



# The Communicator

Franklin County Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 773

Greenfield MA 01302

**November 2022**

## Upcoming Events

Nov 4 Fri 8:00 pm HCRA Annual Auction, Holyoke Hospital  
Nov 6 Sun 3:00 am Daylight Savings Time Ends  
Nov 8 Tue ---- Election Day ----  
Nov 12 Sat 8:00 am **FCARC** Monthly Club Breakfast, Denny's, Greenfield  
Nov 14 Mon 6:30 pm **FCARC** Monthly Board Meeting, 1 Aviation Way Turners Falls MA  
Nov 14 Mon 6:30 pm **FCARC** Monthly General Meeting, 1 Aviation Way Turners Falls MA  
Nov 24 Thu ----Thanksgiving Holiday----

## News, Activities & Articles

### Secretary's Report, October E-Board 10/10/2022

Erika KC1IJJ

Editors Note: Thanks to Erika as acting Secretary in Beth's absence due to illness

Board Members Present: President, Brad Councilman W1BCC; Clerk, Erika LaForme KC1IJJ; Director, Dick Merriott N1RCM; Director, Chris Myers KB1NEK

Board Members Absent: Treasurer, Howard Field N1LUP; Secretary Beth Lukin K1BRL

Others Present : Steve Ross N1IBS; Chuck Allen KC1CHA; RoyMorgan K1LKY

### **Board Meeting Notes :**

Discussion regarding what we need to achieve a board quorum – two of eight positions not filled (past resident, vice president) – so with six positions filled, we need at least four board members present to vote on business. There was an error last month, Chris was present at the meeting, so there actually was a quorum.

What happened last month?? Bike for Food; ham radio demo at the Big E; Denny's monthly get-togethers; Trolley Fest didn't officially happen, but several members went anyway. Brad will send out "thank you's" to members that participated.

Brad: motion for board to approve appropriation of \$200 for QSL cards and postage. Also, if this money is

already approved, events can be planned during the month without waiting for the board to vote on spending for event expenses. Dick seconded the motion; vote 3 yes, 1 abstention.

## Secretary's Report , October Meeting 10/10/2022

Erika KC1IJJ

### Membership Meeting Notes:

Discussion regarding the need for committees to encourage involvement.

Some of the “needs” discussed were: repeater group - need to spread out the work, especially more people to be hands-on – Al, Chris, Roy, Chuck interested; Field Day group – need better organization, recruitment, etc -- Steve, Al interested; Zoom group – might increase attendance if we were able to run hybrid meetings (both in-person and virtual)

Steve offered to let the club use his unlimited Zoom acct. Chuck, Chris can help out during meetings; Tech group to answer questions, help club members with setups, etc; Outreach group – need to try to increase our membership and participation within the club, maybe discuss the need for more nets (different days, different times) to try to increase participation.

One other discussion with no resolution was whether or not the club needs to have a budget and a group to work on developing it .

## Big E Report

Larry, W1AST (HCRA President)

(Editor's note: FCARC members who participated on the designated FCARC support day have promised more info next month. Larry was one of the prime movers in getting ham radio represented at the Big E, and probably has a bigger picture of how it went than anyone else.)

There's so much that can be said about the Big E booth. Here are a few one liners:

- Manning the booth brought so many people together that otherwise would not have ever met. It was great making new friends and having enjoyable conversations among the booth workers.
- The two items that drew people to the booth were the Morse Code keys and sounders and being able to tap out your name and the ARISS sign and talk about talking to the International Space Station.
- We guesstimate that the booth spoke to around 1200 people/groups/families over the 17 days.
- At times the booth was very quiet and other times everyone staffing it was talking to someone of the public. Everyone had a lot of fun and talked to some very interesting personalities.
- While talking to the public was the reason for staffing the booth, there were still a few staffers that were so shy they barely said anything the whole time they were there.
- Once up and running, remote ham radio was easy to use and to log QSOs. Yet two people still chose to

log on paper and over 200 QSOs went missing because there was no record of them. In this day and age, who couldn't type a call, RST and press enter?

- There were a few that walked by, stopped and tapped out perfect cw even though this was their first time seeing the Morse code and a key.
- All the kids marvelled at the Morse code keys. They all wanted to send more than their names. Working on that interest with their parents and introducing the idea of earning their licenses with their parents made for an excellent parent/child activity.

I could go on. But the above should be sufficient for now.

### HCRA Auction - AI N1AW (info from HCRA website)

The Hampden County Radio Association is reviving an annual event that has been missing for several years - the HCRA Auction.

- Free yourself of unused gear
- Discover the classic you have longed for, avoid high EBay and Paypal fees, meet old friends, have fun!
- When: Friday November 4 2022, doors open at 7 PM
- Where: Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room: <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location>, five minutes from Route 91 Exit 14.

Rules:

- 10 Percent of selling price or \$1 minimum to HCRA.
- Ham radio related only. No old PCS, monitors, or printers etc.
- You must take home any items that were not sold.
- Tag each item with your name call , phone and email

For additional info contact HCRA Club President, Larry W1AST at [w1ast@arrrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrrl.net)

(Editor's Note: this is the event that motivated me to join the HCRA many years ago, even when their meetings were very far away, in Feeding Hills. Can they revive it? There used to be nothing else like this in our area.)

### Remote Tuner Available

Bob W1SRB

I have a remote tuner to give away in exchange for a donation to the club. It is an SGC SG-230. I have a PDF version of the manual for it on my computer and will send it to whoever takes the tuner (it's 81 pages so I'd rather not have to print it out). I used it in Easthampton with a off center fed 125 ft dipole and with the tuner it worked very well on any band 80m to 10m. This is the tuner I got from Bill Boutwell.

Thanks and 73, Bob Solosko <[bobsolosko@outlook.com](mailto:bobsolosko@outlook.com)>

### Mt Wachusett 6 Meter Repeater

Info from various sources:

In October word was received that the Mt Wachusett 6 meter repeater, WC1MA, is back on the air with new equipment. It had been off the air for more than a year due to lightning damage.

The downlink frequency is 53.31 MHz, uplink is 52.31 MHz, and tone is 71.9 Hz. The trustee is William Collins, KB1MSJ.

The new repeater was donated in memory of Dale Thomas, WA1RJC, by John, W1GPO. Custom built antenna and tower work was donated by Clark, N1PAH. KB1MSJ and Alex, AB1FC, had some help from other volunteers, Mike Girard from MEMA and intern Joe KC1EGK, on install day.

This repeater should be accessible from many locations in Franklin County. Please share information about success (or lack of success) in using it.

### [New Years Race in Montague](#)

AI N1AW

No news yet – IMO our support of this event has been one of our most appreciated public service events. A road race in winter is a big deal.

### [Net Control Stations, Nets on FCARC 146.985 Repeater, 2022 Q4](#)

AI N1AW

As of October 31<sup>st</sup> we are still short one Net Control Station volunteer for the Tuesday Emergency Net. Contact Chris KB1NEK if you are interested.

### [Trolley Museum Event](#)

Some notes in response to editor's query:

Roy, K1LKY, wrote:

- The trolleyfest was fun. I was there just as a visitor. Richard AB1RS was there as the motorman for the trolley. The crowd was moderate. There was a 760 Volvo with a Larsen 5/8 wave antenna on the trunk, so I assume that there was another ham there.
- What might be fun would be to dispatch the trolley using modulated CW on 2 or 440 FM with stations at the station and the end of the line.
- Since it's not a POTA or SOTA location, we can just set up a HF station on 40 or 20 for a Ham Radio demo.
- I do not know if they would let us put an antenna on the trolley, likely difficult since it is wood and the trolley pole would get in the way, but we could operate /TM (trolley mobile).
- I expect that anything more than an HT antenna on the operating trolley would be seriously unwise. The overhead wire operates at 300 volts!!!

Lad, WA3EEC wrote:

- Thinking about it a bit more, since some of the train oriented demos were not continuous, we could do a demo of train order dispatching. The dispatcher could send to the operator (not the trolleyman) by MCW a train order to proceed to Salmon Falls on single track - We can get the exact wording from a site on railroad dispatching. Once the

trolley is at Salmon Falls, the operator there could receive an order to proceed back.

- If the Trolleyfest coincides with the International Museums Weekend ( <http://www.radio-amateur-events.org/IMW/History.htm>), an Amateur Radio Special Event Taking Place on the Weekends of 18th - 19th and 25th - 26th June, we could operate that activity from the SFTM.

-I think that a demonstration of Ham Radio in some form might be great at next-year's event.

-I also wonder, if we lost the ability to use Poet's Seat, the museum grounds, themselves, might be a great location for Field Day.

## ARRL New England Division ARRL Division Town Hall Meeting

AI N1AW

Frankly, my impression of the event was not positive and I would be happy to have another opinion for either balance or support! I asked Board members if any of them attended, but received no replies

History: Tom Frenaye K1KI, who for many years was the ARRL New England Division Director (meaning, our representative on the ARRL BoD), held what he called "NE Division Cabinet Meetings" twice a year preceding ARRL Board Meetings. He invited presidents and vice-presidents of all New England ARRL-affiliated amateur radio clubs. In addition to club officers, various other ARRL Division officials, Section Managers and others attended. Many clubs sent more than just their presidents and VPs to these meetings. I attended many of these myself in the years when Chris, and later, I, were FCARC presidents, and other FCARC members also attended with us on other occasions.

I am not sure what the situation was in the couple of years after Tom was replaced by Fred Hopengarten, K1VR - I believe Aaron continued to attend Division Cabinet meetings, but as I was no longer an FCARC officer I received very little information about these meetings. And then at some point the normal schedule changed, as so many things changed due to the covid virus.

Last Fall Fred Kemmerer AB1OC was elected New England Director, and in place of Cabinet Meetings he implemented a series of New England Division Town Meetings, conducted via Zoom on the Internet. I didn't pay much attention to this until I received this invitation:

"Phil Temples K9HI, our Assistant Directors, and I will hold our next New England Division Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, October 19th, at 7 pm EST. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide you with an ARRL update, get your thoughts on what we should be focusing on, and answer any questions you might have about the ARRL and what we are doing on behalf of ARRL members here in New England. "

The meeting was to be conducted via Zoom. Recipients were invited to send questions in advance, by e-mail, but there was also to be an opportunity to ask questions during the meeting. The invitation included a link to join the Zoom meeting.

As mentioned above I was disappointed in the "Town Meeting". I admit, my impression of the usefulness of Tom Frenaye's cabinet meetings was inherently biased, because, as a club officer I was an insider. One of the

characteristics of K1KI's cabinet meetings was that a lot of people from clubs around New England contributed to the discussions. But the meetings were not broadcast or in any way open to all New England ARRL members, except as far as attending club officers reported back to their local clubs.

AB1OC's "Town Meeting" was conducted by Zoom - but unlike the Zoom meetings for FCARC and HCRA, and other clubs that I am used to, the faces and voices of remote participants were never shown - basically Fred did almost all of the talking and only a few of his official assistants got face or voice time. Input from other participants came via reading by the officials of questions submitted in advance by e-mail or by text messaging during the event.

I was disappointed. I wanted to be able to see the faces and hear the voices of remote participants, and in a true "town meeting" there ought to be opportunity for dialogue between participants. Maybe that is not really possible for a Zoom meeting with more than a few dozen participants - but in the way this meeting was conducted I don't even know how many participants were actually logged in.

If anyone else from FCARC attended or has had other interactions with our New England Division leadership that gave you a more favorable opinion, I would like to know. I will publish any response in the Communicator.

### About this Newsletter

#### AI N1AW

Input requested! What have you done, where have you gone, what are you planning? Photos of interest to other hams would be nice to share. I will try to get an issue out on or before the beginning of each month.

**THE COMMUNICATOR** is an informational publication for members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. Officers: President: Brad Councilman, W1BCC ([w1bcc@arrl.net](mailto:w1bcc@arrl.net)), Vice President: (vacant), Treasurer: Howard Field, N1LUP ([howfield@comcast.net](mailto:howfield@comcast.net)), Secretary: Beth Lukin, K1BRL ([bethlukin@gmail.com](mailto:bethlukin@gmail.com)), Director: Richard Merriott, KC1JQJ ([rcmpilot@comcast.net](mailto:rcmpilot@comcast.net)), Director: Chris Myers, KB1NEK ([camyers@protonmail.com](mailto:camyers@protonmail.com)), Clerk: Erika LaForme, KC1IJJ ([etlaforme@yahoo.com](mailto:etlaforme@yahoo.com)).

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