



ZERO BEAT

Our 77th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club

Welcome New Members

Steven Placzek, KC1QNW
Ian McIntosh, KC1WCZ
Alex Moore, KC1VVK

More new members
on [page 4](#)

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FIELD DAY EDITION

From the editor:

June 2025

This is the final time I have the privilege of editing Zero Beat. It seems like it was only yesterday when Larry, W1AST, first asked me if I would like to be the next newsletter editor. I said yes, as I knew I could take this newsletter to the next level.

I never imagined that the HCRA and I, as editor, would be graced by being selected as the best club newsletter in all of New England! It's truly an honor to be able to do this for the club.

You'll notice several new club members on the top left of this page, with even more new members continuing on [page 4b](#) directly after the President's Desk.

HCRA's Field Day is coming up fast! Read all about it in Alan's Presidents Desk, with even more on [pages 9 through 12](#). Let's bring Field Day back to the way it was in the past. We can only do this one way... with your help, so please volunteer!

*The **June 6th meeting** is for elections and Field Day preparations! Please consider putting your name on the ballot to run for a Board of Directors seat. Your club functions best when everyone participates and helps each other out!*

Read all about our summer break, especially the 10 meter net which also goes on break, read about it on [page 24](#). As always we'll take the summer off but will return in early September right after the September meeting.

Thank you all for allowing me to be your Zero Beat editor. Whatever you do, please attend the June meeting and vote for your next Board of Directors! As for me... I'll see ya'll a little further on down the log!

73, Ken - KD1KU

June 6th Meeting

The June meeting has many things to discuss before the summer break. 2025 Field Day preparations are on top of this list! We need your assistance to ensure the success of this event! Sign up to help on pg 24.

Elections will also be held at this meeting. Please consider running for a Board of Directors position; your club needs your help!

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

The guest speaker at the September 5th meeting will be Shawn Warren, KC1NQE. Shawn will be speaking all about the Connecticut POTA group. This group is much more than just a group with their activities, picnics, and activations!



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

June 2025

If things go the way I hope, this will be my last time writing this column. As many of you will recall, I took over the club presidency from Larry, W1AST, at the June meeting last year.

Larry's still around but busy with other things, such as helping to run HamXposition and working as the ARRL's Affiliated Club Coordinator for Western Massachusetts. Having run the club for a year, it's now time for me to pass the torch.

I'm not planning to disappear, though. Ken, KD1KU, is stepping down from editing Zero Beat, and as I learned earlier this year, I have at least some of the specialized skills needed to fill that role.

Ken is officially the best ham radio newsletter editor in New England, so he'll be a tough act to follow, but I'll give it a shot.

So who will be President? Good question. Ideally, someone with experience on the Board of Directors of a club like this will volunteer to run for the office. Maybe a current or former HCRA Board member will step up.

For that matter, we also need to fill the other Board positions. Most of the current leadership is willing to stay on for another year, but we'd love to have some new faces join us as well.

You can read about the responsibilities of the various board positions in the club bylaws, which are blessedly short and available right on our website (<https://hcra.org/by-laws/>). Being on the board is a responsibility, but it's one most people should be able to handle;

just show up to and participate in our monthly Zoom meetings, be reachable by email in between them, and participate in the board's discussions on club business. Let me know if you'd like to help run the club, and we'll find a place for you.

Besides elections, the other big focus of our June meeting will be Field Day. Since the pandemic in 2020, HCRA Field Day efforts have been somewhat small, at least by the club's historic standards. We're hoping to change that.

This year, we'd like to get at least one of our AB-577 portable 50-foot towers set up, with a triband beam antenna on top of it for 10, 15, and 20 meters and a wire dipole for lower bands. The club also has two 6-person tents we can set up as operating shacks, and all the cables, filters, and accessories to connect everything. All we need to add are radios, power sources, and people.



Continued on page 4

From the President's Desk

By Alan Dove, AB1XW

That last ingredient, **people**, is really the limiting factor. You can read about the whole range of possible things we could do for Field Day, many of which we did in the past. Beginning on [page 8](#). We have a tremendous amount of equipment and could put on a major effort if we could just get enough folks to show up!

If you've signed up to attend Field Day with us, thanks! If you haven't, no problem—you can just come to **School Street Park in Agawam, MA**, on **June 28th or 29th**, and we'll find a place for you.

Don't worry if you're a brand-new or long-lapsed ham; this is an ideal opportunity to get on the air. Be sure to check out the full Field Day article on [page 8](#) of this issue, whatever you do, join us on the last weekend in June!

73 de AB1XW
alan.dove@gmail.com

New HCRA Members as of May 21st

The following is a list of new HCRA members who have joined our club between March and June 2025. If you see any of our new members, please take a minute to welcome them into the HCRA and encourage them to take part in our Field Day or any of our other club activities!

-[Editor]-

- Steven Placzek, KC1QNW
- Ian McIntosh, KC1WCZ
- Logan Mombourquette, KC1WDJ
- Alex Moore, KC1VVK
- Anthony Gent, W1AEG
- Carol Vanderheiden, KC1WJV
- Richard Cookish, KC1WON
- Elizabeth McKinstry, KC1WUC
- Willie Lopez, KC1WUE

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	Friday Night DX/Contest Banquet <small>sponsored by: DX engineering</small>	Convention Keynote Address	Saturday Grand Banquet Presentation
			
Featuring Comedian Juston McKinney Thursday, August 21, 2025	Featuring Ned Stearns, AA7A Friday, August 22, 2025	Featuring Thomas Witherspoon, K4SWL Saturday Morning, August 23, 2025	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 Membership Renewals

The annual Hampden County Radio Association membership dues expire each year on August 31st for everyone who pays their dues yearly. This is a reminder to all of our membership to update their membership dues by September 1st 2025 or earlier. This will keep your membership current so you can take part in all club activities. That's a lot of ham radio activities for very little money!

The easiest way to update membership dues is to fill out the online form and pay via PayPal using the handy link directly below.

<https://hcra.org/online-new-membership-application-and-renewal/>

Dues are only \$15 per year which give you an awful lot of club activities for a minimal investment.

Click the link above and send it in with your PayPal payment or send in your payment via snail mail after filling out the form on <https://hcra.org/>. If you renew on or before September 1st you will get a full year of benefits until the following September.



You're Reading the #1 Newsletter in New England

This is the final time HCRA members can enjoy being crowned the best club newsletter, as a new club will be selected by the judges at the 2025 HamX in August. HCRA cannot submit another newsletter for a few more years, according to the HamX rules.

I never thought this was possible, but it has been an honor to publish this now award-winning newsletter for each and every member of the HCRA! --[Editor]--



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

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

Field Day 2025: We're Bringing It Back

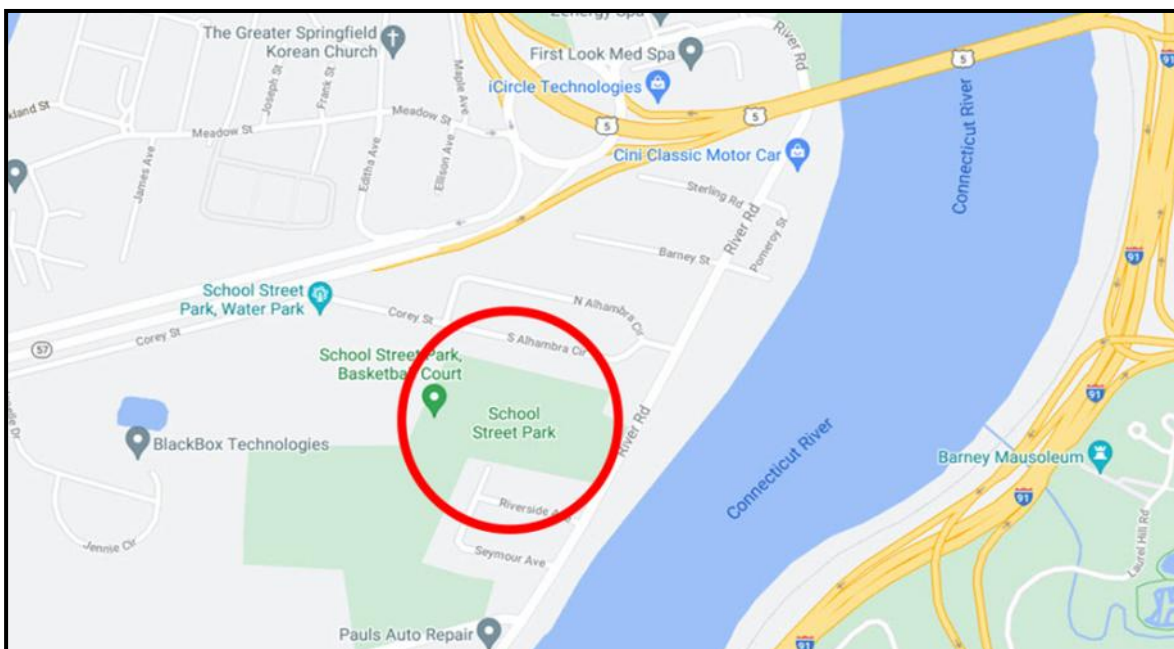
It's a contest that's not a contest. It's an emergency communications drill, a cookout, a public relations stunt, and a social event. Some people treat it as an all-weekend endurance test, while others just spend an hour operating casually in a park one afternoon. There's one thing we can all agree on, though: ARRL Field Day is the biggest amateur radio operating event of the year.

Always held on the last full weekend in June, Field Day looks like a radio contest, but officially it's an "operating event." What the heck does that mean? It means everyone can enjoy it in their own way. There are scores, and serious radiosport competitors will of course try to maximize theirs by making as many contacts as possible.

At the same time, there's a long list of ways to earn bonus points, many of which don't involve traditional QSOs at all (see Table 1).

While the scoring serves to motivate many people, it's not really the main point. Field Day is, above all, a celebration of amateur radio in all of its breadth and depth. It's one weekend a year when we can all geek out about our own special interests, discover how others pursue this hobby, and show it all off to the public.

So how does HCRA celebrate this event? The club has a longstanding tradition, dating back to its earliest years, of putting on a major operation for Field Day. Our operating site has moved around a few times, but for the past decade or so we've been setting up in School Street Park in Agawam, MA. (see below) It's easy to reach and spacious, and the Agawam Parks Department has been extremely accommodating. Before 2020, the HCRA operation most years was a big deal. We'd raise multiple 50-foot towers with beam antennas, fill the operating schedule to keep CW and SSB stations on the air for the full 24-hour contest period, and also score as many bonus points as possible. **We still have all of the equipment to do that.**



Continued on page 10

Field Day 2025: We're Bringing It Back Cont'd

Since the pandemic, though, our Field Day operations have been much smaller. We didn't get together as a group at all in 2020, of course, and in 2021 we still had to be very careful about infection control, which limited our options. Field Day has been recovering slowly ever since. Last year, the weather didn't help: heat indices over 100 degrees alternated with frequent severe thunderstorms all weekend. Nonetheless, about a dozen of us braved the scorching heat and driving rain, and we managed to have fun despite the brutal conditions.



This year, we're hoping a bigger turnout will allow us to do more. Here are five reasons you should attend:

1) Hang out with people who share a common interest

Whether you've been an HCRA member for decades or just joined, Field Day is a great opportunity to chat with your fellow club members. We come from a wide range of backgrounds, have many different interests, and seldom bite.

2) Get on the air!

We'll be operating under the W1NY club callsign, and a General class or higher control operator will be on the site for all of our operations. For newly licensed Technicians, that means you can operate on HF frequencies and modes that would normally be outside your operating privileges. See what all the HF contesting excitement is about!

3) Try something new!

The Field Day bonus point system means we'll be doing lots of different things. Field Day is the best opportunity to explore other ham radio niches. Maybe you're an old hand at HF DXing but have never tried passing an NTS radiogram or making a satellite contact. With bonus points on the table, we'll try to arrange those activities and more.

4) Learn or practice a skill

We'll be setting up antennas, solving little (and possibly big) problems, and showing off lots of different techniques and technologies at Field Day. If we have enough people, we may also have a little lesson of some kind. Last year, Bob, K1YO, demonstrated HF direction finding, and this year we might try to teach something else. Come learn with us!

5) Get a taste of emergency communication

While we certainly hope we don't repeat the 1954 HCRA Field Day, which ended with club members sifting through the charred wreckage of a major structure fire (seriously, check the archive), Field Day is nonetheless an opportunity to practice for emergencies. By setting up stations away from commercial power sources and testing our ability to communicate over both short and long distances, we'll be better prepared for all kinds of disasters.

Continued on page 11

Field Day 2025: We're Bringing It Back Cont'd

While we certainly hope we don't repeat the 1954 HCRA Field Day, which ended with club members sifting through the charred wreckage of a major structure fire (seriously, check the archive), Field Day is nonetheless an opportunity to practice for emergencies. By setting up stations away from commercial power sources and testing our ability to communicate over both short and long distances, we'll be better prepared for all kinds of disasters.

So come join us in School Street Park in Agawam, MA on Field Day weekend. We plan to start setting up a tower and antennas on Friday afternoon, June 27. Operation will start Saturday afternoon, so we want everything in place and tested well before then.

Once we're underway, we hope to keep at least two stations going for the next 24 hours while also racking up as many bonus points as we can. We'll need people to stay in the park overnight Friday and Saturday, either in tents or RVs. On Sunday afternoon, we'll take everything down and pack it away.

School Street Park isn't wilderness. There are restrooms near our operating site, plus restaurants and stores in the neighborhood, and we always grill up a good lunch for everyone present Sunday afternoon. If you can't make it for the whole weekend, just come out when you can. We'd love to see you for an hour if that's all you have available, and whenever you get there, we'll likely have something interesting going on.

Let's do this!



There's no shortage of food during Field Day. Everyone that attends is well fed during the weekend!

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Field Day 2025: We're Bringing It Back Cont'd

Table 1: Field Day Bonus Points

Running on 100% emergency power (e.g. generators)	100 points per transmitter
5 QSOs using only an "alternate" power source (e.g solar)	100 points
Getting media publicity	100 points
Setting up in a public location	100 points
Having a public information table	100 points
Sending an NTS-formatted radiogram to the Section Manager	100 points
Sending other NTS-formatted radiograms	10 points each; maximum 100 points
Making a satellite QSO	100 points
Copying the W1AW Field Day bulletin off the air	100 points
Holding an educational activity	100 points
Site visit by an elected official	100 points
Site visit by an invited agency served by ARES	100 points
"Get on the Air" (GOTA) station for new hams	5 points per QSO
Full-time GOTA coach supervising new hams	100 points
Submitting score sheet by web	50 points



Ez, W1AEZ, and Lucy, flipping burgers on the grille



13 Colonies Special Event 2025

17th Annual 13 Colonies Special Event



JULY 1ST - 7TH 2025



K2A/NY



K2B/VA



K2C/RI



K2D/CT



K2E/DE



K2F/MD



K2G/GA

K2H/MA



K2I/NJ



K2J/NC



K2K/NH



K2L/SC



K2M/PA



1776

THIS CERTIFICATE CERTIFIES THAT ARS: **KU2US** HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS ON - AIR AMATEUR RADIO EVENT HONORING THE ORIGINAL THIRTEEN COLONY STATES, OUR INDEPENDENCE, & OUR ACTIVE MILITARY / VETERANS.



THIS YEAR'S EVENT HONORS KEN VILLONE (KU2US), WHO CREATED THE 13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT IN 2009



ALL
SSB



Event Manager 2009 - 2024

WM3PEN



13

CONTACTS

2025 Event Dates / July 1 (9AM Eastern) to July 7 (Midnight Eastern)
(July 1, 2025-1300 UTC to July 8, 2025-0400 UTC)

YOU DO NOT NEED ALL 13 COLONIES TO GET THE CERTIFICATE
YOU DO NOT NEED TO GET THE 2 BONUS STATIONS FOR A CLEAN SWEEP

Getting Started in Foxhunting

Hampden County Radio Association is sponsoring radio direction finding as a recreational activity to be enjoyed by all amateur radio enthusiasts, regardless of your experience or membership. Starting in May 2025, HCRA is offering training sessions, workshops, and beginner-friendly events to help newcomers develop their skills.

What's foxhunting? It involves locating hidden radio transmitters, often referred to as "foxes," using specialized equipment and techniques. No, not real foxes, but a hidden radio transmitter where we get to play hide-and-seek, where one person hides a radio transmitter and others try to track it down. This is accomplished by detecting and analyzing the signal's strength, phase, or polarization as it is received by specialized equipment.

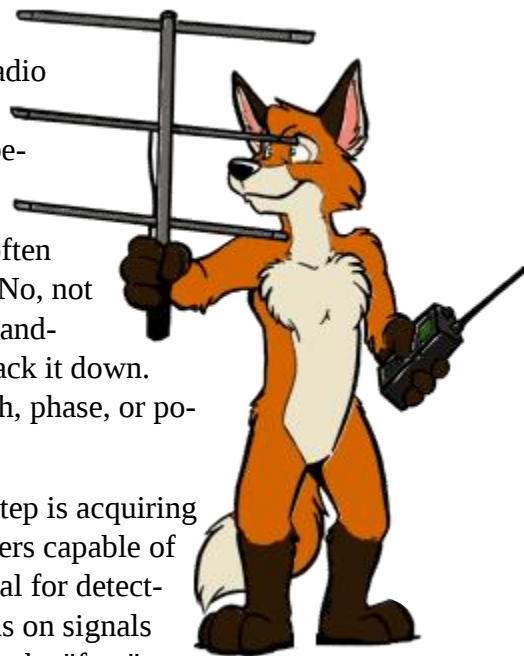
For those interested in joining the foxhunting community, the first step is acquiring basic equipment. The key components include portable radio receivers capable of turning to the frequency of the hidden transmitter, which are essential for detecting and analyzing signals. Directional antennas are designed to focus on signals from specific directions and are used as the primary tool for locating the "fox."

Common types include Yagi antennas, loop antennas, and ferrite rod antennas. HCRA is encouraging hunters to build their 2m Yagi antenna, and handouts are available with part listings with prices as well as kit-building instructions. Signal attenuators help control the strength of received signals, preventing overload and enabling participants to refine their search. Lastly, maps and GPS devices as navigational tools assist foxhunters in plotting their course and marking potential locations for the transmitter.

These foxhunts will typically be on Saturday mornings, where a transmitter will be hidden within a defined area, such as a park, forest, or urban space within Western Massachusetts counties. The sport combines elements of outdoor adventure, technical skills, and teamwork, offering participants the opportunity to test their problem-solving abilities in a dynamic and challenging environment. The initial fox hunt will be on foot with only one FB transmitter at a park where hunters can tune into the FB frequency and walk around listening for the tone. The following foxhunts will begin to get a lot more complex, where participants get to drive around to hunt the fox.

Fox hunting is a fun way to improve your ham radio skills. Join a ham radio club near you to connect with local hams you can go fox hunting with. I'm thrilled to have one in my community now that I can learn from. The goal is to build your confidence and test your equipment to become familiar with the steps in the foxhunting process of signal detection, direction finding, navigation, and confirmation of locating the Fox Box. Most of all, as radio enthusiasts, we want all participants to have fun while being part of a vibrant and supportive community, no matter your experience or club membership. "Happy Hunting"

73 de W1AEZ
Ez Morales
ez.w1aez@gmail.com



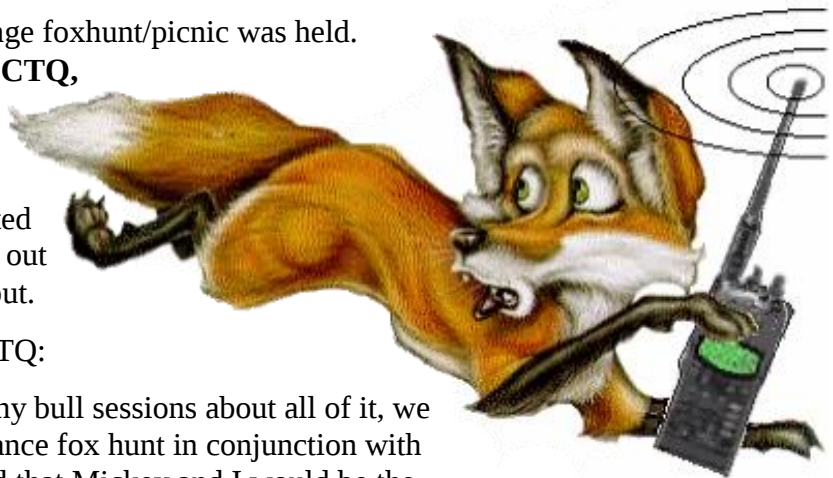
The First Long Range Fox Hunt, 1983

On July 17, 1983, the 1st annual long-range foxhunt/picnic was held.

The foxes were **N1CDR, Mickey**, and **WA1CTQ,**

Phil. As most of you know, our foxhunts are limited to a 10-mile radius around Mt.

Tom, but not into Mt. Tom. **WA1CTQ:** The July 17th Fox Hunt was held with an unlimited distance, but still the fox was required to put out a readable signal on the 146.340 repeater input.



The following was recorded by Phil, **WA1CTQ:**

After several years of fox hunting and many bull sessions about all of it, we decided to hold a long-range, unlimited-distance fox hunt in conjunction with our MTARA-sponsored picnic. It was agreed that Mickey and I would be the foxes. Mickey and I had originally planned to be at his campsite in New Hampshire and use an 11-element beam to transmit to Mt. Tom. Well, the folks up there who own the place were cool to the idea, so we decided to look around for a different spot. Mickey travels around a bit, as he's a salesman for TEK Bearings out of Springfield, Mass. He looked around a while, and it was a bit of a toss-up between Look Park in Florence, Mass., the Greylock Tower in Pittsfield, or the Northeast Utilities picnic area in Bernardston, Mass. We decided on the North East Utilities site due to the picnic tables and fireplaces and generally easy access from north or south. We checked out the workability of the repeater from there, and it was a go. So all was ready for the big day. We did a lot of yakking about this event for a couple of months before the big day, so a lot of people were really ready and up for it all.

The big day dawned sunny and bright, which was an order to Mother Nature from me! Mickey and his XYL, Joanie, drove down from his campsite in New Hampshire, and the XYL (Helen) and I left the home QTH at 7:30 AM with the hot dogs, hamburgers, and all of the other goodies needed. The gate was locked until 9 AM, so the first transmission was done from my car with 25 watts. This fox hunt was 'transmission by request,' but the first couple of transmissions were given out for free. All the subsequent transmissions had to be requested, and five minutes of time was tacked on to the requesters' time! All the reports told us we were unreadable by any of the hunters or bases, so we decided to plug in the 100-watt amplifier! We had gotten everything all set up for a really high-power transmission when **KA1JJM**, Ray, said he got a bearing of north. So it was decided not to tie on the amplifier but to continue using the **KDK** barefoot (15 watts), and the hunt was on in earnest!

The foxes had settled down with coffee and some goodies when the call came for a transmission from **KA1JJM**. So we gave him 5 minutes' worth of travel time and 1 minute of RE. Everybody heard us this time, including a base station in nearby Greenfield. I think it was **K1PCW**—Ely. Also, a base station in Vermont working with the Hamden Connection of **N1OET**, **N1EDH**, **W1UPH**, and **W1UFF** heard us but reported it only to his partners. We fully expected to see **KA1JJM** come rolling in as soon as we heard him turn east on Route 2 from I-91 at Greenfield, but it wasn't to be. The Hamden Connection did their homework well and had sent one of their hunters (**W1UPH**) north to start the hunt from Hatfield. We had only suggested that everybody start from the Ingleside Mall due to its easy access to I-91, both north and south, and I-90, both east and west.

Continued on page 16

The First Long Range Fox Hunt, 1983

Cont'd

Well, believe it or not, at 10:51 here comes Don, W1UPH, strolling down the walk to cop a sure win for the Hamden Connection! We were happy for them! As winners of this year's hunt and picnic, they have the privilege and honor of putting on the show for next year's 2nd annual long-range fox hunt and picnic! There are a million stories I could relate to you about this day's events, but space limitations do not permit it. Just let me say this: a lot of the non-hunters made a good guess as to where the foxes' den was, but may I suggest that you try finding a fox on your own sometime? We have fox hunts on Sunday mornings at 10 AM. Also on alternate Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. At your request with an SASE, the MTARA will send you an info sheet containing all the dope on a "ZL" special DF antenna and the "in-line" attenuator necessary to knock down the signal when you get close!

The following is a list of finishing cars and their time of arrival at the den:

1)	W1UPH	Don	10:51 am
2)	K1HTS	Fred	11:08 am
3)	W1UWX	Cliff	11:11 am
4)	N1BDH & N1OET	Larry & Pat	11:26 am
5)	N1AGV	Pete	11:29 am
6)	K1ZJH	John	11:35 am
7)	WA1GVV	Vince	11:38 am
8)	WB1GLX	Ray	11:49 am
9)	WB1DMF	Dick	12:02 pm
10)	KA1JKP	Wynn	12:24 pm
11)	WB1DBY	Larry	12:29 pm
12)	KA1FDE	Woody	12:29 pm
13)	KA1JJM	Ray	12:35 pm
14)	WB1FXI	George	12:40 pm

(Can you remember any of these old callsigns? Hint, some calls might have been upgraded)

Most of these people had 2 or 3 people in their cars, and approximately 42 people attended the picnic.

73, Phil, WA1CTQ

Special Thanks to Larry, W1AST, for digging this out of his archives.

HCRA Club Swag & Accessories

HCRA members can purchase some stylish club swag and accessories, complete with your 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**

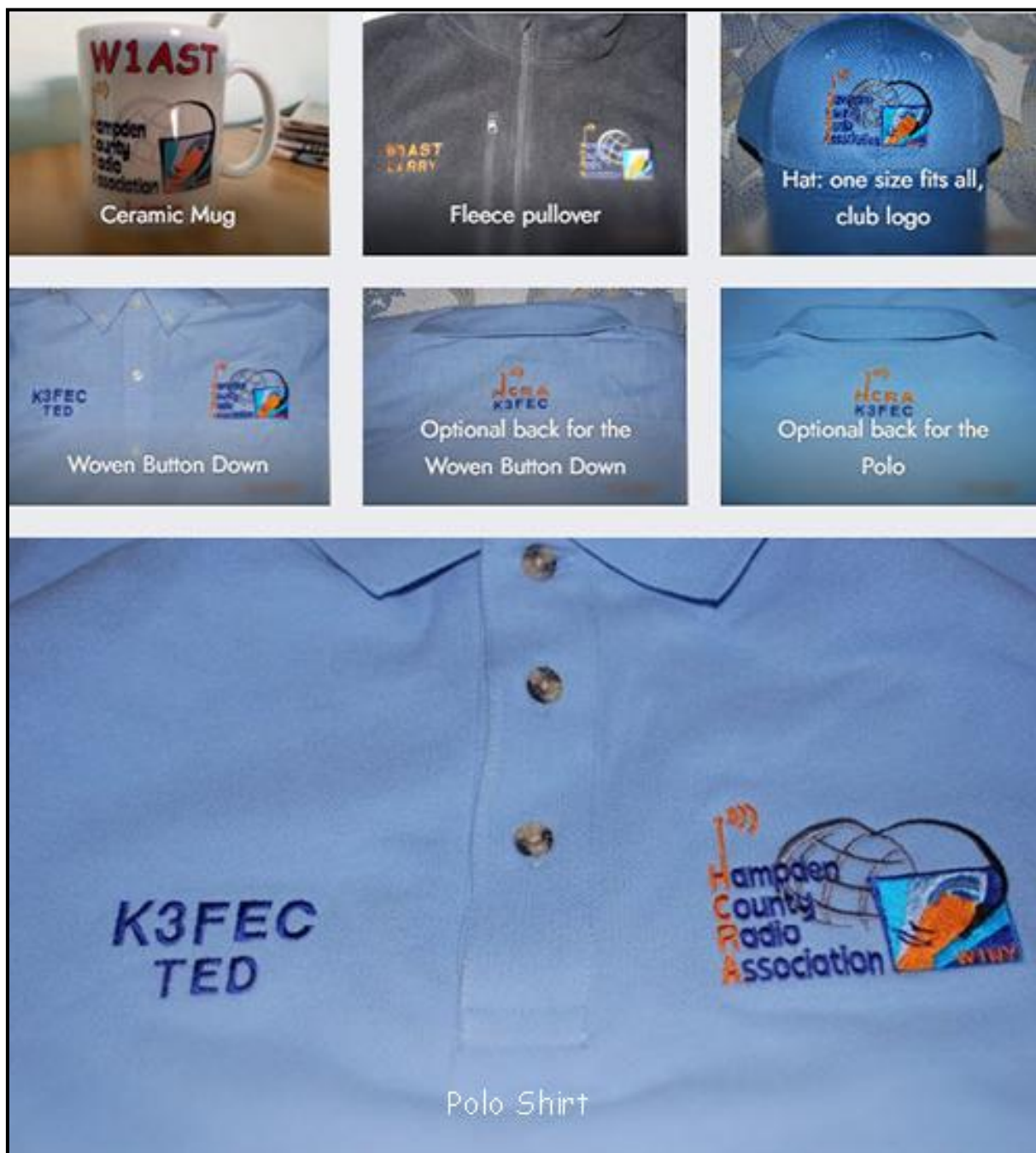
More HCRA Club Wear photos on the following page...

Continued on page 18

HCRA Club Swag & Accessories 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.

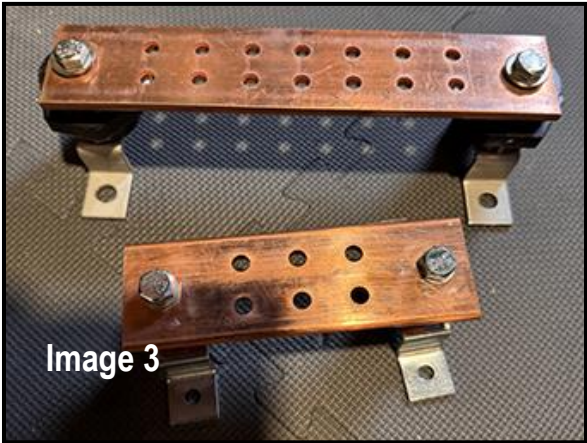


To order or for info, contact Larry, W1AST, at w1ast@arrl.net

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

Zero Beat Classified Ads

Items for Sale by Marvin, W0MET



2 - Alpha Delta TT-3G-50 Surge Protector (image 1)	\$60ea.
1 - Polyphaser Lightning Arrestor - N Connector (image 2)	\$75
1 - Small Grounding Bar (image 3)	\$25
1 - Large Grounding Bar (image 3)	\$30
1 - Navepoint Rackmount 10U Wall Mount (image 4)	Call for Price
1 - Navepoint Rackmount 10U Open Wall Mount (image 5)	Call for Price

For more info contact Marvin, W0MET at: mhturner14@icloud.com

Zero Beat Classified Ads Cont'd

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! 41 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

For Sale by Pete, KC1RY

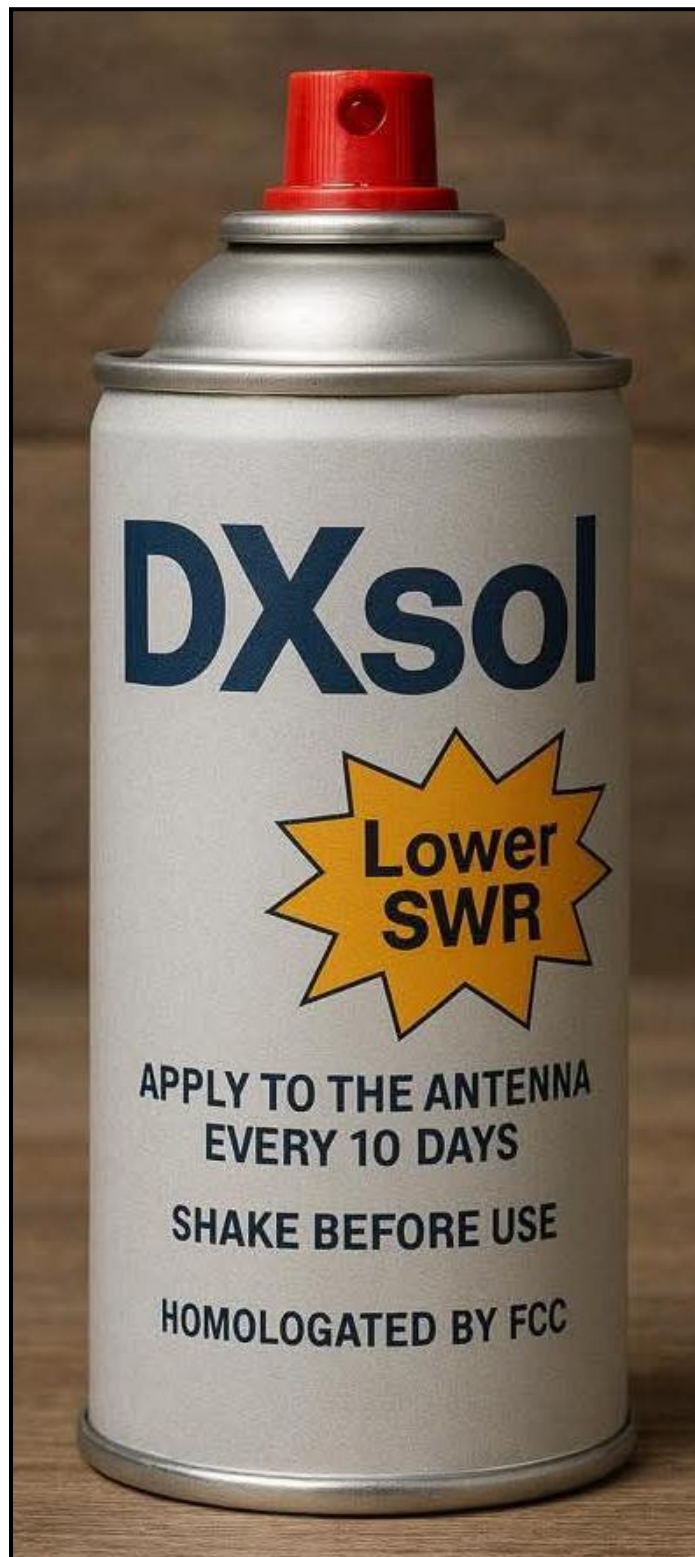
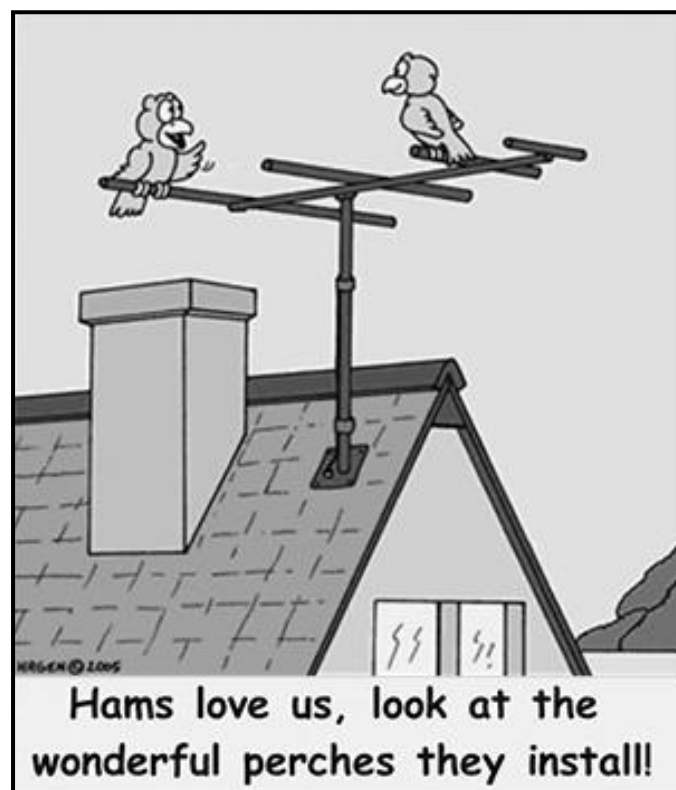
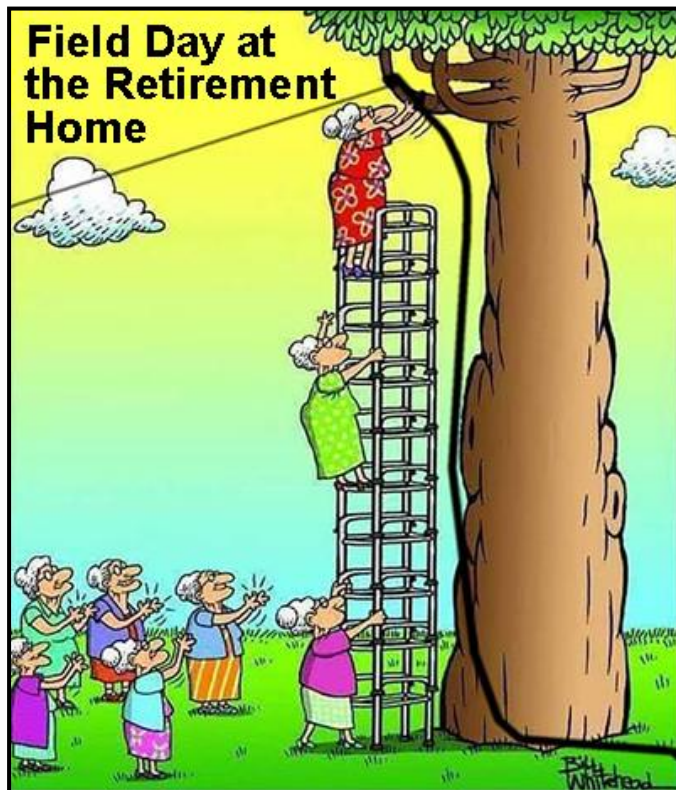
TenTec Omni 5 for sale with model 705 desk mic. w/ 2.4, 1.8, .50, and .25 roofing filters
Purchased direct from **TenTec**, trade in / reconditioned. \$500

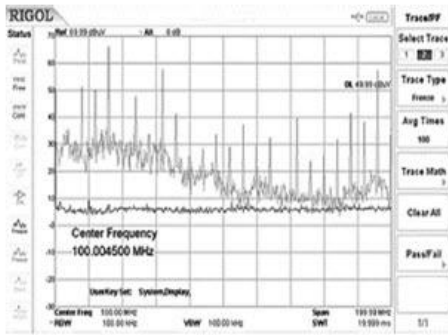
Contact: Pete, KC1RY - 413-519-3141

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](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



HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



10 Meter Net Summer Break

Every summer, the HCRA takes a break during the warmer months. Along with this, our club's 10-meter net also takes a break beginning later this month. The last net to be held before the break will be on **Monday, June 23rd**, and the nets will resume on **Monday, September 8th**, at 7pm local time. Watch for the automated announcements on [Groups.io](https://groups.io) or the Facebook group, so make sure you're subscribed to both or at the very least subscribe to <https://hcra.groups.io/>. Questions: kd1ku@arri.net

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, 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	W1RM+1	13	55	0	97	30	128	17	132	39	145	1	215	657	62 yrs
2	KX1X	0	81	0	118	99	134	104	152	107	150	3	212	948	28 yrs
3	NF1G	10	29	0	43	87	100	12	82	115	137	4	208	619	41 yrs
4	KK1W+1	9	45	0	66	34	85	19	90	18	99	4	168	469	49 yrs
5	W1AST+1 ★	1	15	0	40	9	71	29	86	20	100	1	129	372	16 yrs
6	K1NZ+2 ★	1	17	29	21	72	8	19	41	52	54	0	120	314	14 yrs
7	WB1DX+2	0	0	0	20	7	71	5	69	7	84	0	115	263	38 yrs
8	N1JIE	1	6	0	17	15	39	25	38	42	49	2	94	234	8 yrs
9	N1FTP ★	0	0	0	17	9	33	16	36	34	42	3	75	190	17 yrs
10	NX1K	1	14	0	25	24	38	39	40	10	21	0	71	212	36 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	K1VOI	3	9	0	15	14	39	2	24	5	29	1	67	141	24 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	W1JA+1	1	2	1	1	9	0	3	0	15	2	0	27	34	56 yrs
15	KD1KU	0	0	0	4	0	18	0	7	0	1	0	27	30	7 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

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**