



The Communicator

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

September 2026

September Events

September 12 Saturday	8:00 am	FCARC Club Breakfast, Denny's, Greenfield
September 14 Monday	6:30 pm	FCARC Club Meeting, 1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls
September 20 Sunday		Will Bike for Food (see below)
September 24 Thursday	Noon	FCARC Club Luncheon, Denny's, Greenfield

Check groups.io and the Club Nets for updates

2026 Public Service Events (tentative)

September 20, 2026 Will Bike for Food Organized 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.

Non FCARC September Events

September 27, 2026 Clarence Demar Marathon, Keene, NH Organized by Jeff K1JWM:
Jeff.mungovan@yahoo.com

Membership Renewal / DUES Reminder

FCARC Membership runs from September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027. At the July and August Meetings, the Offices and Directors voted to increase the dues to \$25.00 per year. Please pay your Dues ASAP..

For those who previously prepaid their dues for several years, their dues will not increase until they renew.

See letter from the treasurer on the next page!

Dues Notice from our Treasurer, Dick N1RCM

2026-2027 Dues are about to be Due:

This is a Reminder to all FCARC Members; FCARC Club Membership Dues are owed as of September 1, 2026. The amount owed this year has increased from \$15 to \$25. This increase was thoroughly discussed by the Executive Board and Unanimously Approved at the July 13, 2026 Meeting.

The Modest increase will help in time to offset Club Expenditures and add to the Treasury which has a current balance of \$7092 as of August 1, 2026. Recent expenditures have been associated with improving our Repeater performance by having new Feed Line and Antenna installed and the renewal of Groups.io and our new Website along with Subscriptions and Licensing Fees.

The Executive Board has also approved the purchase of a Refurbished/Upgraded Repeater station to upgrade our old Repeater Equipment. The newer Equipment will provide Greater Power, Increased Performance and most Importantly Increased Reliability.

Your Membership Dues provide you with some key benefits including 24/7 Access to the KB1BSS Repeaters. A Monthly FCARC Communicator that provides updates on Club Activities, Service Events and General news from around our Ham Community also our participation in six major service events that we provide Radio assistance/communications for the Participants.

The FCARC Club also organizes two weekly on air Nets (Emergency Net and General information Net) on Tuesday and Thursday Evenings at 8pm that all Members and Local Hams can participate in.

Additionally, as an active Member, You can join other Members and Local Ham's at two Social Gatherings held each Month at Denny's Pantry for a Breakfast and Lunch. Dates and times for each Event are published in the FCARC Communicator E-Mailing and Groups.io. There is also a messaging service Groups.io Email service with information about our Club activities and Invitations to Members to attend our Monthly Club Meetings at the Turners Falls Airport on the second Monday of the Month with ZOOM Available.

This is Your Club and your Participation is Greatly Appreciated as we start our new Club Year. Please come join us at the Meetings and Social Events. Most of all get on the Air Have some Radio Fun!!

73 to all
Dick Merriott (N1RCM)
FCARC Treasurer

Dick Merriott 8/20/2026

Net Control Schedule September 2026	
Emergency Net --- Tuesday 8 PM	Information Net --- Thursday at 8 PM
September 1 Bob KA1HAH	September 3 Gary KB1AKU
September 8 Beth WU1S	September 10 Dick N1RCM
September 15 Chris KB1NEK	September 17 Bob KA1HAH
September 22 Gary KB1AKU	September 24 Chris KB1NEK
September 29 Bob KA1HAH	
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.)

August 10, 2026 Monthly Meeting Notes

Present

Chuck - KC1CHA
Gary – KB1AKU
Dick - N1RCM
Chris - KB1NEK
Lad - WA3EEC

Mark - NX1K
Don – KC1TJT
Dick - K1RMJ
Al - N1AW

Zoom

Mark - W1MHG
Vic - NA1K

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

Gary KB1AKU opened the meeting at 18:35 hrs.

Gary KB1AKU moved to accept the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Chuck KC1CHA seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation!

Reelected Officers and Directors

Gary KB1AKU - President.
Chuck KC1CHA Secretary.
Chris KB1NEK Director

Dick N1RCM reminded that Club Dues is now due. The dues will be increased to \$25 per year starting September 1st 2026. He requested a notice be sent out through Groups.io, reported in the Communicator, and posted on the Website.

Chuck KC1CHA spoke about correcting the information on the repeaters with NESMC. However, first the club needs to have the correct officers listed on the ARRL Club site in order to access or change/correct the NESMC information. Chuck and Gary KB1AKU will work on this.

Mark W1MHG was wondering if anyone will be selling at the NoBarc Hamfest. If someone is, please contact Mark who has some items he would like to sell there. mark.gfld@gmail.com

Dick N1RCM brought up the various Public Service events we assist with and asked if the organizers have all the volunteers they need. Gary KB1AKU mentioned Steve N1IBS is still looking for volunteers for the Will Bike for Food Event. stevenross@aol.com Gary is also looking for a couple volunteers for the Green River Marathon. groy773@gmail.com Al N1AW is all set with the D2R2.

Gary KB1AKU reported that the Triathlon went well and the only issue was at the Covered Bridge where Chuck KC1CHA was. Chuck was able to use 145.130 at that position. All in all, the event went very well. Communications with organizers went very good, much better than past years.

Gary KB1AKU brought up the new Repeater Equipment and the current requirements on our repeater coordination. Gary and Chuck KC1CHA are working on this and will be contacting NESMC and ARRL.

Treasurer Dick N1RCM reported that the club has a balance of \$7092.75 as of 8/10/2026

Gary KB1AKU closed the Meeting at 19:45.

D2R2 (Deerfield Dirt Road Randonnee) 2026 Report

AI N1AW and Chris KB1NEK

The FCARC support for the Franklin Land Trust's D2R2 (Deerfield Dirt Road Randonee) began in September 2012 when the FLT had a fund-raising event in Bernardston. N1AW was there to celebrate his retirement that afternoon from the Greenfield School System. AI met FLT Executive Director Mary Lynn Sabourin who told him stories of the logistics of running an event involving multiple rest and lunch stops on several hundred miles of back roads. She told me that in the most recent D2R2, the FLT had paid for satellite communications links between remote locations and the event headquarters in Deerfield which was expensive and ineffective. AI proposed amateur radio as a possible solution. In August 2013, the FCARC volunteered to provide communications between the D2R2 base in Deerfield and a number of remote sites. We have done this every year since/

This year the D2R2 headquarters had a new location: the Greenfield Fairgrounds. A large barn housed the Land Trust's organizers and an adjacent large grassy area provided space for various supporting groups. Our tent was adjacent to the barn. We were very visible and it was an excellent location.

Until a few years ago the D2R2 was the main event on its weekend in August, but for the third year in a row, the Saturday D2R2 was followed by the Green River Marathon on Sunday. The Marathon attracts participants from far away since it is a qualifying event for the Boston Marathon. The organizers tell us that they coordinate with other running events to avoid conflicts on their weekend. One way of looking at this: potential long distance runners are not likely potential long distance cyclists, thus no conflict for participants. But this does not take into account that the ham radio community supports both events. So we have had some difficulty finding hams willing to volunteer for two events on the same weekend.

Aside from helping with miscellaneous logistical snags for the FLT our crews sent reports of two injured riders. Alex, KC1WTM, operating from his vehicle, provided a message alerting net control operators in Greenfield about an injured rider in Whitingham, VT. who would need ambulance service. We then passed this on to the FLT race organizer, Mary Lynn Sabourin. She first called 911, getting a local dispatcher, who forwarded the call to the dispatcher in Whitingham.

Meanwhile the radio crew in Guilford also learned of another injured rider, who did not need an ambulance, but did need a ride back to Greenfield, with his bike. For the most part all the other approximately 1500 riders enjoyed their tour without serious problems.

Our effort helped provide useful experience for three operators who obtained their license through a class our club members taught in Shelburne Falls in 2025.

An idea to consider: several FLT employees who also had ham radio licenses drove vehicles, but had only handheld radios which worked best from high ground. The FCARC could consider obtaining a few higher powered mobile radios and mag-mount antennas for loan to ham-licensed FLT people driving vehicles.

FCARC Volunteers D2R2:

FLT Crowningshield
Gary KB1AKU
Dan, KC1WTL
Karl KB1WTV

Guilford Covered Bridge
Bob KA1HAH
Mark NX1K
Ron KC1UAO.

19 Mile Bridge
Anne N1YL
Keith KU1N

Net Control
Dick N1RCM
Chris KB1NEK
AI N1AW

Licensed FLT Staff

Alex KC1WTM

Liam KC1WTV

Green River Marathon Notes

AI N1AW

I have had several Priuses, and a Prius is an excellent car to use as the sweep vehicle for a long distance event. It can be boring, but not necessary, to do this with a guest passenger.

As I did in 2025, I volunteered to be the sweep vehicle for the 2026 Green River Marathon on Sunday August 23rd. After the entire pack left the start in Marlboro, VT, I started to follow the last runner. Initially one woman was last, following a couple, man and woman. but soon after the end of the first downhill (a mile, more or less), the trailing woman passed the couple and I never saw her again. The last couple soon had fallen back far enough that I never saw anyone ahead of them until the loop I think of as the spur at the "Beaver" rest stop (mile 6.1) - where the runners' route leaves the main Green River Road to do a loop, about 3/4 of a mile to a turnaround and then back, adding about 1.5 miles to make the marathon total distance exactly what is required for it to be an official marathon.

Poking along behind the last runners is boring, so I took advantage of the spur loop to take a break, not following that last pair out and back. As I waited one or two other runners finished the spur before the final duo.

Eventually the final pair completed the loop and continued down the main Green River Road, with me following. By the time we reached the covered bridge at mile 10.2, one more water /snack stop had been passed, and it seemed possible that the couple I had been following as the last runners were no longer the last, as we might have passed one or more runners who were taking a break - at a rest stop a runner taking a break might have been confused with a volunteer. In any case between the covered bridge and the VT-MA line we saw more and more runners and did not see the couple whom we had previously followed as the last runners. Some runners we passed just ignored us. But somewhere there - we did not note the exact mile - we encountered a woman runner who wanted to give up; we gave her a ride back to GCC.

Lad WA3EEC

This was my first Green River Marathon. I was deployed to Water Station Goldfinch at the 18 mile marker. It took me a bit longer to find it, since I came to a fork in the road and my GPS said to take the right fork, but the street signs indicated that Green River Road was the left fork. I took the left one and could not find the water stop. Retracing and taking the right fork, I found the water stop easily. It turns out that at the fork, the street signs have been rotated by 90 degrees.

Luckily, we had no need to make any calls for assistance. We closed down after the last runner passed and I headed south on Green River Road to where KU1N/N1YL were assisting WU1S with a jump start. Since both the .985 and .13 repeaters were being used, we appreciated KB1AKU's reminder that when we called Net Control, we should indicate which frequency we were on, so he could pick the appropriate side of his radio.

FCARC Volunteers Green River Marathon 2026

Gary KB1AKU
Chuck KC1CHA

Beth WU1S
Dick K1RMJ

Keith KU1N
AI N1AW

Anne N1YL
Lad WA3EEC

For Sale by N1AW -- KB1NQK's Equipment

Miner KB1NQK is moving from his home in Greenfield to an apartment in Millers Falls. He has ham radio equipment that he cannot use at his new QTH. AI N1AW has taken all the equipment and will be selling various items.

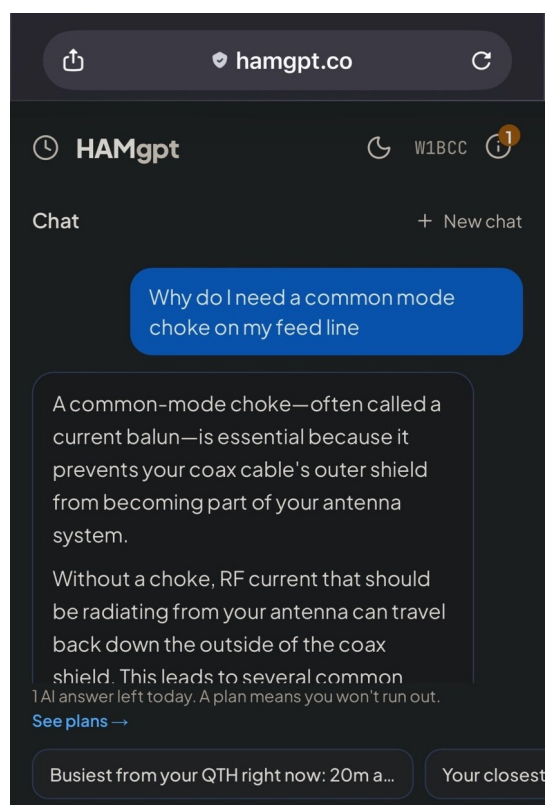
AI has not yet created a list of what's available, but it includes an Icom IC-R8500 receiver, a Yaesu FT991A HF/VHF/UHF all mode transceiver, and an LDG AT-100 Autotuner, as well as some power supplies and other accessories.

Contact AI for more details and prices.

HAM AI (QAI)

Brad W1BCC

Check out <https://hamgpt.co/> — what can I do with my radio today?



Microphones and Amazon

Lad WA3EEC

About a decade ago, as I was driving my normal commute to Hartford and talking on 94, my transmit audio dropped out. Looking at the mike cord of my Yaseu MH-48 mike connected to my FT-8900R, I realized that I would need a new mike. Since I used it for 2 hours a day and knew how important it was to have a working radio in the car, I quickly started calling around to buy a new mike. Easier said than done! HRO, AES, and several other vendors were out of stock and did not know when they would get one back in stock.

One of the hams that was listening and heard me disappeared emailed me to make sure I was ok. When I replied yes, and explained the situation, he responded with Check Amazon! What surprised me is that when I did, there were multiple listings for *after-market* Yaseu MH-48 microphones. Most cost less than half the typical Yaseu price and offered next day delivery. I ordered one and have been pleased with it.

A week or so later, under an email, *based on your recent purchases, you might like...*, was an offer for a replacement cord for an MH-48. Since its cost was under \$10 and included free shipping, it was immediately in my cart and delivered a couple of days later. I replaced the bad cord, tested it, and then put it into my Yaseu box in case I ever needed it.

The Green River Marathon gave me impetus to put my 8900 into my new car. After installing it the afternoon before the marathon, I drove to the UMass water tower on East Pleasant St. in Amherst where I know I can hit .985. I heard the repeater DFQ and since Chris KB1NEK was just finishing a QSO, I gave him a call. His response was that there was no audio on whoever is calling. Looking at the microphone, I could see a questionable wire in the RJ-connector. I moved to 52 and using my HT, I confirmed I had no audio and Chris confirmed I was hitting the repeater solidly with my HT! Driving home, I found my original mike with the replacement cord, plugged it in, and using my HT, verified that I had audio.

Bottom line, the rig worked well from "Goldfinch" on both .985 and .13.

Checking Amazon, replacement cords are still available for under \$10 with free shipping, so I'll fix the second mike. --- Also searching on Amazon, I found listings for *after-market* replacement microphones for most of the Yaseu and ICOM radios I own.

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

September 2026 OPERATING EVENTS

Lad WA3EEC

September 6-7	Tennessee QSO Party
September 12-13	Colorado QSO Party
	New Jersey QSO Party
	ARRL September VHF Contest
September 19-20	Texas QSO Party
	Iowa QSO Party
	New Hampshire 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 October 1st!

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

Club Officers 2026-2027

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