

ZERO BEAT

The Newsletter of the HCRA



January 2026

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Happy New Year! Or at least it will be soon, if you're reading this issue immediately after it came out. As usual, our President has some seasonally appropriate comments in his regular column. The Holiday Party came together at the last moment and drew a good crowd. You can see a full-page montage of pictures of the event in this issue, and click on it to reach the online gallery with full-size photos.

There's also an excellent piece by our own Marvin Turner, WOMET, who's President of the Winter Field Day Association. Winter Field Day, which will be on January 24-25 this year, is an international ham radio contest with a strong emphasis on portable operation and emergency communication skills. The chilly winter weather adds a unique challenge.

This issue's "For Sale" section is absolutely packed with stuff. You can find a bunch of great deals in there, in case you didn't get quite everything you wanted under the Festivus bush. Of course, all of our usual columns and reference pages are in here too. Please note the correct date for our upcoming January meeting. It's on the 9th, the second Friday of the month, because the first Friday was too close to New Year's Day.

*73 de Alan, AB1XW
Zero Beat Editor*

January 9, 2026 Meeting

Kick off the New Year at our January 9 meeting, where our own Najm Choueiry, AB1ZA, will talk about how to make the most of your antenna analyzer and Smith charts. You can't do radio without an antenna, and if you want yours to work well, it's important to know how to test it. This should be a very useful presentation for everyone, whether you like to build your own antennas or just want to be able to troubleshoot ones you bought.

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 held a combined Holiday Party with our friends in the MTARA. It was an afternoon of good food, good friends, awesome door prizes, and fun!
January 9, 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, built a compact multimode digital station for under \$100, using DigiPi. Come hear how you can do the same.
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

New Year's Resolutions

Ez Morales, W1AEZ

From the President's Desk – January 2026

New Year's Resolutions

As the new year begins, it is essential that we continue to support one another, fostering a sense of unity and encouragement among all members. By keeping true to our club's mission of "Having fun in everything we do," we ensure that each activity is both meaningful and fun for everyone involved. Working together as a team, we reinforce that this club is truly owned by every member, and each person's participation is valued. Maintaining this spirit of camaraderie and collective responsibility will not only strengthen our club but also create memorable experiences throughout the new year.

We have seen that New Year's resolutions represent promises to better yourself or your life, encompassing areas such as personal development, health, and professional ambitions. For many years, I often set these goals or intentions, viewing them as a chance for renewal. Resolutions may be practical, emotional, or creative, and are commonly aimed at self-improvement, lifestyle adjustments, or reaching specific achievements. For instance, some people resolve to run a net, learn morse code, or spend more time with family—goals that make the idea of resolutions feel more tangible and relatable. In the past, I personally set a resolution to rediscover my leadership skills, which not only challenged me but also led to greater confidence in club organization, resulting in more efficient meetings and increased member participation.

How many times do we set resolutions that amount to little more than broad intentions, rather than firm commitments? While the club once moved along a familiar path, it occasionally



becomes necessary to pause, reassess, and establish focused, achievable goals. This approach sets the stage for genuine progress and personal growth in the coming year. With this principle in mind, I propose resolutions that truly reflect our club values: encouraging teamwork, making activities enjoyable, and creating opportunities to improve our communication skills through every club event. By emphasizing participation as a team while having fun, and offering chances to learn more about communication, we will continue to build a welcoming atmosphere that motivates every member to get involved and feel connected to our club's mission. This club belongs to each and every member, your involvement will influence its direction by making it fun.

Our club thrives thanks to the active involvement of our members. By volunteering at events, assisting with planning, and helping to promote our activities, you ensure our events

From the President's Desk

(continued)

Ez Morales, W1AEZ

remain vibrant and ongoing. Your participation not only keeps our club moving forward but also fosters a welcoming community where everyone feels valued and connected to our shared purpose. At present, board members and other officers commit their time throughout the year to organizing monthly meetings and handling administrative tasks as described in the bylaws. It takes time and teamwork to organize engaging meetings, each featuring presenters for September, October, January, February, March, and May. These social activities include an annual picnic in October, an auction in November, a holiday party in December, Winter Field Day in January, and Summer Field Day events in June. Board members also support the Mount Tom Amateur Radio Association (MTARA) Hamfest in February and participate in Show & Tell in April, where members present their latest radio projects. Alongside the Hampden County Radio Association (HCRA) 10-meter weekly net, club members get involved in monthly technical projects such as building 2-meter Yagi antennas and attenuator kits to enhance their skills. Special events like foxhunts, radio direction-finding contests, promote friendly competition and community involvement. This comprehensive approach underscores both recurring events and special initiatives, enabling members to recognize the club's dynamic community and wide range of offerings. Remember, the club also updates its website and publishes a monthly newsletter.

In addition to their regular duties, club officers and directors handle several administrative tasks that ensure the smooth operation and compliance of the club. Beyond the boardroom, they are responsible for tasks such as PO Box renewal; purchasing a MTARA Ham Fest

table; maintaining and inventorying club equipment; securing liability and equipment insurance; registering the domain name; filing IRS Form 990-N; maintaining Mass Non-Profit 501-C3 status; updating ARRL with HCRA club information; renewing HCRA Special Service Club status; updating HCRA affiliated club information; and updating the bylaws.

Research into updating bylaws for a radio club led me to an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) article explaining the importance of a detailed constitution and bylaws to clarify responsibilities, improve decision-making, and ensure fairness and transparency. A constitution defines the group's mission, sets procedures for resolving disputes, and is vital for incorporation or tax-exempt status. Preparing these documents by aligning them with state requirements which will require teamwork before membership approval.

Another key resolution I want to highlight is focusing on effective leadership that prioritizes the club's needs and supports its growth. Leadership isn't about pleasing everyone; it's about being willing to take risks and challenge existing norms. I realize that, at times, not everyone will agree with me, and that's perfectly normal; differences among people are expected. The most important thing is to treat each other with respect and listen carefully, as this leads to better decision-making. One of the club's goals is to uphold dignity and respect within the club. After all, clubs exist for enjoyment. Even the most serious members appreciate having fun.

It's also essential to maintain a sense of humor and be able to laugh at your own mistakes. Board members aren't perfect—we're just regular people, the same as everyone else in the club.

From the President's Desk

(continued)

Ez Morales, W1AEZ

Recognizing this helps to create a more approachable and relatable atmosphere within the organization. When board members are willing to laugh at themselves and acknowledge their imperfections, it encourages others to do the same, fostering a supportive environment where everyone feels comfortable learning and growing together. This humility not only strengthens the bonds among club members but also reinforces the idea that leadership is about teamwork and shared experiences, rather than pursuing impractical debates.

The "team before self" approach motivates members to prioritize club goals over personal recognition, strengthening organizational cohesion. This mindset fosters unity in environments like sports and the military, where group success outweighs individual achievement, and encourages a collaborative, effective workplace. By encouraging shared responsibility, our club stays adaptable to members' interests. Facing challenges together and recognizing achievements builds trust and inclusivity. Through teamwork and communication, we turn regular tasks into opportunities for growth, enhancing everyone's experience.

The success of this year's Holiday party was evident, thanks to both clubs working together as a team. Gary's (AA1UE) leadership stood out to the committee members and played a key role in building their confidence. His supportive approach encouraged the holiday party committee to work together effectively, from brainstorming creative ideas for decorations to coordinating the event schedule and managing logistics. For example, Gary regularly checked in with each team member, offered constructive feedback, and made sure everyone's suggestions were

considered. As a result, the committee felt empowered to collaborate and take ownership of their tasks, leading to a well-organized and enjoyable holiday party that was appreciated by all attendees. By empowering the committee to trust in their collective strengths, Gary created an environment where each committee member felt motivated to contribute and take initiative, leading to seamless coordination and a well-executed event. This collaborative approach not only elevated the quality of the Holiday party but also set a positive example for future club endeavors, demonstrating how effective leadership and teamwork can inspire greater participation and camaraderie within the organization.

The club owes a special thanks to Frandy, N1FJ, whose meticulous review of the venue costs and door prize values proved invaluable to the committee. For example, during budget discussions, Frandy identified a more cost-effective catering option that allowed the club to provide a high-quality meal without exceeding our budget. In addition to his financial expertise, his comprehensive review of the prize list ensured that each item provided meaningful value to attendees. This was particularly demonstrated by his approvals to include a widely appreciated lottery Christmas tree as a door prize—a proposal that was positively received by numerous members.

Brother Al, KC1VNH, and Smitty, KC1IKA, brought contagious energy to the holiday party as Masters of Ceremonies. One memorable moment occurred during the grand prize announcement, when Smitty's quick wit and Al's lively banter kept everyone laughing and eagerly anticipating the results. Their dynamic teamwork ensured that each prize winner felt celebrated, and their

From the President's Desk

(continued)

Ez Morales, W1AEZ

engaging commentary maintained the excitement and enthusiasm of the crowd throughout the evening. By keeping the atmosphere upbeat and inclusive, Al and Smitty helped make the entire event enjoyable for all who attended.

Both clubs are grateful to Steve KC1KEZ—not just for providing the directional signs, but even more so for his talent behind the camera. His photography allowed everyone to hold onto the memories of the enjoyable gathering, capturing the happiness, smiles, and laughter shared by all. The clubs also want to extend their gratitude to Josué, KP4JLD; John, N1CB; Jim, KK1W; Elizabeth, KC1WUC; and Sarah, KC1MTX for their behind-the-scenes work on meal planning, organizing, plaques, door prizes, and venue selection. Their teamwork, from brainstorming creative ideas for decorations to coordinating the event schedule and managing logistics, was invaluable. It goes without saying, we sincerely appreciate the staff at Willits-Hallowell Conference Center & Hotel for their excellent food, drinks, desserts, and hospitality.

Although I did not participate in wearing an "ugly sweater" this year and felt slightly less formal as a result, I truly appreciated observing the creativity displayed by several members through their sweaters and accessories. It was a clear reflection of both the enjoyment our members bring to the group and the strong sense of camaraderie within this remarkable community. The clubs are grateful to those members who provided the donated door prizes and to those in attendance winning a prize. I'm still wondering if there was a million-dollar winner.

To show their appreciation, the clubs presented engraved plaques to several members

who were acknowledged by their peers for their mentorship, valuable contributions, and dedication to both the club and the radio community. The first presentation went to Gary Smith, W1JZR who was honored for his extensive years of service as HCRA net control station operator on both VHF and the 10-meter nets. All members, particularly those holding technician-level radio licenses, are encouraged to participate in the HCRA Monday night 10-meter net and Gary's mentorship. This event serves as an excellent introduction to HF operations. Attendees are provided with opportunities to connect with fellow local operators and to seek guidance on HF procedures or other communication-related topics.

Furthermore, Susan (WA1SJG) and Al Grimaldi (KB1XG) were formally recognized for their more than fifteen years of leadership within MTARA and their sustained dedication to the Amateur Radio Community. Their dedication to supporting MTARA repeater programs and the annual hamfest fostered a welcoming radio community. The MTARA provides the radio community with access to a variety of repeaters, with W1TOM on Mt Tom being the most utilized. Technician-level license holders have opportunities to participate in EMCOM activities, including ARES and SkyWarn Nets. Radio operators are invited to participate in the MTARA Wednesday night sessions. During these sessions, the information net addresses questions from members, the swap net provides opportunities for advantageous transactions, and attendees can receive assistance with evaluating their radio equipment and antenna performance in collaboration with others on the simplex frequency.

The holiday party was not only enjoyable, but

From the President's Desk

(continued)

Ez Morales, W1AEZ

it also attracted enthusiastic new members to both clubs who felt welcomed and inspired to join after attending. Aaron, KF1G, made an innovative and effective recruitment suggestion by encouraging attendees to sign up. This influx of new members strengthens our community and expands opportunities for future events, ensuring our clubs remain vibrant and full of fresh ideas. I would like to spotlight Nathan Chung KC1YCX, the club's latest addition, who injected fresh energy into the group by connecting with the radio community and joining the celebration. His involvement highlights the importance of welcoming and encouraging all enthusiasts to participate actively in radio clubs. Nathan's enthusiasm and strong presence reminded everyone of the value that newcomers bring, sparking conversations and motivating others to engage. Experiences like this show how including passionate new members strengthens the club's unity and keeps our community vibrant, open, and forward-thinking.

But most importantly, Gary, AA1UE reminded us "that none of that would have mattered if no one came." Your willingness to show up, pitch in, and bring your positive energy truly made a difference. This spirit of collaboration was evident in every corner of the event hall. The result was not just a good time, but many new members for both clubs—a wonderful outcome that goes beyond mere numbers. This influx of new members brings fresh energy and ideas, ensuring our clubs continue to thrive and offer exciting opportunities for everyone. It proves that when we come together as a ham radio community, working side by side, we create more fun, achieve better results, and build a stronger, more vibrant

organization for future activities and shared experiences.

As we enter this new year, let's make a resolution to continue promoting the club's mission of having fun and being active team members. Let's carry this momentum forward as we seek new ways to support one another and enhance every aspect of club life. For example, you might volunteer to organize an event, share your expertise during a workshop, or mentor new members at meetings. We invite you to share your ideas for upcoming activities or let us know how we can make our club even more welcoming—your input matters and helps us grow together.

Let's use this opportunity to reflect on how each member can contribute their unique skills and ideas, ensuring our activities remain inclusive, rewarding, and enjoyable for all. Together, we can embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead, fostering an environment where everyone feels empowered to participate and our club continues to thrive in the spirit of unity and enthusiasm. By renewing our commitment to these guiding principles, we lay a strong foundation for growth, shared responsibility, and ongoing success. Such collaborative spirit demonstrates how our shared efforts can turn any event into a memorable experience, fostering deeper connections among members and strengthening the fabric of our clubs, which reinforces our core values as members of the amateur radio community.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year. May it be filled with fun, teamwork, and fulfillment.

*Ez, W1AEZ
HCRA President*

Holiday Party Montage

The HCRA Holiday Party in December was a huge success. Here's a montage of photos from the event, courtesy of Steve Berian, KC1KEZ, and Al Giguere Jr., KB1VNH. Click anywhere on this page to go to an online gallery of photos with larger versions.



Winter Field Day

19 years strong and counting

Marvin Turner, WOMET

As Winter Field Day embarks on its 19th year, the event stands as a powerful testament to the resilience, ingenuity, and community spirit of amateur radio operators worldwide. What began in 2007 as a modest experiment in wintertime portable radio operations has blossomed into a robust and eagerly anticipated annual exercise, and last year proved that its growth shows no signs of slowing.

In 2025, participants logged a record: 357,000



contacts, with 776 clubs and more than 26,000 unique call signs joining the fray. Those numbers tell a compelling story: Winter Field Day is no longer a niche side-event, but a major fixture in the amateur-radio calendar.

The Origins

The idea for Winter Field Day took shape in mid-2006. A ham, Charles N5PVL, proposed to the then-sponsoring group, Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR), that hams ought to practice field operations during winter,

not just pleasant summer weather. SPAR approved the proposal in September 2006. Just four months later, on January 13–14, 2007, the first Winter Field Day took place.

That first WFD, which was experimental in nature, laid the groundwork for an event that would combine fun, challenge, and real-world readiness. Based on positive feedback, WFD became an annual event.

The Purpose: EmComm Readiness in Winter Conditions

Unlike the well-known ARRL Field Day held each June, Winter Field Day isn't just a contest or community outreach event; its heart is rooted in emergency preparedness.

Here's why WFD matters:

- Test portable communications under winter adversity: Cold weather, snow, ice, and wind create conditions that can degrade antennas, strain power systems, and challenge operator endurance. WFD gives hams the chance to train under those exact conditions, building familiarity with the additional difficulties that winter disasters might bring.
- Practice alternative power and field-expedient setups: Many WFD stations run on battery, solar, or generator power, simulating real-world conditions where mains power may be unavailable. Antenna deployment, quick setup/tear-down, improvisation, and redundancy are all part of the training.
- Broaden operator skills: WFD encourages use of multiple bands (HF, VHF, UHF), various modes (voice, CW, digital, satellite), and

Winter Field Day

(cont'd)

Marvin Turner, WOMET

adaptability in shifting conditions, all skills valuable for real emergency communications.

- **Build community and readiness culture:** By bringing together hams from many regions and clubs under challenging conditions, WFD fosters camaraderie, mutual support, knowledge sharing, and a collective mindset of readiness, crucial when real disasters strike.

The WFDA itself emphasizes that WFD is "an EMCOMM exercise," and that the value lies not in chasing high scores or contacts, but in learning how to adapt, overcome, and operate effectively when conditions are far from ideal.

Why Winter Matters

Summer field exercises are great for antenna tests, propagation checks, and a broad outreach to the public. But many emergencies, such as blizzards, ice storms, and winter floods, occur during cold weather, when power sources may fail, roads may be impassable, and standard communication infrastructure may be down. Winter Field Day replicates just such a scenario.

Winter adds extra complexity: physical discomfort, equipment failures, unpredictable propagation, power management, cold-weather logistics. That's why a wintertime exercise like WFD is invaluable; it forces operators to confront and adapt to the types of challenges they might face during real winter emergencies.

Additionally, Winter Field Day offers a sense of adventure and accomplishment. There's something rewarding about "throwing a wire in a tree," powering a radio off a battery or solar panel, and making contacts from a snow-covered

field or a cold park shelter. For many hams, it deepens their confidence in being prepared, something that resonates deeply with the values of EmComm and public service.

A Tradition of Growth and Preparedness

With 19 years behind it and ever-growing participation, Winter Field Day has firmly established itself as a cornerstone of amateur radio's commitment to preparedness. The robust participation numbers of thousands of operators, clubs, and contacts speak for themselves.

More than that, WFD continues to evolve:



rule updates, new objectives such as multi-antenna setups, satellite contacts, non-commercial power, digital modes, and copying a broadcast message, flexible station-location categories including home, indoor, outdoor, and mobile, and a welcoming environment for new and veteran hams alike.

For operators like you, experienced, licensed, and already involved in Field Deployable Tool Kits, POTA trips, SDR/NOAA imaging, and

Winter Field Day

(cont'd)

Marvin Turner, WOMET

more, Winter Field Day offers a perfect blend: a chance to test your gear, sharpen your EmComm readiness, and connect with the larger ham community under true winter conditions.

Winter Field Day isn't just about racking up numbers; it's about being ready.

As we gear up for January 24th and 25th, 2026, the message is clear: Winter Field Day isn't just about making contacts or racking up numbers. It's about being ready, for when disaster strikes, for when the weather is uncooperative, for when we might be called upon to provide vital communication when nothing else works.

If you would like to support the continued growth of Winter Field Day, we invite you to visit our official website at winterfieldday.org From there, you can stop by our shop page to pick up official WFD gear or, if you prefer, make a small donation using the link at the top of the site.

Winter Field Day is 100% donation-funded, and your support helps cover our ongoing operating costs and ensures we can keep improving and expanding the event each year. Whether through a purchase or a contribution, your generosity directly helps sustain the mission of Winter Field Day and supports the community that makes it possible.

*Marvin Turner – WOMET
President, Winter Field Day Association*

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



For Sale

10-20m SteppIR

This unit is an older 10-20m unit that lived in southern New Jersey for a number of years. EHU's tested and verified to be working. Tubes were sanded, primed and received 3 coats of RustOleum Topside UV Resistant Marine Paint. Parts and Tubes shown in images. Seller located in Avon, CT. Willing to deliver if close enough or meet at mutually convenient location. Inquiries welcome @ bob.lobley59@gmail.com. Price \$750.



Advertise in Zero Beat

Any HCRA member can advertise ham radio-related gear in Zero Beat for free. Just write up the text of your add, include any images you want to go with it, and send everything along to alan.dove@gmail.com. Please *do not* do any page layout on it - I'll handle that. Just send the text and images.

For Sale

6-20m SteppIR

6-20m SteppIR. This unit is a 6-20m unit that lived in Poughkeepsie NY for about 2 years. The lot it lived on was shaded. Motors in EHU's have been replaced and verified to be working. Tubes were sanded, primed and received 3 coats of RustOleum Topside UV Resistant Marine Paint. Parts and Tubes shown in images. Seller located in Avon, CT. Willing to deliver if close enough or meet at mutually convenient location. Inquiries welcome @ bob.lobley59@gmail.com. Price \$950.



Volunteer for the Boston Marathon

This year's Boston Marathon will take place on April 20, 2026. Volunteer registration is now open! This is a major public service opportunity for ham radio operators, and all you need to participate is a Technician-class license and an HT. To sign up, visit the [Boston Marathon Volunteer Registration](#) page, and scroll down to "Race Day Amateur Radio Volunteers."

For Sale

Xiegu X6100

This is a very cool portable, all-mode SDR QRP transceiver that was reviewed in the July 2022 issue of QST. Features include a built in antenna tuner, 160-6-meter coverage, 10 watt maximum output (5 watts with built-in battery), 4" color screen, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi built in, TCXO, microphone, DNR, SWR scanner, and backlit keys. This one also comes in excellent working condition with a microphone, a protective plastic case, and much more. The full user manual is available online. Asking \$375. Contact Larry, W1AST: 413.348.3289 or Hamop.W1AST@gmail.com.



QRP Labs QCX Mini 20m

About the size of a deck of cards, this tiny transceiver was professionally assembled by QRP Labs. It's in excellent, like-new condition, and comes with a TuftIn front panel protector, and a PowerPole-terminated power cable. See the review in November 2021 QST for all of the specs, but highlights include: 5W maximum output (no internal battery), very low current consumption, backlit screen, low-pass filter, 200 Hz CW filter, iambic or straight keying, CW decoder, memory keyer, tilt-stand leg, on-screen S-meter, full or semi-break-in CW operation, A/B VFOs, split, RIT, beacon mode. This is an amazing little rig perfect for portable CW operation. \$100. Contact Larry, W1AST, 413.348.3289 or Hamop.W1AST@gmail.com.



For Sale

Icom IC-9700

144/430/440/1200 Mhz 100W all mode transceiver



Got your eye on the amazing Icom IC-9700 VHF/UHF all-mode transceiver, but it's a little too pricey for you? Here's a one-owner unit with very low usage for a steep discount. Comes with an unused original power cord plus a spare unfused power cord (connect it to a fused source), a microphone, a Diamond MX-72N VHF/UHF duplexer, Heil Pro Headset and boom mic, deluxe model with AD-1-IC adapter, FS-3 foot-operated PTT, printed basic and advanced manuals, original box and packing materials. This package would sell for \$2,400 new. Asking only \$1,900. Contact Smitty, KC1KA at KC1KA.Smitty@gmail.com.

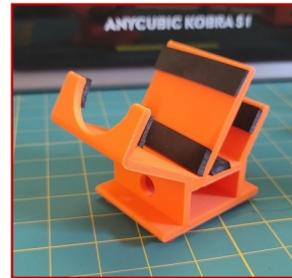
Smitty's Switches, Splitters, and Stuff

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



SW5-DSF-2-40



SP3-F-4-40

Three 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, ST2-Device-Mount **\$10**. A free fuse puller is included with each device.

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

An assortment of fuses are included. **All three devices are \$45 each.**

The single switch has three outputs. The double switch has 2 independent outlets. The Splitter has four outputs.



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

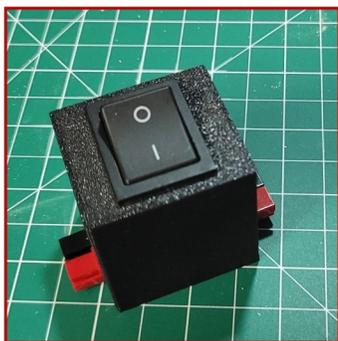
In-Line-Tap Switch, SW5-F-1-40

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 40A Switch SW6-NF-0-40, In-Line Fuse F5L-F-0-40, In-Line Fuse-no LED F5NL-F-0-40

These dock with any 40 amp device in my catalog. In-Line switch only, up to 40 amps. 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.

In-Line Fuse, no LED, up to 40 amps, choice of 10, 20, 30 or 40 amp fuse. **Cost Each: \$15**

Visit my website for online ordering
www.smittys-switches-splitters-and-stuff.square.site
73, KC11KA, 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/g/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-qsl

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

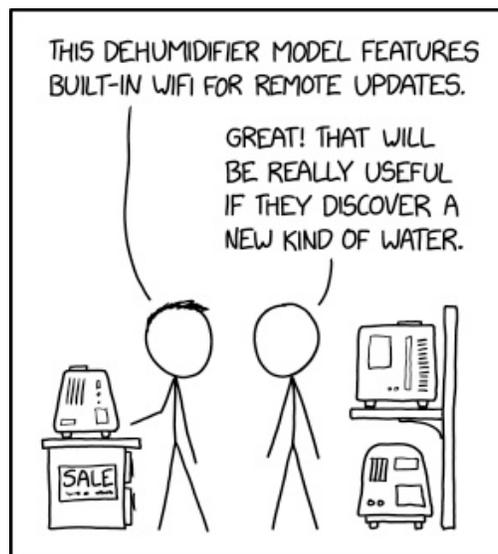
Stuff that doesn't fit anywhere else

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.



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.

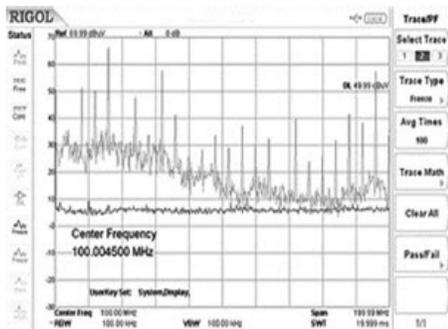
2nd Saturday of each month (before the FCARC meeting): FCARC breakfast at Denny's Pantry, 496 Bernardston Rd., Greenfield, MA. 8:00 local time. Contact Brad Councilman for details (bc@councilman.com).

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
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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	Vacant	
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