



ZERO BEAT

Our 77th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club

March 2025

Welcome New Members

Jerry Sambrook, KC1VWB
Thomas Lopes, KC1UHY
Jeffrey Auer, KC1VEO
More new members on [pg.13](#)

[Join HCRA Today!](#)

From the editor:

This might be only the second issue of Zero Beat that I've edited since my return, but it sort of feels like I never stopped! I take great pride in producing a publication that all of the HCRA members can be proud of!

In this issue I've gone through the backlog of new members that have yet to be welcomed to the club via this publication. There are only a few new members on the left, with the remainder being posted on [page 13](#) of this issue.

This issue features all of the regular content you've come to expect with a few surprises along the way. Last August, Zero Beat was chosen to be the #1 club newsletter in New England, but this issue breaks it down further, listing all NE clubs.

Smitty has a great article in this issue that goes back to the 2023 Show & Tell, where he showed those in attendance how to add a charging port to maintain his LiFePO4 battery. Now you can do the same thing with yours!

There are some great items listed for sale in the Zero Beat classifieds, so check them out... Who knows, you just might find a good deal on that item(s) you've been searching for! Don't forget, you can also place a wanted ad in here too!

Don't forget the MTARA Hamfest is on this coming weekend, March 1st to be exact, and score some deals, maybe something you can turn around and donate right back into the HCRA to help build up the club bank account for our upcoming club events and activities!

73, Ken - KD1KU

In This Issue

From the Editor	1
HCRA Meeting Schedule	2
From the Presidents Desk	3-4
STK Zoom Schedule	5
2025 MTARA Hamfest	6
#1 Northeast Newsletter	7-8
2025 HamXposition	9
Add Charge Port LiFePO4	10-12
New Member Update	13
Zero Beat Classifieds	14-15
Hamtoons - RF Humor	16
RFI Trouble Shooting	17
Commission Program	18
HCRA Stuff & More	19
Clublog Update	20
Clublog 2024 Final Score	21
Local Nets & Happenings	22

March 7th Meeting

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to bounce signals off the moon and back down to earth? Are you curious as to how this is accomplished? Our March guest speaker, Bill Larned, KA1WHT, will be telling us how even a relatively small ham station can be easily set up to tackle Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) communications. This is bound to be a fascinating presentation that is not to be missed!

Doors open at 7 pm for coffee, donuts, and some rag chewing. Regular club meetings are held at the Holyoke Medical Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA 01040.

Need directions? <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

Upcoming Club Meetings and Guest Speakers



As the chill of winter grips our area, Nick Maslon, K1NZ, will tell us about his adventures when he joined a DXpedition to the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu. Hear everything about palm trees, cool breezes, coconuts, and pileups.



Do those hills near your house affect your HF signal? Learn all about everything that you can do to improve it. HCRA's very own member, Ken Miller, WB1DX, will be telling us all about terrain analysis for DX'ing. Don't miss it!



Have you ever bounced signals off the moon? Would you like to learn how? Bill Larned, KA1WHT, will be telling us how even relatively small stations can be easily set up to tackle Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) communications.



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. This is always one of our most popular meetings, don't miss it!



The May meeting will feature Steve Shore, WA1ZEV. Steve will be in person speaking about everything related to demystifying DMR (Digital Mobile Radio). If you're considering any type of digital radio, don't miss his presentation!



2025 Field Day preparations and more. Volunteers are needed to make this Field Day a success! Plus, board elections will be held at this meeting. Please consider running for a Board of Directors position; your club needs your help!



To Be Announced



To Be Announced



HCRA's annual auction is back at the November meeting! Ham radio gear and related accessories ONLY! Absolutely NO computers, monitors, or PC parts! Last years auction was a massive success, don't miss it this year!



The HCRA Holiday Party will be held in place of the December meeting once again. Join us for a night of food, friends, and fun to be had by all. Watch for complete details and when/where you can sign up to attend.



March 2025 - Keyboard to Keyboard

Did you get on the air for Winter Field Day at the end of January? We were in the depths of an arctic blast of cold weather, my portable gear was in a state of partial disassembly while I reconfigured it, and I had some other commitments that weekend, but I was determined to participate at least a little bit.

The first thing I did was tune in for the Winter Field Day bulletin's digital transmission. As its distinctive warble crept up the panadapter display in Fldigi, the text slowly printed on my screen. Despite some fading and static, it was a 100% perfect copy—a typical experience when using the Olivia mode in which it was sent. Olivia has never been a popular choice for rapid-fire QSOs or DXing, but if you need to send a real message and want to be sure it gets through intact, it's a great mode.

With Fldigi already running, I tuned to the old PSK31 watering hole of 14.070, just to see if anyone was working the contest there. Wow! The waterfall looked like I'd time-traveled back a decade, to the pre-FT8 era. Clicking through the wall-to-wall signals, though, I couldn't get any replies. That sent me on a troubleshooting quest, and after some poking around, I realized I'd never configured the transmit audio for Fldigi on my recently upgraded desktop.

Once I was actually sending audio with my transmissions, I quickly worked several WFD contacts on PSK-31. While 20 meters was the most active, there were also stations using the mode on other bands. The reason was obvious: unlike ARRL Field Day in June, WFD doesn't accept FT-mode contacts. With everyone's favorite digital mode off the table, the crowd moved right back to PSK-31.

I think the intent of the no-FT8 rule isn't to belittle the popular mode, but to reinforce the emergency communications emphasis of WFD. In a disaster, we need to be able to exchange more than just signal reports, so while the contest exchange is short, the focus is on using methods that would work with longer traffic. JS8Call, which uses the same modulation scheme as FT8 but accommodates full conversations and messages, is allowed in WFD. That's not a mode I've set up in my station yet, though, so I stuck to what I could do with Fldigi. From the number of others doing the same thing, I think it was a popular choice.

A lot of hams may not realize that Fldigi is, in fact, part of an entire suite of software, which integrates into a complete message-handling platform. It's called the Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System, or NBEMS, and several regular nets offer opportunities to practice using it. With NBEMS, hams can easily send and receive NTS radiograms, ICS-213 message forms used in the Incident Command System, spreadsheets, and even small images, using different digital modes on HF or VHF/UHF. It's a very slick system, and all of the software is free, open source, and available for Windows, Mac, and Linux.



Continued on page 4

From the President's Desk

By Alan Dove, AB1XW

Winlink offers some of the same capabilities, but practical Winlink systems usually employ dedicated infrastructure, such as automated store-and-forward systems. Achieving good weak signal performance with Winlink also still requires proprietary commercial software or costly hardware. That said, Winlink has the unique ability to operate through a familiar email interface, with direct forwarding to the internet through gateway stations. For emergency communication, NBEMS and Winlink are complementary.

Outside of disasters and Winter Field Day, though, Fldigi is just plain fun to play around with. It has essentially every keyboard-to-keyboard digital mode, from classic CW and RTTY to error-correcting modes such as Olivia, as well as some oddballs like Feld-Hell. The main hurdle to exploring the lesser-known modes is finding someone else on the air who uses them.

Some, such as Feld-Hell, have clubs dedicated to them; I'm Feld-Hell Club member #4143. Those groups typically arrange contests, operating nights, and QSO skeds to help popularize their modes. Often, though, the best approach is just to pick an open segment of the waterfall in the digital sub-bands and start calling CQ. It can take a while to scare up a contact sometimes, but when you do, you'll automatically have something to talk about: the obscure mode you're both using.

Of course, none of the Fldigi keyboard modes will compete with the extreme weak signal performance of the WSJT-X modes, and those remain the best choices for hunting down rare DX with a hundred watts and a wire, working distant grids on VHF and UHF, or bouncing signals off the moon. Speaking of which, our March meeting will feature Bill Larned, KA1WHT, who will tell us about Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) communications for small stations. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Alan Dove
alan.dove@gmail.com

Share The Knowledge Zoom Schedule

Share the Knowledge Zoom mini-meetings are back for 2025

President Alan, AB1XW, and your Board of Directors have been working hard to find and host these interesting presentations! Have a topic to suggest? Contact Alan at alan.dove@gmail.com

Date TBA @ 7pm	All about Fusion 360 & CAD	By Jeff, NT1K
Date TBA @ 7pm	Everything about ARES	By Charles, WS1L
Date TBA @ 7pm	All about Live Web Logging	Speaker To Be Determined
	More Topics TBA	

Watch for announcements with Zoom links on Groups.io by President Alan, AB1XW

Whenever possible, STK Zoom links will be posted in Zero Beat prior to the upcoming STK meeting. If at all possible the Zoom link will also be published within Groups.io, Facebook Group and more!



2025 MTARA Hamfest



36th Annual



Amateur Radio & Electronics Hamfest

Saturday March 1st, 2025

Located

Castle of Knights

1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA 01020

www.castleofknights.com

Directions

From North:

*Take I-91 South to the Mass Turnpike. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. Bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

From South:

*Take I-91 North to the Mass. Turnpike. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. Bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

From East:

*Travel on the Mass. Turnpike toward West. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. Bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

From West:

*Travel on Mass. Turnpike toward East. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. Bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

Castle is on the right for all of the above.

Mail- in Registration Form

Name _____

Call sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (cell preferred) _____

Email Address: _____

of Tables _____ x \$25.00 = _____

Is 120 VAC Needed? _____

Checks payable to: MTARA

Mail to: Brian Mullarney-N1FI, 20 Spring Street,
Easthampton, MA 01027

*** The Details ***

Doors Open:

7:30 AM Vendors only; help available for loading and unloading

8:30 AM General Admission (8:00AM if Vendors ready!)

Admission:

Adults: \$10.00

Children: under age 12 are *FREE!*

No Tailgating

Handicapped Parking Available

Snack Bar – Coffee, soda, donuts and breakfast sandwiches

Raffle Prizes – six (6) tickets for \$5.00

VE Exam -10:30 AM FREE Exams* Provided by PVVET

Candidates must pre-register for the exam prior to the Hamfest. Visit <http://pvvet.org> for registration and more information. *FCC application fees may apply
Contact: Jeff Bail (NT1K) 413-238-1992

Additional Information:

<http://www.mtara.org>

Talk-In on 146.94 (127.3 PL)

Table Registrations contact:

Brian Mullarney – N1FI
20 Spring Street
Easthampton, MA 01027
Tel. (860) 478-6790
N1FI@arrl.net

You're Reading the #1 Newsletter in New England



You are reading the number one club Newsletter in all of New England!

HCRA's Zero Beat was voted to be the number one newsletter in all of New England

by judges from outside the Northeast. Voting took place at the 2024 Northeast

HamXposition held at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center which

is located in Marlborough, Massachusetts during August of 2024.

Continued on page 8

You're Reading the #1 Newsletter Cont'd

Most of us know that clubs are the backbone of a healthy and active ham radio community. An active club most often has a newsletter that members get every month informing them of club activities and ham radio events. From this, we created the Club Newsletter Award.

Any club in New England could enter and was encouraged to do so. Newsletters would be ranked on design, layout, and information. The judge would be someone outside of New England. The top three newsletters would then be able to post the appropriate logo on their newsletters for the next year. The newsletter had to be from the second quarter of 2024 and submitted by July 5th.

The top 3 club newsletters would then NOT be able to submit again the following year, giving other clubs a chance to win the award.

The following clubs submitted their newsletters in 2024:

Club	Newsletter	State
Algonquin Amateur Radio Club	QRZ	MA
Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club	The A.C.O.R.N.	ME
Billerica Amateur Radio Society	BARS	MA
Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club	Messenger	RI
Candlewood Amateur Radio Association	CARA Capers	CT
Central NH Amateur Radio Club	Communicator	NH
Franklin County Amateur Radio Club	The Communicator	MA
Hampden County Radio Association	Zero Beat	MA
Housatonic Amateur Radio Club	Direct Currents	CT
K1USN Radio Club	K1USN Happenings	MA
Meriden Amateur Radio Club	Keyklix	CT
Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association	Squelch Tales	ME
Minuteman Repeater Association	The Minuteman	MA
Wellesley Amateur Radio Society	The Spark Gap	MA

From this list, congratulations go to the following clubs:

- #3** – Blackstone Valley Amateur Radio Club from Rhode Island
- #2** – Billerica Amateur Radio Society from Eastern MA
- #1** – Hampden County Radio Association from Western MA

2025 Northeast HamXposition

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL

Northeast HamXposition

HamX

& ARRL New England
Division Convention

August 21 to 24, 2025

The Largest Ham Radio Convention
In the Eastern Corridor

Many New Vendors

Large Flea Market

Largest Selection of Forums

Thursday Night Comedy Hour

2024 saw a 35% Increase in Attendance!



SCAN ME

Grow with us in 2025!

Marlborough-Boston, MA



www.HamX.org

Adding a Charge Port to a LiFePO4

Adding a universal charging port to a LiFePO4 Battery

I have been using this battery to power my Lab599 HF Radio due to its size and power rating. I also use it for portable 12V power for other items such as portable fans. I wanted to add a universal charge adapter to it so I can charge anything from my phone to my laptop. This is what I came up with and will only take a few hours to build. It is modular and attaches to the battery with Velcro straps so I can move it between my other batteries; I own four of these. You can also use the Power Pole connector to plug it into any power source with a power pole and skip the battery purchase. I purchased all of the parts except for the Anderson Power Poles through Amazon.

Features

- Lithium Iron Phosphate battery, 6 Amp hour, 12.8V with built in switch and display
- Ports for USB 5V, DC 12V, 9V, and 6V built-in
- Added 12V accessory socket
- Added Anderson Power Pole connector
- Added 12V barrel connector (shown in photo above but not in photo of parts required)

Parts Required

- Talentcell LF4106 12V LiFePO4 Battery Pack (1)
- WOTOBEUS 120W USB C Car Adapter (1)
- Anderson Power Pole housing, Black / Red (3ea)
- Polarlander 12/24V Outlet (1)
- Velcro strapping (as needed)
- Rigid board to secure outlet to (about 3.5"x 6.5")



PD 100W	PD 30W	QC 18W
Apple	Samsung	Samsung
Android	WOTOBEUS	
Apple	Samsung	Samsung
Android	WOTOBEUS	
Samsung	Android	WOTOBEUS
Apple	MTK	

Automatic Adjustment

PD100W USB-C1 Output: 5V/3A, 9V/3A, 12V/3A, 15V/3A, 20V/5A (100W Max) (PPS: 5V-21V/5A)	Total Output: 90W+30W+18W
PD30W USB-C1 Output: 5V/3A, 9V/3A, 12V/2.5A (30W Max) (PPS: 3.3V-11V/3A)	
QC18W Output: 3.6-6.5V/3A, 6.5-9V/2A, 9-12V/1.5A(18W Max)	

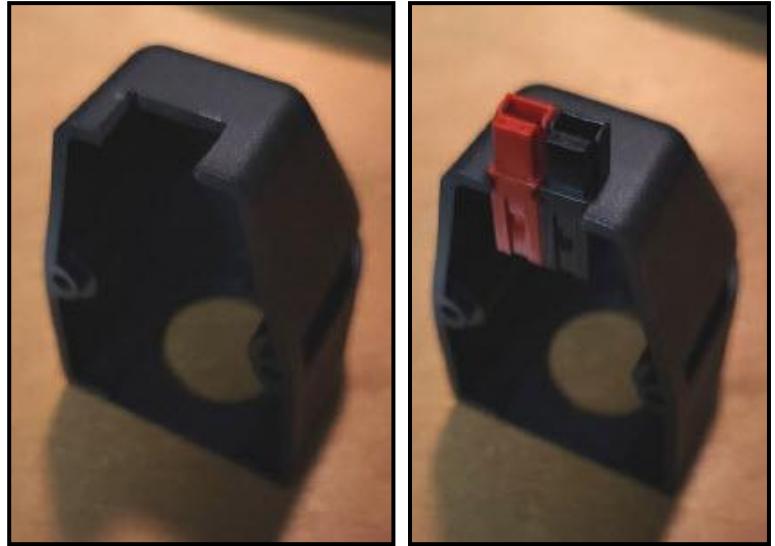


Continued on page 11

Adding a Charge Port to a LiFePO4 Cont'd

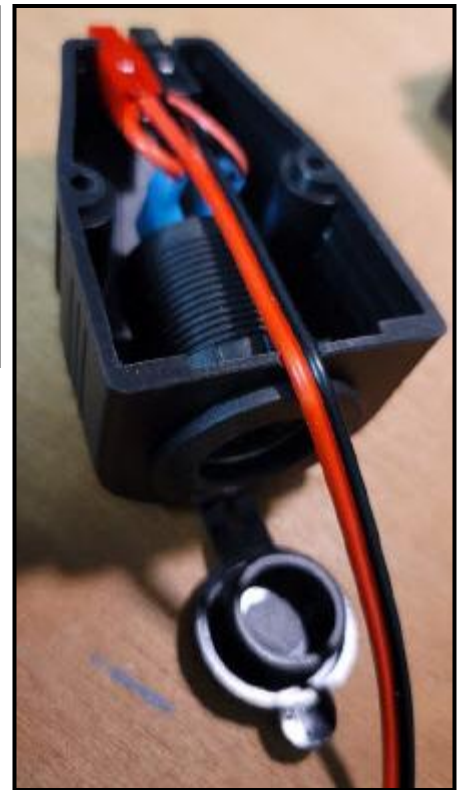
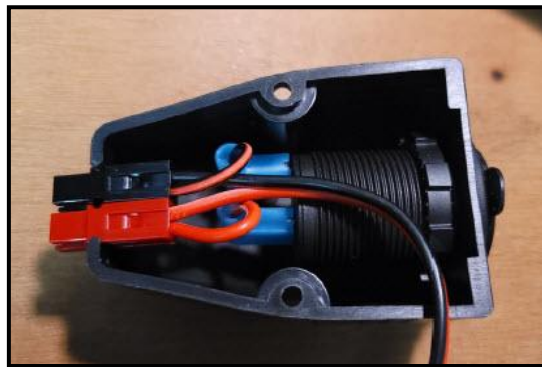
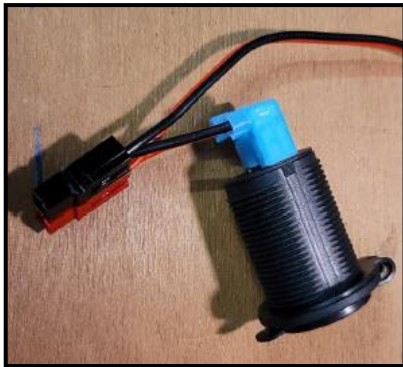
Step 1:

Use a nibbling tool or file to make a notch in the rear of the power port to fit the Anderson Power Pole connector. The notch should fit the groove in the connector. Also cut a notch for the 12v wire to feed out the front of the power port (not shown).



Step 2:

Using the cable that will plug into the barrel connector on the front of the battery, crimp the two connectors from the power port and the Anderson Power Pole. You can cut 1.5" from the cable to make the short connection from the Anderson to the power port. Assemble as shown, paying close attention to the polarity of connections; red equals positive (+), black equals negative (-).



Step 3:

Test the assembly by plugging in the cable and turning on the switch. The display should light up as shown below. Then plug in the USB plug, and it should light up as shown. If it doesn't work properly, check your connections, red to positive (+), black to negative (-).



Continued on page 12

Adding a Charge Port to a LiFePO4 Cont'd

Step 4:

Cut your mounting board to fit, then epoxy the power port to your board. Make sure the wires are in the notch at the front and the plug will reach the battery port.

Step 5:

Using the other half of the pigtail pair, crimp an Anderson Power Pole connector on the tinned end and plug it into the Anderson connector on the rear of the outlet. This will allow you to use the 12.8V outlet of the battery without unplugging the assembly. My power cable to my Lab599 radio uses this connection while my tablet is plugged into the charger port.

Step 6:

Use the Velcro straps to attach the board to the battery and enjoy!

73, Smitty, KC1IKA



HCRA Updated New Member List

The following is a list of new members who have joined HCRA since July of 2024.

With Alan filling in as assistant editor, a few things were overlooked, which I am trying to get caught back up on now. My apologies to all of the new members who didn't get the proper recognition here in Zero Beat that they deserve as new members of the Hampden County Radio Association.

Below is a list of members who joined after June, 2024. If you see any of them at a future club function please take a second to introduce yourself and welcome them into our wonderful club!

-[Editor]-

Name	Callsign	City/Town	State	Joined
Thomas Lopes	KC1UHY	Ludlow,	MA.	6/3/24
Jeffrey Auer	KC1VEO	Holyoke	MA.	8/7/24
Brandon Johannes	KC1VEV	Belchertown	MA.	8/7/24
Adam Nyzio	N1NYZ	Belchertown	MA.	8/7/24
Alexander Sepko	KC1VHP	West Suffield	CT.	8/23/24
Jerry Sambrook	KC1VWB	Southwick	MA.	8/26/24
Robert Weller	KA1HAH	Montague	MA.	9/23/24
Raymond Montagna	KC1VQF	Ludlow	MA.	10/25/24
Nicholas Girolamo	KC1VZS	Sunderland	MA.	12/27/24
John Folliard	KC1RME	Belchertown	MA.	1/2/25



Zero Beat Classifieds

FOR SALE!

Kenwood TS-480SAT

Remote head comes standard. Covers 160 through 6 meters at 100 watts. Buttons are backlit for easy night operation. Built-in antenna tuner. Rig is easy to use remotely. Beautiful Kenwood audio. Mic, power cord, manuals, and original box are all included. Large, easy-to-read display makes this a great POTA rig!



This Kenwood TS-480SAT would make a fantastic starter rig for just about any new ham. This low-hours HF radio, when combined with a 12-volt power supply and some easy-to-deploy wire antenna, would make an excellent first rig for any newly licensed ham. It boasts the same features found in today's high-dollar HF radios, plus it puts out a full 100 watts!

Additional details can be found at: <https://www.kenwood.com/usa/com/amateur/ts-480sat/>

For Sale at: ~~\$550.00~~ **\$500.00** **PRICE REDUCED**

Contact: Larry, W1AST

w1ast@arrl.net

Zero Beat Classified Submissions

If any club members have an item(s) they would like to sell, trade, or maybe something they've been searching for, they can list it right here in the Zero Beat Classified ads!

To submit an item in the classifieds, simply send an email to kd1ku@arrl.net with one or more photos of the item(s) for sale or wanted. Include a brief description, including a way to contact you (phone number and/or email), along with an asking price as well. -[Editor]-

Continued on page 15



Items for Sale

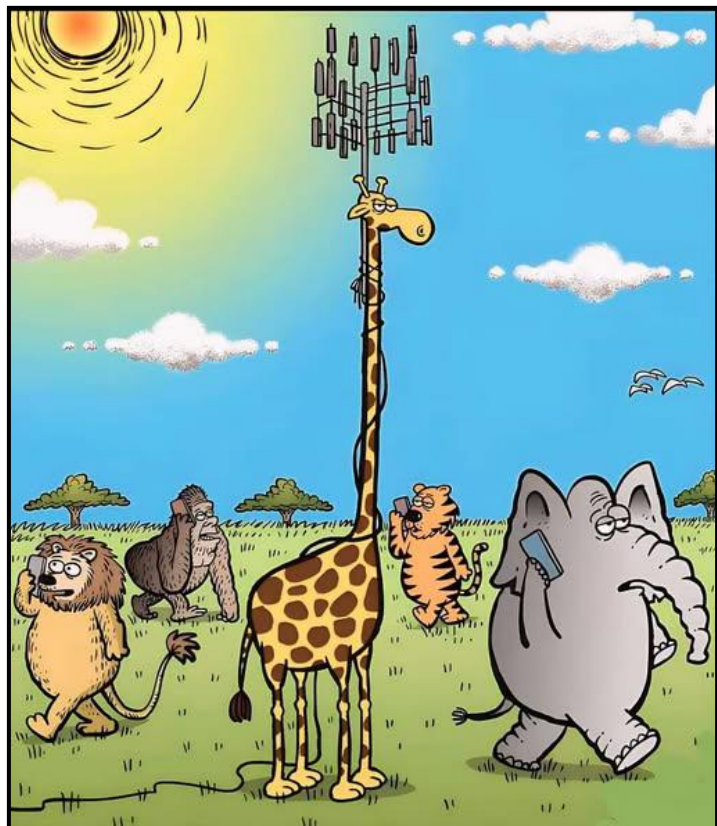
Icom IC-7300	\$750.00
LDG AT-200Pro II Autotuner	\$275.00
K1EL K45B CW Modem w/sinoBoard & 7300 Adapter	\$125.00
Astron RS35A Power Supply	\$200.00
DX Commander Classic Kit (not assembled)	\$200.00
T41 Kit (partially assembled)	\$150.00
QRP Labs QCX+ 20 Meter	\$50.00

*The following list of items are for sale by Howard, AC1MN
All items are in excellent shape and come with some extras and are guaranteed*

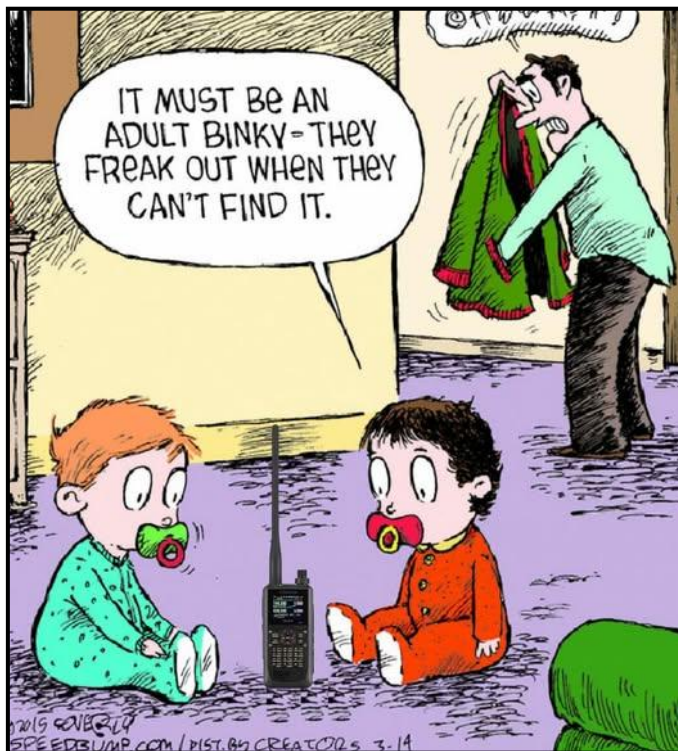
For Sale by: Howard, AC1MN

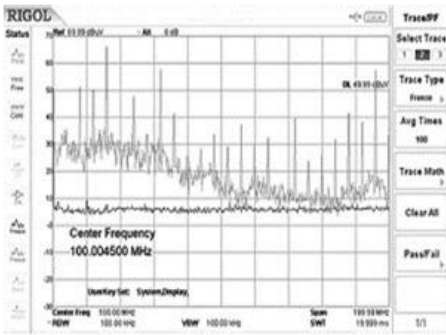
Contact Howard at: ac1mn@hotmail.com





The Very First Repeater





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 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 !!

Vy 73,

Your WMA RFI Team

Greg WA1JXR Barry W1HFN Najm AB1ZA
Bob K1YO (Team Lead)


ARRL Club Commission Program

Renew your membership through the HCRA in 2025, and your club will get a percentage!

The HCRA will earn a **\$20 commission** for each **NEW** ARRL member we recruit and **\$5** for every **renewing member**. Download the form, fill it out completely including payment, and mail it to **Hampden County Radio Association, P.O. Box 562, Agawam, MA. 01001**

Be sure to send it to the HCRA P.O. Box above and **NOT** directly to the ARRL

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Membership/Club%20Commission/ARRL%20Membership%20Application>



ARRL
The National Association for
Amateur Radio®

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)
- 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

Thank You Marv, W0MET

If you watch the monthly club meetings on Zoom, you should thank member **Marv, W0MET**, as he is the person solely responsible for broadcasting meetings over Zoom using his own equipment so those who cannot attend meetings in person can enjoy them as well. The majority of all meetings are done in this manner; however, once in a while, Marv has other obligations, so last month's meeting was not recorded. *When you see Marv, please thank him for doing this!*

Next QSL Cards to be Sent to the Bureau

The next date to send your QSL cards to the Bureau will be on or about **April 15th**. Have your cards ready to go and make arrangements to get them to **Paul, NF1G**. The QSL submission form and instructions can be found at the link directly below. QSL cards can be dropped off at regular club meetings to Paul, NF1G, whose contact information is on the form link below or in the back of every Zero Beat.

To download the form go to: <https://hcra.org/files/DX%20QSL%20Submission%20Form.pdf>

Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

For the benefit of every HCRA member, **Brown Baggers** is a friendly lunch get-together that happens on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. It's held at the [Munich Haus Restaurant](#) in Chicopee Center at 12pm (noon), located on 13 Center St. Chicopee, MA, across from City Hall, or click the link above for directions. **Enjoy lunch, conversation, and camaraderie with your fellow hams!**

Membership Memorial Page

All members have the opportunity to honor club members SK's on the new memorial page on hcra.org. This can be done easily by sending the SK member's name and callsign along with any text, stories, and photos. Send them to our webmasters, Vanessa, W1IRL, or Alan, AB1XW at the email address's below:
Vanessa, W1IRL, at webmaster@hcra.org or **Alan, AB1XW**, at alan.dove@gmail.com

**Please check-out the HCRA You Tube Channel and while you're there don't forget to click subscribe!
 I hope that many members are working on their short video's for the club's You Tube channel.
 For more info see the April issue of Zero Beat. The YouTube Channel link is below.**

For Sale Items

There's a classified ad section that is for HCRA members. Members who have a need, something to sell, or even a trade.

Send item description and photo(s) to:
kd1ku@arri.net

HCRA Social Media Links

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

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/HampdenCountyRA>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HampdenCountyRA>

Clublog update: Log-into Clublog at <https://clublog.org/league.php> Signup is completely free, and there are a number of ways to look up information. Give it a try; who knows... you just might like it!

This is the most recent update for 2025; you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy so far this year!
HCRA Clublog league information was last updated on February 25th 2025



<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Mode Filter	<input type="radio"/> CW	<input type="radio"/> Phone	<input type="radio"/> Data
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rank by DXCCs	<input type="radio"/> Rank by slots	Rank by band: Totals ▾	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 160M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 80M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6M			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Current entities	<input type="radio"/> Current and deleted	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Worked	<input type="radio"/> Confirmed
<input type="radio"/> No Date Filter	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2025	<input type="radio"/> 2024	<input type="radio"/> Last 12 months
Filter by club/continent:	HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association ▾		

Generate DXCC League

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▾	Slots	Range
1	KX1X	0	63	0	99	53	104	52	122	77	127	1	183	698	28 yrs
2	NF1G	6	24	0	36	53	75	8	79	73	106	0	174	460	41 yrs
3	W1RM+1	13	48	0	90	24	107	9	107	33	115	1	156	547	62 yrs
4	KK1W+1	8	41	0	63	30	74	9	84	5	81	4	133	399	49 yrs
5	W1AST+1	1	14	0	34	9	39	26	58	18	72	1	103	272	16 yrs
6	K1NZ+2 ★	1	5	26	3	58	5	9	12	40	41	0	93	200	14 yrs
7	N1JIE	0	3	0	13	12	25	18	24	31	32	2	60	160	8 yrs
8	N1FTP ★	0	0	0	14	9	22	12	30	28	36	0	54	151	17 yrs
9	NX1K	1	3	0	11	15	16	21	14	9	15	0	38	105	36 yrs
10	WB1DX+2	0	0	0	3	4	17	3	7	6	15	0	38	55	38 yrs
11	WD1S+2	0	1	0	8	4	15	0	1	0	15	0	31	44	13 yrs
12	W1JA+1	1	2	1	1	8	0	0	0	15	1	0	24	29	56 yrs
13	NE1C	2	4	0	10	0	8	0	11	0	16	0	21	51	23 yrs
14	K1VOI	2	1	0	6	3	4	0	1	3	3	1	14	24	24 yrs
15	WY1G	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	6	44 yrs

Do you know what Clublog is and what it can do for you?

If you have never used Clublog, need a refresher, or simply have the desire to learn as much as possible about Clublog, go to the [HCRA YouTube Channel](#) and learn all about it. All meetings are recorded and posted on hcra.org plus video links are listed in Zero Beat. The link to the April 2021 meeting where Clublog was the topic of our guest speaker is listed below.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qj2lKcQRNbE&t=1s>

2024 Clublog Final Standings

*These are the final Clublog standings for everyone that took part in last year's league!
If your name and callsign are not listed, then you didn't submit your QSOs last year.
We're into March now, but it's not too late to join Clublog, after all... it's 100% FREE!*



<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Mode Filter	<input type="radio"/> CW	<input type="radio"/> Phone	<input type="radio"/> Data
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rank by DXCCs	<input type="radio"/> Rank by slots	Rank by band: Totals ▾	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 160M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 80M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6M			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Current entities	<input type="radio"/> Current and deleted	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Worked	<input type="radio"/> Confirmed
<input type="radio"/> No Date Filter	<input type="radio"/> 2025	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2024	<input type="radio"/> Last 12 months
Filter by club/continent:	<input type="text" value="HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association"/> ▾		

Generate DXCC League

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▾	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	4	48	0	144	60	177	83	182	65	190	31	261	984	62 yrs
2	KX1X	4	97	0	145	141	161	137	201	167	188	13	249	1254	28 yrs
3	NF1G	18	14	0	53	97	119	73	155	128	171	14	243	842	41 yrs
4	KK1W+1	27	54	0	76	57	100	58	95	56	134	19	240	676	49 yrs
5	W1PY+1	0	45	0	87	0	129	1	144	1	147	0	183	554	14 yrs
6	K1NZ+2 ★	4	20	19	42	103	60	74	96	88	86	1	175	593	14 yrs
7	WB1DX+2	0	9	0	58	25	117	28	102	38	122	0	172	499	38 yrs
8	W1AST+1	1	5	0	26	9	97	34	99	21	135	2	166	429	16 yrs
9	N1FTP ★	0	4	0	25	11	80	22	88	38	133	5	152	406	17 yrs
10	NE1C	23	35	0	66	21	83	0	112	0	97	0	129	437	23 yrs
11	WY1G	1	25	0	34	0	37	18	49	44	36	3	124	247	44 yrs
12	NX1K	0	18	1	49	14	69	63	62	31	66	0	122	373	36 yrs
13	K1VOI	5	21	1	33	42	47	13	22	14	21	0	84	219	24 yrs
14	W1JA+1	2	5	8	5	30	3	21	13	47	5	7	83	146	56 yrs
15	N1JIE	1	3	1	9	3	24	15	13	18	24	1	63	112	8 yrs
16	NT1K+2	0	3	0	5	3	43	1	18	0	21	0	63	94	14 yrs
17	KD1KU	0	0	0	5	0	18	1	6	0	15	0	36	45	6 yrs
18	WD1S+2	0	1	0	8	0	11	0	7	0	10	1	20	38	13 yrs
19	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	1	0	5	1	5	0	3	0	10	15	12 yrs

Local Nets

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 of the month: 6:45 pm, MEMA RACES Drill, 146.490 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. Net control is Gary, W1JZR

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 the Info net

Wednesdays: N1RLX Simplex Net, Check-in on 146.94 then QSY to 146.550 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

Join 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>



Club Meetings and VE Sessions

1st Friday of the month: HCRA meetings are held every month, with the exception of July and August. Doors open at 7 pm, followed by the meeting at 7:30 pm sharp. For complete details checkout <http://www.hcra.org>

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

2nd Saturday of the month: (prior to FCARC meeting) at 8 am breakfast at Denny's Pantry, 496 Bernardston Rd. Greenfield, MA. Brad Councilman 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 every 4th Friday at 6pm to perform VE exams. E-mail Jim, KK1W, kk1w.jim@gmail.com. Call or text 413-237-4666. Need directions? <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

President - Alan Dove, AB1XW

alan.dove@gmail.com

Vice-President - Ez Moralez, W1AEZ

ez.w1aez@gmail.com

Treasurer - Michael Kotarba, KB1WAM

kfmfish@hotmail.com

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G

paulkelliher@comcast.net

Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE

aa1ue@amsat.org

Membership - Steve Rodowicz, N1SR

n1sr413@gmail.com

Technical - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN

wa1ojn@jeffway.com

At Large - Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD

tipoacrata@gmail.com

Zero Beat Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU

kd1ku@yahoo.com

Website - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL

Alan, AB1XW

webmaster@hcra.org

W1NY trustee, Paul, NF1G

paulkelliher@comcast.net

WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL

webmaster@hcra.org



**Here is your fabulous next
issue of Zero Beat!**

Our 77th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club

**Hampden County Radio Association
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, MA 01030-0562**