not have overlapping allocations, with the exception of CW, which is authorized within any amateur radio allocation. The committee's approach would maintain the existing low-end 25-kHz CW-only sub-bands for exclusive use by Amateur Extra class licensees.

The panel encouraged CW identification and a listen-before-transmitting protocol for ACDS, if feasible. It also decided that a single allocation for ACDS without regard to bandwidth would be the best approach. "We note that this will put responsibility on the digital community to hold an effective dialog on the issue and to then self-regulate the users of this segment to adhere to the eventual agreement." A need for flexibility in allocations is desirable, the committee said, and considered whether allocations might be time-of-day or time-of-week dependent, for example.

"Modern amateurs must expect to adapt to this kind of fluid assignment of spectrum to incompatible uses,

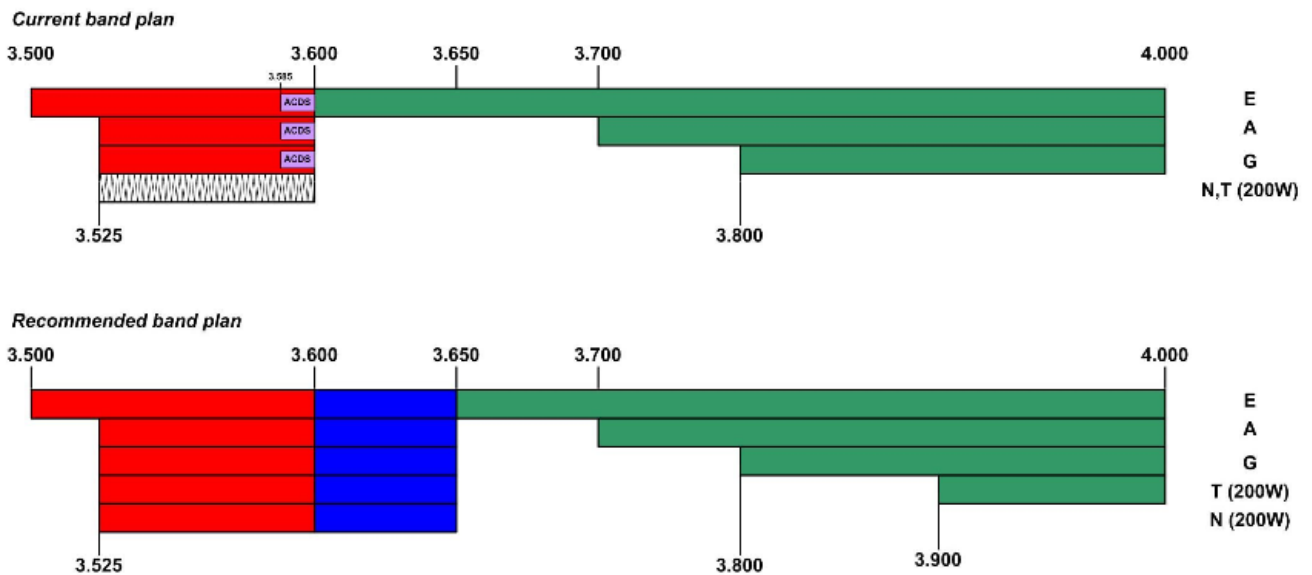
using time-based sharing, rather than only a single assignment," the committee said, expressing the hope that as band plan/sharing agreements are reached that they consider the advantage of non-simultaneous sharing possibilities.

Reiterating the position ARRL has taken in recent FCC filings, the committee said it sees encryption and open-source as enforcement matters as being outside the scope of the Band Planning Committee.

- end of ARRL bulletin -

Graphical representations of the suggested changes can be found on the ARRL website at [http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Bandplanning/25%20Appendix%20BP\\_Committee\\_recs%20FINAL%20\(h\).pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Bandplanning/25%20Appendix%20BP_Committee_recs%20FINAL%20(h).pdf)

Below is the plan for 80 meters. Wideband digital modes and automatically controlled digital modes would not be allowed below 3.6 MHz, but would be allotted additional frequencies from 3.6 MHz to 3.65 MHz. Technicians would be allowed use of narrow band digital modes in the range now available to them for CW only and Technicians would also be given voice privileges on the high end of 75 meters.



Similar graphics for other HF bands can be found on the website noted above.

## The Memory Palace Episode 44 (Distance)

### AI WG1H

An interesting story that adds perspective to the mode of communication we enjoy:

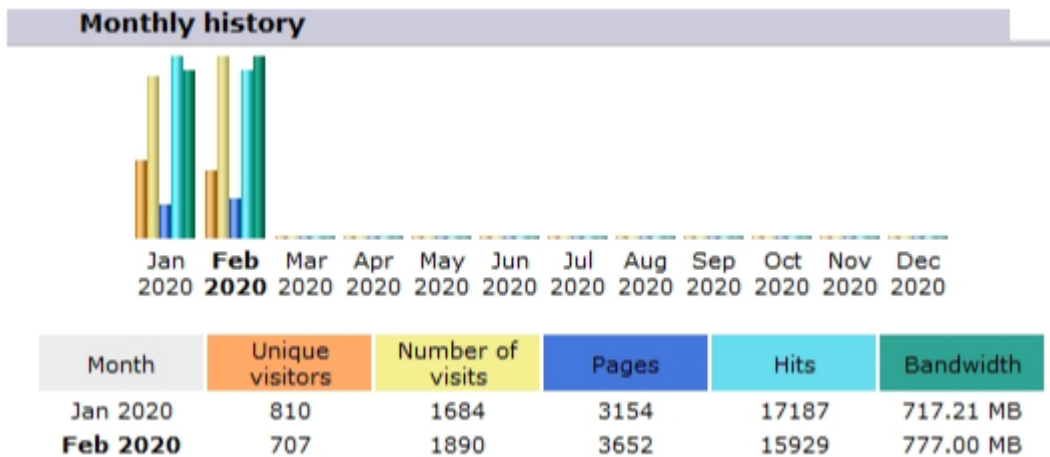
<https://beta.prx.org/stories/254022>

## Does Anyone Look at the Website?

### AI N1AW

Actually, one of the things a website hosting service can do is answer this question. Quite detailed statistics are available from iPower, our hosting service. Here, for example, are the basic statistics for this

year to date:



The statistics also show more detail – what parts of the website get visited. Here is what it looks like for this month, up to February 27<sup>th</sup>:

Pages-URL (Top 10) - Full list - Entry - Exit				
350 different pages-url	Viewed	Average size	Entry	Exit
/	1587	17.65 KB	1359	1233
/members.htm	113	31.81 KB	20	40
/netlistings.htm	87	11.20 KB	10	19
/activities.htm	76	8.26 KB	9	17
/membership.htm	74	6.41 KB	2	12
/SnailNet.htm	74	6.67 KB	45	44
/clubofficers.htm	74	7.68 KB	10	16
/commun.htm	73	17.42 KB	6	11
/repeaters.htm	71	6.95 KB	13	20
/changes.html	62	11.56 KB	3	15
Others	1361	483.27 KB	413	461

The index page ("/") is where the newest news and schedule of current events, is posted. This is good, it means people are looking at the site to find out what is going on. But of course this is also the page most likely to be hit by internet robots. So my question is not fully answered. I'd appreciate hearing from readers about how often you look at the website. Please e-mail me at [n1aw@arrl.net](mailto:n1aw@arrl.net)

## FCARC Social Media

### Rebecca K1BKY

The FCARC has been involved with social media longer than I have been a member. In August 2015 Chet Chin created a Facebook group for the club. Today that group currently has 76 members. Some of the top contributors are people we don't see in our regular meetings.

On July 10, 2018 I asked Chet for Admin access and then I created a Facebook page for the club. Pages nest under Clubs in the hierarchy of things. We currently have about 48 followers on the Facebook page.

At the same time that I created the Facebook page I also created a Twitter account. Twitter works differently than Facebook in many ways. You also need to link an email address to it. Since I don't have an

FCARC email account I used one of my personal ones. Twitter is a very big universe. We got very little engagements with it and it felt like a waste of time. I have recently disabled the FCARC Twitter account. It was a good experiment but I don't have the energy for it now.

With Facebook AI, Anne, Jeannie, and I currently have access to interact as The Club. Jeannie as a Director is the only board member with access.

As there is currently a proposal "on the table" to migrate to a new website I'd like to offer the following suggestions:

WordPress has social media plug ins. WordPress and our social media accounts could be linked. Aaron understands this better than I do and I don't want to double up on his thoughts on this, or on Fred's presentation either.

More than one person should have access to our website and our social media accounts. If AI wins the lottery and moves to Tahiti it would be nice if the website didn't go with him. I think it would be beneficial if a club officer was one of those people with access to both of those things.

Club officers often have insider info and being able to share that info quickly and easily through a post on the website and Facebook would be beneficial. For example "Frank, A1ABC, just passed away. Services will be Saturday at Trinity church. All are welcome to attend." or "Jeff Bail will be conducting exams on Thursday at the college. Please register in advance at....."

This might be something to think about for the next round of elections. I'm just thinking down the road that those skills would be a valuable thing for all club officers to have.

I have been doing the social media thing since Aaron won the election to become President but I would like more people to get involved and I would like to let go of the reins someday.

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

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