

# ZERO BEAT



***Our 76th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club***

**October 2024**

## **New Members**

Steven Furr, KC1UXR; Anthony O'Brien; Mike Balestri, KC1SEU; Thomas Lopes, KC1UHY; Jeffrey Auer, KC1VEO; Brandon Johannes, KC1VEV; Adam Nyzio, N1NYZ; Alexander Sepko, KC1VHP; Jerry Sambrook

**Join us to see your name here!**

## **From the Assistant Editor:**

*Here I am, still playing the Sorcerer's Apprentice, editing the newsletter while Ken grinds through his house-moving adventure. This month, I decided to switch to using a very powerful Open Source page layout application called Scribus. If you've spent any time around Open Source software, you know that "very powerful" usually correlates with "very steep learning curve," and Scribus certainly fits that pattern. It does help me create a more consistent layout, though, and learning to use it has given me even more respect for the magic Ken works each month.*

*This issue is a little thinner than the previous one, but I pulled together a few items that should be of interest. In addition to my usual President's column, there's some information about the upcoming YJ0VV Vanuatu DXpedition that HCRA member Nick Maslon, K1NZ/YJ0NZ will be on. See the article for all the details. Members are also advertising some cool stuff for sale, and we have some local ham radio news and upcoming events. Enjoy.*

*73 de Alan, AB1XW*


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## **October 4th Meeting**

October's speaker will be our own Jeffrey Bail (NT1K), who's been working with CNC machinery for over 20 years professionally. He'll discuss 3D printing and how it applies to amateur radio, including the history of 3D printing, types of consumer printers, typical processes, applications related to amateur radio, what to look out for, and recommendations based on the current market. It's a must-attend if you're interested in this amazing technology.

# Upcoming Meetings

 <b>September 6, 2024</b>	In September, we heard all about AREDN™, the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network, in an excellent presentation by Orv Beach, W6BI.
<b>October 4, 2024</b>	HCRA member Jeff Bail, NT1K, will talk about 3D printing for ham radio projects. Need a case for that nifty new thing you built? Print one! Jeff will tell us how.
<b>November 1, 2024</b>	Our annual auction is back! Bring ham radio gear or accessories to sell, and get a good price on that thing you've been looking for. NO computers, monitors, etc.
<b>December 6, 2024</b>	Time for the annual HCRA holiday party, venue TBD. Come join us for a night of good food, good friends, and fun. Watch for more details soon.
<b>January 3, 2025</b>	As the chill of winter grips our area, Nick Maslon, K1NZ, will tell us about his DXpedition to the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu. Hear about palm trees, coconuts, and pileups.
<b>February 7, 2025</b>	Do those hills near your house affect your HF signal, and what can you do to improve it? Ken Miller, WB1DX, will tell us all about terrain analysis for DXing.
<b>March 7, 2025</b>	TBA
<b>April 11, 2025</b>	April is our "Show and Tell" meeting. Bring whatever radio-related project you've been working on, show it off, and hear what other club members have been doing.
<b>May 2, 2025</b>	TBA
<b>June 6, 2025</b>	Field Day, Elections, and more! June's meeting is when we make final preparations for Field Day, elect the Board for next year, and get ready for our summer hiatus.

# From the President's Desk

**Ham never goes bad**

**Alan Dove, AB1XW**

A little-known side-effect of becoming President of a ham radio club is that people start contacting you out of the blue when they're trying to get rid of communication-related stuff. In just the past month, I've retrieved an armload of radios and accessories from a former ham who can't get on the air from his current home, redirected another person looking to sell a rack of repeater equipment whose owner became a Silent Key, and acquired a pile of commercial-grade IP phones from a local ham who works in IT.

I'm not keeping any of this stuff myself, of course. Anything easily sellable is going into a stack in my basement, where it awaits the November HCRA auction. All proceeds from those sales will go directly to the club. Other things are going out for free to any club member who wants them. That includes the IP phones I recently advertised on the email reflector, and the old Yaesu FR-101 receiver I left on the table at the September meeting with a "Free" sign on it. By the way, thank you to whoever took that home - I have way too many projects already without adding a receiver restoration to the list.

My dad, Tom Dove, K3ORC, also dropped off a bunch of old technology that he'd recently cleared out of his basement. It's mostly computers and related devices, but there's also some ham gear in there. What's struck me most in going through those items is how well the ham radio equipment has aged, compared to the consumer devices. A couple of packet TNCs from the '90s could go right back on the air. The Palm Pilot from the same time period is useless now.

That's because planned obsolescence is the core of the consumer technology business, but in ham radio culture the concept doesn't exist. We use our equipment until it falls apart, then put it



back together again. Even if you personally like to buy a new rig every few years, you've probably noticed that there's a thriving market for your old radio gear. I haven't decided to sell those TNCs just yet, but if I do, I know someone will buy them in a heartbeat. Meanwhile, that old Palm Pilot is just another piece of e-waste. Maybe what the world needs is more hams and fewer "consumers."

But what if you're trying to fix some old piece of gear and a necessary part isn't manufactured anymore? Maybe you could just print it. At this month's meeting, HCRA member Jeff Bail, NT1K, will walk us through 3D printing for ham radio projects. Jeff's been using 3D printers and CNC machines professionally for years, so he knows the topic well. Whether you're already using your own printer or, like me, still trying to decide whether to take the leap and buy one, it should be a great talk.

# From the President's Desk

(continued)

Alan Dove, AB1XW

The week after the meeting, on October 12, HCRA Vice President Ez Morales, W1AEZ, is organizing a club cookout and casual radio operating session at School Street Park in Agawam. This was a big hit last year, and it looks like it's becoming another fun HCRA tradition. While School Street isn't an official POTA entity, we can still set up some radios and get on the air for some QSOs. Come on out and join us.

If you're not on the HCRA Groups.io reflector, please sign up. We're using it as a general place to discuss club activities between meetings. If you prefer to limit the number of emails you receive, you can set your account to "Digest" mode, which will combine several postings into a single email for you to look at whenever you like. One of the things we've been discussing lately is where to hold our annual holiday dinner in December. Currently, the prevailing opinion is that we should do it somewhere other than the Steaming Tender, perhaps as a potluck or catered event at a reasonably priced local venue. Please chime in with your opinions and ideas, because we'll be making this decision very soon.

Soon, it'll be time for indoor winter projects, and the Board has been discussing another group kit building session. We haven't decided what kind of kit to get. What do you think? Do you want to build a CW touch key, a QRP transceiver, an AREDN node, or something else? We're hoping to decide on the project soon, so we can order the parts and schedule the building session.

I've already mentioned the November auction in passing, but that's definitely a meeting you don't want to miss. Whether you're clearing out equipment you don't use anymore, shopping

for something else, or just curious about what will turn up, it's always an interesting event.

Remember, no computers, monitors, or computer parts are allowed, only ham radio and related items. Ten percent of the proceeds from each sale goes to the club, which helps us fund our many activities throughout the year.

Speaking of funding, we have a new Treasurer! Michael Kotarba, KB1WAM, has stepped up to take the position. Our current Treasurer, George Collins, KC1V, is orienting Michael to the duties of the position now. Thank you, Michael, for stepping up, and thank you, George, for doing a great job on the Board over the years.

We've also found a new home for the club's cargo trailer. Harold Woering, N1FTP, has volunteered to keep it on his property, so it'll be moving there sometime soon. Thanks very much, Harold!

That's all for now. Enjoy the rest of this issue of *Zero Beat*, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on the 4th.

73 de Alan, AB1XW





The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual

# Nutmeg Hamfest

and ARRL Connecticut State Convention

Sponsored by the Meriden Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM



**MALONEY HIGH SCHOOL**

**121 Gravel Street, Meriden CT 06450**

*A great new facility with plenty of room for tailgating!*

**MANY GREAT DOOR PRIZES!**

**Free Parking – Food – Vendors – Loads of Tailgating!**

**ADVANCE TICKETS VIA PAYPAL  
OR VENMO AVAILABLE NOW!**



<http://www.w1nrg.com/activities/nutmeg-hamfest/>

**\$10.00** + \$1.00 Transaction fee.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS & ACTIVITIES

### ARRL FORUM

**9:00 am – 10:00 am**

Fred, AB1OC, ARRL New England Div. Director  
Douglas, WA1SFH, ARRL CT Section Manager

### CONNECTICUT POTA ACTIVATORS GROUP

**10:00 am – 11:00 am**

Shawn, KC1NQE

### WINLINK & ARES: 2024 & BEYOND

**10:00 am – 11:00 am**

Bill, NR1B

### AMATEUR RADIO & WEATHER: THE ROLE OF SKYWARN & CoCoRaHS

**11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Ed, W1YSM, MARC President  
Matt Spies, CT CoCoRaHS Coordinator

**PLUS: GO BOX COMPETITION - CW DEMONSTRATION - CERT / EMCOMM EXHIBIT - ARRL BOOTH**

## ADMISSION INFORMATION

Inside vendor setup & tailgating starts at 6:00 AM

**Building opens to the public at 8:00 AM**

**Admission:** \$10.00. **Under Age 18 admitted free**

**Tailgating:** \$15.00 per outdoor space.

**Inside Tables:** \$25.00 (\$20.00 if paid by 9/10)  
6 ft table & chair



## VENDOR CONTACT

John Bee, N1GNV  
Quick Silver Radio  
47 Billard Street No. 7  
Meriden, CT 06451

## MAJOR EXHIBITORS

Quicksilver Radio Products

KJI Electronics

Hamsource

## VE SESSION

The VE Session begins at 9:00 AM sharp  
Contact: Jim Savage, [N1ZN@arrl.net](mailto:N1ZN@arrl.net)

Note: While we may be able to accommodate walk-ins, pre-registration is strongly recommended.

**Less than 2 hours from NYC, LI, NJ, NEPA, Boston, & Albany and only seconds from I-91!**

**Talk In: W1NRG/R 147.360 +.600 PL 162.2**

**VISIT THE MERIDEN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WEBSITE FOR UPDATES: [www.w1nrg.com](http://www.w1nrg.com)**

# YJ0VV Vanuatu DXpedition

## HCRA member on board!

## The YJ0VV Team

Four hams are packing over 500 pounds of equipment in suitcases and making their final plans for a DXpedition to Vanuatu, a small island nation between Australia and Fiji. Expect to hear them on the air as YJ0VV from October 16 through October 29. The group will be operating two high power stations with a choice of seven antennas. On Clublog's Most Wanted DX list, Vanuatu is #83 on phone and #115 overall, so the pileups should be significant but still accessible to many hams.

The DXpedition plans to take a Flex 6700, Yaesu FT-891, Icom IC-7100 and IC-7300 transceivers, two amplifiers, a BuddiHex 6-20m beam antenna, four 40m verticals, a DX Commander Expedition vertical, 10-160 wire to be rigged as an inverted V, and a 160m loaded longwire. They'll be logging with N1MM+ software.

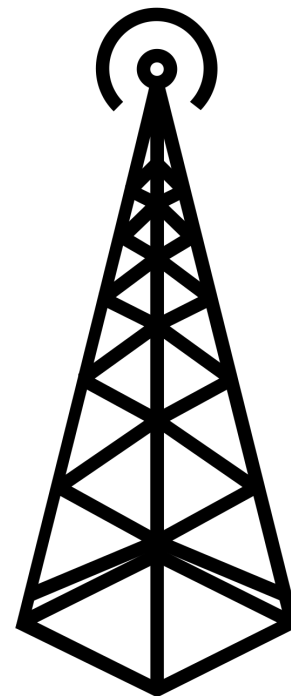
Planning for this DXpedition started in 2022 with the intention to concentrate on SSB and participate in the 2024 CQ WW SSB Contest on October 26-27, as a high power multi-two entry. The group's goal is 40,000 contacts during the contest, which would be a decent showing. In addition to operating the contest and as a DX station, they will also have the opportunity to activate several POTA and IOTA locations in the area. The main base of operations will be a luxury villa about 15km from Port Vila, on Efate Island.

The hams are John Schroeder, K4QQG, from Hilton Head, SC; Nick Maslon, K1NZ / YJ0NZ, from Monson, MA; William "Savo"

Savocool, K2SAV / YJ0SA from Schenectacy, NY; and Van Herridge, the team leader, N4VGE / YJ0VV from Charleston, SC. The QSL Manager is Nathan Wood, K4NHW, who will oversee live uploads to Clublog and coordinate QSL cards.

There is room for one or two more hams in their luxury villa, which is located on a South Pacific beach. If interested please contact Van Herridge, N4VGE, as soon

as possible at [vanherridge@gmail.com](mailto:vanherridge@gmail.com).



# For Sale

**Ham globally, buy locally**

## From Harold, N1FTP

Heathkit RF Generator (Laboratory Generator) \$80.00  
Heathkit VTVM \$30.00  
Heathkit Audio Generator \$50.00  
Heathkit DX-35 w/VF-1 and separate PS for VF-1 \$90.00  
Hammarlund HQ-129A \$90.00  
Hammarlund HQ-110 \$90.00  
Drake R4-C/T-4XC/MS-4 \$500

All items are in working condition. All units come with manuals. The Drake also comes with manuals and 2 sets of cables and has all 3 filters installed.

I can be reached at N1FTP@yahoo.com. Thank-you, Harold de N1FTP

## From Larry, W1AST

Kenwood TS-480SAT

Remote head standard. 160-6m at 100 watts. Buttons backlit for easy night operation. Built in antenna tuner. Rig easy to remote. Beautiful Kenwood audio. Mic, power cord, manuals and original box included. Big, easy to read display.



For Sale at: \$550.00

More info: <https://www.kenwood.com/usa/com/amateur/ts-480sat/>

Contact: Larry, W1AST  
W1AST@arrl.net

## Join or Renew your ARRL Membership through HCRA!

We earn a commission for memberships and renewals processed through the club. Please fill out the form and mail it to **Hampden County Radio Association, PO Box 562, Agawam, MA 01001**. DO NOT send it directly to the ARRL, or we don't get the commission.



## Membership Application

New     Renew     Previous Member     Unlicensed

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (\$12 per member)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Please note my new address     I do not want my name and address made available for non-ARRL related mailings

### Your Annual Membership Dues\*

Circle Your Choice (rates effective Jan. 1, 2024)

	1 Year	3 Years
Standard membership	\$59	\$174
Family (same membership exp. date and address)	\$12	\$36
Student (must be under age 26)	\$30	
Blind (requires one-time statement of legal blindness)	\$12	\$36

### Add-on ARRL Subscriptions

**QST**, ARRL's membership journal for active radio amateurs.

1 Year \$25\*     3 Years \$75\*

**On the Air**, For beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs.

1 Year \$25\*     3 Years \$75\*

### Member Benefits

Your membership supports benefits, services, and programs that keep you active and on the air.

#### Membership Includes:

- Access to four digital magazines and archives (*QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, & *NCJ*)
- Unlimited courses through the ARRL Learning Center ([learn.arrl.org](http://learn.arrl.org))
- Logbook of The World®, contests, and award programs

...and more!

\*A print subscription for *QST* and/or *On the Air* requires an ARRL membership. Dues and subscription rates are subject to change without notice and are non-refundable

### Payment Information

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Charge to:     Visa     MasterCard     AmEx     Discover     Check Enclosed

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Toll Free (US) 1-888-277-5289 or 860-594-0200 • ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1400  
membership@arrl.org • [www.arrl.org/join](http://www.arrl.org/join)

CLUB  
form rev 1/24



# HCRA Stuff

## HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club

### Groups.io and HCRA.org

In between Zero Beat issues, keep up with what's going on in the club by visiting our web site at:

**[hcra.org](http://hcra.org)**

We also discuss club activities and ham radio in general on our email reflector. Sign up by visiting:

**[groups.io/g/hcra](https://groups.io/g/hcra)**

### HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

Outgoing cards from members are sent to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau quarterly: January 15th, April 15th, June 15th, and September 15th. For details, visit:

**[hcra.org/dx-qsl](http://hcra.org/dx-qsl)**

Or contact Paul, NF1G at:

**[paulkelliher@comcast.net](mailto:paulkelliher@comcast.net)**

### Zero Beat Ads

If you have radios or other ham-related gear you'd like to sell or trade, or if you're searching for something, you can list it right here in Zero Beat at no charge. To submit ads, simply send an email to Ken:

**[kd1ku@arri.net](mailto:kd1ku@arri.net)**

Include a brief description of the item or items, a way for people to contact you, and your asking price.

# Dots and Dashes

## Stuff that doesn't fit anywhere else

### Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

"Brown Baggers" is a friendly lunch get-together held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, for the benefit of all HCRA members. It's held at the Munich Haus Restaurant, 13 Center St. in Chicopee Center, across from City Hall, at 12:00 noon local time. Enjoy lunch, conversation, and camaraderie with your fellow hams!

### NTS Training on Zoom

Interested in the National Traffic System and Traffic Handling? On Monday, October 14 at 19:00 local time, the WMA Section is hosting an online training session for new NTS operators.

WMA Section Manager Ray, AA1SE, along with Marcia, KW1U, the EMA, WMA and RI Section Traffic Manager, Bob, KC1KVY, and Shawn N1CVO, will provide training on proper handling of NTS traffic and net participation, through a combination of videos and open discussion. All hams are welcome; come get started in a century-old aspect of the hobby! Email Ray AA1SE at aa1se@arrl.net with questions. Log into the session here:

**Time: Oct 14, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86391167095?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86391167095?pwd=EE7QXsDKRQPqzIUgZxc4HUfk27Ja9Z.1)**

**[pwd=EE7QXsDKRQPqzIUgZxc4HUfk27Ja9Z.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86391167095?pwd=EE7QXsDKRQPqzIUgZxc4HUfk27Ja9Z.1)**

**Meeting ID: 863 9116 7095**

**Passcode: 346199**

### Major Upcoming Contests and State QSO Parties

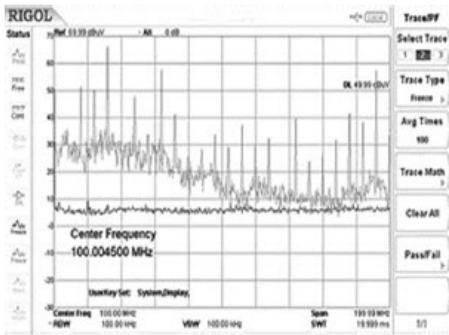
October 5-6: California QSO Party

October 12-13: Nevada, Arizona, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota QSO Parties

October 19-21: New York and Illinois QSO Parties

October 26-27: CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB

(click this box for a complete monthly contest calendar)



# Need Help With RF Interference Issues ?

If you have been experiencing RF interference there is a WMA resource available that's ready to assist you. Each section has established an RF interference investigative team that can help identify and possibly remedy your problem.

To initiate your request for help you can simply send an E-mail to [k1yo@arrl.net](mailto:k1yo@arrl.net) with your contact information and a description of the problem and anything you may have already tried.

A member of the WMA RFI team will contact you with directions on how to initiate the formal request for assistance. This then may require several steps / tasks on your part which provide us with essential information to guide further investigative processes.

Additionally, helpful information can be found on our [RFI Troubleshooting Guide](https://nediv.arrl.org/rfi-troubleshooting-guide/) online at:  
<https://nediv.arrl.org/rfi-troubleshooting-guide/>

**We are ready to help - just give us a call !!**

### **Local Nets & Happenings**

**Sundays: 8:45 am** Western MA. VHF Emergency Net on 146.94, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

**Sundays: 9:15 am** Western MA. UHF Emergency Net on 443.200, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

**1st Monday: 6:45 pm**, MEMA RACES Drill, 146.49 Simplex and 3.930 LSB

**Mondays: 7 pm**, RACES Drill , 146.910, Mt. Greylock

**Mondays: 7 pm** , HCRA 10 Meter Net on 28.375, New topic every week. Have a topic to suggest? Contact [kd1ku@yahoo.com](mailto:kd1ku@yahoo.com)

**Tuesdays: 7:30 pm**, 146.94, PL 127.3 - Hampshire County Emergency Net

**Tuesdays: 8 pm**, ARES Emergency Net, on 146.985, PL 136.5

**Wednesdays: 7:30 pm**, MTARA Info Net on 146.94, PL 127.3

**Wednesdays:** MTARA Swap net: 146.94, Following Info Net

**Wednesdays:** N1RLX Simplex Net, Check-In s on 146.94 then QSY to 146.42 Simplex immediately following the swap net

**Wednesdays: 9 am** , FCARC Experimental Net, 28.354 MHz

**Thursdays: 8 pm**, FCARC Information Net, 146.985 - 136.5

### **Club Meetings and VE Sessions**

**1st Friday of the month** at 7:30 pm HCRA Meeting. In-Person meetings began in Sept. of 2022. Meetings start with a meet & greet at 7 pm followed by the regular meeting at 7:30pm sharp. <http://www.hcra.org/>

**2nd Monday of the month** at 7 pm, FCARC meeting. 1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls, MA. (airport). Social Hour 6-7 pm, meeting at 7 pm. <http://www.fcarc.org/>

**2nd Saturday prior to FCARC meeting.** 8 am Breakfast at Denny's Pantry, 496 Bernardston Rd. Greenfield, MA. Brad Councilman [bc@councilman.com](mailto:bc@councilman.com)

**3rd Friday of the month**, MTARA Meeting, 7 pm, Castle Of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA, 01020 <https://mtara.org/>

**4th Friday of the month**, The Western Mass VE Team (WMVET) VE sessions at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room beginning January 27th and every 4th Friday at 6pm to perform VE exams. E-mail Dave, W1FAB [wa1dc@yahoo.com](mailto:wa1dc@yahoo.com). Call or text 413-575-2950. Need directions? <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

### **Start or Renew Your ARRL Membership!**

**ARRL members enjoy:**

QST Magazine

Members-Only Web Services

Technical Information Service

Member Discounts

Outgoing QSL Service

Continuing Education

ARRL as an Advocate

Regulatory Information Branch

Public Relations for Amateur Radio

ARRL Field Organization

ARRL-sponsored contests

Operating Awards

Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Hamfests and Conventions

Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program

<http://www.arrl.org/membership>

### **HCRA**

**President** - Alan Dove, AB1XW  
[alan.dove@gmail.com](mailto:alan.dove@gmail.com)

**Vice-President** - Ez Moralez, W1AEZ  
[ez.w1aez@gmail.com](mailto:ez.w1aez@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** - George Collins, KC1V  
[hcra.kc1v@gmail.com](mailto:hcra.kc1v@gmail.com)

**Secretary** - Paul Kelliher, NF1G  
[paulkelliher@comcast.net](mailto:paulkelliher@comcast.net)

**Programs** - Gary Thomas, AA1UE  
[aa1ue@amsat.org](mailto:aa1ue@amsat.org)

**Membership** - Steve Rodowicz, N1SR  
[n1sr413@gmail.com](mailto:n1sr413@gmail.com)

**Technical** - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN  
[wa1ojn@jeffway.com](mailto:wa1ojn@jeffway.com)

**At Large** - Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD  
[tipoacrata@gmail.com](mailto:tipoacrata@gmail.com)

**Zero Beat Newsletter** - Ken Dion, KD1KU  
[kd1ku@yahoo.com](mailto:kd1ku@yahoo.com)

**Website** - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL and Alan Dove, AB1XW  
[webmaster@hcra.org](mailto:webmaster@hcra.org)