

#### http://hcra.org

Special points of interest:

Next Meeting:

HCRA physical meetings are currently postponed until we have access to the meeting rm at Holyoke Hospital. Meetings will take place on Zoom. See HCRA FB page for link

HCRA is on the web in many places—twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and HCRA.org.

New Members — V	Velcome!!
Warren Shepherd	W2BUD
Vivian Felton	no call (yet)
Donation to HCRA	—Thank You!!
Harry Lemieux	KC1LCH

# 2021

January 2021

Wow, 2021... finally this year is over. But what will change? Well, the bands are getting better. We are adding SSTV to the end of the 10M net, with help from Juergen NV1Q posted on the website. Adding a bit of catching up time to the start of our zoom meetings with breakout rooms starting at 7PM. Starting back up on some share the knowledge also. And a new Technician license class—totally online! So... pretty good start to the New Year!!

HCRA is not a small club—we have about 100 members. We have regular meetings. We have projects—License class, balloon, share the knowledge, fox hunt, weekly nets. Nope, not small at all. But guess what—we have room for more. So if you have an idea, contact a board member, and maybe we can put together a team to flesh it out with you, and demonstrate the most fun part of Ham Radio—doing stuff that gets you on the air in a different way!

Here is to 2021—may we find something we haven't done before, and try it!

73, John N1JIE

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### January Meeting

January 8 @ 7:30pm— breakout rooms @7:00

#### Wallpaper

We will be meeting on Zoom (link is in Larry's "from the shack"). Harold N1FTP will be telling us about getting wallpaper certificates—those neat awards from Special Event Stations, shortwave listening contacts, International Space Station, etc. I saw Harold do a presentation at the only MTARA meeting I went to, and it was fascinating. He has decades of history with this topic.

The club will be trying something new on zoom - setting up an early time to do a share the knowledge topic, or just to get together to catch up. One of the hardest things about the zoom meetings has been not being able to catch up before meetings like we used to. Please be patient as Larry and Marcel work us into this.

# FROM THE SHACK

#### LARRY KRAINSON W1AST



January 2021 HCRA Presidents Message

Excitement everywhere in ham radio! That's what I feel right now. The HCRA has some great ideas that we're putting into motion in the next few months. We hope you will participate and help us grow as a club!

We had good participation in the ARRL 10m contest. 18 members submitted their logs! That's nearly 20% of the clubs members!

The contest was great fun. There were 2 windows where the band opened up wide and those on took advantage of the opening. Those happened on Friday night and Sunday late morning to early afternoon. Suddenly stations far away came in and were being worked. If you missed it, maybe next year you can make it as the band openings should be much better and many more stations will be on.

There are more operating events coming up that you might want to participate in. Starting New Years eve into day is the Straight Key Night or SKN. If you know any cw, have a straight key, then get on and make a few cw contacts. No electronic keyers or computer keying here. This is the old fashioned, manual Morse code key

operation. More info at: http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night

This year, why not participate in Winter Field Day? It's being held January 30-31. I will be participating from home this year and running on commercial power. One of this years features and due to Covid restrictions is the ability to co-join scores from individual stations (like we do in the 10m contests) for the club. If you participate, you want to put the club listing as the Hampden County Radio Association. Not abbreviated as the HCRA, but spelled out in full. Let's see what we can do. You can learn all about Winter Field Day at: <u>https://www.winterfieldday.com/</u>

There are always many little and big contests going on. If you want to learn more about upcoming contests, check here: <a href="https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html">https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html</a>

We continue to have frustrating issues with the HCRA foxbox. We are hoping to have the current issue solved and get the foxbox out and hidden again starting mid-January hopefully. Once we finally get those fixed, we will get the 2<sup>nd</sup> fox box assembled and out too. To learn more and when the foxboxes have been hidden, found and other foxhunt related news, subscribe to the free group: WMAFoxHunters at: <u>https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters</u>

January 1<sup>st</sup> is the annual CT Foxhunters New Years Day hunt. Paul, N1TUP is the fox every new years day. I've been on a few of the hunts and they are always a challenge. I hope to participate again this year as long as the weather doesn't go extreme, I will be there hunting. You can learn more at: <u>https://groups.io/g/ctfoxhunter</u>

Gary, KC1ZJR has volunteered to take over the net control of the HCRA Newbie Net. This net is slated to re-start on Thursday night, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm on the W1BR 146.715 repeater. This net has two functions. The first and main is to get hams, who have been licensed in the past five years to get on the radio and overcome mic shyness while learning about ham radio and getting started in their ham radio journey. This is also a place for HCRA members to share their knowledge with new hams. Also, there are usually a number of SWL'ers listening as potential new hams or new hams too shy to talk yet.

We hope to break new ground in this area for this casual and informative and friendly net. This will be a safe place for new hams to ask questions and learn and meet people and have fun.

If you know of new hams from the past 5 years or so, tell them about the net. They DO NOT have the be HCRA members to participate.

# FROM THE SHACK CONT'D

Also, the 10m net on 28.375 MHz every Monday night is running strong. Marcel, AA1WH is net control and has been having fun sharing stories and learning from everyone's experiences. The net was moved to 7:00 pm. Come and join in the fun!

We're expanding the Zoom meetings into Breakout Rooms before the meeting starts. We hope to do this in January or February at the latest. This will allow us to do mini Share the Knowledge sessions in a Breakout Room the 25 minutes *before* the meeting begins. When we publish the meeting info, we will include info on this too.

If you miss the meeting, all the Zoom meetings are recorded and published on the HCRA website and HCRA You Tube channel. By going here, you can watch past meetings and see what you missed: <u>http://www.hcra.org/category/meeting-videos/</u>

The upcoming January meeting is going to be fun! Everyone likes receiving Qsl cards and paper awards for their on air accomplishments. But did you know there are many awards that you can pursue and earn that are not related to the big contests? Harold, N1FTP is going to tell and show us some of the awards that can be earned and tell us how we too, can earn them too. This is going to be an interesting and fun presentation that you won't want to miss!

**Show and Tell** is returning to it's regular month. Plan for April to showcase your kit, assemblage of ham articles or just explain your latest project. Yes, we just did this in September and had a few participants. But now with winter here, it's a great time to assemble that kid you've been putting off or planning on. We want to see your projects! Plan on showing them during the meeting in April!

The club has many new hams. These new hams may be reaching out for guidance from us experienced hams. Please listen and offer your help and guidance as best you can. These days of Covid and extremely limited in person availability makes helping all that more important and more of a challenge. I'd like to think all of us experienced hams are all up to the challenge and will offer assistance when asked and will share your own knowledge with them. It's part of what makes this hobby so special and helps the hobby grow too. To me, it's always Paying it Forward. People help me for things I can not do and I help others when asked for things I can do and Pay it Forward. Everything rounds out and works.

If you're feeling like honoring those that help you, honor them with an Elmer / Mentor award. The ARRL has been offering this for some time now. It's a small way to make those that help you feel appreciated. A small gesture. More info can be found here: <u>http://www.arrl.org/elmer-award</u>

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Larry, W1AST HCRA President

W1AST@arrl.org

#### SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS:



## ARRL STUFF

Things are happening in the world of Amateur Radio. ARRL is our advocate for Government, education and organization. I hope everyone that is a member of HCRA is also a member of ARRL.

#### FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

#### 12/30/2020

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications." In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

The above is the beginning of the press release today from ARRL. The full text is at <u>http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-reduces-proposed-amateur-radio-application-fee-to-35</u>

This is what ARRL does—advocate for amateur radio. While we may not be happy with the new fee, it is less than proposed, and is not imposed for address changes.

#### ARRL Western Mass Section

The Western Mass section is growing, and working to reestablish the emergency communication abilities in our area. Bob K1YO has jumped in with both feet, and has an ambitious plan. Covid has challenged some of it, but more info is posted at <u>https://wma.arrl.org/</u>. There are positions available for volunteers in the section organization, as well as links to ARES information. If you are interested, visit the website and contact one of the team there.

#### ARRL Affiliated Clubs

While I am glad to be a member of HCRA, being a member or being involved in other clubs can be helpful to everyone. I know many in HCRA are also members of Mt. Tom Amateur Radio Assoc (MTARA) and / or Franklin Cty Amateur Radio Club (FCARC). While MTARA seems to be inactive right now, FCARC in Greenfield is doing well. They meet, have projects, a newsletter just like us. This month's newsletter has an interesting antenna project. Visit the FCARC at <a href="http://fcarc.org/">http://fcarc.org/</a>. They have their Zoom meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Speaking of radio clubs and the internet—when you travel, do you ever try to connect up with local hams where you are visiting? One way to do that is with a club search at http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club. The ARRL publishes club information and web links for affiliated clubs. Every once in a while I look at other clubs. I look them up on ARRL.org, based upon places I've been or want to go. As many know, I plan to move to a more retirement friendly area in a few years, and one of the factors for location is an active ham club... like ours!

One of the areas we are looking is Eastern Pennsylvania. Poconos region. It's pretty, moderately affordable, and has access to lots of activities from city things to country things.

They also have Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association, EPARA - https://www.qsl.net/n3is/index.html

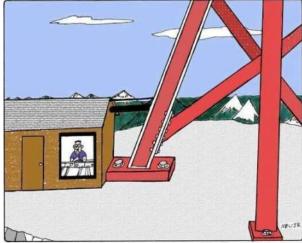
Needless to say, they are doing all their meetings on Zoom, have a great newsletter, active in many phases of amateur radio, and they have been around for a while. So I have hope that my transition to retirement will be smooth, as long as I have ham radio (well, and motorcycles, whiskey, cigars)

To learn more about membership, and how it can help you-<u>http://www.arrl.org/membership</u>

# A bit ah humah ;-)

shamelessly collected from the internet

Copyright © 1999 by Greg Trook



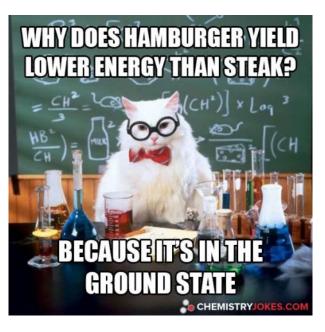
Yes I am running just 4 watts, although I suppose I do have an above average antenna system.



"On FT8, no one knows you're a dog."







Hampden County Radio Association presents

# ONLINE HAM RADIO LICENSE CLASS

5x Wednesday Evenings 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM February 3 - March 3, 2021

> Pre-register at www.HCRA.org/licensing-classes Class to be conducted via Zoom

This is a Technician Level class—the entry level for Amateur (HAM) Radio. There is no age limit. In addition to this class, there are other online resources to help get you ready for your Element 2 exam. While there are currently no local exam sessions due to Covid, there are some in the somewhat near area, and online sessions are being worked on. Information will be provided for exams as we have it available.



## HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



#### Where is HCRA on the internet, and what is there?

Last month, Ken KD1KU gave us all info about Instagram and Twitter, and HCRA's expansion there.

So, where else is HCRA on the internet?

- <u>http://www.hcra.org/</u> that's right, first stop is our website. The .org ending identifies us as a non-profit organization. HCRA does pay a fee for the hosting / site address name. Vanessa W1IRL is the person that has the keys to the website. This is for several reasons—but mostly to keep it professional and organized. I think she has been doing a great job. There are several links / subsections to the website. Look under membership, and you can renew online using paypal ;-) Past Zero Beat issues and our recent Zoom meetings (<u>http://www.hcra.org/category/meeting-videos/</u>) are there too
- <u>https://www.youtube.com/user/HampdenCountyRA</u> Youtube the place with informational videos. HCRA is growing here, there are several videos up, and more coming. These are videos of presentations made at club meetings.
- <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/HampdenCountyRA</u> Facebook!! This is a private group, you must ask to join. As almost 300 people are in the group, it's not just for our members. Group members can (and do) post things here. It's a quick way to read about ISS events, Contest stuff, tech discussions, etc.
- As Ken KD1KU showed us last month, there is twitter and Instagram.
  - Instagram <u>https://www.instagram.com/hampdencountyra/</u>
  - <u>Twitter</u>
    <u>https://twitter.com/HampdenCountyRA</u>

Looking for a way to help the club help other hams? Would you be interested in doing a short video, that would be put up on our youtube and/or web page? Just a short topic about some part of the ham hobby—what is your go to mode, are you on HF or VHF more, tips on setting up your shack, operating portable, how to get on the air on a budget... almost anything. With so many facets of ham radio to get involved in, you never know what will spark the interest of another ham that hasn't tried what you are doing. Think about it—we don't get to visit at meetings, and have conversations. This could be that welcome to a new member, or connection to another ham that will get them interested in another part of ham radio. Contact one of the board members, and we will be glad to help you get it done—share your passion!!!



HCRA STUFF

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#### HCRA Show and Tell is back in April!!

Najm AB1ZA has proposed a guideline for entries. The Board be happy to field any questions but it's pretty simple:

Show and Tell is meant to encourage the ham Do It Yourself (DIY) spirit. You can build something using hardware and/or software. It could range from extremely simple to extremely complicated, but be aware of the time limitation. Preferably it should be powered up and demonstrated even if all features are not implemented.

## Show and be proud of your personal effort. It is OK to borrow ideas and we all learn and have learned from others, just make sure you cite your sources and give credit where credit is due.

Keep this in mind as you put together your presentation. I still remember my entry a couple years ago—simple antenna that I found directions on the web for. And it worked! Show and Tell is my favorite meeting of the year. I look forward to seeing what my fellow hams come up with. I have learned something about radio each time.

<u>HCRA is starting the "Newbie Net" again!</u> Thanks to Gary KC1JZR, the New Ham net is going to happen, starting January 14 @ 7PM. Open to HCRA members and new (<5 yr) hams, it will be a place to practice net communications in a friendly and supportive manner, and to discuss questions that newer hams may have. Also—thanks to Peter W1BR for the invite to use the repeater W1BR/R on 146.715 PL 100. Join in, and help provide a friendly meeting place for new hams!

<u>HCRA has a Technician Class beginning Feb 3!</u> The class will be online via Zoom, and lessons will be recorded. It will be over 5 Wednesday evenings at 7-9 PM. Exam location information will be provided as it becomes available. Currently there are no exams scheduled in WMA section, but there are in EMA, NH, VT, CT(<u>http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session</u>) Pass on this info to anyone you know may be interested in getting their Technician License.

Anyone willing to upgrade self - study style? There are several YouTube channels that cover General and Extra.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search\_query=general+ham+license

https://www.youtube.com/results?search\_guery=extra+ham+license

#### A reminder - If you haven't already renewed your membership:

Membership renewal is September—please renew your membership now—Use the easy online renewal at <a href="https://www.hcra.org/online-new-membership-application-and-renewal/">https://www.hcra.org/online-new-membership-application-and-renewal/</a> You can even pay online using Paypal

Clublog update: Clublog can be accessed at <u>https://clublog.org/league.php</u> Signup is free, and there are a number of ways to lookup information. Give it a try.

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1	NU10-1 KK1W-1	18	149	9	268	240	326	274	322	231	308	4	335	2149	32.75	
3	NV1Q-1	27	135	0	180	115	308	257	314	210	252	2	329	1822	dd yrs dd yrs	
ə 4	NF1G	0	158	0	231	249	301	254	283	175	203	43	319	1875	36 yes	
5	W1PY+1	34	115	0	199	64	245	203	240	130	203	7	291	1441	10 yrs	
5	KX1X	66	127	62	182	141	200	125	203	44	193	8	251	1351	20 yes	
7	KIVOL	5	61	2	111	51	100	138	180	89	142	3	247	941	19 yrs	
8	KINZ-1 .	114	154	88	164	188	183	158	145	82	67	8	245	1345	Byrs	
0	NITA-2 +	108	144	18	184	83	200	80	185	8	129	0	238	1098	19 yrs	
10	AB1WT	2	32	1	52	4	128	123	128	64	89	1	212	622	6 yrs	
-		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6				
11	W1AST+1	2	80	9	100	28	166	104	123	10	120	7	202	729	11 yes	
12	NT1K-2	9	49	2	103	33	184	45	141	47	123	1	199	737	10 yrs	
13	N1FTP	0	7	0	61	0	167	47	118	18	109	2	182	527	12 yrs	
14	WD1S-3	49	57	1	115	23	148	40	95	11	98	2	176	639	8 yrs	
15	WITRK	0	3	0	11	0	64	٥	34	0	1	0	79	113	4 yrs	
	N1JIE	2	5	0	23	2	48	20	5	1	4	1	69	112	3 yrs	
18	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	14	0	37	0	0	1	D	0	46	52	4.978	
18 17				0	5	0	19	0	14	3	18	0	43	57	7 ym	
	N1FJ	0	0		1.1											

You can link to your club here: https://clublog.org/league.php?club=189

#### DXCC Leagues

The leagues are rebuilt once per day. Only callsigns active in the last 12 months are included in the league tables. The maximum size of a league is 2000 participants.

No Mode Filter	Ocw	O Phone	O Data					
Rank by DXCCs	O Rank by slots	Rank by band: Totals V						
160M 80M 60M	40M 30M 220M 17M 16M	12M 12M 10M 10 6M						
Current entities	O Current and deleted	Worked	O Confirmed					
O No Date Filter	. 2020	O 2019 O Last 12 mor						
Filter by club/continent:	HCRA - Hampden County Radio Assoc	iation	~					

Generate DXCC League

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC V	Slots	Range
1	KK1W+1	55	63	0	102	65	105	28	42	15	29	22	227	518	44 yrs
2	NF1G	0	82	0	104	108	142	130	112	98	94	38	212	908	30 yrs
3	W1PY+1	0	37	0	92	1	171	18	81	2	25	8	206	433	10 yrs
4	NU10+1	1	19	0	63	22	175	43	94	7	60	.1	198	485	32 yrs
5	KOX1X	53	107	48	152	118	155	113	125	27	50	5	191	952	.23 yrs
6	K1NZ-1 #	62	107	80	102	108	127	115	87	75	45	8	187	894	∃ yrs
7	NV1Q-2	8	17	0	55	4	121	13	85	2	25	1	134	333	41 yrs
8	N1TA-2 *	15	68	15	87	55	111	64	48	1	12	0	132	447	19 yes
9	WIAST-1	2	34	0	53	8	88	21	34	4	3	2	109	249	ttyrs
10	NT1K+2	8	3	0	11	13	84	3	33	0	9	0	95	184	10 yes
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	KIVOL	2	20	0	48	8	84	24	47	8	9	1	93	231	19 yrs
12	W1TRK	0	0	0	2	0	41	0	8	0	0	0	48	51	-4 yrs
13	NIFTP	0	1	0	15	0	30	8	5	0	11	2	44	70	12 yrs
14	N1JIE	2	4	0	8	2	21	3	1	1	1	0	30	43	3 yrs
15	AB1WT	1	2	0	3	0	18	8	3	1	1	0	25	33	6 yrs
16	N1FJ	0	0	0	4	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	13	14	7 ym
17	KBIVSX	0	0	0	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	12	13	-4 yrs
18	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	:4 ym
19	WD1S-z	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	Il yrs

You can link to your club here: https://clublog.org/league.php?club=189

This is the clublog with open dates—basically a history from the start of each persons log. As you can see, many of the top members have many years on the air.

Info from 12/31/20

This is the clublog for 2020. You can see a different order of participants. But also some newer Hams getting active awesome!

# **DOTS & DASHES:** Things I can't think where to put, but are interesting.

#### INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

#### https://www.onallbands.com/

This is a blog provided by DX Engineering – remember when their CEO came and did a skype visit with us? Well, this blog has TONS of things to know, from a tutorial on satellite communications, to antenna stuff, to station setup, to.... Well, think of it as a quick Elmer visit online. Here is one page for new Tech licensees:

https://www.onallbands.com/beyond-your-local-repeater-15-things-to-do-with-a-technician-license/

#### **INTERESTING "EVENT"**

#### Winter Field Dav—covid rule changes for groups

Winter Field Day is organized by the Winter Field Day Association with the intent to practice emergency communications. While it is not an ARRL contest, ARRL does promote it, and W1AW will be on the air for it. There have been some rule changes for clubs / groups that cannot meet together. It will enable operators to list their club similar to the FD2020 and 10M contest.

So drag out your SOTA/POTA gear, put on the long johns and operate in the cold, indoor or outdoor. Or operate from home, in your shack.

Review the WFDA web page, and especially the rules at <u>https://www.winterfieldday.com/</u>.

#### UPCOMING CONTESTS (just a few...) - It's wintah!! Contesting Time!!!

<u>January</u> —
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Jan 2 ARRL Kid's Day Jan 2-3 ARRL RTTY Roundup Jan 9-10 North America QSO Party CW Jan 16-17 North America QSO Party SSB Jan 16-18 January VHF Contest Jan 30-31 Winter Field Day

10-80M 10-80M Digital 10-160M 10-160M Above 50Mhz All mode / band http://www.arrl.org/kids-day http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup https://ncjweb.com/nagp/ https://ncjweb.com/nagp/ http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf https://www.winterfieldday.com/

Many more contests listed at: http://www.arrl.org/contests or https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html

Don't forget special event stations— http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations These are fun contacts, usually with a special QSL card or certificate.

## Local happenings / Nets

Sundays: 0845: Western Mass Emergency Net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

First Monday: Southwick Regional RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

#### Mondays: 1930: <u>HCRA 10m Net</u> 28.375

Tuesdays: 1930-2000: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - Hampshire County Emergency Net

Wednesdays: 1930: MTARA Info net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - includes NTS Net

2000: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

2000: MTARA Simplex Net - starts on 146.94 - PL 127.3, then goes to 146.42 direct (simplex) Usually starts immediately following the swap net.

2100: Weather Net (Roger, K1PAI Net Control), 1st Thursday of every month: 147.090 MHz, All other Thursdays: 147.000, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

Thursdays: 1900: Starting Jan 14—HCRA New Ham Net - 146.715 PL-100 -W1BR/R. HCRA members and new (<5 yr) hams.

## Club meetings & VE sessions Please

contact site / organization to ensure it will meet. Clubs meet on Zoom, VE sessions are being developed.

**1st Friday of the month** 7:30 PM, HCRA Club Meeting, Virtual meeting on Zoom. Meetings will continue on Zoom until it is safe to meet as a group. <u>http://www.hcra.org/</u>

**3rd Friday of the month** 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Meetings are on hold until further notice. <u>https://mtara.org/</u>

**4th Friday of the month** 6:00 PM, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, **in-person exams are on hold at present**. A virtual exam is being explored. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET). Contact: David Cote, w1fab@arrl.net

**Second Monday of the month** 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Virtual meeting on Zoom. Meetings will continue on Zoom until it is safe to meet as a group. <u>http://www.fcarc.org/</u>

#### Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

- QST Magazine
- Members-Only Web Services
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- Member Discounts
- Outgoing QSL Service
- Continuing Education
- ARRL as an Advocate
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- ARRL Field Organization
- ARRL-sponsored contests
- Operating Awards
- Local Clubs
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- Hamfests and Conventions
- Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program

http://www.arrl.org/membership

## **HCRA** contact list

President, Larry Krainson W1AST wlast@arrl.net Vice-President, Marcel LaPierre AA1WH aa1wh@arrl.net Treasurer, Duane Pray KC1FOV kc1fqv@arrl.net Secretary, Paul Kelliher NF1G nflg@arrl.net Programs, Gary Thomas AA1UE aalue@amsat.org Membership, John Plaster K1VOI klvoi jp@charter.net Technical, Najm Choueiry AB1ZA nic2@cox.net At Large, Bob Jeffway WA1OJN walojn@jeffway.com Newsletter, John Ewell N1JIE n1jie@arrl.net Web Page, Vanessa Oquendo W1IRL webmaster@hcra.org

W1NY trustee, John N1JIE n1jie@arrl.net WB1Z trustee, Vanessa W1IRL w1irl@arrl.net





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Hampden County Radio Association P.O. Box 562 Agawam, MA 01030-0562