The Communicator

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

November 2026

November Events

November 9	Monday	6:30 pm	**FCARC** Club Meeting, 1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls
November 14	Saturday	8:00 am	**FCARC** Club Breakfast, Denny's, Greenfield
November 26	Thursday	~~Noon~~	~~**FCARC** Club Luncheon, Denny's, Greenfield~~ Cancelled Due to Thanksgiving Day

Check groups.io and the Club Nets for updates

Future Public Service Events (tentative)

January 1, 2027	Sawmill River 10k Run (see article on the next page)	Organized by Mark NX1K mark.nx1k@gmail.com

If you are willing to help in this event, please contact the organizer.

Non FCARC Future Events

November 6	Friday	HCRA	Auction – Holyoke Hospital – 7:30 (See flyer)
February 13, 2027	Saturday		Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Marlborough, MA FLEA MARKET https://www.qsl.net/n1em/Flea2027.pdf

Membership Renewal / DUES Reminder

FCARC Membership runs from September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027. The dues for a individual member has been increased to $25 per year. For families with more than 1 licensed amateur the dues are $25 for the first family member, $10 each for the next two, and free to additional licensed family members. ($45 maximum)

Please pay your Dues ASAP..

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

You can mail your check to the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 773, Greenfield MA 01302.

Net Control Schedule November 2026	
Emergency Net --- Tuesday 8 PM	Information Net ---– Thursday at 8 PM
November 3 Gary KB1AKU	November 5 Dick N1RCM
November 10 Chris KB1NEK	November 12 Bob KA1HAH
ONovember 17 Beth WU1S	November 19 Chris KB1NEK
November 24 Bob KA1HAH	November 26 Tom Tu8key (if available)
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.)

Sawmill River 10k Run - January 1 2027 - Update

The Sugarloaf Mountain Athletic Club (SMAC) has adopted this annual run from the Montague Recreation Department. Although it is not yet listed on their web site there is menton on their Facebook page that the event will go on at the usual time. I have been told they welcome our help.

I will send out a call for volunteers in the next couple weeks. In the meantime, place mark the date on your calendar.

Mark NX1K

D2R2 and Green River Marathon Scheduling

Al N1AW

The Franklin Land Trust's D2R2 bike tour event has been supported by FCARC for many years now, but we have in recent years had something of a conflict - the D2R2 takes place on a Saturday and the Green River Marathon takes place on Sunday of the same weekend. Both of these events can uniquely benefit from ham radio support. Both events take place over a wide geographical area, and it is hard to schedule volunteers for short shifts when just getting to a site where communication is needed can require a long drive.

In the past it seemed possible that one or the other of the events could be rescheduled so as to avoid such conflicts. However that has always been difficult for the Marathon, which tries to coordinate with similar events all over the country. Headquarters for the D2R2 has, in the past, been in the fields near historic Deerfield, presumably with there being some possibility of flexibility of the date of the event. But for 2026 the D2R2 headquarters was changed to the Franklin County Fairgrounds. This worked well, and recently the FLT has signed a contract with the Fairgrounds for the next five years. The space will only be available if the D2R2 is held on the 4th Saturday of August. So D2R2 is now scheduled for August 28, 2027, August 26, 2028, August 25, 2029, August 24, 2030, and August 23, 2031.

Mary Lynn Sabourin, Executive Director of the Franklin Land Trust, was kind enough to inform me of this agreement. She also informed me that she will share this plan with the Green River Marathon planners. It is also worth noting that the FLT provided space for an amateur radio licensing class last winter, and that several regular FLT volunteers with new amateur radio licenses joined our regular FCARC members in assisting with the 2026 D2R2. I plan to discuss with Mary Lynn the possibility of FLT sponsoring another ham radio license class in 2027.

The National Traffic System

Lad WA3EEC

In the past few weeks, twice, I checked my email to receive an Amateur Radiogram, one from W1AST thanking me for working W1AW/1 and another from K8NGW thanking me for working W1AW/8 in Michigan. Receiving an NTS message brought back fond memories of my early days of Ham Radio almost 60 years ago.

Remembering the history of the founding of the ARRL, *Back in the days when "spark was king," Hiram Percy Maxim — a "ham" radio operator in the early 1900s — was unable to send a message from Hartford, CT to Springfield, MA, so he worked a fellow amateur from Windsor Locks, a small town between Hartford and Springfield, and asked him to relay the message to Springfield. This gave Maxim the idea for an organization whose purpose would be to expedite amateur radio traffic handling. Of course, that organization ultimately became ARRL — the American Radio Relay League — and a general mailing initiated by Maxim to promote the League and message handling by amateur radio soon became QST.* https://nts2.arrl.org/nts-history/

Many of my high school friends from Eastern PA became interested in traffic handling. Until I went to college, many of us had good times passing messages. While message handling existed between the World Wars, the National Traffic System, as we now know it was developed after WWII by ARRL Communicatons Department Employees Ed Handy, W1BDI, and George Hart, W1NJM who combined their prewar experiences with message handling for WERS during WWII. The idea was that Ham that had a message to send would first check into a section net. Messages out of the section would be sent to a Regional Net. Messages among regions would be sned to Area Net. Messages beyond areas would be relayed by elite cadre of operators call the Transcontinental Corps or TCC. Most of us were in awe at a hamfest when we saw a ham with a distinctive TCC

badge. At that point, most TCC operators were male, 50-ish, used Vibroplex bugs (the keyer had not yet been invented) and copy using a typewriter and speeds 40-50 wpm.

Up until the mid-60s, when I was licensed most message handling was by CW. Since SSB was just becoming popular and affordable, section phone traffic next began to emerge. In Eastern PA, the Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Phone and Traffic Net (EPAEPTN) was founded meeting daily on 3917 kHz (LSB) at 6PM. Sixty years later, the net still meets daily albeit on 3918 at 5PM.. However, since *real traffic handlers* used CW, messages for out of EPA were taken to the EPA CW section net.

There was 1 cycle a day, so a message from Scranton to Amherst would be sent first to EPAEPTN, then to EPA CW, then to the Third Region net, then to the Eastern Area new where it would give to an operator from the First Region Net. The operator from the First Region New would distribute it the following evening to the WMA CW net and hopefully an operator would deliver it to the addressee. Thus. One cycle took 24 hours!

In the early 70s, a late evening section was formed. A bit later, much to the disgust of a majority of the traffic handlers daytime traffic nets using FM and repeaters were developed! (Remember – real hams did not own microphones!) This has evolved in Western MA to the daily traffic net on the .91 Mt.Greylock repeater.

For delivery in the 1960s, hopefully there would be a ham within a local phone call of the addressee. We knew our local phone area well, so our parents would not be angry with us for making long distance (toll) calls!

One other way of delivering was via Post Cards. I sent out quite a few. In the late 60s, new recruits arriving at Basic Training filled out an ARRL radiogram to their families with a message saying *arrived safely at...*. This was often the first communication they heard from their sons in several weeks.

In 2026, I received my radiograms from a local radio amateur. I’m sure some of you can update add to this short article.

The ARRL is working on NTS 2.0. It will be interesting to see how it evolves

Did You Ever Find a QSL Card for a QSO You Never Remember Making?

Lad WA3EEC

A rhetorical question that should be followed by t*hat you should have remember making?*

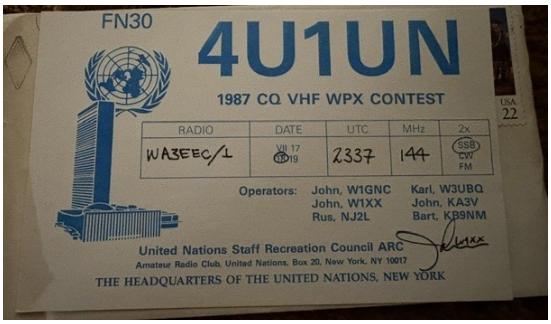
A few weeks ago, I was going through my QSL collection. I believe that I have every card from my Ham Career. Until late 2020, I did not use LOTW, While I knew I had worked over 60 DXCC countries, I had never seriously hunted DXCC. Getting on FT8 changed all that! I was daily working 1 or more new DXCC countries and reworking ones on a digital mode. As my number confirmed increased on LoTW, I wondered if I should send my paper cards for checking, since I figured I had completed DXCC. However, the ARRL was still closed due to the pandemic and I was worried about losing my cards, so I did nothing. Finally in Late 2021, I had achieved DXCC with countries confirmed by LoTW, so I applied for it.

By then, the ARRL had said that they were again verifying paper cards, so I mailed then 4 batches quickly increasing my country total by 40 or so. In addition, I added many more phone and CW countries. One group of cards I never did is to send 6M and 2M cards for checking. This is primarily because they would have to be sent twice, since different checkers check DXCC and VUCC Many of us have been very happy to work 4U1UN, the club station at the UN Headquarters in New

York City. Since 2024, I've worked them on 80M, 40M, 30M, and 20M FT8 and 40M CW, but have never seen a spot for them on Phone! 4U1UN is considered a separate country from the US.

While prior to 9/11 it was relatively straightforward to get permission to operate the station. It was easy to set up a multiband VHF/UHF station on the roof for contests. However, security considerations took over and until remote operation became popular, the station was almost never on the air. Even now, the station is remote access only to UN Employees, but one regularly sees a spot for it.

When I was initially looking through my QSL cards, I never thought of looking at my 2M cards. Looking at my 2M cards a few weeks ago, this one popped out. What apparently happened, in the summer of 1987, a group of ARRL staff members decided to operated the CQ VHF contest from 4U1UN. I had totally blocked my memory of working them on 2M SSB. I was then running an ICOM 290H, an Mirage B3016 Amp and an 11el Horizontal Yagi. Although, my QTH is not VHF friendly< I was able to work to the south and west rather easily.



Since 4U1UN was a new 2M county for most, the operation QSLed. Had I known about the card, I would have submitted it earlier and finished mixed and phone DXCC sooner! I still have no recollection of working them and being such a rare QSO, I'm surprised t do not.

BTW 39 years later, 4 of the 6 operators are still active hams.



November 2026 OPERATING EVENTS

Lad WA3EEC

November 1	North America Sideband Sprint (Evening of October 31st EDT)
November 7-8	ARRL Sweepstakes - CW
November 14-15	10-10 Digital Contest
November 21-23	ARRL Sweepstakes - SSB
November 28-29	CQ Worldwide DX – CW

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

THE COMMUNICATOR is an informational publication for members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. It 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 should be sent to him. The next issue will be published on or about December 1st!

Club Officers 2026-2027			
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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 *).*