

ZERO BEAT

The Newsletter of the HCRA



December 2025

In This Issue

Meeting Calendar	2
President's Message	3
Winlink on Linux	7
HCRA Stuff	12
Dots and Dashes	13
Local Nets	14
Contact Information	15
RFI Help	16
Join ARRL or Renew	17
HCRA Membership Form	18

Happy holidays! This issue is coming out right before Thanksgiving, which of course kicks off a month of relentless marketing leading up to the gift-giving season that drives much of the global economy. It's not just about buying stuff, though; this is also the season for getting together with friends and family. In the President's column in this issue, you can read Ez, W1AEZ's thoughts on how that friendly spirit feeds the growth and health of our club. And at the bottom of this very page, you'll notice the details for the upcoming HCRA/MTARA Holiday Party.

The coming of colder weather is also a great time to play with radios indoors and tinker with our home ham shacks. I've been on a roll with that lately, albeit in my usual dabbling manner. In this issue, you can read about how I recently set up my station for HF Winlink operation. In my case, the main challenge was figuring out how to get a piece of Windows-only software to play nicely in my Linux-only shack setup.

If you have your own projects you'd like to tell people about, please let me know. I'm always looking for interesting articles for Zero Beat.

73 de Alan, AB1XW, Zero Beat Editor

December 13 Holiday Party

In lieu of a December meeting, we'll have our annual Holiday Party. This year, it's at the Willits Hallowell Center on the Mount Holyoke College campus in South Hadley, starting at 15:00 EST on the 13th. Tickets are \$35, and we're planning to have a three-entree catered buffet, excellent door prizes, and lots of socializing. Click this box or email Gary, AA1UE, at aa1ue.aa1ue@gmail.com to sign up.

Upcoming Meetings

 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, including how to have real conversations with weak signal digital modes.
 November 7, 2025	Our annual auction was a big success, with lots of folks getting rid of gear they didn't want anymore and acquiring great stuff at fantastic prices.
December 13, 2025	This year, we're having a combined Holiday Party with our friends in the MTARA. Join us for a night of good food, good friends, awesome door prizes, and fun!
January 2, 2026	Najm Choueiry, AB1ZA, will tell us all about antenna analysis, an important skill whether you want to build your own antennas or troubleshoot ones you bought.
February 6, 2026	Michael Scantlen, KC1IZC, will present an overview of modern digital VHF/UHF modes, including APRS, AREDN, and others.
March 6, 2026	Ken Miller, WB1DX, will give a talk about setting up your own remote station. Take your home shack with you on your travels, or use it from your living room couch.
April 3, 2026	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.
May 1, 2026	In May, we'll have a special meeting for members to show the group their portable S/POTA gear. Come get ideas for making your park activations more fun.
June 5, 2026	Field Day, Elections, and more! June's meeting is when we make final preparations for Field Day, elect the Board for next year, and get ready for our summer hiatus.

From the President's Desk

Spirit of the Holidays

Ez Morales, W1AEZ

As the year ends, the “Spirit of the Holidays” fills the air. It’s a time to reflect on the positive moments we’ve shared together throughout the year and to appreciate the club we’ve built. Let’s continue to support and uplift one another, keeping our club’s mission of “Having Fun” at the heart of everything we do. Together, we can celebrate the joys of the present and look forward to new beginnings in the coming year.

Through my travels and work, I've learned from colleagues and their families that the "Spirit of the Holiday" differs widely among various religions and cultures. For some individuals, it is observed as a sacred Christian holiday with distinct traditions and spiritual meaning. While the Jewish traditions do not include the celebration of Christmas but observe Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. Hindus observe Christmas in both a social and cultural capacity and Buddhists may celebrate Christmas as an opportunity for peace, goodwill, and acts of charity.

Television programming has significantly influenced my experiences by showcasing Christmas with family gatherings, gift exchanges, and festive decorations, thereby rendering these traditions accessible and relatable to a broad audience, including those without religious affiliations. Additionally, depictions of charitable acts and goodwill—such as Santa Claus's generosity, Scrooge's transformation in Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, and the Grinch's realization of the importance of love and kindness, frequently serve as enduring representations of the holiday season across various media. These symbols are intended to encourage the adoption of kindness and community-minded values



beyond the context of holidays, inspiring reflection on the meaning of the season and motivating compassionate action in everyday life.

Irrespective of individual religious affiliations or personal beliefs, it is important to recognize that greetings such as Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Joyeux Noel, Happy Yule, Joyous Kwanzaa, or Happy Hanukkah are generally offered as expressions of goodwill. Rather than perceiving these salutations negatively, it may be beneficial to view them as representations of diverse cultural traditions and sincere efforts to encourage respectful and positive interactions. Our radio community brings together individuals from many different cultural, religious, and belief backgrounds.

This principle can also apply to each member's radio interests, experiences, and beliefs. Just as we honor cultural and religious differences within our community, it is equally important to

From the President's Desk

(continued)

Ez Morales, W1AEZ

respect the unique backgrounds and preferences of our members when it comes to radio. Every individual brings their own perspective, shaped by their personal journey in the hobby, the experiences they've had, and the beliefs they hold about what makes radio meaningful. By recognizing and valuing these differences, we strengthen our sense of community and ensure that all voices are heard and appreciated. This inclusive approach enables us to learn from one another, share knowledge, and enjoy the richness that diversity brings to our club.

By embracing the differences within our club, whether rooted in culture, religion, or individual radio interests, and responding with understanding and openness, we foster mutual respect among our members. This inclusive mindset allows everyone to feel valued for their unique background and perspective. Such an approach not only strengthens our group's unity but also reinforces our ongoing commitment to maintaining a welcoming environment that upholds dignity and respect for everyone. By prioritizing acceptance and positive interactions, we create a space where all voices are heard, and every member can thrive within our community.

Members of the radio club, regardless of their backgrounds, have the opportunity to develop new skills and broaden their experiences. Each participant volunteers their time, contributing in various capacities, some as board members guiding the organization's direction, and others through active involvement on committees, or participating in the activity. This shared dedication reflects our collective goal: ensuring the club consistently delivers engaging activities and valuable learning opportunities for everyone involved.

Adopting a team-focused strategy serves as a powerful motivator for members to proactively engage and make meaningful contributions to our club. This approach emphasizes the importance of direct involvement, rather than relying on others to handle responsibilities or simply offering advice from the sidelines. When members limit themselves to assigning tasks to those "in charge" or commenting without participating, it can reduce overall engagement and hinder the club's collective progress.

To foster a vibrant and inclusive community, it is crucial for members to take initiative by volunteering their time and collaborating on club decisions. This spirit of volunteerism not only strengthens our club's foundation but also ensures that every individual can influence outcomes and participate in shaping the club's future. By stepping forward and working together, members help create a supportive environment where everyone's efforts contribute to the success and growth of our organization. The smooth and effective management of our club's daily operations is the result of ongoing hard work and commitment from our members. These achievements are not accidental; they arise from the active efforts of individuals who take responsibility for the club's well-being. It is crucial for every member to understand that the club's continued growth and success depend on its spirit of volunteerism and the willingness to contribute time and energy for the benefit of all.

Recent initiatives, such as the audit and holiday party committees, highlight our members' strong interest in participating in and influencing the club's future. These committees provide meaningful opportunities for individuals to share their ideas, contribute to important decisions, and

From the President's Desk

(continued)

Ez Morales, W1AEZ

play an active role in shaping the club's direction and making the activity successful. By inviting members to get involved in these groups, we ensure that our club remains vibrant and responsive to the evolving needs and interests of everyone involved.

Each activity is overseen by a board member to foster participation and offer essential guidance, enabling members to positively influence the club's objectives. The chairperson is responsible for setting clear objectives and ground rules, as well as making sure the club's bylaws are followed. While differences among members are natural, they should be approached with respect, concern, courtesy, and responsiveness, furthering the organization's mission and safeguarding its members' interests. We uphold professionalism and fairness, basing policy decisions on factual information and sound advice to support club-approved policies. By maintaining the highest standards of integrity, truthfulness, honesty, and courage in our actions, we strive to build confidence and trust throughout our organization.

The Auction event successfully brought together members for a collaborative activity. The success of this event was due to enthusiastic volunteers, who took on various responsibilities, as well as the participation of attendees eager to purchase the many wonderful deals available. Smitty, KC1IKA, contributed to the friendly atmosphere by bringing coffee and cookies to the club meeting, reminding everyone that, "Coffee is a liquid hug for your brain." This gesture added to the welcoming environment and encouraged camaraderie among participants. The raffle was a highlight of the evening, significantly boosting the club's finances thanks to Karl, KC1LGF's

generous donation. Larry, W1AST, played a key role as transporter, collecting a substantial quantity of radio and electronic items from Carol, W1LGU. The club deeply appreciates Carol's generosity, as her donation provided valuable resources to many members. This coordinated effort was further supported by George, KC1V, who took charge as inspector, packer, and organizer for all donated items, ensuring everything was efficiently prepared and distributed.

We also appreciate Josue, KP4JLD, for efficiently tagging the auction items, Sarah, KC1MTX, for her efforts in typing and printing the item descriptions, and Carol, KC1WJV, for managing bidder registration. Frandy, N1FJ, George, KC1V, and Paul, NF1G diligently recorded bids and ensured all payments were collected, and that each vendor received timely compensation. Additionally, we acknowledge Gary, AA1UE, and Marvin, W0MET for providing informative and engaging commentary on the items throughout the event.

Additionally, Brother Al, WB1VNH and his son, Albert Jr. (age 11), made significant contributions to the evening's activities by providing popcorn and donating the proceeds. Their participation was conducted in collaboration with The Tekoa Chapter of DeMolay, a youth organization committed to promoting personal growth and leadership among young men. Throughout the event, Albert Jr. demonstrated commendable dedication and attention to detail in his role as a Squire.

The positive reception and involvement of young members further underscore the need to focus on recruiting both young men and women. By engaging youth, the club ensures that its

From the President's Desk

(continued)

Ez Morales, W1AEZ

community remains dynamic and sustainable, securing a vibrant future for radio clubs. Including the next generation in activities and leadership opportunities strengthens the organization's foundation and helps maintain its relevance for years to come.

The club hosted another event the following day, focused on constructing custom 2-meter antennas and attenuators for participation in "Fox Hunts" (such as STEM projects and radio direction finding). It was encouraging to witness members bring their soldering equipment and electronic kits, enhancing their skills and confidence through the assembly of attenuator kits. The successful completion of component-level electronic circuits highlighted the expertise and mentorship provided by HCRAssist mentors like Bob, K1YO, and Jerry, KC1VWB. This initiative represents a core aspect of the club's offerings to its members. I encourage members to reach out to the HCRAssist program through the club web site. In the meantime, members may soon find the HCRA Fox deployed, providing an opportunity for participants to engage in hunts and earn recognition for their achievements.

The holiday party is coming together through another group of volunteers headed up by Gary, AA1UE, who are developing a wonderful and fun-filled party with awesome door prizes. This will be a joint club partnership with Mt Tom Amateur Radio Repeater Association (MTARA) that no one will ever forget. Both clubs deserve to have this opportunity to have a good time breaking bread in the spirit of the holidays. The two clubs are committed to serving the radio enthusiast community, and supporting other clubs in our region remains a top priority. Every club maintains its unique character and enriches the

radio community by exploring different communication methods. We believe joining several radio clubs offers unique learning opportunities and helps form lasting friendships and connections among radio enthusiasts. Participation enables members to receive mentorship, exchange knowledge, and collaborate on innovative projects that enhance both their skills and the resilience of the hobby itself. The camaraderie and shared mission within these groups greatly boosts the enjoyment and development of the amateur radio hobby.

It's essential to maintain mutual support and prioritize a positive experience for all members of the radio club community. Making "Having Fun" a central theme ensures that everyone feels respected, motivated, included, and engaged, contributing to the club's vibrant atmosphere. With the arrival of this season, let us take time to appreciate the unique value of our radio community and celebrate the meaningful connections we have formed. These moments of camaraderie and collaboration are at the heart of our organization and lay the groundwork for another fulfilling year ahead.

I am excited to welcome everyone to the upcoming Holiday Party, an event that promises to bring us together in celebration. Your participation and enthusiasm for club events truly embody the "Spirit of the Holidays". Let's keep this momentum going by deepening our connections within the clubs and making memories that will last.

*Feliz Navidad,
Ez, W1AEZ
HCRA President*

Winlink and VARA on Linux

Surprisingly straightforward

Alan Dove, AB1XW

For years, I've been hearing about Winlink, an amateur radio system for sending email over shortwave frequencies. It's become a standard tool for ham radio emergency communications, enabling a properly equipped station to connect an emergency shelter, command post, or staging area to email even if the internet is completely wiped out in the disaster area.

As its name implies, Winlink was originally developed for Windows users, and one of the major pieces of software for it is still Windows-only. I had therefore assumed that it would be a pain to set up in my Linux-only radio shack. It turns out it's not too hard.

If you're thinking of switching to Linux but have been put off by the idea that your ham radio software won't work outside of Windows, follow along. Some of the procedures here may seem strange at first, but once you've spent some time in a Linux environment, things like typing commands into a console will become second nature. Also, I've found that most of the difficulty in getting stuff like this running is in the setup. Once you figure out the right configuration, everything just works.

First, though, a warning. If you start doing searches on "Linux Winlink" and related terms, you'll quickly find very thorough, detailed tutorials and troubleshooting guides about running Winlink on the Raspberry Pi. That's great if you're using a Pi, but if you're running a real desktop with a standard Linux distribution, it's not so great. The Pi uses a custom operating system and hardware, and is just different enough from, say, an Intel desktop, that those instructions will lead you astray. Be sure to filter whatever you find for the architecture you're actually using. In my ham shack, I have an Intel-based

desktop computer running Ubuntu 24.04. Here's what worked for me, with some explanatory notes along the way.

Winlink itself is a global network of "gateway" stations set up to monitor certain frequencies 24/7. By connecting to one of these stations, "client" stations can upload and download their email. It's a bit like logging into an old-school BBS. Installing client software on Linux is trivial. I chose Pat, an elegant application with simple installers for all three major operating systems. Just click the "Install" button on the front of [the Pat web site](#) and follow the instructions.

Next, I needed a modem to convert Pat's data stream into audio waveforms that could be sent over the radio. There are two types of modems: hardware and software. I actually have an old KAM Plus hardware modem that can use the Pactor-1 mode. Almost all Winlink gateways support Pactor-1, but it's the slowest connection. In addition, getting the KAM Plus's old-style serial ports connected to my modern computer and radio would require adapters and tinkering. There are newer modems available, but Pactor is a proprietary protocol, and the company that owns a monopoly on it, SCS, prices their products accordingly. A current-generation Pactor-4-capable modem offers robust links and screaming fast speeds (by HF digital standards), but costs about two grand. So I'd be using a software modem.

Modern computers can easily generate the audio waveforms for complex HF digital modes. My ham shack is already set up for some of the popular ones, so the interfaces are all working fine. All I needed to do was pick a Winlink-usable software modem and install it.

Winlink and VARA on Linux

(cont'd)

Alan Dove, AB1XW

Here I ran into an annoying problem. With Winlink, software modem development has been slow and uneven. There's an open-source protocol called ARDOP that, by all reports, is even slower and less reliable than Pactor-1. The other option is VARA, a proprietary software package that appears to have been written in

Visual Basic for Windows, with a user interface straight out of 1995. Besides being closed-source and clunky, it also costs \$75 for the full-speed version. However, the "trial" version is free, and in 2025 VARA is pretty much the only practical choice for Winlink. I look forward to the day a well-supported Open Source

project fixes this situation. In the meantime, I rolled my eyes and looked into installing VARA.

Because it's Windows-only software, VARA needs to run on a compatibility layer on Linux. The well-tested WINE project provides it. Their site has [detailed instructions](#) for installing WINE on Debian/Ubuntu systems, and that worked without a hitch on my ham radio machine. Gregory Haselden, KN4MKB, has [a helpful blog post on installing VARA atop the WINE layer](#) (or in a "bottle," as it's called), and again, I just followed the instructions. Once everything was installed, VARA fired right up in its little window.

Pat has [a decent documentation wiki](#), and between the wiki and the comments in Pat's configuration file, I managed to set up a Winlink

account (via Telnet) and then get Pat and VARA working together. The one bit that gave me trouble was getting the radio to transmit. I tried using my usual radio control solution, Flrig, which is part of the excellent Fldigi package, but couldn't get it working for this. A key realization was that rig control is the responsibility of the

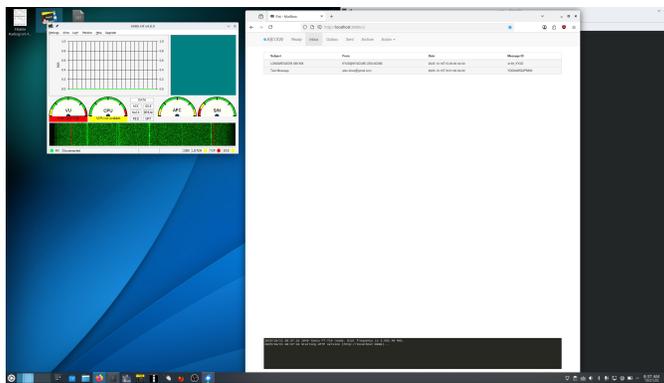
Winlink client, not the modem. VARA was just generating waveforms and sending data to and from Pat. Pat was controlling (or failing to control) the radio.

Eventually I found a solution in the Pat wiki. Instead of Flrig, I switched to using Hamlib. I'm sure there's a way to get Flrig working with this setup as well, but that can be a

challenge for another day. Hamlib works fine, and I can just switch between it and Flrig depending on what type of operating I'm doing.

The whole installation and configuration process only took me a few hours altogether, and now that it's done, using Winlink is a simple workflow. I just start up my shack computer and radio, start VARA, Hamlib rig control, and Pat, and then access Pat's intuitive browser-based interface. With a few clicks, Pat tunes the radio and initiates a connection to whatever Winlink gateway I select from its built-in list. Everything else is automatic: connecting, downloading any incoming HF email, uploading any messages I'm sending, and logging off from the gateway.

Now I can access Winlink gateways to send



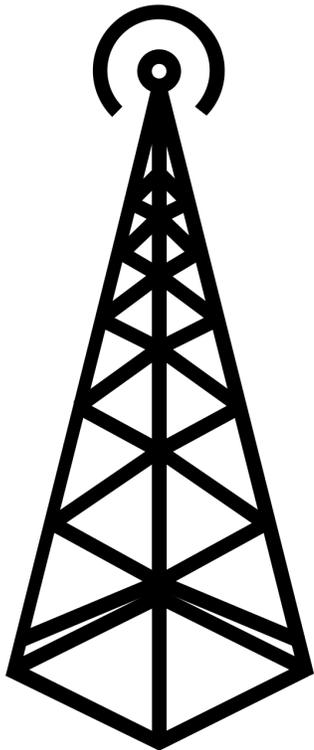
It's Pat! And VARA, running well on my Ubuntu Linux desktop.

Winlink and VARA on Linux

(cont'd)

Alan Dove, AB1XW

and receive email over HF, and can also get into the KW1U mailbox across the state for NTS radiograms. Having proven the concept on my ham desktop, I plan to set up a similar system on a Linux laptop for use with a portable HF rig. Winter Field Day in January encourages sending Winlink messages to demonstrate the technology, regular Field Day in June provides bonus points for originating NTS messages from an operating site, and HF email is also considered a valuable tool for emergency communications drills and actual disasters. Whatever operating system you use, give it a try.



HCRAssist Mentoring Program

Our team is here to help with whatever ham radio activity you want to pursue, whatever your experience level. Just follow the appropriate link below.

New Ham Mentoring



Experienced Ham Continuing Education

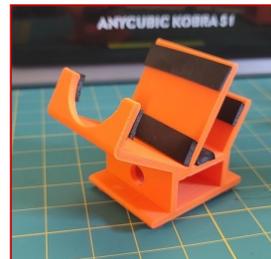


Smitty's Switches, Splitters, and Stuff New Items!

HT Desktop Stands now come standard with rubber feet and neoprene pads

ST2-HT-DT-1.5

Desktop HT stand for 1.5" thick device with space to store extra battery and antenna.



ST2-HT-DT-2.125

Desktop HT stand for 2.125" thick device with space to store extra battery and antenna.

Either HT Desktop Stand with Neoprene Cushions and Rubber Feet Now standard package price

\$24



SW5-F-3-40



ST2-Device-Mount



SP3-F-4-40

Two all new items with up to 40 amps capacity, individually fused outputs and LED indicators for fuse blown and a mounting plate to go with them. The fuse holders are tight so a free fuse puller is included with each device.

The mount fits either device and includes the automotive grade mounting tape but no screws.

No fuses are included as there are too many choices you can make.

The switch has three outputs and is just \$45. The Splitter has four outputs and is just \$40. And the device mount is only \$10.



SW4-F-3-30 Updated with 30 amp switch

This is an upgrade to the one-in, three-out 20 amp switch. I found a 30 amp switch that only took minor edits to the 3D print file.

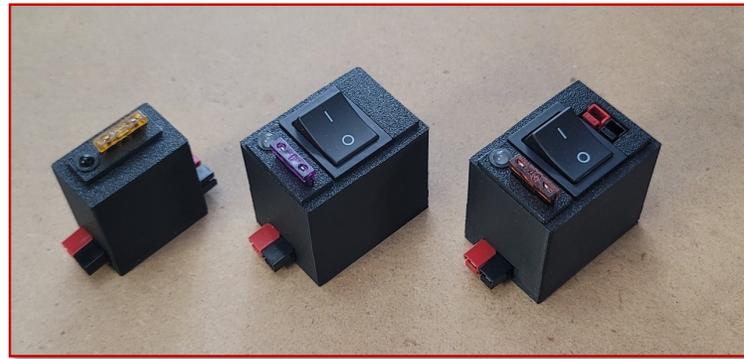
This is perfect for the POTA and SOTA operators who don't need the 40 amp switch as seen above.

You will have a choice of a 10, 20, or 30 amp input fuse and I will also include a free fuse puller as shown above..

The switch has three outputs and is just \$30.

There is a device mount that fits this for only \$5 (ST1-Switch-Mount).

New In-Line Switches and Fuse



In-Line Switch, SW5-F-0-40



ST3-Device-Mount



In-Line-Tap Switch, SW5-F-1-40



Two all new versatile items with up to 40 amps capacity, individually fused outputs and LED indicators for power on (glows Green) with fuse-blown indication (glows Red). A mounting plate is available. One 40 Amp fuse is included. Free fuse puller is included.

The Device Mount fits either device and includes automotive grade mounting tape but no screws, **\$5**.

The In-Line switch has one output on the right side, switched and fused, for **\$30**.

The In-Line-Tap switch has a switch controlled, fused output on top and an unfused, pass-through connector on the right for **\$35**.



In-Line Fuse, F5-F-0-40

In-Line Fuse with up to 40 amps capacity, choice of 10, 20, 30, or 40 amp fuse. The LED glows red when the fuse blows. **Cost: \$15**

Visit my website for online ordering
www.smittys-switches-splitters-and-stuff.square.site
73, KC1IKA, Smitty

Scan for my website





HCRA Miscellany



Find Us Online

In between Zero Beat issues, keep up with what's going on in the club by visiting our web site at:
hcra.org

Join our email reflector: **groups.io/hcra**

Check out our Youtube channel: **youtube.com/HampdenCountyRA**

Visit us on Facebook: **facebook.com/groups/HampdenCountyRA**

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-qs1

Or contact Paul, NF1G at:

paulkelliher@comcast.net

Zero Beat Ads

If you have radios or other ham-related gear you'd like to sell or trade, or if you're searching for something, you can list it right here in Zero Beat at no charge. To submit ads, simply send an email to Alan:
alan.dove@gmail.com.

Include a brief description of the item or items, a way for people to contact you, and your asking price.

Dots and Dashes

Stuff that doesn't fit anywhere else

Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

"Brown Baggers" is a friendly lunch get-together held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, for the benefit of all HCRA members. It's held at the Munich Haus Restaurant, 13 Center St. in Chicopee Center, across from City Hall, at 12:00 noon local time. Enjoy lunch, conversation, and camaraderie with your fellow hams!

Become an HCRA Mentor

The recently launched HCRA Mentoring Team is expanding - come join us! Are you a die-hard DXer, an emergency communications expert, or a soldering savant? We'll connect you with hams who want to learn what you know. Share your passion for the radio arts, and help others grow in the hobby. Just click this box or scan the QR code below to get started.



Join the HCRA Team for the ARRL 10 meter contest!

The HCRA enters the annual ARRL 10 meter contest as a club each year. Get on the air the weekend of December 13-14 and make some contacts! The exchange is just a signal report (59 or 599) and your state. DX stations send a serial number. At the end of the weekend, put "Hampden County Radio Association" in the "Club" section of your log, and let's see how many points we can earn as a team. Click this box for the complete contest rules. This is a great event for beginners or veteran contesters.

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.

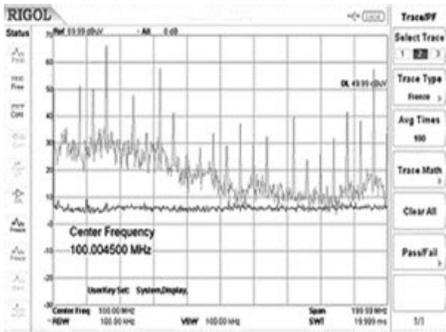
2nd Saturday of each month (before the FCARC meeting): FCARC breakfast at Denny's Pantry, 496 Bernardston Rd., Greenfield, MA. 8:00 local time. Contact Brad Councilman for details (bc@councilman.com).

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.

HCRA Contacts

President	Ez Morales, W1AEZ	president@hcra.org
Vice President	Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD	tipoacrata@gmail.com
Treasurer	Frandy Johnson, N1FJ	treasurer@hcra.org
Secretary	Paul Kelliher, NF1G	paulkelliher@comcast.net
Program Director	Gary Thomas, AA1UE	programs@hcra.org
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



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 !!

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership through HCRA!

We earn a commission for memberships and renewals processed through the club. Please fill out the form and mail it to **Hampden County Radio Association, PO Box 562, Agawam, MA 01001**. DO NOT send it directly to the ARRL, or we don't get the commission.



Membership Application

New Renew Previous Member Unlicensed

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (\$12 per member)

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Please note my new address I do not want my name and address made available for non-ARRL related mailings

Your Annual Membership Dues*

Circle Your Choice (rates effective Jan. 1, 2024)

	1 Year	3 Years
Standard membership	\$59	\$174
Family (same membership exp. date and address)	\$12	\$36
Student (must be under age 26)	\$30	
Blind (requires one-time statement of legal blindness)	\$12	\$36

Add-on ARRL Subscriptions

QST, ARRL's membership journal for active radio amateurs.

1 Year \$25* 3 Years \$75*

On the Air, For beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs.

1 Year \$25* 3 Years \$75*

Member Benefits

Your membership supports benefits, services, and programs that keep you active and on the air.

Membership Includes:

- Access to four digital magazines and archives (*QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, & *NCJ*)
 - Unlimited courses through the ARRL Learning Center (learn.arrl.org)
 - 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



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