



ZERO BEAT

Our 77th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club

May 2025

Welcome New Members

Looking to join a local ham radio club? Checkout HCRA as we have something for everyone, click below today.

[Join HCRA Today!](#)

From the editor:

Here we go into the month of May, and everything is blooming, including POTA activations and much more. In June, FCARC is hosting a portable operation event from Quabbin Hill. More info on [page 16](#).

Smitty has penned a timely article about Skywarn reporting, and with so much severe weather down south/midwest, being aware of weather is extremely important this time of the year, and Smitty tells us why beginning on [page 8](#).

The Foxes Den has more about the in-person STK meeting that's coming up along with some workshops to get members ready to fox hunt; see [page 6](#) for the details. This is a great way to get started hunting fox boxes this spring/summer/fall.

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[Page 12b](#) has the requirements that we're looking for my replacement beginning next September. I need someone to step up like I did a few years ago and become the next Zero Bear newsletter editor. Take a chance; you'll love it, and it's easy!

The **New England QSO party** is coming up quickly along with other QSO parties around the states. See [page 5](#) for more details on this cool event. Did you ever wonder what it's like being on the receiving end of a pileup? Then this is for you!

Don't miss the May meeting about Steve, WA1ZEV, as he will explain everything about DMR radio. C'mon down to the meeting, as it should be extremely interesting, to say the least. More about this directly below.

Don't forget to volunteer for Field Day, as your club needs your help to make this Field Day a huge success! See ya' at the May meeting.

73, Ken - KD1KU

May 2nd Meeting

The May meeting will feature Steve Shore, WA1ZEV. He will be speaking in person about everything related to demystifying DMR (Digital Mobile Radio). If you've ever wondered about DMR, this is for you! If you've ever considered buying any type of digital radio, or maybe you just want to learn more about Digital Mobile Radio, then whatever you do... don't miss Steve's presentation!

Doors open at 7 pm for coffee, donuts, and 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



2025

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.



2025

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!



2025

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.



2025

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!



2025

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

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!



2025

To Be Announced



2025

To Be Announced



2025

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!



2025

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.



From the President's Desk

By Alan Dove, AB1XW

May 2025

Who's in Charge Here?

It's May, which means we're only about a month away from our club's annual elections. As with most amateur radio clubs, our officers serve for just one year at a time but then get re-elected by default if nobody else steps up to fill their roles. Indeed, the election usually feels more like a formality than an actual contest, with only one candidate per position, each running unopposed and therefore elected automatically.

That's how I became President last year; Larry, W1AST, wanted to step down, convinced me to step up, and nobody else ran. I have no intention of being president-for-life, though, and I think most of the other members of the club's Board of Directors would also be happy to see new faces in leadership roles.

Faces like yours. There are several positions on the Board, and if you're not sure which would be the best fit for you, just drop me a note and we can discuss it. You can nominate yourself to run for any position. Yes, even President. While I don't plan to hit the "eject" switch without a replacement lined up, I'd be quite happy to hand off the job to a qualified candidate who volunteers for it. I'm also open to having one of the current Board members take my seat.

The club's Bylaws spell out the official duties of Board members (<https://hcra.org/by-laws>), but the short version is show up for Board meetings via Zoom once a month, participate in the discussions, and handle a few chores specific to your position. There's no pay or prestige for these positions, just the reward of knowing your club is being run well.

What if you think the club is running fine and see no need to jump into a leadership position and start changing things? Great, join the Board! My own term as President has largely been a caretaker job, trying to continue the good things done by my predecessors. But I wouldn't mind turning the wheel over to someone else to drive for a while. "Steady as she goes" is an excellent policy platform for this organization.

That's not to say new ideas aren't welcome—they certainly are. We'd love to have folks coming onto the Board with the energy and drive to try novel things. Got a great idea for recruiting more members, getting current members more involved, or otherwise expanding our club's reach? Run for office. People who've served on the Board before are also welcome to come back and take another turn.

Whether you're a brand-new ham with a single Baofeng or a seasoned operator with a superstation in the backyard, a new club member or a former President, this is your club. It runs as well as we run it, and "we" includes you. Step up and give it a try.



73 de AB1XW
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 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!



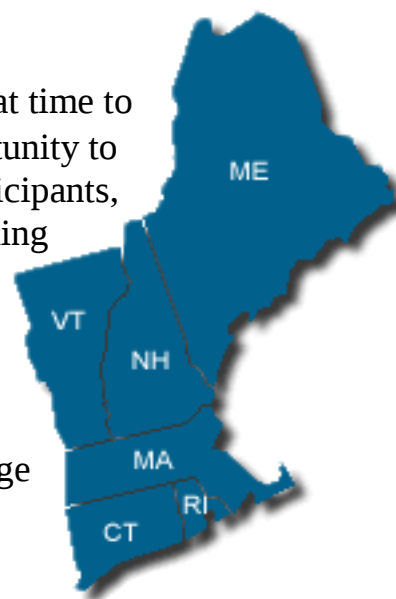
knowledge
sharing

The New England QSO Party

By Tom Frenaye, K1KI

The **New England QSO Party** on **May 3rd and 4th** is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced testers, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.

Our goal is to get every one of the counties in New England on the air, so we hope you will encourage your members to join in the fun! Even if you can only join the fun for a couple of hours, we'd appreciate it! Will you be QRV? Let us know with a message to info@neqp.org.



The **New England QSO Party** is **20 hours** long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep on Saturday night. It runs from **4 pm Saturday** until **1 am Sunday**, then **9 am Sunday** until **8 pm Sunday**. Operate on CW, SSB, and/or digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters.

For each QSO, you'll give your callsign, a signal report, and your county/state. Top scorers can earn a plaque, and everyone who sends in a log with 25 QSOs or more will get a certificate. The goal is to work stations anywhere in the world, and their goal is to work New England stations, so you'll be very popular!

Last year we had logs from 212 New England stations and 516 more logs from around the country and world.

The full rules are here: <https://neqp.org/rules/>

The 2024 results were posted last weekend - <https://neqp.org/2024-new-england-qso-party/>

For even more information regarding the NEQP, visit <https://neqp.org/>

There are only a few days until the 2025 NEQP. Please make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log!

Thanks!
73, Tom, K1KI



The Foxes Den ~ HCRA Fox Hunt 2025

Save the date and sign up for the in-person-only Share the Knowledge (STK) on Fox Hunting from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at the Holyoke Medical Center's (HMC) Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. HCRA is pleased to announce the sponsorship of multiple fox hunts in the spring, summer, and fall of 2025. This is an open invitation to all radio operators, everyone is invited to participate, no matter what your experience level is or club what club affiliation you have.

Have you ever participated in a fox hunt? Join us, and we will show you how. What is fox hunting? Well, it's lots of fun and a useful activity that involves a hidden transmitter. It is like a scavenger hunt or geocaching with radios and can be learned with basic skills. Best of all, this is an outdoor sport and is recognized as a competitive sport called Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF).

Larry, W1AST, has volunteered to be a mentor by sharing his vast knowledge and experiences to assist new and experienced radio operators alike with learning, refining, and using direction-finding skills in fox hunting. There will also be an opportunity for a 2-meter tape measure Yagi workshop in the near future for those who are interested in building their own DF Yagi. A list of items to buy and where to buy the parts to make the antenna and/or attenuator will be provided in the future.

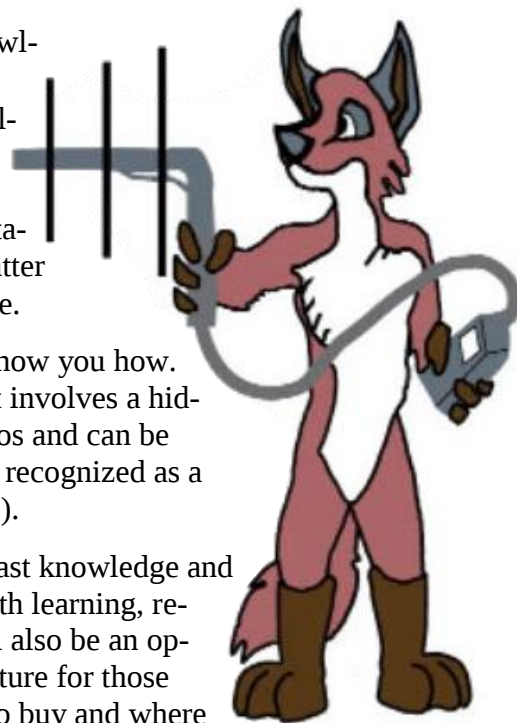
This STK will allow participants to bring in their hunting gear and get a feel for how it all works with the fox boxes. This will allow the hunters to gain confidence by activating the fox boxes as well as using the 2-meter Yagi direction-finding antennas to triangulate and hone in on the transmitter by using offset attenuators. An overall explanation of how the hunt works with the fox boxes with the bunny hunts (walking triangulation) versus fox hunts (driving triangulation). An overview of the guidelines for foxhunting, including safety recommendations. A volunteer or mentor will be available during the bunny hunts to answer any questions and assist with the hunt.

If you have any questions or would like to sign-up for this STK meeting and workshop, please contact Ez, W1AEZ at ez.w1aez@gmail.com.

We always welcome volunteers and mentors for our STK meetings and workshops. Come on along and join in on the fun!

Come on along and join in on the fun!

73, Ez - W1AEZ
ez.w1aez@gmail.com



You're Reading the #1 Newsletter in New England



This is the number one club newsletter in all of New England!

Western Massachusetts Skywarn



The image to the right shows the insane number of severe weather warnings from March 26 to April 6 of this year. Thank you to Live Storm Chasers for posting this on Facebook.

The big question the Skywarn leadership has is, is this an indication of what we might be in store for once our season begins? One of the things I get to participate in, being the net coordinator for this area, is I get to “listen in” on the discussions on the Skywarn chat group. Last year it was very interesting at times during our severe season. We had dozens of time storms start spinning up in the first stages of generating tornadoes. A few times this resulted in funnel clouds, and we also had a few isolated tornadoes. Fortunately, nothing really big made it to the ground. It was frequently close enough that I was standing by in my shack, ready to transmit the warning over our repeaters. Hopefully, our luck will hold this year as well.

The time to get ready for our severe weather season is now. Those who know me are aware of my mantra, “If you are always ready, you don’t need to get ready.” So, please get ready now.

When severe weather is forecast, the watches are out and the warnings start coming in; knowing when to self-activate and when to just monitor the repeaters is the trick. When there is the possibility of severe weather in this area, I am in constant contact with the leaders of Skywarn, **Rob Macedo, KD1CY**, being at the top of the list. Being a **Skywarn Net Coordinator**, I follow an invitation-only Skywarn chat group that discusses the possibilities and probabilities of what is in store for us. They interface with NWS and other agencies that Skywarn serves to get additional information and early discussions of impending watches or warnings. Sometimes they determine we should self-activate to provide that extra level of information to the NWS. If it is a longer event or at a time I am working, I contact **Ez, W1AEZ**; **Bob, K1YO**; and **Rich, KC1AEO**, for availability and set up a schedule for the four of us.

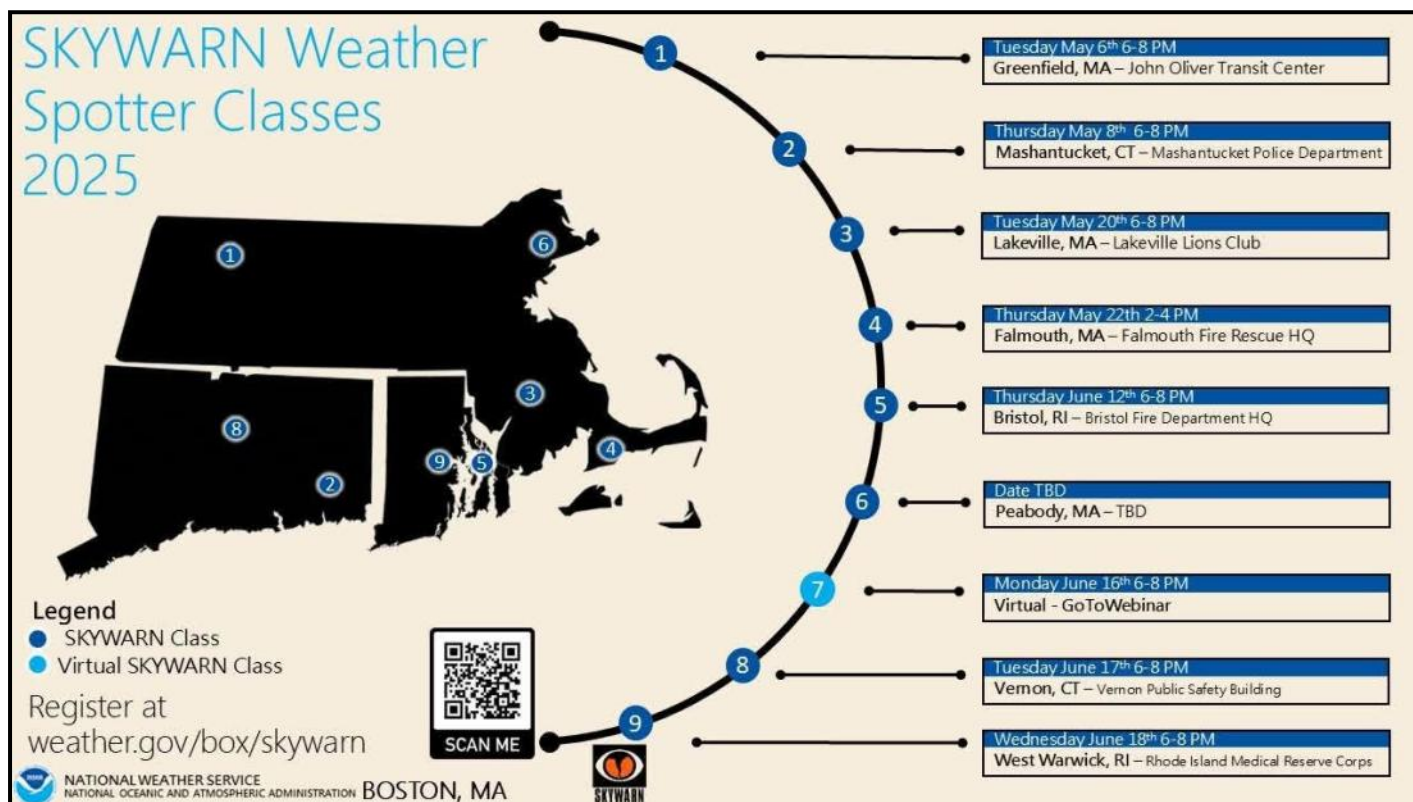
As a Skywarn member, you can stay aware of the weather through normal weather channels as well as the emails and social media posts **Rob Macedo** and **Ray Weber** put out. If it looks like there may be self-activation, you should stay aware of the weather conditions as they are happening. If it looks like the weather conditions are deteriorating to possible Skywarn Criteria, you should monitor the Mt. Tom repeater, 146.940 (or whichever repeater you normally check into for Skywarn nets). If you don’t hear a net on the repeater, feel free to call out, “Is there a Skywarn Net Control on frequency?” If we are typing up a report or just monitoring the repeater, we will try to answer your call and take your report. If you get no response or the repeaters are down, you can always use the phone number or email information on the back of your Skywarn member card to post information.



Continued on page 9

Western Massachusetts Skywarn Cont'd

The one thing that is most important is to stay safe. If there is lightning close by and you have an outside antenna, shut down your station and disconnect your antenna feed. I am fortunate to have antennas in my attic due to rental restrictions and can stay on the air through just about anything. Also, you and your family come first no matter which group you are a member of. There was a high number of tornadoes in 2023. We occasionally have them here. If there is severe weather with high wind damage or tornadic activity, your number one job is to make sure you and your family are safe. After that, the safe collection and forwarding of information is a big help.



This is the 2025 schedule for formal Skywarn training. Some locations require pre-registration, and the links are included here. There is an effort to get a local class set up; stay tuned.

NWS Boston/Norton SKYWARN Training

Page link:

<https://www.weather.gov/box/skywarn#fragment-2a>

WX1BOX Amateur Radio 2025 SKYWARN Training

Page Link:

<https://wx1box.org/skywarn-training-schedule-2025/>

Tuesday May 6th, 2025 – 6:00-8:00 PM EDT:

John Oliver Transit Center

Allen Room on the 1st Floor

12 Olive Street

Greenfield, MA 01301

Taught by: NWS Forecaster

Registration Required:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtnAEMfkbPZ1Yd8_5ykVd6-acfFcepq-PqsojNHUknmC_wew/viewform

Thursday May 8th, 2025 – 600-800 PM EDT:

Mashantucket Police Department

100 Pequot Trail

Mashantucket, CT 06338

Taught by: NWS Forecaster

Registration Required:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBOyyaQLmM5fupa2_pkoXvhaWOhtE6d3NK8Wg6uleBLyLCQ/vi ewform

Continued on page 10

Western Massachusetts Skywarn Cont'd

Tuesday May 20th, 2025 – 6:00-8:00 PM EDT:

Lakeville Lions Club

170 Main Street

Lakeville, MA 02347

Taught by: NWS Forecaster

Registration Required:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeD1vRLjnhCxt4gx9CMkfqC8LjKY2g032iEg8zLKGIAAtDCS3w/viewform>

Thursday May 22nd, 2025 – 2:00-4:00 PM EDT:

Falmouth Fire Rescue Headquarters (Emergency Operations Center – 2nd Floor)

399 Main Street

Falmouth, MA 02540

Taught by: NWS Forecaster

Registration Required:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehPMLbyDWEx1p_3mUo2JVgU3FiSGg6XxXsi0Mhz8QVlh28OQ/viewform

Thursday June 12th, 2025 – 6:00-8:00 PM EDT:

Bristol Fire Department HQ

4 Annawamscutt Dr

Bristol, RI 02809

Taught by: NWS Forecaster

Registration Required: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOFLBaJiTnxHO-dPP2r4tPGzvaB0xEpxEvzz1Fd8sm9ghqA/viewform>

Monday June 16th, 2025 – 6:00-8:00 PM EDT:

Virtual Go-To Webinar SKYWARN Training

Taught by: NWS Forecaster

Registration Required:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5339146447627990615>

Tuesday June 17th, 2025 – 6:00-8:00 PM EDT:

Vernon Public Safety Building

280 West St

Vernon, CT 06066

Taught by: NWS Forecaster

Registration Required:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd_SKwP0NjpObpoYB3cpkICYejZgxWdzkuAk-wktJqqFlcmfQ/viewform

Wednesday June 18th, 2025 – 6:00-8:00 PM EDT:

Rhode Island Medical Reserve Corps

297 Cowesett Ave

West Warwick RI, 02893

Taught by: NWS Forecaster

Registration Required:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScALHz6PuPZwaPnSeLXXe3RZYl-QJnDiC1zStTxu_Nbs2gsNg/viewform

Skywarn, What, When, and How to Report

After you take and pass your Skywarn class, how do you report severe weather?

The first thing you need to remember from the class are the two words, **Reportable Criteria**. Most of the time on Skywarn nets we are looking for Reportable Criteria. If you don't remember what is considered reportable criteria, you can check the back of your Skywarn I.D. card as shown on page 11.

Occasionally, we look for specific information on the net, listen to what the net control station is requesting, and respond accordingly. If you need to make a report and there is no one running a net, you can call the number listed on your card to report in with your call sign, name, spotter I.D., and your report. Be sure it is listed on the back of the card, and you include your location.

Continued on page 11

Western Massachusetts Skywarn Cont'd

Occasionally, we get reports that it is raining hard and there is a lot of thunder and lightning. This is not reportable criteria and can tie up a repeater or phone number, preventing someone from reporting appropriate criteria.

Typically, if there is severe weather pending in the forecast, I am monitoring a special Skywarn chat group well before the weather arrives. The members of the group have decades of experience dealing with severe weather and access to resources that they start checking days in advance. I monitor the conversations in the group and sometimes will contact my Skywarn net control stations to see who may be available for nets.


By doing this before the group is ready to request coverage on the repeaters, I can respond immediately to their request. There have been quite a few storms lately that could develop or fade out, and sometimes we don't know until just before they get here.

The group I listen to has direct contact with the Boston NWS and considers the advisories, watches, and warnings from NWS before requesting Skywarn to activate and get on the air. Well, most of the time. As we all know, weather forecasting is not an exact science, so sometimes we activate before a watch or warning is issued. If we get enough reports from the field, we can provide the final information the NWS needed to put out a watch or warning.

As mentioned in the beginning of this article, Skywarn is one of the few emergency groups that it's okay to self-activate. There have been many times I have been at home, enjoying dinner with my wife, while monitoring the chat group, and I just know they are going to text me. My phone beeps, and I receive, ***Smitty, can you get on the 94 and call out for reports?*** At that point, I can be on the air in about a minute and start requesting criteria reports on 146.940. If you are always ready, you don't need to get ready.

You don't have to be an official Skywarn Spotter to call into the nets, but you should be aware of what we are looking for when we request Reportable Criteria. As soon as the net is over, the other net controls and I type up a report and send it to the chat group so they can relay a summary to the Boston NWS office. The biggest thing is to listen to what the Net Control Station is asking for and in what order we are filling out a log sheet so try not to give a lot of extra information when reporting.

If there is a severe thunderstorm and we are asking for hail reports, we don't need to know the temperature, dewpoint, barometric pressure, and humidity. That information just ties up the net and delays us in getting the report typed up and sent in.

	Call 1 - 800 - 330 - 1147														
	Spotter I.D. _____														
	Report What, Where, and When														
	National Weather Service 46 Commerce Way Norton MA 02766														
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1/4	1/2	3/4	1	1 1/2	2	3									

Please Report these conditions:	
• Tornadoes / Funnel Clouds (be wary of look-alikes)	
• Wall Clouds, especially if they are rotating	
• 1/8+\" Hail (BE SPECIFIC on size/diameter) (Severe = 1+\")	
• Winds 40 mph or greater (Severe = 58+ mph)	
• Damaging winds; Trees/Power Lines down ; Damage to Buildings	
• Rainfall ... 1\" per hour ; 2+\" storm total	
• ANY Flooding (Streams/Rivers, Coastal); 6+\" deep on streets	
❖ Winter Weather Extras	
❖ First 2\" of snow; Every 2\"; 1+\"/hour; <u>ALL</u> Final Snow Totals	
❖ 1/3 +\" of radial ice accretion	
❖ Precipitation type change (rain to ice to snow)	
❖ Any \"Thunder-Snow\"	❖ Any Snow Squalls

Continued on page 12

Western Massachusetts Skywarn Cont'd

If we ask for hail reports and you have winds of 40 mph or greater with trees down, a suspected wall cloud, or a tornado, that would be good to include in your report, as it is reportable criteria.

If you would like more information, go to the website: <https://wx1box.org/> and see when there are classes as well as links to other information, such as more detail on reportable criteria, forecasts, and the official Boston Skywarn page: <https://www.weather.gov/box/skywarn>

Thanks to all who signed up for Skywarn and to everyone who calls in reports to our nets.

And thank you to all the amateur radio operators who have signed up for EmComm memberships. It doesn't matter if you are CERT, MRC, Skywarn, ARES, RACES, NTS, or whatever; thank you.

73,

Smitty, KC1IKA

Skywarn Net Coordinator for the 146.940 (443.200) Repeaters

Wanted Zero Beat Editor!

Attention HCRA members!

This is your chance to do something great for your club, and it's not that difficult, nor does it require a steep learning curve. I would be more than happy to show any future editors my little bag of tricks that allows me to provide a nice-looking and informative newsletter each month. Alan also said he would be happy to help our future editor too.

I've enjoyed my time as editor, but I must step down as I have so much more to do now that I've moved and sold my other house. Someone can step up and build on what I've accomplished since taking over as editor several years back.

If you can check email on a computer, then you are capable of editing our club newsletter. It's not rocket science, and once you get a system down, it can go quite smoothly. I'm sure I'll continue to send articles to whoever takes this position over.

I use **Microsoft Publisher** but there are many programs available that are just as easy to use with some being free and if you do not run Windows there is a program that is an Open Source application (FREE) called **Scribus** that will work great if **Linux** is your preferred operating system. For image editing I use **Photoshop** but any photo software will work.

If you have any questions, you can email me at kd1ku@arrl.net, but the best person to contact is our president, **Alan, AB1XW**, at alan.dove@gmail.com.

Ken, KD1KU

Current Zero Beat Editor

2025 Northeast HamXposition



HamX - The Northeast HamXposition

August 21 - 24, 2025
ARRL New England Division Convention

The Northeast's largest gathering of radio amateurs, featuring in-person experts presenting on timely topics, trends and technologies



Thursday Night Comedy Kick-Off



Featuring Comedian Juston McKinney
Thursday, August 21, 2025

Friday Night DX/Contest Banquet



Featuring Ned Stearns, AA7A
Friday, August 22, 2025

sponsored by: 

Convention Keynote Address



Featuring Thomas Witherspoon, K4SWL
Saturday Morning, August 23, 2025

Saturday Grand Banquet Presentation



Featuring Nathaniel A. Frissell, W2NAF
Saturday Evening, August 23, 2025

Over \$14,000 in prizes * Large Outdoor Flea Market * W1XPO GOTA Station

**ARRL • Gold Medal Ideas • Elecraft • VE2DX Electronics • Quicksilver Radio • FlexRadio
Reliance Antennas • ACOM • Scanner Master • plus many more!**

Talks and Presentations: 2.4 GHz xcvr Build • Kit Building Workshops • MARS • YL Meet & Greet • 3-D Printing • Youth Forum • FEMA Talk • SWR and S-Parameters • Remote Radio
IMD & Clean Signal Initiative • Demystifying Quantum Computing • ARRL Section Meetings • Operating all Bands • Club Forum • Andy's Linux • MESH Update • and more!

August 21 - 24, 2025 * Boston-Marlborough MA * [hamx.org](https://hamxposition.org/)

Click the image above, the link below or the QR Code below that for additional details

<https://hamxposition.org/>



HCRA Club Wear

HCRA members can purchase some stylish clothing and accessories, complete with their callsign alongside the name and logo of their favorite ham radio club!

- Fleece vest
- Hoody sweatshirt
- Wind breaker
- Polo shirt
- Button down shirt
- Name badge \$13
- Ceramic mug
- Baseball style hat and knit hat available from the club treasurer (in stock)



For polo shirts, button-down, and vest—do you want the mini logo with your callsign too (on the back or sleeve where applicable)?

If interested in any items, please send Larry, W1AST, your order at w1ast@arrl.net

Need the Following:

1. Your call
2. Your name
3. For badge (city and state)
4. For badge (arrl logo?)

Larry will inform you of the cost; you will need to either pay via PayPal or mail a check to the club P.O. Box made out to HCRA for the amount specified for items other than badges.

**Hampden County Radio Association
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, MA 01001**

More HCRA Club Wear photos on the following page...

Continued on page 15

HCRA Club Wear

Cont'd

More items to choose from! Click on any image or links below to see more on hcra.org

Prices on the following items change frequently, so please email Larry to get the current price before ordering.



To order or for info, contact Larry, W1AST, at w1ast@arrl.net

For more information click: <https://hcra.org/hcra-wear/>

FCARC Operating and Social Event

GOTA POTA SOTA

Operating and Social Event

When: Saturday June 14 2025 10:00-2:00 (rain date TBD)

Where: [Quabbin Hill Observation Tower](#), Belchertown MA [MapQuest](#) [Google Maps](#)

Food: Coffee and hot dogs provided (while they last). Otherwise, BYO.

Facilities: Plenty of parking. Portable toilets. Sorry, no dogs.

Seating: Bring your own chair. A limited number of picnic tables available.

Radios & Antennas: Generator power available.

Bring your own gear or operate ours:

IC-7300, 9700, 705, 7100 (mobile).

Hexbeam, wire and VHF antennas. (trees not available)

GOTA: It's Father's Day weekend. Bring a parent, child or grandchild.

Think radio fishing. June VHF contest will be underway.

POTA: [US-8391](#)

SOTA: [W1/CR-013 - Quabbin Hill \(1pts, 313m.\) \(sotadata.org.uk\)](#)

Talk In: 146.52

Questions/Volunteer: Please!

Brad Councilman W1BCC

brad@councilman.com

413-773-0670

Zero Beat Classifieds

Items for Sale by Howard, AC1MN



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
SOLD! K Commander Classic Kit (not assembled)	\$200.00
SOLD! K1 Kit (partially assembled)	\$150.00
QRP Labs QCX+ 20 Meter	\$50.00

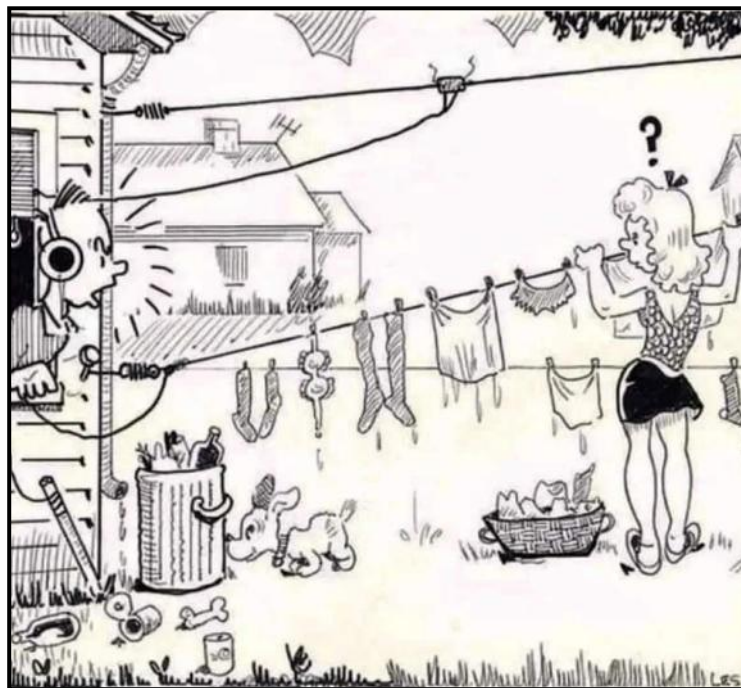
*The above list of items are for sale by Howard, AC1MN
All items are in excellent shape and come with some extras and are guaranteed.*

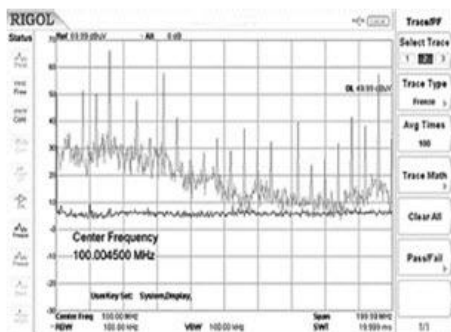
Contact Howard at: ac1mn@hotmail.com

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]-





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 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)

SoBARC Hamfest 2025

33rd Annual Southern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club, SoBARC.

HAMFEST

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025 8:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

GOSHEN, CT, FAIRGROUNDS.

VENDORS

INDOOR: Drive to your indoor table and unload easily from 6.00am and pack up at 1pm. One admission included.

Bring your own tables: at \$5 per table space.

Our 10ft tables: \$10 for first table, and \$5 for each additional table.

Bring your own chairs. Space with power available for \$2. Please let us know in advance.

Reserve table space by May 12th to:
SoBARC Ham-fest
PO Box 1101, Sharon,
CT 06069.
Send Check or pay at the gate.

TAILGATING: Plenty of room at \$10 per vehicle, which includes ONE admission.



BUYERS & LOOKERS

Admission – \$5
Children under 12 free with adult.
Food available from 7a.m.
Clean fairground restrooms.

Visit- www.sberk.org
for a look at past Ham-fests



For Information Contact:

SoBARC@Outlook.com
or Lee K1LEE (860) 318-6035

Located in northwest CT, in the beautiful Litchfield Hills on Rte. 63,
half mile south of the intersection with Rte. 4. 6 miles north of Litchfield, 6 miles west of Torrington
Actual street address: 116 Old Middle Street, Goshen, CT 06756.
Geographical Coordinates: 41 49 N 73 13 W.

TALK IN – Club Repeater: W1BAA - Sharon 147.285MHz, Input + 600KHz - PL Tone 77.0 Hz


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

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!

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*

*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

Field Day is Coming Soon!

Every fourth weekend in June, more than 31,000 hams gather with their clubs, groups or friends to operate from remote locations. HCRA will be doing another big Field Day event and club members are needed to make this happen. The past few years have been scaled down after so few members volunteered. Hopefully 2025 will see a big increase in FD participation! Please consider helping your club by contacting Alan at: alan.dove@gmail.com

Challenge to HCRA from QVARC

Club member Ken, WB1DX, says the Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club, (<https://qvarc.com>) wants to challenge us to a little inter-club Field Day competition in 2025. Whichever club gets the highest score on their Field Day entry wins bragging rights and possibly some sort of trophy or other reward that will be determined later. This is sure to be one of the most fun Field Day events in recent club history. If you want to get in on the action this Field Day ask Alan, AB1XW know at alan.dove@gmail.com

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. **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 May 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!



<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	74	0	114	91	132	88	148	105	150	1	208	903	28 yrs
2	W1RM+1	13	55	0	95	28	126	16	128	38	143	1	208	643	62 yrs
3	NF1G	10	28	0	43	80	96	12	82	112	135	4	204	602	41 yrs
4	KK1W+1	9	42	0	65	33	84	19	89	18	99	4	163	462	49 yrs
5	W1AST+1 ★	1	14	0	40	9	70	28	86	19	100	1	127	368	16 yrs
6	K1NZ+2 ★	1	17	29	20	69	8	16	38	51	54	0	115	303	14 yrs
7	WB1DX+2	0	0	0	20	6	71	5	68	7	84	0	114	261	38 yrs
8	N1JIE	1	6	0	17	15	39	25	38	42	49	2	94	234	8 yrs
9	N1FTP ★	0	0	0	16	9	31	14	35	31	40	1	68	177	17 yrs
10	K1VOI	3	8	0	14	11	33	2	22	4	29	1	66	127	24 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	NX1K	1	13	0	24	24	31	32	36	9	21	0	65	191	36 yrs
12	NE1C	2	5	0	15	0	12	0	20	0	18	0	31	72	23 yrs
13	WD1S+2	0	1	0	8	4	15	0	1	0	15	0	31	44	13 yrs
14	KD1KU	0	0	0	4	0	18	0	7	0	1	0	27	30	7 yrs
15	W1JA+1	1	2	1	1	8	0	0	0	15	1	0	24	29	56 yrs
16	WY1G	0	1	0	6	0	2	1	5	0	9	0	20	24	44 yrs

If you have never used Clublog, need a refresher, or simply want to learn more about Clublog, simply 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=qi2lKcQRNbE&t=1s>

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

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Membership - Steve Rodowicz, N1SR

n1sr413@gmail.com

Technical - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN

wa1ojn@jeffway.com

At Large - Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD

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Zero Beat Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU

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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**