



The Communicator

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

JUNE 2026

June Events

June 8	Monday	6:30 pm	FCARC Club Meeting, 1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls
June 13	Saturday	8:00 am	FCARC Club Breakfast, Denny's, Greenfield
June 20	Saturday	10:00 am	GOTA/POTA/SOTA Quabbin Hill Observation Tower Belchertown MA (Flyer attached)
June 25	Thursday	Noon	FCARC Club Luncheon, Denny's, Greenfield

Check groups.io and the Club Nets for updates

Other Local Events

June 5 Friday 7:00 PM **HCRA** Club Meeting – Holyoke Hospital

Club Election June 8, 2026

Elections for President, Secretary, and 1 Director for the term 2026-2028 will be held during the June 8, 2026 meeting. Vic (NA1K) is the Nominating Committee.

2026 Public Service Events (tentative)

June 13, 2026 Edge Hill Race in Ashfield Organized by Bob (KA1HAH)
rwellerwho@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@arri.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.

Net Control Schedule June 2026	
Emergency Net --- Tuesday 8 PM	Information Net --- Thursday at 8 PM
June 2 Gary KB1AKU	June 4 Bob KA1HAH
June 9 Chris KB1NEK	June 11 Chris KB1NEK
June 16 Vic NA1K	June 18 Dick N1RCM
June 23 Bob KA1HAH	June 25 Bob KA1HAH
June 30 Beth WU1S	
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.)

Operators Needed

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

May 11, 2026 Monthly Meeting Notes

Present

Chuck - KC1CHA
Gary – KB1AKU
Dick - N1RCM
Erika - KC1IJJ
Brad - W1BCC

Vic - NA1K
John M.
Don KC1TJT
Al - N1AW
Chris - KB1NEK

Zoom

Anne - N1YL
Lad - WA3EEC
Steve - N1IBS

10 - Members present in person, 3 - Members present on Zoom, Total 13 Members Present

Note: The ZOOM link for the meeting does not change Month to Month and is available on the website.

Gary (KB1AKU) Opened the Meeting at: 18:35 Hrs.

Old business.

Chuck (KC1CHA) mentioned the IRLP project presented to us last Month. Gary (KB1AKU) spoke to Kevin (N1ERS) about the project and He said they have most of the Equipment needed however there is a piece of equipment that generates a secondary tone to open the system they thought they had but don't so they are on the hunt for/trying to find one. We will also ask/coordinate with Kevin (N1EWS) if we can have a more detailed training on the system at a later date.

The question was asked if there are members that monitor our repeater enough to warrant the extra traffic this may bring. Two or three members stated they turn their radios on and monitored the repeater on a regular basis. A motion was made by Chris (KB1NEK) to try the IRLP System on a trial basis. The motion was seconded by Dick (N1RCM) A vote was taken and the motion passed with the majority in favor of and 1 Against.

Gary (KB1AKU) discussed the new equipment that is coming from Kurt. Kurt is going through the equipment to make sure it's all there and is in working condition so that he feels confident giving us a warranty on it. He will then contact us to arrange for a meeting part way or he may bring it to us. Kurt is also having it set up and tested by Dana who has the proper programming equipment for this system.

It was brought up that in order to raise the antenna and go over our permitted 50 watts per NESMC (New England Spectrum Management Council) <https://www.nesmc.org> we need to update info and file with NESMC to keep us correctly coordinated. The plan was to operate the new repeater around 50 Watts to stay within our NESMC coordination.

New Business:

Brad (W1BCC) invited everyone to this year's Annual GOTA-POTA-SOTA Operating and Social Event on June 20th at the Quabbin Reservoir in Belchertown. Brad requested a \$25.00 sponsorship from the FCARC to help support coffee and hot dogs for the event on June 20th. A Motion was made by Vic (NA1K) and was seconded. A vote was taken and the Motion passed unanimously. Dick (N1RCM) will follow up with Brad.

Dick (N1RCM) suggested we possibly raise dues to get us up to the current times. Some discussion followed about our current dues \$15 per year and does it raise enough to sustain the Clubs needs? The General discussion was moved towards raising dues to \$25 per year. Also, there is the need to look into a Life time Membership as noted in the recently approved By-Laws. At this time we decide to have more discussion at our next Annual Meeting on this topic and decide when the vote will take place and set the dues for September 2026 = August 2027.

Some discussion was had about the Club Logo and lack thereof John spoke of having an AI generated Logo made. We currently have a custom T-Shirt logo that was made by an artist at a Silver Screen Designs in Greenfield that may be re-used. There is also the original logo that needs updating (incorrect Frequency) If we do redesign the logo we need to keep in mind the size and details. Depending on stitched or screen

printed. It was mentioned, if we want to use the existing logo, we can get a copy from Silver Screen Designs in Greenfield, MA

There was also discussion about making Laminated IDs for club members to use during our Public Service Events. General consensus was that it would be nice to have some sort of laminated ID Tag to identify club members. This will be discussed more about in the future.

Elections will be held at our Annual Meeting in June. Vic (NA1K) volunteered to be the Nominating Committee Chair: The Nominating Committee reported to the President that all incumbent President and Secretary have volunteered to be nominated for the 2026 - 2028 term.

Up for election are: President, Secretary, and one Director for terms to expire in 2028

For those positions:

Gary (KB1AKU) has stated that he is willing to remain as President.

Chuck (KC1CHA) has stated that he is willing to remain Secretary.

The only Position open is Director. Chris (KB1NEK) stated that he would not mind being replaced if anyone is willing to take that position as Director please let Vic know.

Dick (N1RCM) gave us a Treasurer's Report. At this time we have: \$7077.75 He also reported we have received Dues from 1 member and the possibility of another new member soon.

Chuck (KC1CHA) brought up the fact that the airport cannot replace their TV until July. Should we purchase and donate a new TV as a gesture of Thank You for letting us use the facility? Brad (W1BCC) made a motion that the Club donate of a new TV to the airport for up to but not to exceed \$300.00 A quorum of members was met to allot this amount. Vic (NA1K) seconded the Motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Chuck (KC1CHA) will contact Bryan at the Airport to see what size they will want and if they have a mount.

Gary (KB1AKU) closed the Meeting at 19:20

Clarence Demar Marathon – Keene, NH - September 27, 2026

The Clarence Demar Marathon Is looking for support for Amateur Radio Communications The marathon is based in Keene, NH and will be held on Sunday September 27th 2026. This event is a standard 26 mile marathon and is a qualifying event for the Boston marathon.

For more information on the event see: <https://clarencedemar.com/>

Those wishing to volunteer should Email Jeff (K1JWM) at the following email Address:
Jeff.mungovan@yahoo.com

Hamvention and Four Days in May (FDIM) 2026

Mark NX1K

My two favorite ham related, but not on-air events, are held near Dayton Ohio in the middle of May.

Hamvention, held at the Green County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio draws over 30,000 attendees and features forums, vendor exhibits, and a huge flea market. Spread across the five buildings are booths for the major equipment manufacturers: Elecraft, QRP Labs, Yaesu, Icom, Kenwood, FlexRadio, etc; national and international clubs like QCWA, ARRL, Radio Club of America, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Straight Key Century Club (SKCC), QRP Amateur Radio Club International (QRP ARCI); ham vendors like DX Engineering, Ham Radio Outlet, GigaParts; and a wide variety of local clubs, specialty manufacturers. Many of the vendors have special prices during Hamvention. The exhibits and flea market are open Friday and Saturday, 9-5 and on Sunday from 9 to 1.

Besides getting to see the latest offerings, finding bargains at the flea market, Hamvention offers the opportunity to meet up with other hams that you have known for years, that you have worked, but you have never met in person. I have had both experiences as well as made new friends just wandering around.

The Hamvention chairman announced that there were 32,924 attendees from all over the world this year. The dates next year are May 21, 22 and 23, 2027. You can get all the details, and order tickets when they are available at <https://hamvention.org/>

Four Days in May (FDIM) is put on by the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (QRP ARCI) and held, the four days - Thursday through Sunday - of Hamvention. The venue is the DoubleTree Fairborn (formerly Holiday Inn), in Fairborn, OH which is just a few miles from Xenia.

Thursday is a symposium with speakers. The topics vary from the very technical to the descriptions of operating experiences. My favorite talks this year were Thomas Witherspoon (K4SWL), *When the Grid Fails: A QRPers Experience Post-Hurricane Helene*, and Anthony Luscre (K8ZT), *Getting On The Air- Life is NOT Too Short for QRP Operating, If You Know a Few Tricks*. This year 315 registered for the symposium. The full list of speakers this year can be viewed at <https://www.qrparci.org/fdim>

Thursday night of FDIM is Vendor Night where clubs and small vendors of QRP related gear (and DX Engineering) set up and offer their products.

On Friday night there are three events in the same room. Several clubs set up tables to describe their club and solicit new members. There is a homebrew contest, where folks show off their home designed and built projects. There are several categories and attendees vote for the best project in each category and the best project overall. The third Friday night event is a Transmitter Efficiency Challenge. Participants bring their circuit and aim for the highest DC-to-RF power efficiency. This is always a popular event.

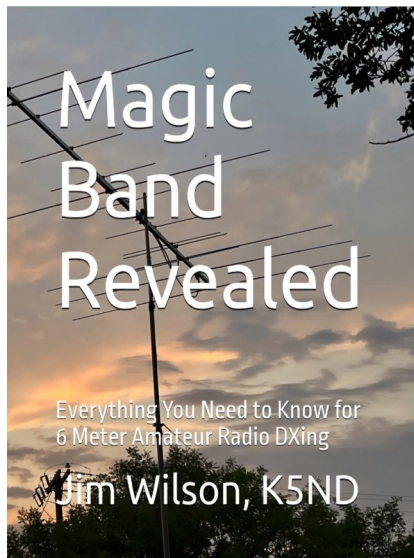
There is a banquet on Saturday night with lots of door prizes. This year I won a LightSaver Max Portable Solar Charger.

Most, if not all the symposium talks, and other videos from FDIM can be found on the QRP ARCI YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/@QRP_ARCI

Like Hamvention, I did get to see many friends at FDIM.

When I lived in Milwaukee, I would travel to Hamvention and FDIM with a group of fellow QRPers. It was about a six hour drive. Since moving back to Massachusetts, my wife and I make the longer drive over two days and she enjoys helping out with the logistics at FDIM and exploring the sights in the area. The National Museum of the United States Air Force is very close and is well worth the visit.

MAGIC BAND REVEALED — Free eBook Download Everything You Need to Know for 6 Meter DXing



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This fourth edition provides extensive updates to the existing content, with enhanced and detailed instructions on WSJT-X settings and operation. It also expands in nearly every area, offering more insight into how six meters works.

Available for purchase on Amazon in Paperback and Kindle.

Available for FREE Download at <https://k5nd.net/magic-band-revealed-ebook-download/>

June 2026 OPERATING EVENTS

Lad WA3EEC

June 6-7	Kentucky QSO Party
June 6-7	ARRL International Digital Contest
June 13-15	ARRL June VHF Contest
June 20-21	West Virginia QSO Party
June 20	ARRL Kids Day
June 27-28	ARRL Field Day

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 Lad at WA3EEC@arrl.net. Contributions to future issues can be sent to WA3EEC. The next issue will be published on or about July 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).

GOTA-POTA-SOTA Operating and Social Event



When: Saturday June 20 2026 10:00-2:00 (rain date TBD)

Where: [Quabbin Hill Observation Tower](#), Belchertown MA [Google Maps](#).

Facilities: Plenty of parking. Portable toilets. Bring a chair. Limited # picnic tables.

No: Sorry, no dogs, open fires or antennas in trees. [Friends of Quabbin Info](#).

Food: Coffee and hot dogs provided (while they last). Otherwise, BYO.

WiFi: Available via StarLink. Check sign-in board for password.

Power: This is a battery powered event. Use ours, or bring your own. Charging available.

Radios: Bring your own gear and power source or operate ours: IC-7300, 9700, 705.

Antennas: BuddiHex, wire and VHF antennas available. 4 masts available.

GOTA: It's ARRL [Kids Day](#) and Father's Day weekend. Bring a parent, child or grandchild.

POTA: [US-8391](#) Quabbin Park

SOTA: [W1/CR-013 Quabbin Hill](#) (parking lot is within the activation zone)

Satellite: Gary Thomas AA1UE will deploy an IC-9700 and portable antennas.

Fox Hunt: Details at a later date.

Flea Market: Feel free to tailgate. Bring something for the Free Table

Talk In: 146.52

Questions/Volunteer: W1BCC Brad Councilman brad@councilman.com 413-773-0670