

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



MAIL

FIRST CLASS



THE COMMUNICATOR
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FCARC December 2021 Newsletter

Calendar

December 11th, Breakfast at Dennys in Greenfield 8:00am

December 13th, **General** meeting 6pm. Details below

January 8th, Breakfast at Dennys in Greenfield 8:00 am

January 10th, **General** meeting 7pm. Details below

December Meeting Information

Monday December 13th at 6pm in the GCC East Building room 110, we will be having our holiday party pot-luck. Bring a food item to share, and catch up with people we have not been able to see in person for quite sometime.

Greenfield has announced that they will be reinstating the mask mandate for inside buildings effective the 13th. So please bring a mask. Also be vaccinated for the safety of others.

January Meeting Information

Monday January 10th we will have a meeting about getting started in digital modes. This will not go into specifics on digital modes but is about choosing a digital interface and common settings and problems users might encounter.

Zoom information will be in next months newsletter.

Franklin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC) – Minutes

November 8, 2021

No board meeting as there were no scheduled agenda items.

General Meeting Notes :

Present : Aaron KF1G, Brad W1BCC, Erika KC1IJJ, Lad WA3EEC, Mark NX1K, Ray KB1LRL, Steve N1IBS
Brad Councilman W1BCC gave a talk on antenna tuners.

An Antenna Farm in a 10' x 10' Space

For the last 1 ½ years, I've been living in a senior community in Northampton where putting up antennas has been a challenge. All of the grounds around our town home beyond our patio is considered common areas and we can't put out or erect anything that might block passage of other residents and the landscaping folks. Thus, my space for erecting antennas is limited to my 10' x 10' patio.

Since I've been here, I tried a number of different antennas and antenna combinations, and now I finally have all of them up together. Here's a picture of my antenna farm. It includes a 2-turn transmitting loop for 160M made out of ladder line, three pairs of mobile whip antennas arranged as a fan dipole for 80M, 40M and 20M (which also works on 15M), and an 80M low noise receive antenna. They are all mounted on a 15' push up fiberglass mast. Leaning against the fence is a



2M beam pointing at the Leyden repeater. The 160M loop antenna does slightly extend out over my neighbor's yard, but since it's 15' up, she was OK with that.

Also on the patio is a clothes line (the pole in the near corner), a patio table and two patio chairs. The patio umbrella metal base stand was pre-empted to use as the base for the fiberglass mast, which is OK because with all of the wires and guy ropes, there's no way that we can put up our patio umbrella anyway.

As you'd expect, the 160M loop and very short dipole for 80M are marginal, but they do allow me to participate in the club's Snail Net. On 40M the antenna works OK but not great. On 20M and 15M, the antennas work very well – I've easily made QSOs all over the country.

Bob Solosko W1SRB

On December 1st, our weekly 10 meter net had an unexpected check in.

KP4JOC, Joel from Ponce Puerto Rico, was worked by all present including WA1UOL (Ralph) who was mobile. Signal reports were S8/9.

Pioneer Valley Net: 28.354. Wednesdays @ 9:00am.

FCARC Membership Reminder

It is that time of year again to renew your annual membership with the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club. To maintain full membership, annual dues are due as of the 1st of September with a grace period to the end of the year. Dues may be mailed directly to me, Howard Field at 7 Laurel St. Shelburne Falls, MA 01370, or catch me at one of the monthly breakfasts at Denny's or at a regular club meeting. Dues are \$15.00 for an adult membership or \$18.00 for a family membership. Checks should be made payable to Franklin County Amateur Radio Club (**FCARC**).

Howard Field N1LUP
Treasurer FCARC

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