

ZERO BEAT

The newsletter of the Hampden County Radio Association

November 2025



Contents

President's Message	2
Meeting Calendar	5
Old School Texting	6
The NTS Treasure Hunt	7
HCRAssist Mentoring	8
RFI Help	9
Support the YLRL	10
HCRA Swag	11
Ham Classified Ads	13
Miscellaneous Information	15
Local Nets	16
Local Radio Club Information	17
Membership Forms	18

From the Editor:

Reliable sources report that it's almost November, but I don't know how that happened so fast. Anyway, this month's issue starts with a seasonally appropriate message from our President about gratitude, followed by an article and sidebar about one of the many sub-hobbies within ham radio. Our Technical Director also announces the launch of a new mentoring and continuing education program that everyone, from newbies to old-timers, can get something out of. Of course our usual columns fill things out, with all the latest information about amateur radio clubs, on-air nets, and other activities. Be sure to check out the "For Sale" section, too, which sports a great selection of gear at excellent prices this month. And if you don't see what you want advertised in Zero Beat, come out to our November auction next week.

73 de Alan, AB1XW

November 7 Meeting

Join us on November 7, 2025 at the Holyoke Medical Center's Auxiliary Conference Center for our monthly general meeting.

Doors open at 19:00 for coffee, snacks, and socializing, and the meeting starts at 19:30. This month, we'll be holding our popular annual auction. Bring ham radio gear (and only ham radio gear) that you want to get rid of, and shop for that next cool shack accessory or radio. The weather might be chilly, but the deals will be hot!

From the President's Desk



Thankful For What We Have

As we enter November and the season of gratitude, it's inspiring to see how our shared enthusiasm for amateur radio translates into meaningful contributions to the radio community. From successful community outreach events to progress on technical projects, each accomplishment is a testament to the collective dedication of our members. It's through this shared commitment that our club continues to thrive, inspiring one another and making a positive impact both within and beyond our organization. Club membership is invaluable. Radio clubs offer platforms for both beginning and seasoned operators to engage in everything from technical projects to social events. They serve as vital hubs for learning and collaboration within the amateur radio world, strengthening the fabric of our community.

It's important to support local radio clubs. If you haven't already, consider joining Hampden County Radio Association (HCRA) and other amateur radio clubs that match your interests, and keep renewing your memberships. By joining, you help nonprofit

organizations offer valuable programs to the radio community. Your generosity enables us to sustain our diverse initiatives, from educational workshops and technical demonstrations to outreach events and repeaters, all of which enrich the experience of both novice and seasoned operators. Thanks to your support, we can continue to provide resources that foster learning, collaboration, and innovation, ensuring that amateur radio remains vibrant and accessible for everyone interested in joining our growing community.

We each play a crucial part in keeping our club vibrant, everyone should take responsibility for its success. When we join forces, supporting each other and engaging in club activities, we strengthen the foundation of our community. Getting involved truly makes a difference. Consider joining a committee to help plan workshops, outreach programs, and social events, or attend gatherings and share your insights with fellow members. Teamwork fuels our club operations and helps us adapt and flourish when new opportunities or challenges arise, making sure our club stays inclusive and innovative for every radio enthusiast.

While we look back at what we've achieved throughout the year, we must recognize the many volunteers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Their efforts in organizing events, maintaining equipment, and mentoring new members are the backbone of our club's ongoing success. We should be deeply grateful for the generosity and enthusiasm that all our members bring to every project and gathering. Board members' participation also plays a vital role in shaping our club's vision and maintaining strong organizational governance, and their contributions are fundamental to the club's success. Their leadership helps set long-term goals, supports transparent decision-making, and steers our initiatives in meaningful directions. By working alongside volunteers and club members, the board helps maintain a strong foundation for our activities, adapting to new challenges while upholding the core

values that define our club. This collective approach is how we evolve and thrive as a club, ready to embrace future opportunities and innovations in the amateur radio community.

Volunteering helps encourage innovation, an increasingly vital focus as technology and digital platforms rapidly change how we communicate. We must stay up to date by keeping pace with new developments in amateur radio, such as digital formats and software-defined radios, which can boost our effectiveness and broaden our reach. By adopting the latest advances in telecommunication, including video presentations and training sessions, we can improve both the quality and accessibility of our programs, ensuring every member has access to modern tools and information. Achieving these goals depends on sharing knowledge and support within our community; every member's input is essential for progress. New technology will streamline how our club operates, and create fresh opportunities for learning and teamwork, leading to a more dynamic and welcoming atmosphere. As we look ahead, let's unite to build up our technical strengths, enabling us to deliver valuable experiences and nurture growth for all amateur radio fans now and in the future.

Many of our members actively participate in activities that extend well beyond standard communication practices. For instance, the club has arranged presentations illustrating foxhunting by Larry Krainson, W1AST, Parks on the Air (POTA) by Shawn Warren, KC1NQE, and FT8 and JS8 by Gary Thomas, AA1UE. Recently, we hosted a hands-on workshop where members and newcomers teamed up to assemble Yagi 2-meter antennas. Not only did we see impressive teamwork, but several first-time participants left with working antennas and newfound confidence in their technical skills. These moments highlight how our club brings people together to learn, share, and inspire. Our progress relies on the dedication of volunteers, who keep our activities running smoothly and help us grow. By contributing your time and talents, you directly shape our programs

and ensure our club remains welcoming, innovative, and resilient. Every volunteer, from event organizers to mentors, plays a vital role in our success.

Growing our team of volunteers eases workloads and enhances how efficiently our programs run. Additional support distributes responsibilities, brings fresh skills, and fosters innovative ideas for club activities. Consequently, we can broaden what we offer and make certain that everyone can engage and develop within an inclusive and vibrant amateur radio community. The future of amateur radio promises thrilling opportunities for teamwork and development, blending its longstanding traditions with a forward-thinking drive for innovation. Working with Bob Meneguzzo, K1YO, HCRA's Technical Director, we've created the HCRAssist team, volunteers who will organize ongoing educational initiatives, practical workshops, and opportunities for members to share insights and mentor new participants. Mentors are vital to club activities such as our "Share the Knowledge" and regular meeting presentations, inspiring members to explore new technologies and adopt fresh ideas. Through their guidance, they help create an inclusive environment that nurtures curiosity and innovative thinking. From engaging in public service and experimenting with advanced digital communications to taking on creative projects, every member contributes to the evolving world of amateur radio, keeping it vibrant and relevant for future generations. These diverse applications highlight the breadth of the hobby and the dedication of the club to its members.

The HCRA has numerous objectives, and must maintain scheduled club activities and manage operations effectively. Enhancing member engagement and forming clearly structured committees will enable us to address current organizational gaps and facilitate more efficient coordination. By promoting leadership development, encouraging collaboration in planning, and supporting contributions to club activities, we can ensure the club's continued resilience and adaptability.

Prioritizing teamwork, strategic planning, and active volunteer involvement presents an opportunity to reinforce the foundation of our club and establish a stronger framework for future achievements, allowing all members to actively contribute to the evolution of our organization.

Despite some challenges of expectations from the President's position, I must express how grateful I am for this role. Serving as President has offered me the unique privilege of witnessing the dedication, ingenuity, and camaraderie that define our club firsthand. Each day brings new opportunities to collaborate with passionate members, celebrate our collective successes, and guide our organization through both exciting advancements and unforeseen obstacles. The support and enthusiasm promised by the board, volunteers, and club members continually inspire me to strive for improvement and to ensure our club remains a safe harbor for amateur radio enthusiasts of all backgrounds and skill levels. I am honored to help lead our club as we embrace new ideas and strengthen our foundation, ensuring that the spirit of amateur radio continues to thrive within our community for years to come.

As we anticipate the forthcoming celebrations, let us also take a moment to reflect on the connections we have built and the remarkable progress we have achieved together this year. The Holiday Party offers a perfect opportunity not only to express our gratitude, but to forge deeper bonds among members, celebrate our shared accomplishments, and energize our collective spirit for the year to come. Your presence and participation are what make these gatherings truly meaningful, and I look forward to joining everyone in joyful camaraderie as we continue to build a welcoming, innovative, and resilient club for all.

Best regards,

Ez, W1AEZ
HCRA President

Dues are Due

We can't do what we do without your dues.

The annual Hampden County Radio Association membership expires each year on August 31st, for everyone who pays their dues yearly. Unless you've already paid for multiple years in advance, please renew your membership for 2025-26 if you haven't done so already. This will keep your membership current so you can take part in all club activities.

Annual dues are \$15. That's a lot of ham radio fun for very little money!

The easiest way to renew 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/>



If you prefer to pay by mail, you'll find a printable membership form at that site, as well as in the back of this newsletter. Just print it, fill it out, and send it with a check for \$15 to:

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

If you've already renewed your membership, or if you joined in June or later of this year, then you're all set. Thanks! Otherwise, please put our dues on your "to do" list.

Meeting Calendar

The HCRA meets on the first Friday evening of each month, from September through June. Our general meetings are at the Holyoke Medical Center's Auxiliary Conference Center. You can find directions on our web site at <https://hcra.org/meeting-location/>. The doors open at 19:00 Eastern time for coffee, snacks, and socializing, and the meeting proper begins at 19:30. After some brief announcements and business, each meeting features either a guest speaker talking about an exciting ham radio topic, or a special activity. Come join us – our meetings are fun!

 September 7, 2025	Shawn Warren, KC1NQE, spoke all about the Connecticut POTA group. This group holds numerous picnics, activations, and other activities around the area.
 October 3, 2025	Gary Thomas, AA1UE, took us on a deep dive into the popular FT8 mode and its cousin, JS8Call. He also explained how to have real conversations with weak signal digital modes.
November 7, 2025	HCRA's annual auction is back at the November meeting. This is an auction for all kinds of ham radio gear and related accessories. Clear out your old gear and pick up something new. Our auction is known throughout the region for great deals.
December ?, 2025	The HCRA often holds a holiday party in lieu of the December meeting. Watch for details as we discuss this possibility again this year.
January 2, 2026	TBA
February 6, 2026	TBA
March 6, 2026	TBA
April 3, 2026	At our annual Show and Tell meeting, members bring whatever radio projects they've been working on in the past year, and show them off to the club. Come tell us what you've been doing, and get ideas from others' cool projects.
May 1, 2026	TBA
June 5, 2026	Our June meeting is when we hold our annual election for club officers, and also discuss and finalize our Field Day plans.

Texting Like It's the Jazz Age

Alan Dove, AB1XW

One morning earlier this month, I got a text from my dad, K3ORC, letting me know that he'd just received the QSL for his 100th contact on 80 meters. With that, he'd achieved DXCC on 8 bands. Earlier this year, he'd also reached a total of 1,000 band-countries in the ARRL's ongoing DXCC Challenge. It's an impressive set of accomplishments for a ham who operates exclusively with 100-watt radios and suboptimal wire antennas.

I congratulated him by text, of course, but felt this occasion called for a little more fanfare. Shockingly, Hallmark doesn't seem to have any "Congratulations on your band-country total" cards. Then I thought of something more appropriate: a radiogram.

Not having interacted with the ARRL's National Traffic System (NTS) in quite awhile, I did some looking around, and discovered that it's evolved a bit. In fact, there's a whole ARRL initiative called "NTS 2.0," which is trying out a bunch of strategies to revitalize the ham tradition of relaying messages.

There's politics that I won't get into, because I don't care. I'll just mention some of the major developments of recent years, for those who, like me, haven't paid much attention to the NTS in awhile. First, there are now two organizations dedicated to relaying formal radiograms over the air: the ARRL's NTS program, and an independent nonprofit called Radio Relay International (RRI). Thankfully, the two groups now get along well enough to run a single unified network. The second major trend has been technological, with NTS/RRI embracing digital modes such as NBEMS and Winlink for a lot of message handling, while still preserving their traditional voice and CW nets. Finally, NTS 2.0 is making a major push to integrate NTS with emergency communication groups such as ARES and RACES, and to find ways

to generate more message traffic to exercise the system and its operators between disaster responses.

That gave me a plethora of options for sending my radiogram to Dad. The quickest and easiest doesn't even require a radio: the ARRL now hosts a [radiogram portal](#) where anyone can enter their message into a web form, click a button, and inject their radiogram into the traffic system. I have radios, though, and like to use them, so I looked at the NTS/RRI nets I could reach on the air. The net directory in the back of this newsletter has the local ones, including CW, SSB, and digital nets on 80 meters, and a daily VHF FM net on the NoBARC repeater (146.91 MHz, negative offset, CTCSS tone 162.2 Hz). There's even a way to send a radiogram [via APRS](#).

I decided to go old-school with an HF SSB net. To avoid making a fool of myself, I first filled out an [ARRL Radiogram form](#). You can find [detailed instructions](#) for the form online. Some parts may seem a bit arcane at first, but it's designed to ensure the message can pass through multiple operators on different modes and still arrive exactly as it was sent. Once you get used to it, it's pretty straightforward.

Checking into a traffic net is like checking into any other directed net. If you've been on HCRA's weekly 10m discussion or MTARA's Wednesday night information net, you already know the drill: listen to the net control station (NCS) and follow their instructions. In my case, the correct procedure was to answer the call for "stations with traffic" by giving my

callsign and then saying “through one,” meaning I had one message going outside the net’s area of coverage, i.e. “through traffic.” I didn’t quite get it right, but I came close, and the NCS offered a friendly correction for next time.

Once everyone was checked in, the NCS paired me with another station who would take my traffic. When he was ready to copy, I read my radiogram top to bottom, using phonetics to spell out callsigns and abbreviations. After you’ve listened to a few traffic nets, the procedure will become second nature. Traffic nets are efficient, and after a few more radiograms got passed, the NCS secured the net. The whole thing had taken about fifteen minutes.

I got a text from Dad the next day thanking me for the radiogram. He said he’d never gotten one before; I think he was tickled by the novelty of it. And outside a major disaster, that’s a great way to think about radiograms: a fun, nostalgic novelty that also exercises our operating skills. Sure, vessels at sea are streaming Zoom calls over Starlink satellites, Meshtastic nodes are popping up like mushrooms after a rain, and most of us have unlimited calling and texting plans on our pocket supercomputers. That’s why Western Union doesn’t even offer telegram service anymore. But we do, and interacting with that system is a fun way to practice important on-air skills, fit a bit of ham radio into a short window of time, and explore new operating modes, all while sending a message with some old-fashioned charm.

There are even games you can play now via radiogram. Folks have been sending chess moves through the system for years, but more recently the NTS has introduced a “Treasure Hunt” that anyone can join. See the sidebar for details.

Whether you’re hunting for radio treasure or just sending holiday greetings or congratulations to some distant friends and family members, radiograms are a fun break from the usual communication media we use these days. Give it a try. Operators are standing by.

The NTS Treasure Hunt

Jay Fox, NK2Y

The [NTS Treasure Hunt](#) is an enjoyable way for hams to get involved with traffic handling. Since its inception about a year ago, many “THR” (Treasure Hunt Response”) messages have passed through the system, providing practice for operators to formulate, send, relay, receive, and even deliver messages, all while learning operating tips and trivia about the NTS from volunteer judges. To those operators who are deeply involved with traffic handling, the mechanics of how this works are just second nature. But what about a new ham? Or a ham who has an antenna restriction or no radio? The following are some ideas on how a ham (or non-ham) could participate in the NTS Treasure Hunt without a radio.

[Virtual Training Net:](#) Join this Zoom-based training net Wednesdays at 7PM Eastern and get practice participating in a traffic net. Use the link to join. Once you are comfortable with the format, try bringing a message to this net. Messages can go into the National Traffic System from this net!

[Echolink:](#) Echolink is a system by which licensed amateurs can connect to amateur radio repeaters through the internet. Two examples of on-the-air nets that service the National Traffic System which can be accessed by EchoLink are the NLISStudentTrafficNet (NLISTEN) and The Big Apple Traffic Net.

[Radiogram Portal:](#) Practice formatting a radiogram message online. This tool will inject your message into the National Traffic System; it will continue on its way over the air.

With multiple options to get a THR message into the National Traffic System, anyone can participate. Even if you don’t have a local NTS net, using one of these methods gets your message “on the air,” and you’ll be on your way to completing the challenge!

Article originally published in the [NTS Letter](#).

HCRAssist Program Ready to Start Up

Bob Meneguzzo, K1YO

Hello Folks! I'm happy to announce that our Mentoring (aka Elmering) and Continuing Education Program, otherwise known as **HCRAssist** is finally ready to go. Several times during club meetings, people have mentioned a need for this type of effort, to assist new hams just coming on board and also provide continuing education for our existing membership.

The plan is to provide information and assistance on topics or concerns selected by amateur radio operators. We'd like to do this in a few ways: by short Zoom type meetings online, presentations during regular club meetings, specially organized meetings outside our regular meeting time frame to deal with topics requiring a larger amount of attention, and one-on-one live coaching or mentoring with specific groups or individuals if the situation warrants it.

Our first step is to gather information directly from you, which will allow us to focus our resources on areas truly important to individuals.

Just use the codes or URLs to the right to reach the survey or contact form for your area of interest. There's one survey for new hams seeking mentoring, another for continuing education, and finally a form for anyone with the expertise on a specific topic who would like to become a member of our team.

Please take a few minutes to inform us of your individual needs by choosing the associated link, and remember to click the button at the bottom of the form to submit it. The surveys don't capture any personally identifying information, unless you'd like to provide it in the spaces designated for that at the end of the form.

Your HCRAssist team eagerly awaits this opportunity to be of service to you!

[New Ham Mentoring Form](#)



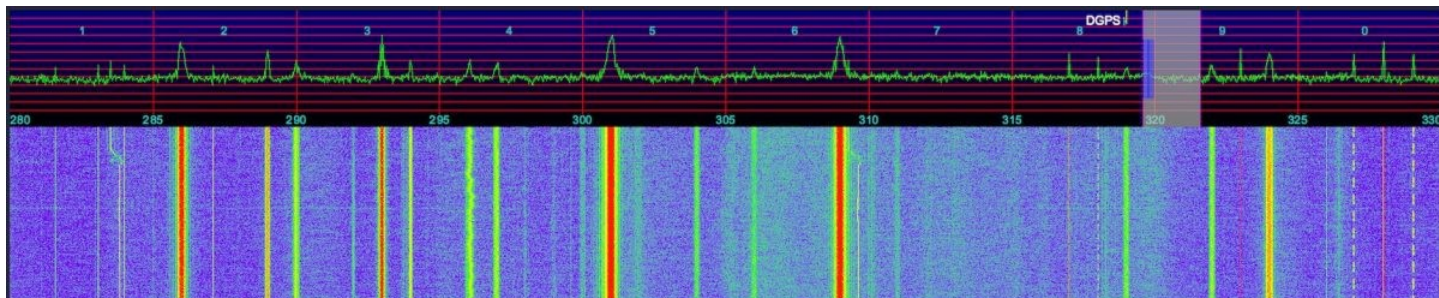
[Continuing Education Form](#)



[Mentor Signup Form](#)



Need Help with RF Interference Issues?



If you have been experiencing RF interference, there is an ARRL Western Massachusetts section 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 email to Bob, K1YO, at k1yo@arrl.net with your contact information, a description of the problem, and anything you may have already tried to fix it.

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 or tasks on your part, which provide us with essential information to guide further investigations.

Additionally, helpful information can be found in our RFI Troubleshooting guide online at: <https://nediv.arrl.org/rfi-troubleshooting-guide/>

We are ready to help, just give us a call!

WE WANT YOU

FOR THE

YOUNG LADIES RADIO LEAGUE



Make friends,
advance your skills, &
help your community!

From classes to
conventions, scholarships to
support - the YLRL Is here
for you!



Join Today!

Dues just \$15 a year

Sponsorships available

ylrl.net



HCRA Club Swag and 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. He will need the following information:

- Your callsign
- Your name
- City and state (for badge only)
- Do you want the ARRL logo? (for badge only)

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

See the next page for more HCRA Club Wear photos

HCRA Club Swag (cont'd)

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



For Sale

40' Tower and Beam Antenna

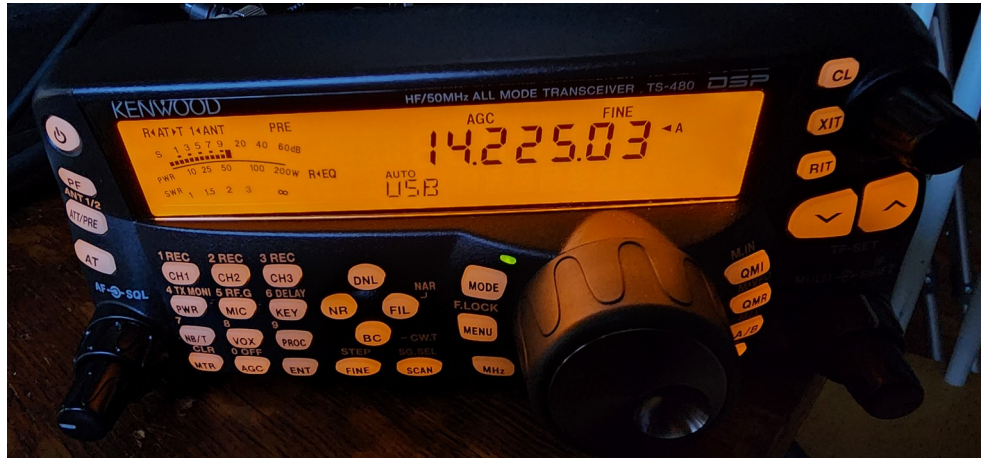
A friend of mine is planning to move and would like to sell his tower. It's a 40ft, that telescopes to 20ft, and can tilt over. The tower is currently down at his Westfield, MA, residence. There is also an H-Gain 20-15-10 meter beam antenna that will go with it. If there is any interest, please contact me at gregoryv.barber@gmail.com.
Greg Barber, W1GBV

Three HF Radios for Sale

by Larry, W1AST, 413-348-3289 or Hamop.W1AST@gmail.com

Kenwood TS-480SAT:

Includes: built-in antenna tuner for 160-6, Big keys and you rarely have to go to the menu, Very easy to learn and use, 5 to 100 watts, Power Cord with power poles, USB, LSB, FM, AM, 2 watt front panel speaker, 100 Named Memories, remote head with remoting cables, microphone, mounting brackets, back lit keys, speech processor,



filters, DSP, Nifty manual, manual, box, excellent condition, works great. Also includes a device that tunes a Yaesu ATAS screwdriver antenna. Great mobile or base rig. Stick the body somewhere and just have the head on your desk. Free Kenwood PC based control software and Radio Host Program. A great rig for everyone, beginners and advanced users as well as mobile users. Fantastic JVC/Kenwood transmit and receive audio. \$500.



Xiegu X6100: Includes: Built in antenna tuner, 160-6 meters, internal battery provides 5 watts output, excellent condition, works great, full mode SDR Qrp radio, 10 watts max output, 4 inch screen, Bluetooth, WiFi built in, TCXO, user manual online, Mic, DNR, SWR scanner, back lit keys, power cord with power poles, Free firmware upgrades online, and so much more. A very cool little radio. Reviewed in the July 2022 QST. \$375

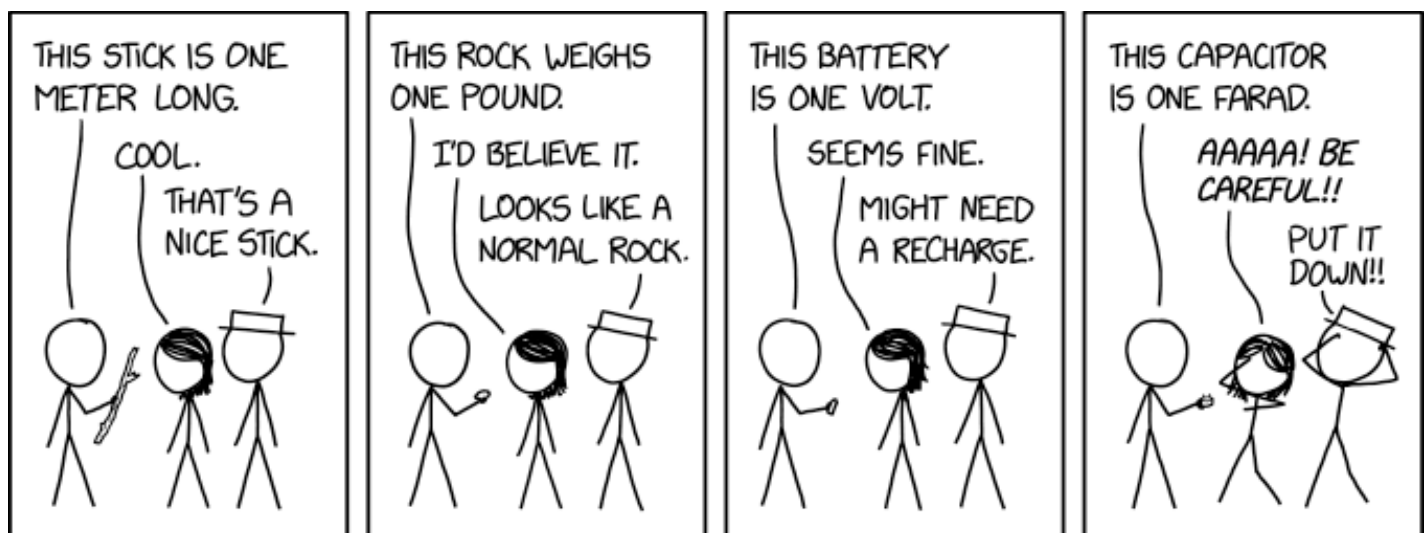
Three HF Radios for Sale (cont'd)

QRP-Labs QCX Mini 20m transceiver: Includes: power cord, 5 watt max power, tiny size (think deck of cards with knobs), low current consumption, backlit, low pass filter, 200 Hz cw filter, iambic or straight key, CW decoder, Memory Keyer, Tilt-Stand Leg, on screen S-meter, full or semi break in, A/B VFO's, split, RIT, Beacon mode, Tuftin Front panel protector, Professionally assembled, reviewed in the November 2021 QST, Excellent condition, An amazing little rig! \$100



Free Tower and Beam Antenna

MA-550 crank-up tower, 22' retracted, 55' extended, 3 sections, weighs 620 pounds total. Located in Chicopee, MA. Includes antenna. All free to whoever wants to pick it up. Contact Tim Bergeron at 413.427.6538.





HCRA Miscellany



Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

Brown Baggers is a friendly lunch get-together for HCRA members on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. It's held at 12:00 noon at the [Munich Haus Restaurant](#) in Chicopee Center, 13 Center St. Chicopee, MA, across from City Hall. Come for lunch, conversation, and camaraderie with your fellow hams!

The HCRA Monday Night 10 Meter Net

Our weekly Monday night net will resume in September. Tune in at 19:00 local time on 28.375 MHz, where we discuss a new topic each week. 28.375 is in the Technician SSB allocation of 10 meters, so all licensed hams can join the conversation.

HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

Outgoing cards from members are sent to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau quarterly: January 15th, April 15th, June 15th, and September 15th. For details, visit hcra.org/dx-qsl, or contact Paul, NF1G, at paulkelliher@comcast.net.

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 webmaster, Alan, AB1XW at webmaster@hcra.org.

Check out HCRA on Social Media

Groups.io: groups.io/g/hcra

Youtube: youtube.com/HampdenCountyRA

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/HampdenCountyRA

Local Nets

Whether you're looking for a casual conversation, a place to practice sending and receiving NTS-formatted radiograms, or some good emergency communication training, there's probably a net on the air to meet your needs. Try some of these.

Day and Time (local)	Frequency	Net
Sundays 8:45	146.94 (-) 127.3	Western MA VHF Emergency Net
Sundays 9:15	443.200 (+) 127.3	Western MA UHF Emergency Net
1st Monday 18:45	146.490 (simplex) and 3.930 MHz LSB	MEMA RACES Drill
Mondays 19:00	146.910 (-) 162.2	RACES Drill
Mondays 19:00	28.375 MHz USB	HCRA 10m Net
Tuesdays 18:00	3.5825 MHz USB (digital)	NTS: MA-RI Digital Net
Tuesdays 19:30	146.94 (-) 127.3	Hampshire County Emergency Net
Tuesdays 20:00	146.985 (-) 136.5	ARES Emergency Net
Wednesdays 9:00	28.354 MHz USB	FCARC Wednesday Morning Net
Wednesdays 19:30	146.94 (-) 127.3	MTARA Info Net
Wednesdays 20:00	146.94 (-) 127.3	MTARA Swap Net (immediately after Info Net)
Wednesdays 20:30	146.94 (-) 127.3 and 146.550 (simplex)	N1RLX Simplex Net (immediately after MTARA Swap Net)
Thursdays 20:00	146.985 (-) 136.5	FCARC Information Net
Daily 17:00	3.978 MHz LSB	NTS: MA-RI Phone Net
Daily 19:00	3.565 MHz CW	NTS: MA-RI CW Net
Daily 21:45	146.910 (-) 162.2	NTS: Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (statewide)

Local Ham Radio Meetings

1st Friday of each month, September through June: Hampden County Radio Association general meeting. Doors open at 19:00 local time, followed by the meeting at 19:30. For details, visit hcra.org.

2nd Monday of each month: Franklin County Amateur Radio Club (FCARC) meetings at the Turners Falls Airport, 1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls, MA. Social hour starts at 18:00 local time, and the meeting starts at 19:00. Details at fcarc.org.

2nd Saturday of each month (before the FCARC meeting): FCARC breakfast at Denny's Pantry, 496 Bernardston Rd., Greenfield, MA. 8:00 local time. Contact Brad Councilman for details (bc@councilman.com).

3rd Friday of each month: Mount Tom Amateur Repeater Association (MTARA) meeting, Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA. 19:00 local time. See mtara.org for more information.

4th Friday of each month: The Western Mass VE Team (WMVET) holds Volunteer Examiner sessions at the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center, at 18:00 local time. Email Jim, KK1W, at kk1w.jim@gmail.com for information, or call or text 413.237.4666. For directions, see www.hcra.org/meeting-location.

Hampden County Radio Association Contacts

President	Ez Morales, W1AEZ	president@hcra.org
Vice President	Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD	tipoacrata@gmail.com
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Secretary	Paul Kelliher, NF1G	paulkelliher@comcast.net
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Newsletter Editor	Alan Dove, AB1XW	webmaster@hcra.org
Technical Director	Bob Meneguzzo, K1YO	k1yo@comcast.net
Membership Director	Al Giguere Jr., KB1VNH	membership@hcra.org
At Large Director	Ken Dion, KD1KU	kd1ku@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Alan Dove, AB1XW	webmaster@hcra.org



HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 562
Agawam, MA 01001



Application for New or Renewal Membership

DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____

ADDRESS: _____ LICENSE CLASS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: Home (____) ____ - ____ Cell (____) ____ - ____

Work (____) ____ - ____ - ____ ext ARRL Member: ☐ Yes ☐ No

E-mail: _____ @ _____ ☐ I don't want to be a member of the HCRA mailing list

Type of application: ☐ New ☐ Renewal (see below)

If renewal use data already on file?: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Class of application: ☐ Regular ☐ Family

*Donations are tax
deductible!
Thanks!*

Please list additional family members (family members at same household are free!)

Name	Call	ARRL Member	e-mail
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

My interests: (please check all that apply, even if renewing)

<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Power	<input type="checkbox"/> Digital Modes	<input type="checkbox"/> QRP
<input type="checkbox"/> Antennas	<input type="checkbox"/> DX'ing	<input type="checkbox"/> Satellite
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Ham Classes
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Training (Elmering)
<input type="checkbox"/> Contesting	<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF
<input type="checkbox"/> CW	<input type="checkbox"/> Kit Building	<input type="checkbox"/> ?

Thoughts for improving 'our' club:

Received by: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___

Entered in database by _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___

Payment received by _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___

Annual Dues:	\$15.00
Donation:	\$ ____ .00
Total:	\$ ____ .00


ARRL CLUB COMMISSION PROGRAM

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership through the HCRA!

The HCRA now earns a **\$20 commission** for each **NEW** ARRL member we recruit and **\$5** for each **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%20CLUB%20rev%20Jan%202024.pdf>

**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