



The Communicator

Franklin County Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 773

Greenfield MA 01302

December 2022

Upcoming Events

Dec 10 Sat 8:00 am **FCARC** Monthly Club Breakfast, Denny's, Greenfield
Dec 12 Mon 6:30 pm **FCARC** Monthly Board Meeting, 1 Aviation Way Turners Falls MA
Dec 12 Mon 7:00 pm **FCARC** Monthly General Meeting, 1 Aviation Way Turners Falls MA
Dec 22 Thu 12:00 pm **FCARC** Monthly Club Lunch, Denny's, Greenfield
Dec 31 Sat 9:00 am Sawmill River Race, Montague Center
Dec 31 Sat 11:50 pm **FCARC** New Years Eve net on **KB1BSS** Repeater

News, Activities & Articles

Board Meeting Notes :

Report by President Brad Councilman

November E-Board 11/14/2022, 6:30 p.m.

Present: President Brad Councilman, Clerk Erica LaForme, Director Dick Merriott (zoom)

Absent: Secretary Beth Lukin, Director Chris Myers

Others present (zoom): Ray Lajoie, Lad Nagurny, Al Woodhull, Anne Kring

New business before the board was reimbursement to Erica for the \$18.50 corporate filing fee. Absent objection, Howard will send her a check.

Until switching to the general meeting at 7:00, last month's discussion about membership polling continued.

Membership Meeting Notes:

Report by President Brad Councilman

November Meeting 11/14/2022, 7:00 p.m.

We had a good round table style discussion about what questions should be asked of the membership. Ray was helpful sharing his experience with his home club Montachusett ARC <https://www.w1gz.org/>

In addition to board members, Anne, Lad, Al and Chuck made good suggestions about what the key questions should be. Dick Merriott volunteered to work with Brad in developing a basic survey.

Al reminded everyone present that content for the December newsletter should be submitted soon. Ray suggested including the ARRL section manager's report. Brad suggested including web links for those who read on-screen rather than in print.

Meeting concluded at 8:00pm

FCARC Dues Notice

The FCARC club year runs from September 1st through August 31st, and officially your \$15/year dues become due on September 1st. However club policy is not to declare anyone in arrears until December 31. So this is your notice - if you haven't paid for the 2022—2023 club year yet, your dues are due before the end of December.

Send your dues check to the PO Box address at the top of page 1 of this newsletter or if you are not yet a club member write to the FCARC Treasurer, Howard Field at howfield@comcast.net for information on becoming a member.

November WMA ARRL Section Manager Report

Ray Lajoie AA1SE

Hello, here we go again. Silly Season is approaching once again! I have a feeling the wish list will include heating oil, electricity, etc. One can also think that as uncertainty is gripping the world, how many of us are thinking about radio as a vehicle for international goodwill, or a means to relay a message telling a loved one that they are ok. We as operators have to ask, “are we ready?”

Right now, the league’s EMCOMM manager, [Josh Johnston](#) with [Fred Kemmerer](#) and [Marcia, KW1U](#) along with others are working on NTS 2.0 to invigorate and modernize traffic handling. Messages have gone out to section officials where we report in as to how and when we receive the messages. The plan is to get NTS back into ARES and working as a unit once again.

Regarding ARES in WMA, it is still in a void. I will admit that I have not been focusing on this due to frustration. After nearly 5 years of trying with no interest, I changed my direction to teaching license classes and mentoring new hams in hopes that the new hams will be active and therefore participate in ARES activities. Don’t get me wrong, there are a number of members who are active with various aspects of EMCOMM and I truly appreciate it. There just aren’t enough of us to achieve what we need to be an effective group. Served agencies will not consider us in their plans unless we are better organized. If you read this and have ideas, comments, etc. please, let me know.

The Big E for 2022 is in the can. Now the feedback is being looked at and the general feeling from those who responded is they want to see it again next year and want to contribute again. This does speak volumes and is very encouraging. We learned a lot from this one and will improve on it. So keep it in mind if you wish to get involved.

The [Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club](#) ran a tech class using the ARRL/ARDC grant they received and received 16 new licensees as a result! That was a stellar effort and they are not stopping there. Keep up the good work!

Speaking of classes, the [WMA Train and Test group](#) is now conducting Tech classes with a [VE session on Dec 3rd](#). There are other license classes I hear are in the works. I encourage all clubs if they have anyone interested to point them in that direction, or maybe have a class within. Of course, getting the license is one thing. As I constantly remind those that mentoring them and getting them on the air is an important part of the learning process.

If you haven’t noticed, there has been some great activity on 12 and 10 meters as well as some serious ducting being heard on 2 meters. Take advantage of it to play radio or to teach that new ham.

There are a couple of websites I have been promoting to clubs because they have a growing library of presentations and they actively encourage us to use them. They are www.k8zt.com and www.ratpac.us. The presentations are recorded and slide decks are available. It is a great resource so check it out.

I truly hope everyone has a fantastic Thanksgiving if I don't see you before then. Please visit nediv.arrl.org and this site often to stay up to date on what's going on.

Until next month, 73, Ray-AA1SE

FCARC Field Day 2022

AI N1AW

Field day results are in the December QST, on pages 60 through 73. The results for FCARC's AC1L operation are on page 64. Details are available online at field-day.arrl.org/fdresults.php.

Our WMA entry as AC1L was by my count 164th of 290 entries in Class 2A (two transmitters, emergency power).

We seem to be the only WMA class 2A entry, our score was 12th of 14 New England Division class 2A entries.

Franklin Co. (MA) ARC					
AC1L	284	2	14	1,390	WMA

The numbers mean:

284 QSOs, power < 100W, 14 participants, total score 1390 including bonus points.

New Years Race in Montague

AI N1AW

The Sawmill River 10K Run in Montague, normally a New Years Day event, will take place on Saturday, December 31 2022 this year, since New Years Day 2023 is on Sunday.

After the event was cancelled last year, tentative proposals to move the event to June, and, later, to October, were abandoned. The local running community very much prefers the challenge of a winter race. The FCARC appreciates the difficulties of a winter event and the value of testing our own capabilities under such conditions. The club has supported the Sawmill Race at least since 2006 (which is as far back as N1AW's collection of FCARC newsletters goes).

The race begins at 10 a.m. At 8 a.m. one or two FCARC members will start setting up the net control station at the Race Headquarters, the Montague Common Hall in Montague Center. The net control station will be on the air by 8:30 to help arriving volunteers who need directions. Volunteers will check in starting at 8:30, and can then head for designated locations after 9 a.m. In the past we have stationed volunteers at up to sixteen locations along the route. But we don't necessarily need sixteen operators, since all of the runners will pass the first few stations very shortly after the race begins, and radio operators at those locations can then relocate to locations near the end of the race route where runners will not arrive until later. Typically we also have an operator riding with the race director in the lead vehicle, as well as an operator in a sweep vehicle following the last runner.

Chris KB1NEK and AI N1AW will coordinate our FCARC effort. Please contact one of them to volunteer. Earlier in

December Chris and Al also plan to do some experimentation at a few locations along the race route where past experience showed that simplex communication using a handheld HT to contact net control could be difficult. These locations may require use of a mobile rig or a better antenna. If you can be available to help with this please let Chris or Al know.

Contacts: Al N1AW n1aw@arrl.net ; Chris KB1NEK camyers@protonmail.com

FCARC New Years Eve Net on KB1BSS Repeater

Al N1AW

In past years the club's New Years custom was to hold a New Years Eve Net on the Leyden 146.985 Mhz repeater on December 31st, starting at 11:50 p.m.

I believe this is a custom that probably has not been followed in the last few years – so many things have been casualties of the virus. Can it be revived? If you are just sitting at home watching people you don't know celebrating the New Year on TV, grab your radio and join the net, or start a net if nobody is already there.

D2R2 Organizer Mary Lynn Sabourin, Franklin Land Trust Executive Director

Al N1AW

FCARC members who have participated in our support for the Franklin Land Trust's annual bicycle tour event, the Deerfield Dirt Road Randonee (D2R2) will be pleased to know that Mary Lynn Sabourin, the FLT's D2R2 coordinator, has been appointed FLT's Executive Director.

Sabourin was instrumental in building the Deerfield Dirt-Road Randonnée (D2R2). The D2R2 is Franklin Land Trust's most significant fundraising event and one of the most famous bike rides in the country.

"Mary is uniquely qualified to lead the Franklin Land Trust into its next chapter. Her knowledge of the area and many contributions to the trust will ensure that Franklin Land Trust remains a true pillar of the community" said Barbara Miller, Board President.

ARRL Sweepstakes Comments

Al N1AW with Lad WA3EEC

After Field Day the ARRL November Sweepstakes is probably the second most popular US and Canadian radio contest. By the deadline for log submissions there were 1351 logs received for the CW weekend and 1639 logs received for the SSB weekend. Last month I wrote:

"I would like to have an article about FCARC members participation in SS in the Communicator December. I don't care, in fact I'm especially interested if you did not make a serious effort to compete in the contest."

I didn't get many responses, in fact for the CW weekend I am the only club member I know of who participated. For the SSB weekend I received one response, from Lad WA3EEC.

The N1AW effort was not serious, but I had a good time during on the CW weekend. I like operating QRP in contests.

In the final hours of a contest when all the "big gun" stations have worked each other, the big guns are happy to hear anyone they haven't worked already. I put in about 3 hours, partly during the first few hours of the contest and more late on the second day, which is when a weak signal in a contest really has a good chance of getting a reply. I made 27 QRP contacts in 23 ARRL sections on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters, total score 1242 points.

Lad WA3EEC wrote, "I had about an hour and a half to operate Phone SS, some time Saturday Evening and the rest Sunday afternoon. Since I knew I was time-limited, I used a hunt-pounce strategy looking for new phone-states or new band-states and did not necessarily maximize my number of QSOs. In the end I made 32 QSOs in 22 sections distributed among 75, 40, 20, and 15. Did not hear anything on 10. My 75 M QSOs were further limited since my tuner does not tune my 66' EFHW well on that band, so I had to back off the power.

"After submitting my Cabrillo log to the ARRL, I converted it to an adif file and uploaded it to Logbook of the World. So far 16 of my 32 QSOs have been confirmed via LOTW adding to my Phone WAS as well as my 5-band WAS totals."

Satellite Dish Available

Mark Swartwout, NX1K nx1k@arrl.net

I have a Direct TV satellite dish, oval shape and measures 23" x 31".
Anyone interested, or know of someone who might be?

More Antennas Available

Al N1AW

Free, asking for a contribution to the club. All are located in Al's back yard.

>> Amateur TV Repeater Antenna

Some time, way, way back before I joined FCARC or knew any hams in Franklin County, several hams in this area did some experimenting with ATV - amateur TV – with a repeater located on Frizzell Hill in Leyden at the site of our KB1BSS 146.985 Mhz repeater and the WPVQ-FM transmitter.



In cleaning up the site the WPVQ engineer found an antenna for the 420 Mhz band which seems to have been left from that time. The label indicates it is adjusted for 421.25 MHz and 431.25 MHz. I have tried without success to contact one of the hams who were involved in the old ATV experiment. At least one of them is now a silent key. I think this can be considered abandoned equipment, but I can't be sure of that. I would like to get it out of my back yard.

>> 10 meter vertical (?)



I think this is an antenna from FCARC's old 440 Mhz repeater at the water department site near Poets Seat. It's about 13.5 ft long. I think it was for the 10 meter simplex link for the 440 repeater. It came down when the tower at the water facility collapsed a few years ago. The 10m link equipment is not usable with the new Yaesu 440 equipment.

>> 10 meter whips

These are stainless steel whips for 10m (or perhaps 11m) from the W1ERK estate. Length is about 8'6". They have standard mobile mount 3/8"-24 threaded base fitting. Could be used for mobile or fixed vertical, or with additional hardware, use both of them to make a tripod-mounted portable rotary dipole...



>> AC1L's compact wire W5GI HF antenna

When Dick AC1L prepared to move to an assisted-living apartment club members spent a Saturday morning helping him remove antennas and other items in preparation for putting his home up for sale. One item was this 100' long wire antenna, apparently useful on many bands, although, like the well-known G5RV in theory it is only really designed for 20 meters. I believe this is called a W5GI antenna.

It is pictured in my back yard. I stretched it out and checked all connections, it seems ready to go except for one break in the ladderline feedline segment that needs to be fixed.



For information about this antenna see <http://www.iw5edi.com/technical-articles/w5gi-mystery-antenna>. It is described as "a multi-band antenna that performs exceptionally well even though it confounds antenna modeling software."

About this Newsletter

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.

I will try to print as much news as possible ("All the news that fits, we print") but if I don't get material earlier than a week before the end of a month the information might have to be postponed to the next issue if it is still timely.

If you want to plan an event and have it publicized in the newsletter, try to get me the announcement early in the preceding month.

Reading On -Line?

I received a request about reading this newsletter on line. I format it as a PDF document meant to be printed and archived, and I hope to find a place where it can be posted for access by anyone with a web browser.

The FCARC.org website has apparently been abandoned and nobody has access to post new material or edit the site. I have access to a personal website where I hope to be able to post current issues of the newsletter, but I am not quite ready to do that. More on that next month, I hope!

THE COMMUNICATOR is an informational publication for members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. Officers: President: Brad Councilman, W1BCC (w1bcc@arrl.net), Vice President: (vacant), Treasurer: Howard Field, N1LUP (howfield@comcast.net), Secretary: Beth Lukin, K1BRL (bethlukin@gmail.com), Director: Richard Merriott, KC1JQJ (rcmpilot@comcast.net), Director: Chris Myers, KB1NEK (camyers@protonmail.com), Clerk: Erika LaForme, KC1IJJ (etlaforme@yahoo.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: Al Woodhull N1AW (n1aw@arrl.net).

Change of address or missing an issue? Please contact Al Woodhull, N1AW, n1aw@arrl.net

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