

# ZERO BEAT

*Our 76th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club*



**November 2024**

## Renewal Reminder

Annual Dues were due at the beginning of September. It's an easy thing to forget, so please check the membership list at [hcra.org/current-members](http://hcra.org/current-members) to see if yours has expired. We gladly accept renewals by mail or online - see the site for details.

**Thanks for renewing!**

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*From the Assistant Editor:*

*Now that I'm settling into a sort of workflow for page layout, I'm appreciating the main challenge Ken faces every month: getting enough content to fill an issue of the newsletter. It's convenient that writing stories is my day job, but that also means this has turned into something like real work. So here's my plea, not just for my temporary tour of duty here but for Ken's sake in the future: submit your stories to Zero Beat! I know a lot of you are up to interesting ham radio-related stuff, just write up a little report as best you can, and send it along. Don't worry if you're not much of a writer; take some pictures of what you're doing and send those.*



*That plea aside, I did manage to put together some interesting pieces. Check out Larry, W1AST's report on a recent POTA activation attempt, my articles on the HCRA picnic and how to set prices for used ham gear, and of course our regular columns of useful information. As usual, members are also advertising some cool stuff for sale, and we have various bits of local ham radio news and upcoming events. Enjoy.*

*73 de Alan, AB1XW*

## November 1st Meeting

November is our popular annual auction, so it's time to look around your shack and decide what you want to get rid of or add. We welcome anyone to bring radios, station accessories, antennas, or any other gear directly related to ham radio. Absolutely no computers, monitors, or computer accessories are allowed, though - this is a pure ham radio auction. The club takes a 10% cut of sales; you keep the rest, or spend it on the equipment others are selling.

# 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>	<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>
<b>December 3, 2024</b>	Time for the annual HCRA holiday party, location TBA. Come join us for a night of good food, good friends, and fun. Watch for more details very 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>	Have you ever bounced signals off the moon? Bill Larned, KA1WHT, will tell us how even relatively small stations can set up to tackle Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) communication.
<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

**When all else fails**

**Alan Dove, AB1XW**

Everyone has undoubtedly seen the news - and hopefully filtered out the disinformation - about the two major hurricanes that hit the US recently. Helene blasted ashore along the Florida panhandle, then veered up through the Appalachian Mountains, dumping a mind-boggling quantity of rain on a region normally considered outside the hurricane risk zone. Milton, just a few weeks later, behaved in more typical hurricane fashion by bulldozing east through southern Florida. The federal, state, and local responses to both storms have actually been going very well, but the damage is so massive it's taking a long time to fix.

As usual, ham radio has been a big help in the disaster zones. On qrper.com, well-known POTA blogger Thomas Witherspoon, K4SWL, has been covering this aspect of the disaster from his perspective in one of the hardest-hit areas of North Carolina. As he said in one recent blog post, after a major disaster, "having a radio is like having a superpower." I want to emphasize that as far as I know, he's not deeply involved in his local ARES group or doing a lot of regular emergency communication training. In normal times, he blogs about his frequent SOTA and POTA activations, and he also runs a blog about SWLing. Like a lot of us, his main interests in ham radio aren't directly related to disaster preparedness.

To be clear, I encourage people to pursue ARES training and volunteer their skills and equipment for disaster and event communication. For the first decade or so of my ham radio career, that was actually my main interest, and I might get back to it at some point. However, there are a lot of other fun things to do in this hobby, and in recent years I've been sampling many of them, so



right now I'm not officially involved in ARES. But that doesn't mean I *can't* help out in a major disaster.

Most of my neighbors know I'm a ham radio operator. I'm also on my town's emergency contact list, having volunteered to help with their COVID-19 vaccination clinic early in 2021, and since taken their orientation to emergency shelter operations.

At home, our household emergency kit contains a few extra FRS radios that I can distribute to neighbors if needed. That's something I added after the 2011 October snowstorm clogged our entire subdivision with truckloads of fallen hardwoods, took out our cell phone service for 72 hours, and left us without electricity and internet for eight days. In the aftermath, our block pulled together, cutting up many of the branches blocking the road, and checking on elderly neighbors. That required

# From the President's Desk

(continued)

Alan Dove, AB1XW

walking over to each others' houses and knocking on doors every time we wanted to exchange information. Next time, I'll make sure we all have radios.

How about your community? If you think your neighbors won't want to help each other out in a disaster, you're probably wrong. As Rebecca Solnit explains in her excellent book *A Paradise Built in Hell*, the Hollywood fantasy of disasters bringing out the worst in people is the exact opposite of reality. When all else fails, people rise to the challenge. We're hardwired to help each other, and the destruction of our normal infrastructure and social hierarchy makes us do it more freely.

In a disaster, we all become volunteers, and as hams, we're uniquely capable of helping others when the lights go out. Whether your main interest in radio is DXing, contesting, satellites, or any of the myriad other sub-hobbies that make up this hobby, you have skills that can make a big difference to the non-hams around you.

It doesn't take much extra gear or effort to be ready for a disaster. At a minimum, everyone - not just every ham - should have a basic set of emergency supplies. The ready.gov web site has a good list of items to include. There's no need to dig down the rabbit hole of hardcore "prepping." Indeed, the best disaster kit is one you can carry from your house to your car in a single trip, and the most important item in it weighs and costs nothing: a plan.

As I mentioned, my disaster kit also includes enough FRS radios for my family and a few friends or neighbors. Of course I'd also take at least an HT, but the advantage of FRS or GMRS is that the radios are cheap, simple, and usable by anyone. In a disaster, "crude but

effective" always beats "perfect but complicated." If I can talk to my neighbors over FRS, and check into a local ham repeater with my base rig or HT, we'll all be much better off than communities without hams, or where the hams weren't prepared.

Major disasters have struck this area before, and they will again. When that happens, everyone will become a disaster responder, whether they want to or not. Will you be ready?

73 de Alan, AB1XW



# Be an Auction Hero

## How to set your opening price

Alan Dove, AB1XW

With our annual club auction coming up this month, I hope people are looking around their shacks and gathering up gear they'd like to sell. To help maximize the chance of successful deals, here are a few tips for setting your opening prices. I'll walk through how I do this, using a radio I plan to include in the auction: my old Icom IC-7200.

First, forget what you paid for the equipment originally. The \$900 this rig cost in 2012 is irrelevant to any potential buyer here in 2024. Unless you're selling a rare collectible, it's worth less than when it was new.

How much less? That's the big question. Fortunately, there's a handy tool for answering it these days, at least for relatively common pieces of gear. Opening up ebay.com, I plug "Icom IC-7200" into the search field and see several for sale, at a wide range of prices. That only tells me what other people *hope* to get for this radio, though. To find its actual market price, I look at the "Filters" option. Scrolling down the list of possible filters (and selecting "See All" if necessary), I see that I can filter the list for "Sold Items."

A lot of the results are for accessories, but there are also several IC-7200s listed, with the prices at which they sold. The most informative are ones that sold in an auction format, as that means people actually bid on them and something like a free market happened. In contrast, a "Buy It

Now" price is a single data point, representing what one person was willing to pay once. Averaging several recent sales, I see that the rig typically sells for around \$600: sometimes a bit less, sometimes more. That's pretty good value retention for a decade-old transceiver.

Next, I ask myself what condition my particular item is in. My IC-7200 is used, and I recycled the original box years ago, but it was my

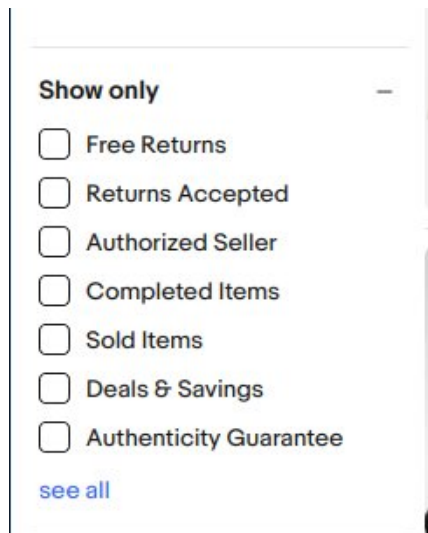
main HF radio until very recently, and everything on it works fine. I'm also selling it with the Icom mobile bracket (\$50 current eBay price), and a matching LDG IT-100 tuner specifically designed for Icom rigs (also selling for about \$50 on eBay right now).

That means I could get \$700 for this offering, and both the buyer and I would walk away feeling like we got a decent deal. Because it'll be at a local radio club auction, the market is much smaller than the global viewership of eBay,

though, so it's entirely possible that nobody there will be interested in this particular radio. I may get no offers, and have to take it back home with me.

Finally, I ask myself what my goal is. Am I anxious to maximize the price I get, or do I just want it out of my house as soon as possible and don't care about the money? I'm somewhere in the middle of that spectrum - I'd like to find this radio a new home, but would also like to recover some of its cost.

I'll probably put an opening price of \$500



# Be an Auction Hero

(cont'd)

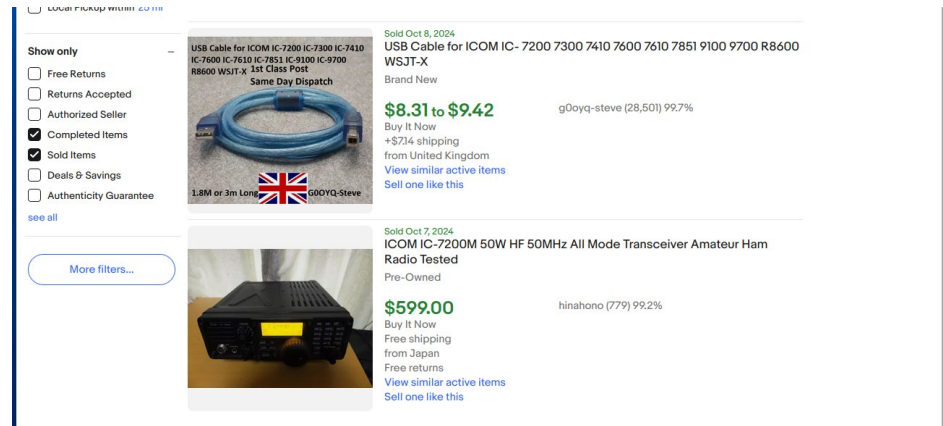
Alan Dove, AB1XW

on the rig, mobile mount, and LDG tuner as a package. If only one person bids, they'll get a complete HF station for \$200 less than its current eBay value, and won't have to pay for shipping. I'll take a lower price than I might've gotten in a bigger market, but won't have to deal with packing it up and sending it out. If two or more people want it, they can bid the price up to what they're willing to pay.

What if nobody bids? No problem, I'll take the radio back home and list it on eBay. Since I've already determined what it should sell for on there, I should be able to find a buyer pretty soon.

This approach isn't perfect. If you're selling something special, like a vintage rig restored to perfect condition, or your item has unique accessories or modifications that change its value a lot, then eBay sales aren't going to be informative. Occasional supply chain oddities and even some outright scams can also skew eBay prices from time to time on particular items. In general, though, recent sales on the world's biggest auction site are a pretty good guide to an item's real market value.

Of course, feel free to set opening prices at whatever you like for the club auction, but I hope these pointers will help everyone make more sales. Good luck, and happy bidding.



**You're reading the best ham radio newsletter in New England!**



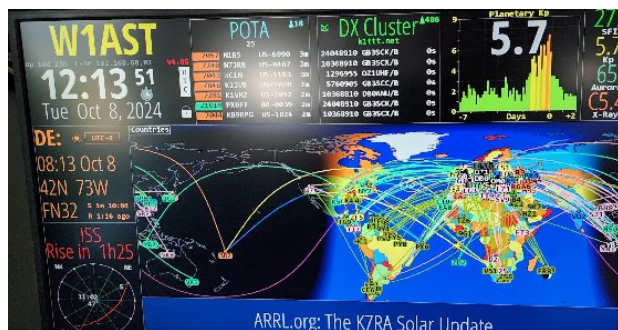
# POTA Despite Conditions

**Few contacts, but a good time**

**Larry Krainson, W1AST**

I decided to take the day off from work. Instead, I was meeting AC1MN, WA1JXR, KC1VEO and K1YYM at the top of Mt. Wachusett today at 11 am.

I didn't quite get there for 11 am but arrived shortly after. It was breezy and a little chilly, and a beautiful sunny day on the top of the mountain at 1,900 feet in elevation.



Since we recently had a CME and the K index was slowly going down, I had hoped to make a few contacts, if not a full POTA activation of US-4368. Even with the high K index when I left the house, I was hopeful seeing the number of world wide QSOs going on. See the above map.



I set up my IC-705 for 20 meters CW on my tailgate. I was using a Chelegance MC-750 vertical on the grass behind my truck.

As luck would have it, while trying to activate just my 7th POTA site, what appears for the 2nd time? The darn porta-potty cleaning

truck! Jacket immediately went to covering my nose and mouth and I tried to not breathe. At least there was a breeze blowing away from me.

Thankfully, he left quickly, and I tried



activating with no luck. Search and pounce was my activity and I made 2 CW and 1 SSB contact on 20m.

Sharing time with friends, comparing antennas, and chatting up the public all made the day a success, though. I will return again someday to try the activation when the band conditions are significantly better. One person who stopped by and chatted was extremely interested in becoming a ham. I hope he follows up.

A nice day off it turned out to be.

*Editor's note: Larry originally posted this excellent report to the POTA sub-list of the HCRA's Groups.io email reflector. You can sign up for that and share your own POTA adventures, just go to [hcragroups.io/g/pota](https://hcragroups.io/g/pota) and follow the sign-up instructions.*

# HCRA Picnic in the Park

**Food, fun, and QSOs**

**Alan Dove, AB1XW**

October 12 was a gorgeous day for a cookout: clear skies, temperatures in the 60s, and enough breeze to blow the smoke away from the grill. Even better, ionospheric conditions looked amazing, with solar flux pushing 200 and the K index nice and low.

The setup crew arrived at School Street Park in Agawam around 9:00, and in short order we had the food, drinks, tableware, and grill ready to go. As usual, the Agawam Parks Department was extremely helpful; we even had full access to a kitchen with a sink and refrigerator in the pavilion.



By mid-morning, Larry, KD1RV, had set up his well-organized station, with a FX-4CR transceiver feeding a JNC MC-750 vertical antenna on a tripod, tuned for 20m SSB. The FX-4CR, designed and built by Yu, BG2FX, is an astonishingly capable little rig in a tiny package, which is probably why it's always sold out.

Gary, AA1UE, deployed an even more compact and similarly sought-after station, the Elecraft KH-4. Inter-station interference was definitely an issue, despite QRP power levels, but that's part of the challenge in a setting like this.



Josue, KP4JLD, manned the grill at lunchtime and started turning out perfectly cooked burgers and kielbasa. A selection of side dishes and desserts also turned up on the tables, thanks to folks who brought them for the group, and the radios got some rest while we all ate our fill.



If you were at Field Day this year, you might remember a guy named Jeff coming by and mentioning that he was working on getting his ham license. Well, he did, and he's now KC1VEO and an active member of the club. Moving to a



# HCRA Picnic in the Park

(cont'd)

Alan Dove, AB1XW

picnic table away from the bustle of the pavilion, Jeff set up his Xiegu X6200 and a beautifully packaged compact vertical antenna. With a little bit of encouragement, he tried calling a station who was CQing on 10 meters SSB, and after a few tries made a contact. With Sweden. On 5 watts and a portable antenna. It's amazing what a little energy can do when the sunspots cooperate.

While KC1VEO continued working European stations on 10m, Jim, K1KI, borrowed Larry's antenna next to the pavilion and hooked up his Icom IC-705. The lovely sound of perfectly filtered CW signals filled the pavilion as Jim hunted POTA stations. School Street Park isn't a POTA entity, but everyone was enjoying comparing notes on portable setups and making a few QSOs.

Those were the highlights for me; several other folks were also there and seemed to be enjoying themselves as well. If you didn't make it to this event, you missed a good time. We're talking about having a Winter Field Day get-together somewhere on January 25th or 26th. School Street Park will unfortunately be closed then, but hopefully we can find someplace else suitable.



# The NTS Report

## The good kind of traffic jam

Marcia Forde, KW1U

As the time changes on November 3rd, so will propagation likely change on some of our National Traffic Service (NTS) nets. The First Region Net (FRN), which meets on SSB, will go back to its winter time of 1:45 and 3:30 PM and will return from 7243 Khz to the 75 meter frequency of 3950 Khz. The Eastern Area Net returns to 2:30 PM EST, continuing on 7243 Khz. Our local nets remain at the same local time, however the Mass-Rhode Island (MARI) Phone Net will return to the 75 meter frequency of 3978 Khz, with a back-up of 7243 Khz. If you don't find them on 75M, check 40M. Remember these changes will take place on Sunday, November 3.

On October 14, thanks to the efforts of WMA Section Manager Ray, AA1SE, we tried a Zoom session for training in traffic handling. This was publicized in the NTS Letter as well as locally, and we had a great turnout of 81 amateurs from around the country. Both Bob, KC1KVY and Shawn, N1CVO were big helps, sharing their experiences in handling message traffic. We were encouraged by the turnout, which demonstrated the interest in learning this skill. We are talking about doing this again in the future. Stay tuned.

If you haven't yet seen the NTS Letter, go to the website [nts2.arrl.org](https://nts2.arrl.org) and learn more about what the NTS 2.0 project is all about. Especially check out both the NTS Letter and the Radiogram Portal, each found under the Quick Links at the top of the home page. You will find there an archive of all copies of the NTS Letter since its initial issue of October, 2023 as well as instructions on how to subscribe to receive copies in your email mailbox.

The Radiogram Portal is a web-based program which was created by Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD (also the creator of Echolink) not only to

inform the public about amateur radio message handling but also provide a means to send a message through the National Traffic System. Why, you might ask, would anyone want to send a message through NTS when instant (and inexpensive) communication via the internet and cell phone service is readily available? One might look to the recent extreme hurricanes in southeastern US where power was knocked out to hundreds of millions of people. No internet, no cell phones, and about the only means of communication was via amateur radio.

Another goal of the Portal is to generate more third party traffic into the system. Traffic handlers who have been authorized to retrieve radiograms take these messages, which the program puts into radiogram format, add their message number and call sign as station of origin, and enter them onto traffic nets or the digital traffic system. Not only can the public generate message traffic, but also those hams who might be unable to make a traffic net or access the digital system can make use of it as well. I encourage you to give it a try. It's unique and it's fun.

The MARI CW net is in real need of more operators. Three of our regulars have moved or are busy with non-ham activities at the moment. CW traffic handling is not only fun but also a good way to practice some CW in a more structured way, with friends who are always willing to help. Need help to get started with all those Q signals and shortened abbreviations? Check out CW Traffic Net Procedures guide: [ema.arrl.org/basic-cw-net-procedures/](https://ema.arrl.org/basic-cw-net-procedures/) or contact Net Manager Marcia, KW1U at [KW1U@comcast.net](mailto:KW1U@comcast.net).

# 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

# For Sale

(cont'd)

## From Carol, W1LGU

### Elecraft KPA-500 amplifier for sale:

500W, compact, solid state FET amplifier for 160-6m. Works and automatically selects band with any radio that provides key-out and RF signals. Used sparingly, non-smoking household. Originally \$2795. Asking \$2200.

Contact Carol, W1LGU: 413.527.7165 or W1LGU@arrl.net

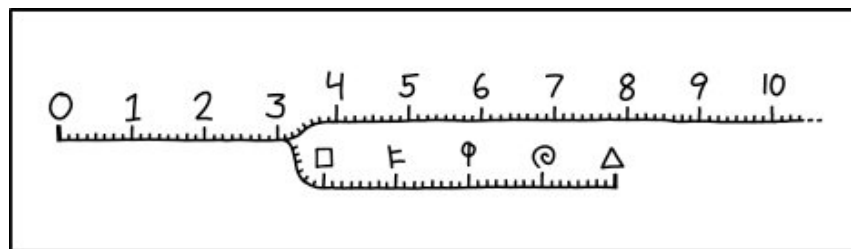
Located in Easthampton, MA

## From Larry, KD1RV

### Elecraft KPA-500 amplifier and KAT-500 tuner for sale:

Elecraft KPA-500, \$2,000; KAT-500 tuner, \$500. Both used very little and have manuals and accessory items that came with them, and original boxes and packing.

Contact Larry, KD1RV at 413.592.5994 or email larrydziobek@gmail.com.



GOOD NEWS!

AFTER THOUSANDS OF YEARS, MATHEMATICIANS  
HAVE FINALLY OPENED A SECOND BRANCH ON  
THE NUMBER LINE TO REDUCE CONGESTION.

## 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

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!

### POTA Subgroup on HCRA Email Reflector

POTA, POTA, POTA. It's everywhere these days!

And for good reason. Go to a park, set up a portable radio and antenna and get on the air. There are hams out there who are collecting the parks for their own hunter awards. Help them to achieve that!

The HCRA now has a POTA/SOTA/Field Operating sub group. You can join for free:

<https://hcra.groups.io/g/POTA>

Go there and join.

Then post your operating or activating info so other HCRA members can share in your POTA activities. Photos are very welcome.

Let's share and talk this up. We can all learn more and maybe get some ideas of our own.

I look forward to reading your posts!

73,

Larry, W1AST

W1AST@arrl.net

# Dots and Dashes

(cont'd)

## Major Upcoming Contests and State QSO Parties

November 2-4: ARRL Sweepstakes, CW

November 9-10: WAE DX Contest, RTTY

November 16-18: ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB

(click this box for a complete monthly contest calendar)

## Western MA Simulated Emergency Test

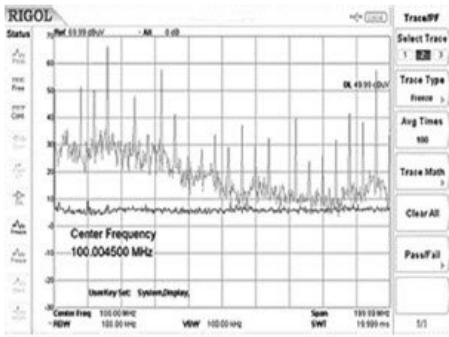
The Western Massachusetts ARES Section will be holding a Simulated Emergency Test next month. The tentative date is Sunday, 10 November though that is subject to change. The test will involve stations reporting damage after a severe storm and flooding.

Further information will follow on the WMA ARES email list and on normally scheduled WMA ARES nets, and also on the WMA Section web page. Click this box to visit:

<https://wma.arrl.org/section-emergency-coordinator/>

Thanks and 73,  
Chuck Chandler, WS1L  
ARRL WMA ARES Section Emergency Coordinator





# 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!**

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