



ZERO BEAT

Our 76th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club

Meeting Update!

The Holyoke Hospital meeting room is opened to us once again.
Need directions?
hcra.org/meeting-location

Welcome New Members

Brad Shimel - KC1TYI
Joshua Hiller - KC5ZAP
Justin Herzig, KB1IAC
Brian Doyle, KC1UIF
Chris Decoteau, KC1UHG
Alan Jeskey, KB1PWR

Whats Inside

Club Meeting Schedule	2
Thank You HCRA Members	3
From the Presidents Desk	4-6
NEAR-Fest Date Change	7
Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, SK	8
SB-200 Amp Redux (part III)	10-13
Ham Radio Guy Podcast	14-15
Nuts and Volts	16
SECARS Spring Auction	17
My First QSO	18
Tilt Up Radio Feet Review	19
Clock Kit Build	20
Groups.io Tutorial	21-23
HCRA Classifieds	25-26
HamToons - RF Humor	27
Clublog Update	28
ARRL Club Commission	29
Dots & Dashes	30
HCRA Stuff	31
Local Nets & Happening	32

From the editor's desk:

April 2024

Happy Spring, everyone! This hasn't been a bad winter by any means, but it's always nice to welcome spring and everything that comes with it.

How about a big welcome to our newest members! Your Board of Directors welcomes all of them. When you see them at a club meeting or event, please shake their hand and welcome them to the HCRA in Western Massachusetts.

What's no joke is the fact that there is some very good information on the following pages. [Page 3](#) offers some very well-deserved thanks to several members who have gone above and beyond in supporting their club.

Bill, W1FMX, has submitted the final part of his excellent three-part article all about his rebuild of a Heathkit SB-200. If you've been following along, then you already know how detailed his [amplifier article](#) is!

I'm still trying to find someone who would like to have their shack featured in the Show Your Shack segment. I was told a member would be in contact with me for this, but so far it hasn't happened. Would YOU like to see your shack featured?

This is the final time the Groups.io tutorial will be in Zero Beat. If anyone needs to register for groups.io, now is the time. One side note: any new groups.io member will be on moderated status only until they make their first post.

More and more members have been submitting articles for Zero Beat, and I thank you for doing so. No matter how small your ideas are, they could be of interest to club members, so why not give it a whirl and submit something that is of interest to you? You might be surprised at how many members share your thoughts.

73, Ken - KD1KU

April 5th Meeting

It's time again for the annual HCRA Show and Tell extravaganza at the April 5th in-person meeting, which will also be broadcast via Zoom. Enter what you've built during the past year for a chance to win prizes!

Doors open at 7 pm for some rag chew, coffee, and donuts, with the meeting beginning at 7:30 pm. See below for directions to the hospital.

Regular club meetings are held at the Holyoke Medical Auxiliary Conference Center at 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA, 01040.
Need directions? Click <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

Upcoming Club Meetings and Guest Speakers



The January guest speaker is Marvin Turner, WOMET, who will be talking all about Winter Field Day. Marvin is the WFD president and also a brand new resident of the WMA section of Massachusetts.



Our February meeting's guest speaker is HCRA's very own Gary Thomas, AA1UE. Gary will be speaking about APRS, digital, and modern-day packet. This is sure to be an extremely interesting presentation with so much to offer; don't miss it!



The March guest speaker, Max Kendall, WOMXX will be discussing his recent weather balloon projects. He will be giving us guidance and inspiration so the HCRA can launch our own soon. This great presentation should not be missed!



The annual HCRA Show and Tell is back once again! Enter the projects, kits, or anything you've built and win prizes! Last year's Show and Tell was a massive success! Get those projects, kits or anything you've built completed today.



In keeping with the portable operations from last May, our guest speaker for May is Mindy, KMINDY, in person! Mindy will be discussing everything all about her adventures in the POTA and SOTA worlds.



Field Day preparations and more. We need someone to volunteer to lead the Field Day team! 2024 Elections too, please consider running for a Board of Directors position. HCRA is a much better club when everyone's involved!



Guest Speaker to be Announced Soon!



The October meeting will feature HCRA member Jeff Bail, NT1K, as this month's guest speaker. Jeff will be talking about everything you always wanted to know about 3D printing and Ham Radio. This meeting is not to be missed.



HCRA's annual auction is back in person at the November meeting! Ham Radio Gear and Related Accessories Only! Absolutely NO computers, monitors, or PC parts! The 2023 auction was a huge hit; don't miss it this year!



The annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant on December 9th. Join us for a night of good food, good friends, and fun to be had by all who attend. Watch for more details on when you can sign up!

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

Thank You to the Following HCRA Members!

Thank you goes out to HCRA President Larry, W1AST, for another year of locating and locking in several excellent Share The Knowledge Zoom meetings!

It takes lots of time to come up with these STK speakers, beginning with an idea, getting a speaker to commit to a certain date, then confirming with them so they are locked in.

One guest speaker who was supposed to be a part of our 2024 STK was none other than Bob Heil, K9EID, who sadly became a silent key way too early in life!



A very special thank you goes out to Smitty, KC1IKA, who donated two brand new Baofeng UV-17R upgraded HT's. These were fully charged dual-band HT's, pre-programmed with local repeaters, that were ready to use right out of the box!

Two very lucky hams went home with these, and they both had big smiles on their faces as they went out the door after purchasing them. The HCRA says thank you to Smitty for helping to support your club!

Another special thank you goes once again to Smitty, KC1IKA, who has stepped up and volunteered to bring the coffee and donuts to the regular HCRA club meetings.

Please be sure to kick in a couple of dollars to cover expenses for the coffee and donuts. While you're at it, saying thank you goes a long way too!



One final thank you goes to the following who helped staff the HCRA table at the Hamfest in Chicopee. Several members stepped up to help which made the job much easier!

A BIG Thank You goes to the following HCRA Members:

Some new members signed up, several members renewed their dues. Member donations were sold to raise cash for the club's coffers.

- Smitty, KC1IKA
- Paul, NF1G
- Mike, KC1IZC
- Larry, W1AST
- Steve, KC1KEZ
- Ken, KD1KU

If anyone was accidentally left off this list, your Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who helped!



April 2024

Since FT8 came on the scene and then took off and became super popular, there have been naysayers about the mode. Some say it's not making a real QSO with the other station. Some say it's too automated. Plus, there are many other comments. Let's take a larger look at this.

RTTY: You press macro buttons to deliver whatever it is you want to say. Not a real QSO, is it?

PSK and other digital modes: Same as RTTY, you're pressing macro buttons to send pre-typed information. Is this a real QSO?

Contesting: CW or SSB, or any mode: You provide a fake RS(T) report and a state or whatever. Is this a real QSO? You press a function button on your keyboard or memory keyer.

DxPeditions: 59 or 599, and maybe state. Another fake RS report to make the contact. Is this a real QSO?

FT8 or FTx: A real signal report is sent, plus a grid or occasionally something else. How is this different from the modes above? It really isn't. So, do you participate in any of the modes above, FTx? If yes, open your eyes and stop bashing FTx. It's the same as what you use.

April is one of my favorite months for many reasons. One of which is the annual HCRA Show and Tell meeting. This year, it is being held on Friday, April 5th. The first Friday of April, which is the normal meeting night.

It's a night to bring in whatever you have built or assembled in the past 12 months that pertains to ham radio or electronics to be used in your ham shack or ham radio. Bring it in, and tell us about it and take Q & A for a max time of 10 minutes. It's a great time to learn about cool projects and get some ideas of something you also may want to build. It's a lot of fun and everyone should be there to enjoy it.

The HCRA Board is in need of some new people. **The board needs your help!** There are three open slots. **Vice-President, Treasurer and Program Director** are all going to be open. You can read about what each position entails and the job descriptions at: <https://hcra.org/by-laws>

Please volunteer. The club needs your support!

Hopefully, the days are getting warmer and bringing us back outside. It's time for many of us to start thinking about POTA, SOTA, and portable operations. Having fun with ham radio outdoors. You don't have to be activating; just sitting down and operating in the fresh air can be very fulfilling.

In preparation for getting outside and operating, I have been tinkering with my portable QRP radios, of which I have a little collection now.

I have been trying to push aside the computer, pull out the battery, plug in the antenna, and operate my QRP rig on my desk. My goal is 3 QSO's per operation.



Continued on page 5

While it's so easy for me to turn on my big Kenwood and amp, there is something very satisfying about making a CW QSO with a radio the size of a deck of cards running only 4 watts of power!



Pictured above is the QRP Labs QMX transceiver. A 5-band QRP rig. Pretty cool for a \$100 radio!

I've also been playing with my Icom IC-705, Xiegu X6100, QRP Labs QCX Mini and QMX, and a few others. I cannot wait for it to get warmer and to go outside with these radios.

You don't have to run QRP when portable. I know of a few people who have a large battery and run 50 to 100 watts. I've even listened to a presentation at last year's HamXposition from a ham that takes a generator, big rig, and amp and runs at 1000 watts when activating a POTA location. That's a bit extreme for me. His motto is "Life is too short for QRP." I disagree, but whatever works for you.

The monthly meetings are now being recorded and broadcast on Zoom at the same time they are live. Many thanks to one of our newest members, Marvin, W0MET, who has broadcast and recorded the last two meetings. You can see the videos of both in the HCRA video library and YouTube pages.

<https://hcra.org/videos>

Continued on page 6

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST

I often get a request for a certain meeting topic. I then respond, "Have you looked at the video library yet?" Very often, the subject someone is looking to learn more about is already in the video library, take a good look, you might be surprised.

You will find many interesting videos up there, including the March 2024 speaker, Max, W0MXX, who spoke about weather ballooning. Max gave a fantastic talk. If you missed it, you need to go watch the video. It was an excellent meeting!

Ken, KD1KU, is always looking for more people to "Show Their Shacks." How about showing your POTA or SOTA shack? The next time you are out playing radio, take a photo of your portable gear and antennas, send them to Ken for the next issue of ZeroBeat. Show other members what you are using and add a description with your photos.

Send your photos and related information to:

kd1ku@yahoo.com

The entire HCRA Board wishes everyone happy April Holidays.

73,

Larry, W1AST
HCRA President
hamop.W1AST@gmail.com



Our 76th Year as a ARRL Affiliated Club **Clublog Video How-to**

Some members might not know what Clublog is or what it can do for you. If you missed it, this is your chance to watch it again.

Watch this video, and you'll know what it's all about.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qi2IKcQRNbE&t=299s>



NEAR-FEST XXXV 2024 UPDATE

Please Disregard Any Prior Notices You Have Read!



Dear Friends of NEAR-Fest,

Please note this is an updated announcement. Please disregard any other notices you may have read.

Our spring 2024 Hamfest, **NEAR-Fest XXXV**, will be held on Thursday, April 25th, and Friday, April 26th, 2024. There will be no Hamfest activity on Saturday due to an unfortunate scheduling conflict with the Deerfield Fairgrounds. We had originally announced that the event would take place only on Friday, but due to popular demand and the cooperation of the Deerfield Fair Association, we are pleased to announce this new full two-day schedule.

Our 2024 Fall **NEAR-Fest XXXVI** is scheduled for **October 11th and 12th** and will be the same as always for the past eighteen years, on Friday and Saturday.

The gates will open on Thursday morning at 7:00 am for **PREPAID TICKET HOLDERS ONLY**, so you might want to buy your tickets online well in advance starting February 1st, 2024, on our website, <https://near-fest.com>, or in March at the Ham Radio Outlet store in Salem, NH, and at Ross Hochstrasser's Clock Shop in Whitman, MA, and get your favorite spot. **NEAR-Fest XXXV** will end at 3:00 PM on Friday.

Prepaid ticket holders will line up and enter via **Gate C**, as we did in the fall. They **MUST** have **ALL** of their needed tickets and inside parking passes, or they will be sent to **Gate F**. This includes all campers, RVs, and tents who **MUST** also have their overnight camping passes, as there will be **NO** tickets or passes sold at **Gate C**! Anyone needing to buy tickets or parking passes will go to Gate F and will be admitted starting at 8:00 am. Once the line has entered **Gate C**, it will close, and all others entering the grounds will proceed to **Gate F**.

For this event only, admission per person is **\$10.00**, whether you buy your ticket online, in advance, or at the gate. Overnight parking and tent passes are **\$15.00** regardless of whether you plug into an electric outlet or not. Campers, RVs, and overnight stayers will go directly into the Fairgrounds as we will not be using the campgrounds this time. *The cost of the pass for RVs, campers, motor homes, etc. is \$30.00.* All vehicles that remain on the fairgrounds overnight (after 9:00 pm) will require an overnight parking pass in addition to an inside parking pass for Friday.

Please visit our Web site, <https://near-fest.com>, or our Facebook page, NearFest NH, for any further updates. We apologize for any inconvenience that this modified version of NEAR-Fest may have caused, but it is only for this time. We appreciate your indulgence and understanding.

See you at Deerfield!
73,
MisterMike, W1RC

ONE OF HAM'S BEST BECOMES A SILENT KEY!

Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, passed peacefully at age 83, surrounded by his family

The man who defined the sound of live rock 'n' roll music and brought audio engineering principles into mainstream amateur radio use, Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, has passed away at the age of 83. He was an ARRL Life Member and in the ARRL Maxim Society. A Facebook post from Heil Ham Radio paid tribute to their founder: "Bob fought a valiant, year long battle with cancer and passed peacefully surrounded by his family."



Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, passed away at age 83 surrounded by his family

Heil founded Heil Sound in 1966, through which he created the template for modern concert sound systems for musicians like the Grateful

Dead, The Who, Joe Walsh, and Peter Frampton. The talk box used on the iconic live record Frampton Comes Alive! was of Heil's design. His audio engineering products have been featured in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and he was honored in 2007 with the Parnelli Audio Innovator Award for his impact on the live sound industry. "My life has been about achieving great sound, whether on the concert stage or in the amateur radio world," Bob Heil recounted in 2022. "I've watched Heil Sound go from a regional sound company to a world-class microphone manufacturer. This company has been my passion," he said.

Parallel to his commercial and artistic success in live music was his passion for amateur radio. He was active in ham radio from a young age and merged his expertise in audio engineering with his love for radio. Heil Ham Radio was founded to produce microphones, headsets, and other gear for radio amateurs, with an emphasis on high-quality audio. He was known as a mentor who enjoyed helping others find success in ham radio. Recently, his grandson Charlie, KF0OOP, became a licensed ham to surprise Heil for his birthday. They attended the ARRL Midwest Convention/Winterfest in St. Louis, Missouri, on January 27, 2024.

Heil was a generous donor to amateur radio organizations, including ARRL. Recently, he donated a host of new audio gear to the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW. His generosity and kind nature will be missed by many, including ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL. "Bob was a titan in many areas. He was generous with his time, offered keen insights, and had the heart of a philanthropist in the ARRL Maxim Society," Beal said. "He was a gentleman to his core, making friends easily and everywhere he went, from rock stars to captains of industry. I consider it a real privilege to have become a friend to him, too, all because of amateur radio." ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, said Heil's passing is a significant loss. Bob Heil's technical achievements that brought high-quality audio to amateur radio pale in comparison to his generosity and willingness to help his fellow hams. He's been known as someone eager to help mentor and teach. His legacy on our hobby will be long-lasting. ***Our thoughts are with his loved ones!***

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL NORTHEAST **HamXposition**

and ARRL New England Division Convention



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CLICK IMAGE to ENTER

HEATHKIT SB-200 AMPLIFIER REDUX

Restoring a SB-200 Amp by Bill, W1FMX (part 3 of a 3 part series)

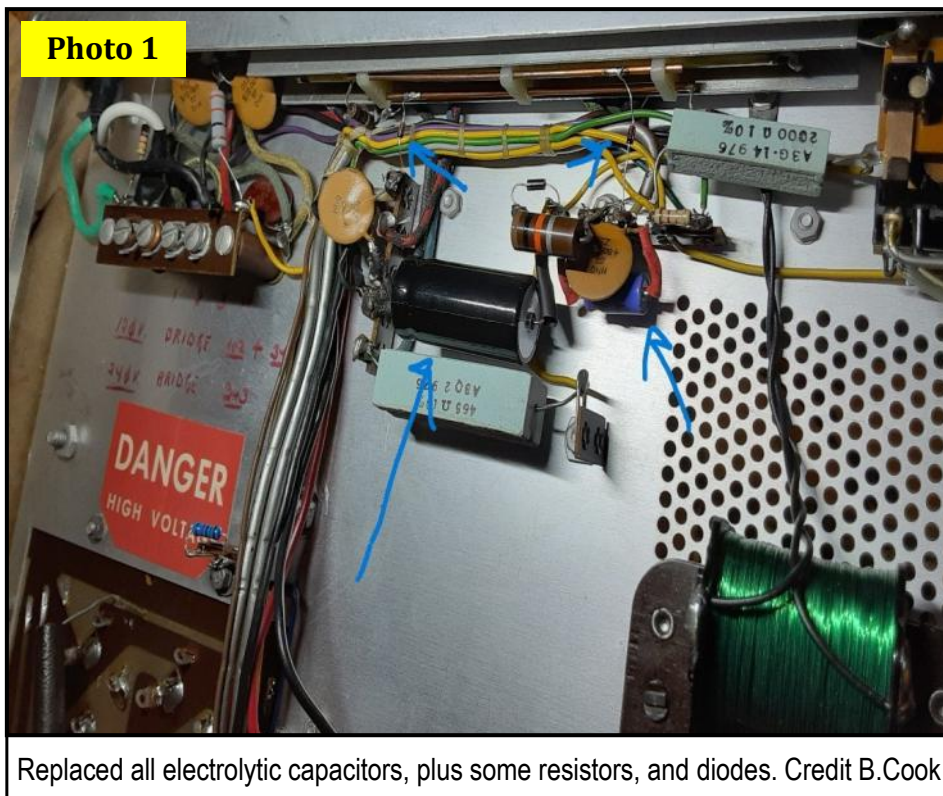


In the last article of this series, we discussed assembling Harbach kits to replace the inbuilt power supply in the SB-200 as well as adding a “soft start” board (current inrush limiter). In the final part of the series, we will cover the preliminary restoration work on the SB-200 as well as the installation of the Harbach boards.

PRELIMINARY WORK

If there is one statement about 50-year-old electronic gear that always seems to be confirmed during an actual inspection, it is that there will be resistors that need to be replaced and electrolytic capacitors that should be changed out. In the case of this amplifier, there were a few carbon composition ½ watt resistors that were above 10% tolerance (i.e., the value had gotten noticeably higher), so I replaced those after checking all resistors with a Digital Multimeter (DMM). There were also two original axial electrolytic capacitors, so new ones were installed in their place, as old electrolytic capacitors tend to deteriorate, or “dry out,” and possibly fail, damaging other components when that occurs. The diodes in the amplifier’s SWR bridge circuit, though not necessarily bad and probably unlikely to fail, were replaced anyway, as a matter of course.

My attitude is that I prefer to try to prevent future problems if possible, so I sometimes replace inexpensive parts as a preventive measure. The new components are indicated by the blue arrows in photo 1 below.



Replaced all electrolytic capacitors, plus some resistors, and diodes. Credit B.Cook

Generally, ceramic disk capacitors do not fail, even though they are original parts in the Heathkit. However, in this amplifier, I found two ceramic disk capacitors located by the final tube sockets: one had an ac rack toward the bottom form, which was missing; the other had white spots or bumps, which an electrical engineering professor told me could indicate a failing capacitor. So, those were the only two ceramic disk capacitors that were replaced.

Continued on page 11

HEATHKIT SB-200 AMPLIFIER REDUX CONT'D

Restoring a SB-200 Amp by Bill, W1FMX (part 3 of a 3 part series)

The electrical cord has been changed by someone over the years, and even though it was still serviceable, I installed a new power cord for safety's sake.

The RF input socket on this amplifier for the cable connecting to the exciter, or transmitter, was an original RCA phono socket, something that Heathkit also frequently used in transceivers for RF output during that era. The porcelain insulation in the RCA socket was cracked, and parts of it were missing. So, I removed the RCA socket and enlarged the opening to accommodate an SO-239 coaxial socket. These items are shown on the right in photo 2, indicated by the **blue arrows**.

INSTALLING THE HARBACH BOARDS

Photo 3 shows the top of the original power supply board. It is held in place by small screws. However, before attempting to remove the screws, the restorer must first remove the knobs and front panel of the amplifier. This part is easy to do: the knobs have set screws that, once loosened, allow the knobs to be pulled off, and the panel is held in place by nuts and washers on the threaded collars of switches or the potentiometer and is easily removed from the amplifier. Removing the front panel exposes the front part of the power supply's printed circuit board (PCB).



Cracked ceramic disk capacitor and SO-239 socket. Credit: B. Cook



Original Power Supply PCB and Circuit Breakers (Red Buttons) Credit: Harbach.com

After unsoldering wires from the PCB and removing all the screws, washers, and nuts holding the original PCB in place, the instructions require that the restorer take a pair of diagonal cutters to break away the left side of the board, thus freeing up the wires that pass through a hole in the circuit board. Once this is done, then the old board simply lifts out and can be discarded.

Continued on page 12

HEATHKIT SB-200 AMPLIFIER REDUX CONT'D

Restoring a SB-200 Amp by Bill, WIFMX (part 3 of a 3 part series)

At this point, it is easy to replace the two circuit breakers that protect the power transformer. Each breaker is held in place by a threaded collar. Once the breaker is removed from the bracket, the task is to unsolder two wires, and re-solder those wires to the new breaker, and re-mount it on the bracket. Once the new breaker installation is completed, the new Harbach Power Supply Board is fitted and screwed into place using the original screws, washers, and nuts. The next task is to re-solder the wires that had been removed from the original PCB to the Harbach Board.

The chassis is flipped over now, and one last wire from the power supply PCB is soldered. The next step is to prepare to install the “Soft Start” module. On the underside of the chassis, there is a bundle of wires and cables running down the center from front to back, which must be unharnessed, and a particular pair of black and red wires must be set apart, cut, and have the ends stripped and tinned. The ends of these wires will be connected to the soft start module. Then the module is mounted (either permanently using screws and offsets or using double-stick tape) to the chassis. As a precaution, I insulated the bottom of the soft start PCB with electrical tape in case it might ever come loose (i.e., failure of the double-stick tape). Finally, the remaining wires and cables that were “bundled” needed to be placed together using tie-wraps. This completes the installation of the power supply board and the soft start module.



Photo 4
New Power Supply Board and Circuit Breakers Installed Credit: B.Cook

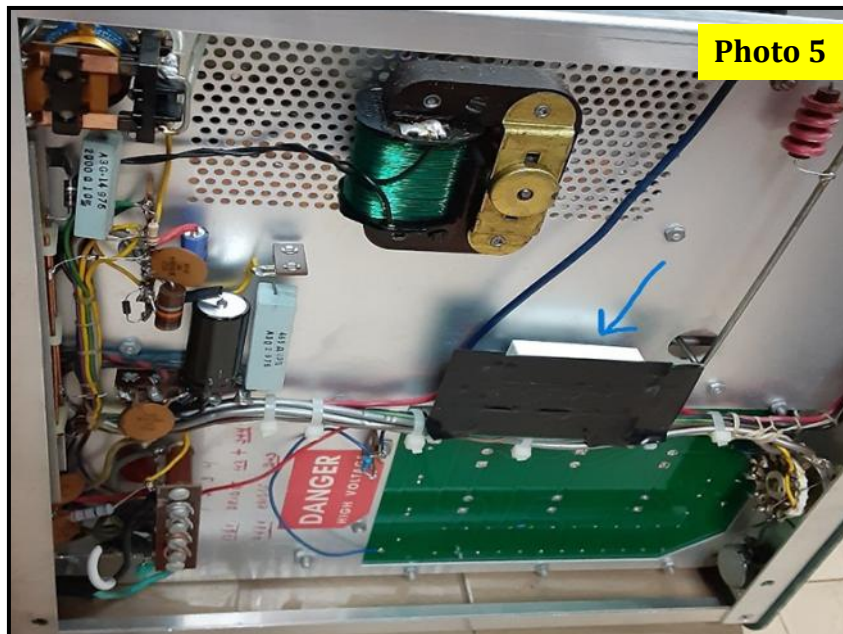


Photo 5
The Soft Start Module is shown with blue arrow pointing to it. Credit: B.Cook

Continued on page 13

HEATHKIT SB-200 AMPLIFIER REDUX CONT'D

Restoring a SB-200 Amp by Bill, W1FMX (part 3 of a 3 part series)



Power was first connected to the SB-200 in **photo 6** on the left. No sparks or smoke were visible! Credits: B. Cook

The final test, of course, required connection to an exciter. The SB-200 was connected to my HW-100 (a circa 1970 Heath 10-80M SSB/CW transceiver running about 100 watts), and **photo #7** on the right shows it amplifying a CW signal, producing about 600 watts of output as seen on the SB-610 scope and the HM-102 meter.



Photo 7, SB-200 and HW-100 both in use. Credits: B. Cook

The meter on the SB-200 was set for SWR, which was very low. Once the amplifier and exciter were tuned up, I called CQ on 20 meters and was immediately answered by a European station (Bosnia) and got a signal report of 59. As I tested the amplifier, the only problem that has surfaced is that the meter "sticks" now and then. Otherwise, the restored SB-200 is doing great!

"The author wishes to thank Rich Cady, N1IXF, president of the Ham Radio Club at the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut, for his assistance with this project."

73,

Bill, W1FMX

MARVIN TURNER, WOMET

The Ham Radio Guy Podcast & Newsletter

Marvin Turner, WOMET, AKA The Ham Radio Guy, is an Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator who has been licensed since 1995!

My name is Marvin Turner. I have been in amateur radio for over 25 years, and I decided to get my general license in March of 2018. This opened up a new world of radio for me. Since then, I have gained an interest in teaching, getting new hams involved in ham radio, and finding ways to help hams continue with their interest in ham radio. I was finding that people would get their license and then have the question. Now What? I am here to help fix that.

That is when I started the podcast back in 2021, during COVID. I started gaining listeners and found more people finding my podcast. Then, I started a regular cycle of once every two weeks, which worked best. Since then, I have grown the podcast to over 400 downloads every month and am now producing podcasts on YouTube and putting out newsletters twice a month.



Check out the latest episode below:

<https://thehamradioguy.podbean.com/e/enhancing-your-amateur-radio-journey/>

In my newsletter, **The Ham Radio Guy Newsletter**, which you can subscribe to using the link below.

<https://mailchi.mp/e30d533193ae/thehamradioguy-newletter>

In my newsletters, you will find stories, deals, and affiliate links to things like coax, batteries, a study course with ham radio prep, 3D printing spools, and so much more.

I have listed some of the links to these savings here, from which you can benefit from as much as a 10% discount on your purchases. I have more coming, so stay tuned.

Affiliate Links

ABR industries – Coax

<https://abrind.com/?sld=save10hamradioguy>

County Comms - Every day carry items

<http://countycomm.com/THEHAMRADIOGUY>

Dakota Lithium – LiPo batteries – 11 yr warranty

<https://dakotalithium.com/?rfsn=7897114.6bcfa3> use Coupon Code: **Thehamradioguy**

Continued on page 15

MARVIN TURNER, WOMET CONT'D

The Ham Radio Guy Podcast & Newsletter

Radioddity - Mobile/HT's

<https://www.radioddity.com/>

American Filament

[Americanfilament.us](https://www.americanfilament.us) Use Code **HRG** to save 5% up to 2 spools

<https://hamradioprep.com/> Use code **HAMRADIOGUY**

Social Media

<https://twitter.com/TheHamRadioGuy>

<https://thehamradioguy.com>

Email: WOMET@thehamradioguy.com

Patreon page: <https://www.patreon.com/TheHamRadioGuy/posts>

Be sure to visit <https://www.patreon.com/TheHamRadioGuy/posts>, where you can find more content, show notes, and even send messages to me.

WOMET@thehamradioguy.com

Do you have a topic for a podcast?

Want to be a guest and talk about ham radio on the podcast?

Simply reply to this email to be considered.

73,

Marvin - WOMET
The Ham Radio Guy

NUTS AND VOLTS

ARRL & HCRA News, Odds & Ends, Plus Other News Worthy Items!

VE session April 6 in Holden, MA

The Western Ma Train and Test team is having a VE session on Saturday, April 6 at 10 am at the St. Francis Episcopal Church, 70 Highland St Holden Ma.

Please spread the word to your club(s) and to anyone wishing to take the exam. Walk-ins are welcome. Questions or anything else please contact your ARRL Western Massachusetts Section Manager, Ray Lajoie, AA1SE at aa1se@arrl.org 73, Ray Lajoie, AA1SE

World Amateur Radio Day

World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) is celebrated each year on **April 18**. The theme for 2024 is, "A Century of Connections: Celebrating 100 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation, Community, and Advocacy." The global event covers all of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) regions and spans 2 days: Thursday, **April 18, 2024, 0000z to Friday, April 19, 2024, 0000z**. All radio amateurs are invited to take to the airwaves to enjoy the global friendship with other amateurs and to show their skills and capabilities to the public. WARD is not a contest but rather an opportunity to talk about the value of amateur radio to the public and fellow amateur colleagues. For more info visit: <https://www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day>

Thank You to Marvin, W0MET

The past few club meetings held at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room have been simultaneously broadcast on Zoom for those members who cannot make it to the meetings for one reason or another.

The person to thank for this is one of our newer members, Marvin, W0MET who has stepped up to video the meetings. The next time you see Marvin please say Thank you to him for taking on this task for all of the members that will benefit from him doing this! **Thank You, Marvin!**

Reminder: Solar Eclipse on April 8th

Amateur radio will play many roles in the upcoming solar eclipse that will cross much of North America. Radio amateurs are welcome to participate in ionospheric research that is being conducted. Find information about the [Solar Eclipse QSO Party on the HamSCI web site](#).

Many emergency communications groups, including those affiliated with the [Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) in the areas near totality are planning to be active surrounding the event.

For additional information visit: <https://hamsci.org/eclipse>

Western Massachusetts Section News: <https://wma.arrl.org>

ARRL New England Division: <https://nediv.arrl.org>

ARRL Western Massachusetts Section Manager - Raymond P. Lajoie, AA1SE - aa1se@arrl.org

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

THE ANNUAL SECARS SPRING AUCTION

Buy or sell gear at the SECARS Auction

The Southeastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Society Annual Spring Auction (SECARS) will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall.

Location: 1650 CT Route 12, Gales Ferry, CT. Plenty of onsite parking in the rear of the facility, which is also the entrance to the auction.

Time: Setup - 7 AM; Sellers arrive beginning at 8 AM; All others at 9 AM; Auction starts at 10 AM and runs until the last item is sold.

Food: Coffee, tea, water, and donuts will be available for purchase, along with hot dogs and soft drinks.

Raffle: SECARS will be offering several prizes with raffle tickets available for purchase. Details will be updated here shortly. You must be present to win any raffle prizes.

Talk-in: Talk-in is on the SECARS repeater: 146.730 MHz (- offset, PL 156.7 Hz).

Admission: \$5 admission fee per participant.

What's for sale? Sellers are welcome to bring computer and electronic equipment related to amateur radio, including any type of radio rig, amplifier, antenna, transmission line, station accessories, publications, electronic components, etc. All items are available for viewing from 9 AM onward.

Auction terms: This is a live auction. Items will be auctioned in the order chosen by the auctioneer and staff. You must be present to bid, and all purchased items must be removed before the end of the auction.

Payment is expected the day of the auction by cash, personal check (with ID), or major credit card (with an additional 3% fee). SECARS takes a 10% commission on the sale of any item (minimum commission of \$1.00), which is paid by the seller.

Sellers need not be present at the end of the auction to collect payment, although that is highly preferred. Sellers must remove all of their unsold items by the end of the auction, unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

Sellers have the right to set a minimum sale price for any item placed for sale. Sellers also have the right to place one "free" bid to raise the price of their item during the auction. All sales are final.

For more information: Contact Mark Noe, KE1IU, at KE1IUMark@gmail.com

View event on the SECARS website at: <https://secars.org/secars-auction-information/>

MY FIRST QSO!

My First QSO With Israel... on a Morserino? By Howard, AC1MN

The Morserino is the Swiss Army Knife of code trainers. If you have not used yours for a while, dig it out and upgrade it to the current firmware, V5.1.1. Willie has been adding features and fixing bugs. He works with LICW (Long Island CW Club) to support their training apps and it will support connecting with sites over the Internet.

When John, K1YYM, went to Israel recently, he took his Morserino with him. He texted me and asked if we could connect and practice with our Morsrerinos. There is a site in Austria maintained by Willie that you can set your Morserino to connect to.

Anyone else who is connected will hear you, and you will hear them. When I heard a CQ from John, I answered, and we were able to have an exchange. Okay, so maybe it's not your idea of what constitutes a QSO, but it sure was fun!

73, Howard - AC1MN

WANTED

The HCRA needs a few members to volunteer and become a major part of your club's future. Take an active part in the future of your club by filling a seat on the Board of Directors. The positions below need to be filled by the next physical year.

Everyone has good ideas, and those ideas can benefit your club. Your club needs your help. Volunteer and try it. You might be surprised by how much you enjoy being on the board.

If you have questions about what each position involves please visit the following link to the HCRA by-laws at: <https://hcra.org/by-laws/>

The following Board of Directors positions need to be filled:

- **Vice President**
- **Treasurer**
- **Program Director**

If you would like more information or if you would like to take a position on the board please contact Larry, W1AST at hamop.w1ast@gmail.com

TILT UP RADIO FEET

Product Review: Tilt Up Radio Feet

I have been looking for some sort of portable, fold-up stand for various portable radios for a long time. I think I have finally found the perfect way to prop up radios that don't have a stand built in.

While digging around Amazon one day a few months ago, I ran across these portable stand legs. They have a sticky back, two levels of legs, and two levels of tilt. When folded in, they have a silicone back stuck to them to prevent the item they are stuck to from sliding. The legs have rubber/silicone feet to prevent sliding. They are under \$20 for a set of two and are available in a few colors too.



Here are some pictures of them on the back of my QRP-Labs QMX transceiver:



As you can see here, the radio is at a near-perfect angle for operating on any type of table.

I have two of these stands on my Xiegu X6100, all my QRP Labs mini rigs and keep some on hand for whatever. They would also be good on a laptop or anything that you want to tilt up.

Search [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for: **Nillkin Bolster Portable Stand**

73 and I hope to hear you on the air,

Larry, W1AST

HamOp.W1AST@gmail.com



CLOCK KIT BUILD PROJECT

Saturday, March 23rd was a great day for a kit build!



Left to right: Howard, AC1MN, looks on as Mike, KC1IZC and Josué, KP4JLD build their clock kits.



The photo on the left shows Mike, KC1IZC putting the final touches on his clock kit before installing it in the enclosure.

The kits are easy to build for a novice to an expert, with through-hole components only (no surface mount soldering).

Out of the six builders four couldn't make it that day. Those who were there had a blast building their clock kits!

Josué, KP4JLD can be seen in the photo to the right as he is assembling his clock kit.

This build was promoted during 2023 but unfortunately only half dozen lucky members took advantage of ordering kits so they could take part in this fantastic build.

Howard, AC1MN was lending his expertise with the build while Larry, W1AST was the one taking the photos.



GROUPS.IO TUTORIAL

How to Sign up, Create an Account, & Get Started on Groups.io

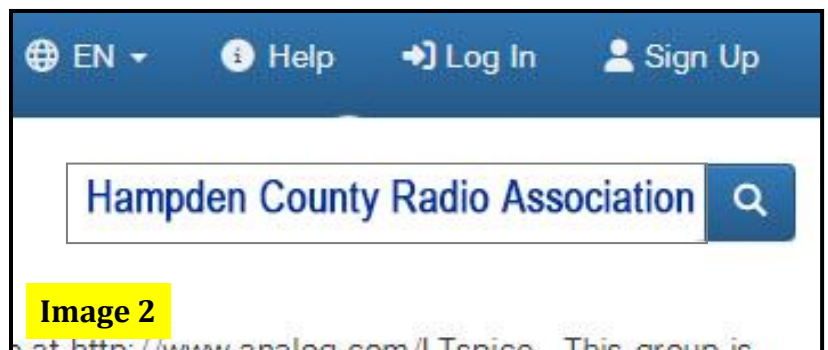
The following is a condensed “How To” pictorial guide to help you get started with groups.io. Begin by pointing your browser or mobile device to <https://groups.io/>. **Image 1** shows the very first page you will see after clicking on the web link above.

Click the tab that says “**Find or Create a Group**” (red arrow, image 1) on the groups.io page.



After clicking on the above tab, you will see a search box in the upper-right corner of the next page. In that search box, type **Hampden County Radio Association**. **Image 2** shows this already typed into the search box.

Once you have this typed into the search box, click on the search glass icon to begin the search.



You will see other groups listed in the search results, but **ONLY** click on the **Hampden County Radio Association's Mail Reflector**.

After clicking on the above link, you will be taken to the page where you will actually **JOIN** the HCRA Mail Reflector. See **image 3** on the next page for details on what you will see. The **red arrow** points to the **blue button** that states, Click “**to join the group.**”

Once you’ve clicked on join, you will be taken to the next page, as shown in **image 4**.

Continued on page 22

GROUPS.IO TUTORIAL CONT'D

How to Sign up, Create an Account, & Get Started on Groups.io

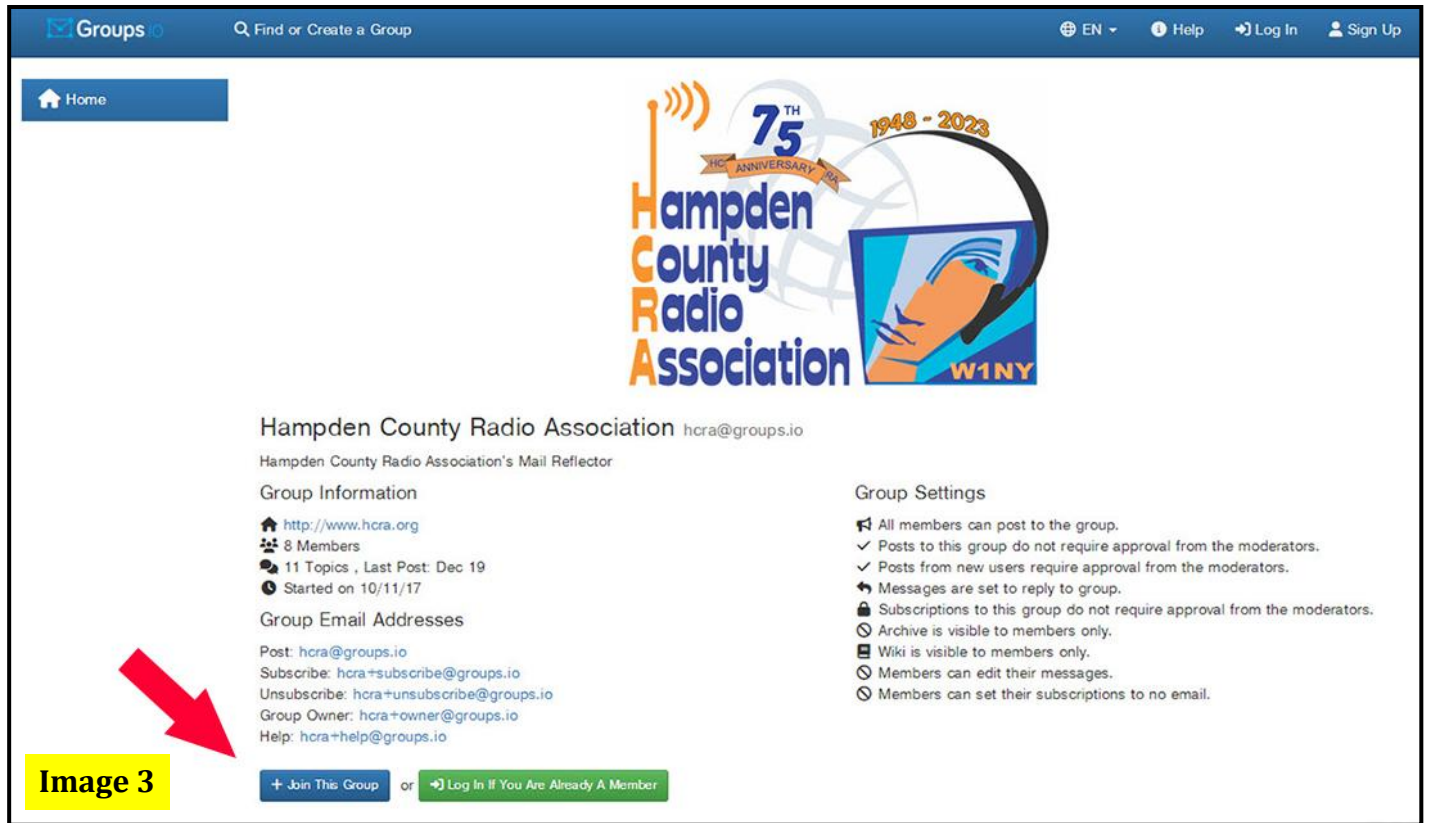


Image 3

Image 4 will show the email you used to join. If blank, simply enter your email address, the same one used to join, then click on the **green button** with the **red arrow** pointing towards it, as shown below.

Your email now needs to be confirmed. To do this, first, make sure your email is correct and that it is the email you used to join. Then you will be taken to the next page, as shown in **image 5** on the following page.

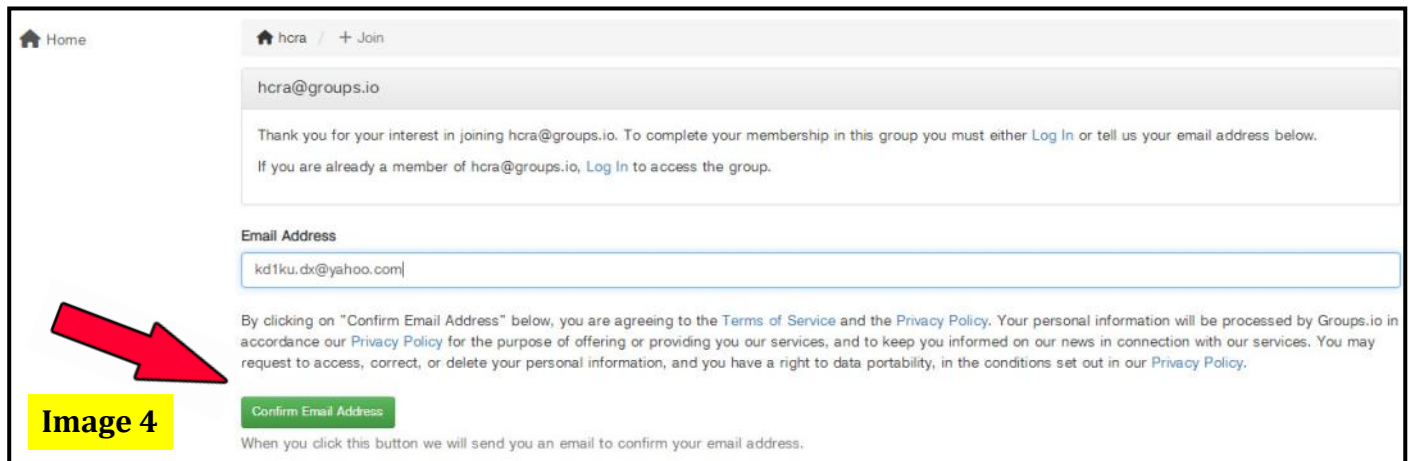


Image 4

Continued on page 23

GROUPS.IO TUTORIAL CONT'D

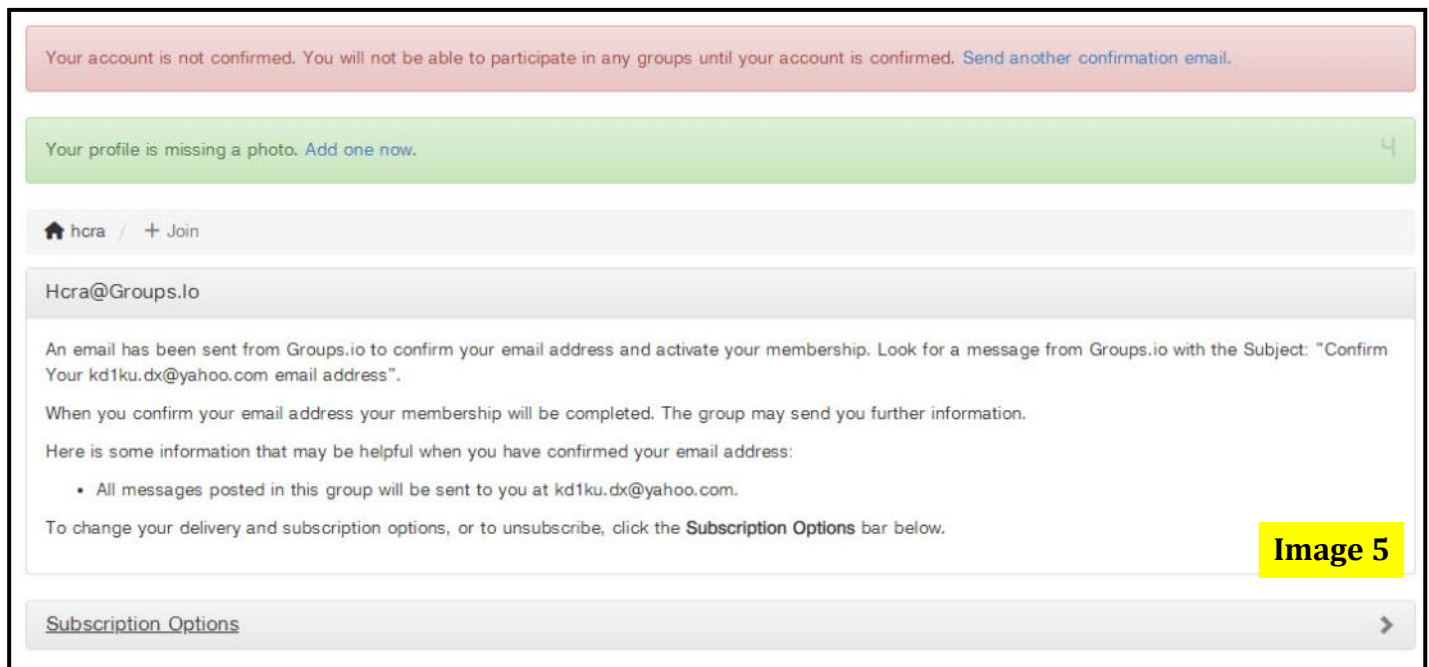
How to Sign up, Create an Account, & Get Started on Groups.io

The page shown below in **image 5**, which you will see until you have confirmed your email address.

To confirm your email, simply check your email account that was used to join groups.io. Follow the instructions in the email to decide which options are best for you. There are two ways to confirm your email address: They are both explained in the confirmation email you will receive from groups.io.

Next, you can select your subscription options and how you would like to receive emails when something is posted for the general membership. I personally like to receive an email every time something is posted; this is called “**Individual Messages.**”

You can change this to receiving a “**daily digest,**” where you will receive up to 12 messages per day in one email instead of individual emails. Or you can choose to receive a **Daily Summary**, where you will receive one email every morning that contains a list of the topics posted to the group on the previous day.



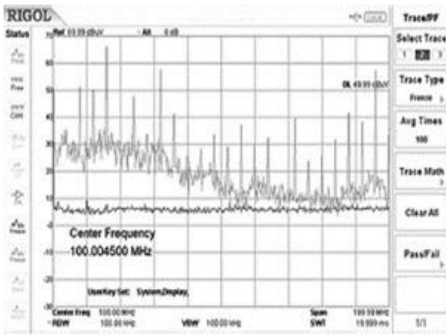
Whichever you choose, don’t forget to click on the **save button**, or your new settings will be lost. There are many settings, ranging from appearance to how you will receive notices, but at least now you should know the basics of groups.io.

So now you can experiment with it or simply wait for the club announcements to come rolling in!

Just remember, if you choose “**Reply to All**” in an email, your reply will be sent to **everybody** on the list! Ask me how I know hi hi.

73, Ken - KD1KU

NOTE: All members who join groups.io will be in moderated status until you make a post or reply to one. Then you will be fully cleared to use groups.io to its fullest potential. This was done as a way to keep spammers out of the HCRA groups.io account. -[Editor]-



Need Help With RF Interference Issues ?

If you have been experiencing RF interference there is a WMA resource available that's ready to assist you. Each section has established an RF interference investigative team that can help identify and possibly remedy your problem.

To initiate your request for help you can simply send an E-mail to k1yo@arrl.net with your contact information and a description of the problem and anything you may have already tried.

A member of the WMA RFI team will contact you with directions on how to initiate the formal request for assistance. This then may require several steps / tasks on your part which provide us with essential information to guide further investigative processes.

Additionally, helpful information can be found on our [RFI Troubleshooting Guide](https://nediv.arrl.org/rfi-troubleshooting-guide/) online at:
<https://nediv.arrl.org/rfi-troubleshooting-guide/>

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

Vy 73,

Your WMA RFI Team

Greg WA1JXR Barry W1HFN Najm AB1ZA
Bob K1YO (Team Lead)

ZERO BEAT CLASSIFIEDS

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

FOR SALE!

Tower, Rotor and Yagi for Sale in Chicopee, MA. by Pete, KC1RY



Complete crank up tower assy with tribander yagi, rotor, all located in Chicopee, MA. Being sold by Pete Kandilakis, KC1RY. Asking \$500

For complete details about tower, tribander and rotor contact Pete at pkrypto@ymail.com



Continued on page 26



Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

Radios For Sale by Dave, WM1B, in East Longmeadow, MA.

- Kenwood HF/MHZ TS-590 All Mode 100 w Transceiver - \$500
- ICOM IC-208 VHF/UHF FM Transceiver - \$150
- Realistic 10-meter SSB/CW Transceiver Model HTX-100 - \$75

Interested? Questions? Contact: Dave Fant, WM1B at info below

Email - dfant19508@aol.com

Phone - 484-529-0090 (cell) or 413-525-3022

Xeigu X6100 For Sale w/Accessories by Howard, AC1MN

Xeigu X6100 w/protective case, AM filter, PD 12V power cord, and power cord with power poles
Stock Microphone, Up-to-date firmware, and extra SD card with Russian alternative firmware

\$500 - Contact Howard, AC1MN, ac1mn@hotmail.com

The Central States VHF Society 2024 Spring Sprints - Spring VHF and Up Sprints!

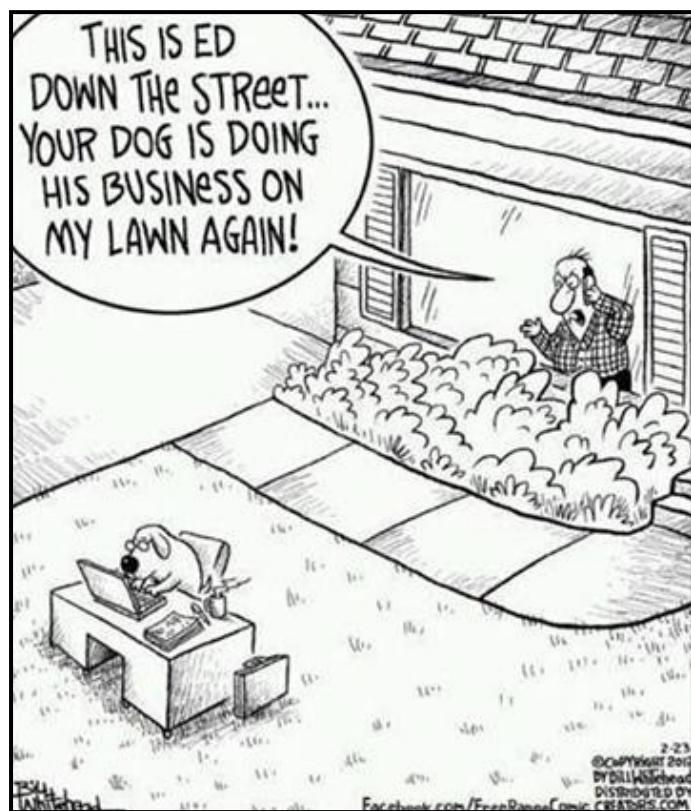
Contest Purpose: Encourage weak signal VHF/UHF amateur radio operation & to have fun.

Contest Dates and Time:

144 MHz Monday April 1, 2024	0700 PM - 1100 PM Local
222 MHz Tuesday April 16, 2024	0700 PM – 1100 PM Local
432 MHz Wednesday April 24, 2024	0700 PM – 1100 PM Local
Microwave Saturday May 4, 2024	0800 AM – 0200 PM Local
50 MHz Saturday May 11, 2024	2300z through Sunday May 12 2024 0300z

For complete details, ALL rules and other information click on the website link below.

<https://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints/2024-information?authuser=0>



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

This is the latest HCRA Clublog for 2024 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy this year!
HCRA Clublog information last updated on March 30th 2024



<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Mode Filter	<input type="radio"/> CW	<input type="radio"/> Phone	<input type="radio"/> Data
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rank by DXCCs	<input type="radio"/> Rank by slots	Rank by band: Totals ▼	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 160M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 80M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6M			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Current entities	<input type="radio"/> Current and deleted	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Worked	<input type="radio"/> Confirmed
<input type="radio"/> No Date Filter	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2024	<input type="radio"/> 2023	<input type="radio"/> Last 12 months

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	3	35	0	112	31	129	28	141	34	153	0	216	666	61 yrs
2	KX1X	3	69	0	97	95	123	85	138	119	144	0	198	873	27 yrs
3	NF1G	14	6	0	22	27	76	24	94	71	120	1	192	455	40 yrs
4	W1PY+1	0	45	0	87	0	127	1	143	1	146	0	179	550	14 yrs
5	KK1W+1	13	49	0	64	7	64	14	53	15	76	1	143	356	48 yrs
6	K1NZ+2 ★	3	16	13	21	75	48	55	72	64	67	0	132	434	13 yrs
7	N1FTP ★	0	3	0	22	8	40	8	25	19	83	1	100	209	16 yrs
8	W1AST+1	0	3	0	22	8	45	23	32	7	33	0	95	173	15 yrs
9	NT1K+2	0	3	0	5	3	43	1	18	0	20	0	62	93	14 yrs
10	K1VOI	6	14	0	23	23	14	2	9	9	11	0	58	111	23 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	W1JA+1 ★	0	5	0	3	10	0	5	0	29	1	0	45	53	55 yrs
12	WY1G	1	1	0	4	0	4	1	4	5	10	0	20	30	43 yrs
13	NE1C	4	3	0	10	0	11	0	12	0	14	0	19	54	22 yrs
14	WD1S	0	0	0	6	0	6	0	7	0	4	0	14	23	12 yrs
15	KD1KU	0	0	0	4	0	5	1	2	0	2	0	12	14	6 yrs
16	N1JIE	1	1	0	3	1	4	1	2	1	2	1	8	17	7 yrs
17	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	3	5	12 yrs

If you have never used Clublog, need a refresher, or simply have the desire to learn as much as possible about Clublog or most anything else, go to the [HCRA YouTube Channel](#) and learn. All meetings are recorded and posted on hcra.org plus video links are listed in Zero Beat. The link to the April 2021 meeting where Clublog was the topic of our guest speaker is listed below.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qj2lKcQRNbE&t=1s>


ARRL CLUB COMMISSION PROGRAM

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership through the HCRA!

The HCRA now earns a **\$20 commission** for each **NEW** ARRL member we recruit and **\$5** for each **renewing member**. Download the form, fill it out completely including payment, and mail it to **Hampden County Radio Association, P.O. Box 562, Agawam, MA. 01001**

Be sure to send it to the HCRA P.O. Box above and **NOT** directly to the ARRL

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Membership/Club%20Commission/ARRL%20Membership%20Application%20CLUB%20rev%20Jan%202024.pdf>



ARRL
The National Association for
Amateur Radio®

Membership Application

New Renew Previous Member Unlicensed

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

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

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Name _____ Call Sign _____

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

Your Annual Membership Dues*

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

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

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

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*

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

Groups.io Update

The all new HCRA Groups.io email list and calendar transfer has gone very smoothly. If any members haven't registered for the groups.io account now is the time to do it. This is the final issue that the tutorial will be published in Zero Beat. One last item is that everyone is on moderated status until they make their first post. Once a moderator has approved the message, all future posts are clear and will be posted right away. To get started go to page 19 and follow along by clicking: <https://groups.io/> to begin.

May Club Meeting Guest Speaker

One of the hottest activities in amateur radio today is SOTA & POTA activators and hunters! At the May club meeting we will have one of the most active POTA operators from the Boston area.

Mindy, KM1NDY will be live and in-person at our May 3rd regular club meeting discussing all of her escapades in the about her adventures in the POTA and SOTA worlds.

Mindy has been extremely active in these popular ham activities sharing her experiences, don't miss it!

Contests and Special Event Stations

ARRL Contest Search - <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

SSB Rookie Roundup | April 21st, 2024 | 1800z to 2359z | 80m - 10m (No WARC)

For all rules and complete information go to: <https://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

New Mexico QSO Party | CW, SSB, Dig | April 13th @ 1400z to 14th @ 0200z | 160m thru 2m

For complete rules and information visit: <https://www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/wp/>

Special Event Station Search - <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

International Marconi Day Award SES | April 27, 1300z - 2100z | K3S

For complete information and rules visit: <https://www.qrz.com/db/k3s>

HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

QSL's will be sent to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau quarterly on the following approximate dates

April 15th, June 15th, Sept 15th, and Jan 15th, 2024

Go to <https://hcra.org/dx-qsl/> for complete information

or Contact Paul, NFIG at paulkelliher@comcast.net



QSL Cards to be Sent to the Bureau

The HCRA provides “pooling” of outgoing QSL cards as a benefit to members, who are also members of the ARRL, and who wish to send their DX cards through the ARRL’s Outgoing QSL Service. The submission form and instructions are in the link below and QSL cards can be dropped off at our regular meetings or to Paul, NF1G whose contact info is on the form link below.

To download the form go to: <https://hcra.org/files/DX%20QSL%20Submission%20Form.pdf>

Volunteers Needed for Field Day 2024

It’s time to start thinking about volunteering to help with Field Day 2024. It’s still a ways off in the future but it’ll be here before we know it! It takes many members to make this happen each year. We need someone to be the Field Day chairman, also we’ll need members to volunteer their help with everything from planning the event, set-up and tear down, food, publicity and so much more. For complete information and details please contact Alan, AB1XW at: alan.dove@gmail.com

Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

For the benefit of every HCRA member, Brown Baggers is a friendly lunch get-together that happens on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. It’s held at the [Munich Haus Restaurant](#) in Chicopee Center at 12pm (noon), located on 13 Center St. Chicopee, MA, across from City Hall, or click the link above for directions. **Enjoy lunch, conversation, and camaraderie with your fellow hams!**

Membership Memorial Page

All members have the opportunity to honor club members SK's on the new memorial page on hcra.org. This can be done easily by sending the SK member's name and callsign along with any text, stories, and photos. Send them to our webmasters, Vanessa, W1IRL, or Alan, AB1XW at the email address's below:
Vanessa, W1IRL, at webmaster@hcra.org or **Alan, AB1XW**, at alan.dove@gmail.com

**Please check-out the HCRA You Tube Channel and while you're there don't forget to click subscribe!
 I hope that many members are working on their short video's for the club's You Tube channel.
 For more info see the April issue of Zero Beat. The YouTube Channel link is below.**

For Sale Items

There’s a classified ad section that is for HCRA members. Members who have a need, something to sell, or even a trade.

Send item description and photo(s) to:
kd1ku@yahoo.com

HCRA Social Media Links

Groups.io: <https://groups.io/g/hcra>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/HampdenCountyRA>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HampdenCountyRA>

Local Nets & Happenings

Sundays: 8:45 am Western MA. VHF Emergency Net on 146.94, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

Sundays: 9:15 am Western MA. UHF Emergency Net on 443.200, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

1st Monday: 6:45 pm, MEMA RACES Drill, 146.49 Simplex and 3.930 LSB

Mondays: 7 pm, RACES Drill, 146.910, Mt. Greylock

Mondays: 7 pm, HCRA 10 Meter Net on 28.375, New topic every week. Have a topic to suggest? Contact kd1ku@yahoo.com

Tuesdays: 7:30 pm, 146.94, PL 127.3 - Hampshire County Emergency Net

Tuesdays: 8 pm, ARES Emergency Net, on 146.985, PL 136.5

Wednesdays: 7:30 pm, MTARA Info Net on 146.94, PL 127.3

Wednesdays: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, Following Info Net

Wednesdays: N1RLX Simplex Net, Check-In's on 146.94 then QSY to 146.42 Simplex immediately following the swap net

Wednesdays: 9 am, FCARC Experimental Net, 28.354 MHz

Thursdays: 8 pm, FCARC Information Net, 146.985 - 136.5

Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



<http://www.arrl.org/membership>

Club Meetings and VE Sessions

1st Friday of the month at 7:30 pm HCRA Meeting. In-Person meetings began in Sept. of 2022. Meetings start with a meet & greet at 7 pm followed by the regular meeting at 7:30pm sharp. <http://www.hcra.org/>

2nd Monday of the month at 7 pm, FCARC meeting. 1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls, MA. (airport). Social Hour 6-7 pm, meeting at 7 pm. <http://www.fcarc.org/>

2nd Saturday prior to FCARC meeting. 8 am Breakfast at Denny's Pantry, 496 Bernardston Rd. Greenfield, MA. Brad Councilman bc@councilman.com

3rd Friday of the month, MTARA Meeting, 7 pm, Castle Of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA, 01020 <https://mtara.org/>

4th Friday of the month, The Western Mass VE Team (WMVET) VE sessions at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room beginning January 27th and every 4th Friday at 6pm to perform VE exams. E-mail Dave, W1FAB wa1dc@yahoo.com. Call or text 413-575-2950. Need directions? <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

President - Larry Krainson, W1AST
hamop.w1ast@gmail.com

Vice-President - Ez Morales, W1AEZ
ez.w1aez@gmail.com

Treasurer - George Collins, KC1V
hcra.kc1v@gmail.com

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
paukelliher@comcast.net

Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE
aa1ue@amsat.org

Membership - Steve Rodowicz, N1SR
n1sr413@gmail.com

Technical - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN
wa1ojn@jeffway.com

At Large - Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD
tipocrata@gmail.com

Zero Beat Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU
kd1ku@yahoo.com

Website - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org

W1NY trustee, Paul, NF1G
paukelliher@comcast.net

WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org



**Here is your fabulous next
issue of Zero Beat!**

Our 76th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club

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