



The Communicator

Franklin County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 773
Greenfield MA 01302

March 2026

March Events

March 9	Monday	6:30 pm	FCARC Club Meeting, 1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls
March 14	Saturday	8:00 am	FCARC Club Breakfast, Denny's, Greenfield
March 14	Saturday		2026 CVRC Hamfest and indoor flea market, Henniker NH
March 26	Thursday	Noon	FCARC Club Luncheon, Denny's, Greenfield

Check groups.io and the Club Nets for updates

2026 Public Service Events (tentative)

June 13, 2026 Edge Hill Race in Ashfield Organized by Bob (KA1HAH)
rwellerwhoi@gmail.com <https://www.beastcoasttrailrunning.org/edge-hill-trail-race>

August 2, 2026 Greenfield Triathlon Organized by Gary (KB1AKU) groy773@gmail.com
<https://www.greenfield-triathlon.com/>

August 22, 2026 D2R2 Organized by Al (N1AW) aswoodhull@yahoo.com
<https://d2r2.franklinlandtrust.org>

August 23, 2026 Green River Marathon Organized by Gary (KB1AKU)
groy773@gmail.com <https://newenglandgreenrivermarathon.com/>

September 20, 2026 Will Bike for Food Organize by Steve (N1IBS) stevenross@aol.com
<https://www.foodbankwma.org/events/will-bike-4-food/>

January 1, 2027 Sawmill River 10k Run Organized by Mark (NX1K) nx1k@arrl.net
<https://montagueparksrec.com/p/1021/Sawmill-River-10K-Run>

If you are willing to help in any of these events, please contact the organizer.

By Law Changes

The proposed changes to the club By Laws will be voted on at the March 9th meeting. See last month's Communicator or the Club's Website for details. Only members who are current with their dues will be able to vote for the new By Laws

Club Dues Reminder

The club year is September 1st to August 31st. Dues for the 2025-2026 year (\$15.00) are currently past due. Send a check to the our treasurer, N1RCM at either the club PO box or give it to him at the meeting.

Net Control Schedule March 2026	
Emergency Net --- Tuesday 8 PM	Information Net --- Thursday at 8 PM
March 3 Vic NA1K	March 5 Gary KB1AKU
March 3 Bob KA1HAH	March 12 Chris KB1NEK
March 17 Beth WU1S	March 19 Bob KA1HAH
March 24 Gary KB1AKU	March 26 Dick N1RCM
March 31 Chris KB1NEK	
The Emergency and Information Nets are on the KB1BSS Repeater 146.985 -- Negative Offset – 136.5 PL	

Local ARES Nets

ARES on Mt. Tom W1TOM repeater 34/94 (127.3) and 443.2/+5 (127.3)
Sunday 8:45 AM and 9:15 AM --- Tuesday 7:30 PM
For the Pioneer Valley W1TOM is the primary repeater used for Skywarn nets during foul weather.

ARES nets on the NoBARC K1FFK repeater Sunday mornings
9:00 146.91 MHz, 9:15 for 53.23 ,9:45 for 449.425, and 10:00 for 224.10. Tone is 162.2,

Pioneer Valley 10 Meter Net

Wednesday Mornings at 9, on 28.354 MHz +/-, NCS is Ralph WA1UOL

Massachusetts Rhode Island Digital Net (MARIDAN)

Tuesdays at 6 PM, on 3.583 MHz using Fldigi - check in using Thor 22

GMRS Net

Wednesday at 7 PM, on the Mt. Tom GMRS repeater, 462.575 MHz, +5 MHz, tone 151.4.
(Remember one needs a GMRS approved radio and GMRS license to check into this net.)

February 9, 2026 Monthly Meeting Notes

Present

Chuck - KC1CHA
Gary – KB1AKU
Dick - N1RCM
Scott – N1LYW

Mark – NX1K
Mark – W1MHG
Erika - KC1IJJ
Vic - NA1K
John M.

Zoom

Steve - N1IBS
Lad - WA3EEC
Chris - KB1NEK
Bob - KA1HAH

In person - 8 Members and 1 Guest --- Zoom - 4 Members Total 13

Gary (KB1AKU) Opened the Meeting at 18:40

Gary (KB1AKU) Asked Chuck to go over some concerns with By-Laws that were voiced by another Member in a letter/E-Mail sent. Their Concerns were about Expenditures under and Up to \$200. Their statement is that *“There is a major loop hole discovered by a Past Board member that the work around for this is to make multiple LESS than \$200 purchases to prevent a vote by the membership”* There was much discussion on this and in the end it was decided to leave the wording in the By-Laws as is and to be a more diligent Board when it comes to purchases and for *Members to understand that without prior approval, a purchase of any size may NOT be reimbursed.* It was also suggested that a budget be made for any large events to prevent this and the Board agreed.

Chuck (KC1CHA) The second concern was about the membership roster being published in the news letter and how that has the potential to get in hands of the public. The group decided to REMOVE the requirement that the roster be published in news letter and post it only on the Web Site FCARC.org and in groups.io to preserve privacy. *Phone Numbers and other non-public info will only be shared only with permission as needed for events.*

Chuck (KC1CHA) will update the Roster for the Web site and Groups.io with Dick (N1RCM) and add dates so that individuals will know when their Membership is due and need to renew.

Lad (WA3EEC) will update the Proposed By-Laws for Chuck to send out to Members and add to the Web site.

There was a general discussion about the E-mail Lists that are used to send out the news letter and the need to update these to reflect current times. Gary (KB1AKU) will contact Al (N1AW) and speak to him about this.

Gary (KB1AKU) spoke about Storage and moving it and Chuck (KC1CHA) stated that the space will be ready to move stuff soon.

Chuck (KC1CHA) Spoke on the Web site and asked that all members look it over. Fcarc.org Please send him any suggestions or corrections. He's still learning and it takes some time to figure some of these things out.

Gary (KB1AKU) commented he is still trying to get solid answers on the repeater equipment that Kurt has spoken about and the ability to possibly update our old repeater and the time frame of possibly of moving our antenna up higher on the tower.

Gary (KB1AKU) has received the D2R2 Race/Marathon Book given to Ted (KB1GQZ) from Al (N1AW) with the info for the person running the Event. Chris (KB1NEK) Commented that Al (N1AW) is interested in Coordinating the D2R2 and that he (Chris) was not if it fell on the same weekend as the Marathon. He also stated that this year the D2R2 cannot be changed due to it being publicized already however next year is a possibility.

Erika (KC1IJJ) raised the question what is the difference between a Lifetime and Honorary Membership?
Lad (WA3EEC) answered the question.

An Honorary Member: Honorary membership may be bestowed on any person by vote of the membership. Honorary members have nonvoting status and may not hold club office. For example: The Airport Manager or a Greenfield Town Worker that has done something to help Support the Club or Support our Repeaters. They would be someone the Club wants to remember.

A Life Member: Life membership shall be granted to Full Members who have made significant contributions to the club. Life members may vote and, if a licensed amateur, hold office.

Erika (KC1IJJ) also requested clarity on the Clerk Position, Appointed or Elected? Scott – N1LYW Answered with: The Clerk is Appointed due to the need for state filings to be done. The Clerk must have a Physical Street Address to file things like the Annual Report and the 990 Form.

Erika (KC1IJJ) Asked about the Succession of Officers? Is it needed and has it been used or will it be used. A time when it was not was brought up and it's to be believed that the officers in succession did not want to step into the role of President and the prior President stepped back in. Chris (KB1NEK) commented that yes it has been used in the past.

Erika (KC1IJJ) brought up, should the Events Coordinator be added to the By-Laws appointed positions paragraph. After much discussion it was decided to leave it as is to give the board the ability to appoint different members for different Events/Tasks throughout the summer. Such as but not limited to the marathon and race events scheduled.

The Club has E-Mail through our Web Host fcarc@fcarc.org that will soon be on the Web Site. Messages come directly to Chuck (KC1CHA), Club Secretary, and he will redirect these emails as needed.

Gary (KB1AKU) closed the Meeting at 19:32

Submitted by FCARC Secretary Charles Allen (KC1CHA) 2-11-2026

Info on Public Event (Race) Scheduling

AI, N1AW

At the last meeting, we discussed the issues raised by having both D2R2 and the Green River Marathon on the same weekend. Some members were concerned that having 2 Public Service Events in 1 weekend was too much for the club to handle. The straw poll of meeting attendees on which event to participate in was inconclusive.

Since 2018 the Green River Marathon has always been on the fourth Sunday in August. Until last year, the D2R2 was held on the third Saturday in August. When both were scheduled on the same weekend, last year, I contacted the Franklin Land Trust to let them know of this issue. Athletic events generally follow the pattern of being on the first, second, third or fourth weekend of a month so that conflicts like this do not happen. For example, the Boston Marathon is always on the third Monday in April (Patriots' Day) and the Greenfield Triathlon is always on the first Sunday in August.

While this is the normal pattern, it apparently has broken down and thus causing a conflict for support groups like the FCARC.

W1AW/1 Massachusetts Operation America250 WAS Award February Results

Lad WA3EEC

The ARRL will celebrate the Semiquincentennial of the US by holding a year-long America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award operating event. As part of the event W1AW will be operating portable in all 50 states, US Territories, and US Possessions.

20 stations from Massachusetts operated as W1AW/1 during the week of February 11th -17th. A total of 11376 QSOs were made on all bands from 160-10 and satellite using CW, SSB, FT4, FT8, and RTTY..

There will be another week of operation in August. Thanks to W1AST for organizing the operation

Online Ham Magazines

Lad WA3EEC

Recently I have come across two online Ham Magazines that many of you might be interested in! Both can be read online or downloaded to your computer, tablet, or phone.



SWR Magazine is published in Puerto Rico and is available in English and Spanish

From their website www.swrmagazine.org

We're excited to announce that the February issue of SWR Magazine is now available. This month, we've gathered a special selection of articles that blend technical insight, exploration, real stories, and the passion that drives amateur radio around the world.

In this issue, you'll find:

DX stories and expeditions that inspire you to reach farther.

Projects and experimentation in new bands and satellites.

Equipment reviews and practical guides to help you improve your station.

Real anecdotes and unique moments that celebrate the true essence of radio.

And much more content created for everyone who lives, enjoys, and experiments with radio every day

You can download February English Issue

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/kqkyd/SWR-February-2026-English/>

SARC Communicator a bi-monthly from the Surrey, BC, Canada

Historical Deep Dives: From the electrical empire of Werner von Siemens to the high-stakes drama of the Alexanderson kidnapping, and a special event station commemoration of the Titanic disaster.

Bench Projects: Learn how to make Homebrew PCBs with a 3D printer and copper tape, or peek at the elegant KD5ZZU Z-match tuner build.

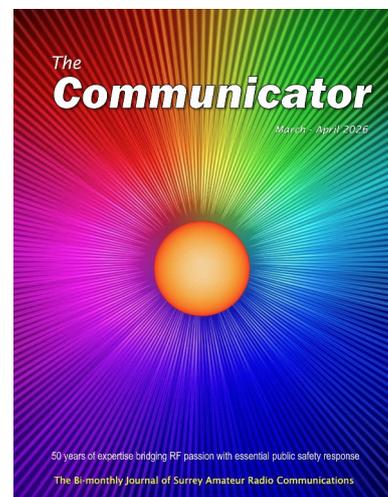
DX & Field Ops: Travel back to the 1994 Peter I Island DXpedition or get the latest on the North Fraser Club's 925 MHz Balloon Project. And... a spotless Sun!

Radio Secrets: Unlock the hidden "superpowers" of the Icom IC-7300, 7610 and 9700 and explore the "IPS Buffet" antenna mix-and-match review.

Opinion: Radio is the same as in 1920... Really?

We also take a moment to look at the "Lighter Side" with tales of Field Day chickens, what is a "Wouff Hong?", and we offer a dose of rational optimism regarding the vibrant future of our hobby.

<https://tinyurl.com/SARC26Mar-Apr>



March 2026 OPERATING EVENTS

Lad WA3EEC

February 28- March 1	South Carolina QSO Party
March 1-2	North Carolina QSO Party
March 7-8	ARRL DX Contest (SSB)
March 14-15	Oklahoma QSO Party
March 14-16	Idaho QSO Party
March 15-16	Wisconsin QSO Party
March 21-22	Virginia QSO Party
March 28-29	CQ WW WPX (SSB)

For an exhaustive list of Contests see the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

About This Newsletter

Lad WA3EEC

This newsletter is produced as a collaboration between Lad WA3EEC, who collects and formats the articles and AI N1AW who distributes the newsletter. Any complaints on the contents or formatting of this newsletter issue should be sent to me at WA3EEC@arrl.net. Contributions to future issues can be sent to WA3EEC. The next issue will be published on about April 1st!

THE COMMUNICATOR is an informational publication for members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club.

Club Officers 2025-2026

President	Gary Roy	KB1AKU	groy773@gmail.com
Vice President	Steve Ross	N1IBS	stevenross@aol.com
Treasurer	Dick Merriott	N1RCM	rcmpilot@comcast.net
Secretary	Chuck Allen	KC1CHA	faithallen2003@leverettnet.net
Clerk	Erika LaForme	KC1IJJ	etlaforme@yahoo.com
Director	Chris Myers	KB1NEK	camyers@protonmail.com
Director	Vic Augusta-Summers	NA1K	victoriaaugusta1997@gmail.com

This is your newsletter! 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: Lad Nagurney WA3EEC (wa3eec@arrl.net)

Franklin County ARC on Social Media

Website	https://fcarc.org
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1091163077562307
Groups.io	https://fcarc-ma.groups.io/g/main

Change of address or missing an issue? Please contact AI Woodhull, N1AW (n1aw@arrl.net).