



The Communicator

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

AUGUST 2026

August Events

August 2	Sunday		Greenfield Triathlon (see below)
August 8	Saturday	8:00 am	FCARC Club Breakfast, Denny's, Greenfield
August 10	Monday	6:30 pm	FCARC Club Meeting, 1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls
August 22	Saturday		D2R2 (see below)
August 23	Sunday		Green River Marathon (see below)
August 27	Thursday	Noon	FCARC Club Luncheon, Denny's, Greenfield

Check groups.io and the Club Nets for updates

Other August Events

August 13-16 Thursday-Sunday HamXposition 2026
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlborough, MA
<https://hamxposition.org/>

2026 Public Service Events (tentative)

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

August 22, 2026 D2R2 Organized by AI (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.

DUES Notice

Club Membership runs from September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027. The dues rate effective 9/1/26 is \$25.00/year. Please renew your membership!

Net Control Schedule August 2026	
Emergency Net --- Tuesday 8 PM	Information Net --- Thursday at 8 PM
August 4 Beth WU1S	August 6 Dick N1RCM
August 11 Chris KB1NEK	August 13 Gary KB1AKU
August 18 Vic NA1K	August 20 Bob KA1HAH
August 25 Gary KB1AKU	August 27 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.)

July 13, 2026 Monthly Meeting Notes

Present

Chuck - KC1CHA
Gary – KB1AKU
Dick - N1RCM
Chris - KB1NEK
Brad - W1BCC
Pat – KR4HOS

Vic - NA1K
Erika – KC1IJJ
Dick - K1RMJ
Al - N1AW
Sean – KC2VTY
Justin Lawrence – FCTS

Zoom

Mark - NX1K
Bob - KA1HAH

9 - Members present in person, 2 - Members present on Zoom, Total 11 Members Present
3 Guests Present

Please take a look at our Website FCARC.org Let KC1CHA know if you have ideas for it.

The ZOOM info does not change month to month and is posted on the club's website. FCARC.org

I'd like to welcome and thank you to our guests It's always nice to see new faces at our meetings,

Thank you, also, to Justin Lawrence from the Franklin County Tech School for attending.

Gary (KB1AKU) opened the meeting at: 18:35 Hrs.

Great news, the club's KENWOOD TS590 has been found and moved to our current storage area.

Justin Lawrence from the Franklin County Tech School opened our meeting with a discussion about hosting a Technician License Class and Test Session as part of FCTS's School for Adults in the fall. It was suggested that it would be nice to include high school students along with the adults. A weekend class was mentioned and thought to be the best for including students and those that cannot attend a night class. Justin currently has some people who are interested in the class. After much discussion it was decided that a survey should be put in the School's Catalog that goes out to 35,000 recipients to judge the interest in the community and advertise a one day Show and Tell and Question & Answer session at FCTS to raise interest in the hobby. Once we know how much interest there is we can schedule the actual class/test session. By Monday 7/20, we need to compile information for the survey to be included in School's Catalog and submit it to Justin.

Dick (N1RCM) brought up our long running discussion on raising club dues. This has been discussed at several past meetings. After some thought, the Board and Members decided to raise the dues from \$15 to \$25 to make up for years of the rising costs in operating the club. Chris (KB1NEK) moved to raise our annual dues from \$15 to \$25 per year starting as of September 1st, 2026. Gary (KB1AKU) seconded the motion. A vote was had and all were in favor with no nays. The motion passed.

Dick (N1RCM) asked how this will affect the members who have prepaid for several years in advance. It was decided that they continue their membership as is. However any dues beyond the prepaid \$15 will be at the new rate of \$25. Vic (N1AK) moved that all prepaid member's dues are grandfathered to remain at the \$15 until the end of their prepaid time when their new dues will be \$25. Erika (KC1IJJ) seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A notice will be sent out in the Communicator, the Website and Groups.io to announce the changes in dues as of 9/1/2026. Club dues run from September 1 to August 31.

Dick (N1RCM) gave the Treasures Report to me on 7/14/2026, we are currently at: \$7092.75 (We missed the Report at the Meeting due to my Family Emergency and Rush to leave. I am Terrible sorry.)

If you're not sure if your Current with Dues please Check the Web Site. Please Contact Dick (N1RCM) if you think the list is incorrect.

Gary (KB1AKU) Closed the Meeting at 19:45

D2R2 (Deerfield Dirt Road Randonnee) Summer 2026 Ham Radio Communications Plans

AI N1AW

The following is being published in the August issue of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club's Communicator newsletter. We hope that you will consider volunteering to help provide communications for the 2026 D2R2. If so, there may be updates to this information in this article – please check for updates before the D2R2 event day, August 22. To volunteer to help with the FCARC support of this event contact AI Woodhull, N1AW aswoodhull@gmail.com, .

The D2R2 is a bicycle touring event sponsored by the Franklin Land Trust (FLT). Details are at <https://d2r2.franklinlandtrust.org>.

For more than 20 years, on a Saturday in August cyclists have had a choice of routes. For 2026, there will be eight routes to choose from. The longest ride is 180 km, the shortest is 12 miles (for riders with a child on a bike back seat or a bike-trailer).

In previous years the event headquarters was in the fields south of Historic Deerfield. There are changes this year – the event headquarters will be in the Greenfield Fairground and all rides except for a short Family Ride will start and end at the Fairground. There will be an amateur radio HQ station operating there all day. Most of the bike routes will be north of Greenfield. There will be a new lunch location at the Franklin Land Trust's Crowningshield Conservation Area in Heath.

For the last fourteen years the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club has provided communications between key D2R2 locations in western Massachusetts and southern Vermont. In much of this area there is no cell phone service. Radio communication can be vital when an accident needs to be reported, or just useful when a lunch site needs additional sandwich ingredients. The Franklin Land Trust has appreciated amateur radio help with this event to such an extent that the Land Trust hosted an amateur radio license class this year, adding several newly licensed hams to the local pool of available radio operators.

There are more than a dozen amateur radio repeaters potentially reachable by ham operators in western Massachusetts and southern Vermont. Not all of these are publicly accessible but there are at least four in our area that FCARC members have identified as being generally accessible from the D2R2 HQ and remote sites.

This article is being prepared for publication in the August FCARC Communicator newsletter several weeks before the D2R2 event. If you decide to participate you should check before the D2R2 day and verify that your mobile or handheld radio can communicate through one of these repeaters. There also may be other repeaters that for some reason were not accessible when this article was written (almost a month before the D2R2 day) but which become available later. Check with other volunteers before you head into the woods.

Location	Call	Frequency	PL tone
Greenfield MA,	KB1BSS	147.120 MHz	131.8
Leyden , MA	KB1BSS	146.985 MHz	136.5
Deerfield, MA	AB1RS	145.130 MHz	173.8
Mt Greylock	K1FFK	146.910 MHz	162.2

It is recommended you have a VHF radio in your vehicle, with a magnetic mount antenna, as well as a handheld radio. In some locations a handheld radio may not reach a repeater but a higher powered mobile radio might work. In other locations when a mobile radio doesn't work, walking to a higher location with a handheld radio may work.

Thoughts about .985

Ralph WA1UOL

I was concerned by some of the discussion about the repeater on Thursday night's information net. Some expressed the desire to use the CAT 1000 on the new repeater. I would strongly advise against that idea. The CAT was the Cadillac of repeater controllers in its time, but it is 90's technology and has no support available. Most of the remaining CAT controllers have become troublesome, or failed completely. The AB1RS/R is a prime example; its CAT 700 started having problems and eventually failed, Control was returned to the simple Motorola unit with much more dependable operation.

I would recommend leaving the existing repeater intact, moving it aside as a backup at the site and using the new repeater our primary repeater. The new repeater and controller should be very dependable for a long time. If more features are desired, it could be upgraded later on with a more modern controller.

Dependable functionality of the repeater should be the club's primary concern, especially for emergency communications, not fancy bells and whistles. Thank you for considering my thoughts on the matter.

ITU Corporation Acquires Ameritron and Mirage RF Amplifier Brands from MFJ Enterprises

Lad WA3EEC

Several months ago, in the Communicator, I reported that ITU Corporation of Kinton, Indiana had purchased the Hy-Gain and Cushcraft antenna brands from MFJ. It has now been announced that ITU has also purchased Ameritron and Mirage Amplifier Brands from MFJ. For more information, see the QRZ and Newspaper links below. It is expected the ITU will ramp up the production of these 4 brands by the end of 2026.

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/itu-corporation-acquires-ameritron-and-mirage-rf-amplifier-brands-from-mfj-enterprises.997361/>

<https://www.lintonnews.com/itu-corporation-acquires-ameritron-and-mirage-rf-amplifier-brands-from-mfj-enterprises-free-article>

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

August 2026 OPERATING EVENTS

Lad WA3EEC

August 1-2	10-10 International Summer Contest SSB
August 8-9	MDC QSO Party Kentucky POTA
August 15-16	NAQP SSB
August 22-24	Hawaii QSO Party Ohio QSO Party
August 29-30	Kansas QSO Party

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 Al 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 September 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@leverett.net
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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 Al Woodhull, N1AW (n1aw@arrl.net).