

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL



THE COMMUNICATOR THE COMMUNICATOR

October 2020

Upcoming Events

- Oct 12 Mon 6:00 pm **E-Board**
- Oct 12 Mon 7:15 pm **General Meeting**, topic: "Some Things to Know About Using Zoom" by Silas, KC1BTW

Silas, KC1BTW, will conduct these meetings via Zoom. Zoom access info is on page 2

October 2020

Calendar

E-Board Meeting – Monday October 12 6:00 pm

General Meeting – Monday October 12 7:15 pm “How to use Zoom” - Silas KC1BTV

- Tips / Tricks
- Share second screen
- Dial-in #s
- Can we connect a 2M radio to Zoom?

Zoom access info for E-Board meeting , 6:00 p.m.

Silas Cutler is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FCARC EBoard Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86296443364?pwd=bGxwK0hDQzIzWmJnQS9ZZGM1UWJEQTO9>

Meeting ID: 862 9644 3364

Passcode: 338823

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,86296443364#,,,,,0#,,338823# US (New York)

+13017158592,,86296443364#,,,,,0#,,338823# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 862 9644 3364

Passcode: 338823

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86296443364?pwd=bGxwK0hDQzIzWmJnQS9ZZGM1UWJEQTO9>

Zoom access info for General meeting , 7:15 p.m.

Silas Cutler is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FCARC Monthly Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85632093816?pwd=dnYxRmVlY09yK1pWczV4Nk9lbFpYQT09>

Meeting ID: 856 3209 3816

Passcode: 034257

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,85632093816#,,,,,0#,,034257# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,85632093816#,,,,,0#,,034257# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 856 3209 3816

Passcode: 034257

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcGdWxPN9U>

Secretary's Report

E-Board Meeting Monday September 14:

There was no quorum, no official meeting.

News, Activities & Articles

Flu Clinic volunteers...

Chris, KB1NEK is helping to organize a flu clinic to be held in Shelburne Falls on Saturday October 17th. Volunteers are needed, although there is no special role for amateur radio.

Pioneer Valley VE Team News

From: Jeffrey Bail (itsbail@gmail.com)

The PVVET still has no plans at this moment in time to host in-person or remote examinations, mostly due to restrictions set by the venues we normally use. If you know of a venue that is free and can support social distancing of both the candidates and examiners, please let me know. I'd like to get at least 1 more in-person exam done in the area before the end of the year.

No more SSNs

As of 1/1/2021, Laurel VEC will NO LONGER be accepting Social Security Numbers. This will eventually apply to ALL VECs as the FCC has stated to the NCVET that they will be requiring candidates to obtain a FRN prior to the exam. The PVVET since inception has basically required all candidates to obtain a FRN. Nothing will change on our end.

Not sure if you are aware but the FCC is proposing a \$50 application fee to the amateur radio service. This fee will be applied to new licenses, renewals, upgrades and vanity requests. If implemented, our current procedure will not vary much. We will NOT be processing FCC Fees. Upon completion of examination, we will instruct candidates (most likely with a handout) that they will need to pay the application fee at the FCC's website.

Personally I feel this takes away from the "completely free" aspect of the PVVET even though we're not the ones who are charging. As of right now the NPRM hasn't been acted on and appears to still be taking comments. The ARRL hasn't made any statements other than the news article. It appears they plan on opposing fees related to amateur radio. Hopefully it doesn't get implemented.

Member Activities Updates

Storage Locker Incident

In recognition of the potential helpfulness of amateur radio in an emergency, the Emergency Preparedness program of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has allowed us to share with them storage space for club equipment we might need in an emergency. In late September we were informed that someone had cut the locks of many of the storage units at the site where our shared space is located. Fortunately Tracy Rogers of FRCOG learned about this quickly and contacted us. We checked our inventory lists and determined nothing had been taken.

The locks previously supplied by the storage company were combination locks, which made it easy for different members of the club to access the space, whether the need was for equipment for an emergency drill or items for Field Day or a picnic. Those combination locks proved to be too easy for bad guys to cut. New locks will need keys and we will need to arrange to share a limited number of keys.

Repeater Site Visit

Silas got a quick tour of our Leyden 2 meter repeater site recently. We will have some pictures at the meeting.

Brad, W1BCC, has been mobile on VHF and HF...

In the course of my work, I travel throughout Franklin and Hampshire counties. Having a mobile is a welcome diversion when spending so much time alone in the car. I've met some very nice people and am looking forward to learning more while experimenting with what works best, and where.

In addition to our local 2 meter resources, I'm especially enjoying 6 meters via the Pelham (N1PAH) and Mt Greylock (K1FFK) repeaters. N1PAH has a network of remote receivers and a second repeater which extends coverage to the CT shore. Huge footprint for Greylock, needless to say. Nice folks on both.

On HF I recently worked some European DX on 20m (beach on Martha's Vineyard). On the road, several times I've checked into the afternoon ECARS net on 40. Speaking of 40, my very first HF mobile QSO was with HA8RM (Hungarian super station) on 40. It was 10:30pm local while parked on the Northfield boat ramp. I worked a number of other distant stations on 40 and had a nice eyeball QSO with a police officer who understandably wanted to know what I was doing. "Radio fishing", I replied, explaining how proximity to water enhances propagation.

Lad, WA3EEC, F4GOH Project

I am working on building an F4GOH transmitter using a Arduino Nano and a DDS. I am reworking the board which is complete, but the headers I purchased on Amazon have female connectors that are too small for the pins on the Arduino and DDS. Hopefully by the time we get to the October meeting, I'll have some more to report.

Anne, N1YL, has been participating in the K1USN Weekly SST (Slow Speed [Con]Test)

See last month's Communicator for more info on the event. It is continuing on a weekly basis, from 8 to 9 p.m. on Sundays, 80, 40, and 20m. For us in the east 20m is generally not useful so long after sunset, but there is plenty of activity on 80 and 40. Al, N1AW has also been participating every Sunday, although not always for the

full hour.

Bob, W1SRB, has moved from Easthampton to Northampton.

He is closer to neighbors than previously, and has been experimenting with antennas. With a very short dipole consisting of two Hamstick mobile antennas, NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence) works well to give a strong signal on our Wednesday evening 80 meter Snail Net.

Gerry, KM1MT, has been putting his Ashfield station together again.

Home repairs and new siding required disconnecting all antenna cables. Gerry is thinking of getting active on CW again, he is pleased with his Morserino (described in this newsletter last month). A major interest is paragliding, see Gerry's QRZ.com page for video of this activity.

HCRA activities

As is the case with our own club, the Hampden County Radio Association is conducting meetings online with Zoom because of social distancing and lack of a meeting space. The HCRA October meeting was a presentation by Matt, W1PY, on "How to Begin Contesting." HCRA meetings are recorded, from the www.hcra.org website you can view this and earlier presentations.

An Antenna Offer

Jerry Scott wrote to Silas:

I have a Mosley TA-33 WARC Jr antenna that I have been storing for my son for over 30 years. I finally got him to agree that it wasn't likely that he would be in a situation where he could raise it any time soon. So, it is free to anyone that can use it.

It is in good shape, partially disassembled. Some parts are over 15 ft. long. I have the rotor but the rotor controller has gone missing.

Please pass the word around. If anyone is interested and can pick it up in Northfield they can email me at <mailto:bsjs92069@comcast.net> or give me a call at 413 225 3284

Thanks,

Jerry Scott, 30 Meadowview Ln, Northfield, MA. 01360

Net Control Operator Schedule for 2 meter nets, Fourth Quarter

ARES 2-Meter Net
Tuesday at 8.00 pm on the KB1BSS repeater, 146.985 MHz, -- offset, PL 136.5

October 2020	November 2020	December 2020
Tues 6 Belle, KB1NOG	Tues 3 Belle, KB1NOG	Tues 1 Belle, KB1NOG
Tues 13 Joe, KB1WVO	Tues 10 Joe, KB1WVO	Tues 8 Joe, KB1WVO
Tues 20 Cathy, KB1SNA	Tues 17 Cathy, KB1SNA	Tues 15 Cathy, KB1SNA
Tues 27 Chris, KB1NEK	Tues 24 Chris, KB1NEK	Tues 22 Chris, KB1NEK
		Tues 29 Belle, KB1NOG

FCARC Informational 2-Meter Net
Thursday at 8.00 pm on the KB1BSS repeater 146.985 MHz, -- offset, PL 136.5

October 2020	November 2020	December 2020
Thur 1 Al, N1AW	Thur 5 Richard, KB1NOX	Thur 3 Richard, KB1NOX
Thur 8 Richard, KB1NOX	Thur 12 Chris, KB1NEK	Thur 10 Chris, KB1NEK
Thur 15 Chris, KB1NEK	Thur 19 Dick, KC1JQJ	Thur 17 Dick, KC1JQJ
Thur 22 Dick, KC1JQJ	Thur 26 Al, N1AW	Thur 24 Al, N1AW
Thur 29 Al, N1AW		Thur 31 Richard, KB1NOX

THE COMMUNICATOR is an informational publication for members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. Officers: President: Silas Cutler, KC1BTV (silascutler@gmail.com), Vice President: Richard Merriott, KC1JQJ (rcmpilot@comcast.net), Treasurer: Howard Field, N1LUP (howfield@comcast.net), Secretary: Erika LaForme, KC1IJJ (etlaforme@yahoo.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>*

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