

F.C.A.R.C. Inc.
P.O. Box 773
Greenfield, MA 01302



MAIL

FIRST CLASS



THE COMMUNICATOR
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FCARC September 2021 Newsletter

Calendar

September 13th, Sept Meeting, Rob Macedo will present about Skywarn Support

October 9th, Breakfast At Dennys in Greenfield

October 11th, Oct meeting 7pm

September Meeting Information

Rob Macedo will present about Skywarn Support

Topic: General Membership Meeting Rob Macedo will present about Skywarn Support

Time: Sep 13, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/91359124392?](https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/91359124392?pwd=S0FXcVJIS3YxRWtTOG0yT2dRQjEyQT09)
[pwd=S0FXcVJIS3YxRWtTOG0yT2dRQjEyQT09](https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/91359124392?pwd=S0FXcVJIS3YxRWtTOG0yT2dRQjEyQT09)

Meeting ID: 913 5912 4392

Passcode: 726945

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,91359124392# US (Washington DC)

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Dial by your location

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 913 5912 4392

Find your local number: <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/91359124392>

Join by SIP

91359124392@zoomcrc.com

Meeting ID: 913 5912 4392

Passcode: 726945

Picnic and Radios - Mt. Sugarloaf

By: [Brad Councilman W1BCC](#)

When: Sunday, September 19th, 2021
10:30am to 2:30pm
(UTC-04:00) Eastern Time - New York (EDT)

Where: [Mt Sugarloaf State Reservation](#)

Organizer: Brad Councilman W1BCC & Larry Krainson
W1AST brad@councilman.com 4137730670

Description: At 652', South Sugarloaf Mountain is one of the most accessible and popular scenic outlooks in the region. [Mt Sugarloaf State Reservation](#)

Parking at the base is free. Parking on the summit is pay and display: \$5 MA plates, \$20 non-MA. Late arrivals may find the summit lot full and need a ride up. We'll be monitoring 146.52.

We'll be grilling hot dogs and burgers under a roofed pavilion. Please bring your favorite pot-luck dish and folding chair. AC

power is available.

This is also an operating event. Lots of trees for wire antennas and unobstructed VHF/UHF access to most of the horizon.

SOTA enthusiasts might want to activate nearby [Pocumtuck Rock](#).

Questions and RSPVs are welcome.

W4SSY Spud Gun Notes

My spud gun is no longer and as there has been several in need of one I thought I would share my notes.

<https://w4nja.org/2016/09/12/spud-gun-project/>

Contains 2 links regarding the W4SSY design I used.

I did not want to use an electrical sprinkler valve preferring a 1" mechanical pvc globe valve with female threads each end to screw onto the male adapter threads. It can be unscrewed and changed to an electric sprinkler valve in the future as desired. I remember going through the whole bin to find the easiest turning globe valve as you have to rotate in open fast.

The pvc pipes are sold in short sections, 2 footers I think, typically the different sizes in a cardboard box. Aubuchons actually had a high pressure rated 3 inch pipe for the main chamber.

I remember having to go to Home Depot, Lowes, and Aubuchons to find all the parts and adapters.

I went to an auto parts store for the tire valve and there was a large and small one in the package. I used the larger one.

The reel was a Zebco 33 from Walmart. I liked its 15 lb red Cajun line as it has some visibility.

I remember drilling 2 small holes in the 3/4 end cap and inserting a piece of paper clip and twisting the ends together inside the cap before gluing to the 3/4 pipe projectile aka the bullet. The bullets need no weight inside. For visibility I did a couple of wraps of surveyors tape with a piece of clear tape to hold the end down.

I never used a fishing swivel on the fishing line for bullet attachment preferring to tie a large enough loop in the fishing line with one overhand knot. I would feed the loop through the bullets eyelet, loop it around the bullet, and slide it tight. Once removed from the bullet this same loop was used a foot up the twine. As one reels the twine up this knotless attachment slides well over branches. The twine/masons line is then used to pull the rope as the rope is too heavy to be reeled in with the fishing reel.

It is very convenient to get the appropriate size twine/masons line preinstalled on a plastic wind up reel. I got mine from Home Depot.

A bicycle pump with attached pressure gauge was used to fill the air chamber. I never over 60 psi as that easily cleared trees.

Keith

Apex Orchard Event



[Brad Councilman W1BCC](#)

A gorgeous morning - weather straight out of a Chamber of Commerce brochure. Thanks to all who came!

At one point I counted 18 people and 3 stations operating, not including Aaron's satellite rig. I was quite busy. What else did I miss?

A young man had his first radio contact and new hams got a taste of HF operating. Antennas were erected and tested.

A vacationing Coast Guard veteran happened to see us when he and his wife came for peaches. He stopped by to say he never misses an opportunity to thank the amateur radio community for making phone calls home possible while he was at sea during the Vietnam war. Did anyone catch his name?

Your feedback and suggestions are much appreciated. Should we do this again? At this location or another? Maybe further down the valley and in conjunction with the Hampden County club?.

Thanks to Dick, N1RCM for organizing the infrastructure.

Do you have pics to share? Some from AI, N1AW can be seen at:

<https://groups.io/g/FCARC-MA/album?id=266957>

The Adams donuts and Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters products were well received. Maybe next time it should be picnic fare?

73,

--Brad W1BCC

THE COMMUNICATOR is an informational publication for members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. Officers: President: Aaron Addison (kf1g@arrl.net), Vice President: Brad Councilman, Treasurer: Howard Field, N1LUP, Secretary: Erika LaForme, KC1IJJ, Director: Belle Dyer, KB1NOG, Director: Richard Merriott