



Meeting Notice

The meeting room at the Holyoke Hospital is still on hold at this time. Until this changes, meetings will continue to be held on Zoom. Meeting links are in each months "From the Presidents Shack"

Welcome New Members

If you know of anyone who would like to become a HCRA member, please use the link below to join us!
<http://www.hcra.org>

In This Issue

From the Editor	1
Meeting Schedule	2
Presidents Shack - W1AST	3-4
Operating ARES Net's	5
Amazon Smile	6
Go Boxes & More	7
ARES & ECOMM Update	8
First Time Ham	9-10
How I Got Started in Radio	11-14
Share The Knowledge	15
HamToon's	16
ARRL Stuff	17
Items For Sale	18
ARRL & HCRA Stuff	19
Clublog Update	20-21
Dots & Dashes / QSL Service	22
Local Happenings & More	23

Our 73rd Year as a Club!

December 2021

From the editor,

It's hard to believe the holidays are upon us! Thanksgiving has come and gone and I hope everyone had a wonderful feast with their family. The Holiday Party is next Monday and I hope to see many of you for the first time in awhile!

Bill, W1FMX submitted part II of a fantastic article that began last month. In this issue, there are several articles that range from how to check into a net by Vanessa, W1IRL and more about ARES from Bob, K1YO and Charlie, KC1KA.

Are your club dues paid yet? Please note that annual dues expire on August 31st. If you're not sure, click on the link in the yellow block directly below to check.

The club needs your support to put on all of the neat and fun stuff that we do throughout the year! We also need someone to head up the clubs General upgrade class! Someone needs to organize this class or it might not even happen!

Have an idea or an article for Zero Beat? Drop me an email at kd1ku@arrl.net. Enjoy the Holidays and I hope to see everyone at the next Zoom club meeting being held on January 7th 2022.

73, Ken - KD1KU

Has Your Membership Expired?

HCRA dues are only \$15 a year, far less than what you are likely to pay at a fast food restaurant! Dues help the club pay for things like Field Day, Fox Box's, Projects, Zoom, Holiday Parties and so much more.

If you're not sure if you have paid your dues, click the link below:
<http://www.hcra.org/online-new-membership-application-and-renewal>

If your name is not on the list, then you need to pay your dues!

No December Meeting!

In place of the December Meeting we will be celebrating the holiday season with the HCRA Holiday Party on December 6th

The Steaming Tender Restaurant has fantastic food and a fascinating décor. We're looking forward to seeing everyone in attendance for an evening filled with food and fun shared with friends!

The next Zoom meeting will be on Friday, January 7th 2022

Upcoming Zoom Meetings and Guest Speakers



Everything you need to know to work satellites with equipment you already own by Gary, AA1UE



Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC will speak on his plans to be the next NE Director. After his presentation he'll be taking questions from you. This is your chance to ask him your questions... one on one.



November 5th 2021

How you can create and maintain your very own You Tube channel. Plus, How you can start your own POTA Activation by Rob, N1NUG



The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant December 6th, 6:30 to 9:30pm A Night of Food and Fun!



All About EMCOMM or Emergency Communications including some Go Boxes and ways to power off grid operations by Charlie, KC1IKA



Building your very own Contest Station - Presented by DX Engineering



It's almost balloon time once again and here to give us all of the latest updates for the next launch is Marcel, AA1WH



Show and Tell is back... This has always been one of the very best and most interesting out of all the meetings!



Guest Speaker To Be Announced



Elections, Field Day prep and more. Please consider running for a board position, HCRA is better with you involved!



December 2021 - From the Presidents Shack

December has always been a month where you do things for others. Most charities are looking for donations, Toys for Tots is going strong, Rachel's Table is looking for extra food donations. It is a very good time for people to donate their money and time in so many possible ways.

December is also a great time for you to help out fellow hams. To help them get comfortable with their equipment, to get on HF for the first time or possibly even to get on VHF for the first time. To help the new hams or any hams with whatever help they need.

The old term for this "help" was called Elmering. The newer term is called Mentoring and is a much more modern and appropriate word.

What does this have to do with you? The December ARRL 10-meter contest (December 11-12, Friday at 0000z – 7:00pm to Sunday at 2359z – 6:59pm) has long been an HCRA favorite. For years and years, club members participate and have fun making many contacts on 10 on both SSB and CW. Digital modes such as FT8 and others are not allowed in this contest.

The goal is to work as many stations as possible and only once per mode. The report is simple as it is just 59 WMA or 59 CT for SSB or 599 WMA or 599 CT for CW.

There are several logging programs with N3FJP and N1MM being two of the best and easiest to use.

1. N3FJP ARRL 10 Meter Contest Logger - <http://n3fjp.com/10meter.html>
2. N1MM contest Logger Plus - <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com>



As most people know, I prefer and use N3FJP. But N1MM is also an excellent choice too.

Besides these two loggers there are many other logging programs, some are free and some must be purchased.

Do a search on logging software and you will find many others that may suit your needs better.

Continued on page 4

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

The ARRL 10m Contest is a perfect time to get newer hams into your shack and to help get them on the air. It's a great introduction to contesting without it being so madcap crazy. It is a perfect time to instruct someone how to make a contact and have someone log for them or instruct them how to log at the same time. It is a perfect contest to coach newer hams on making contacts. It is like Field Day but with far less stations.

Do you know of someone who would like to visit and possibly get on the air? My station will be open to visitors on Saturday and Sunday, but please let me know you will be stopping by, so I can let you know the best time. There are many other hams that will let you visit too. Just ask. Put the word out on the HCRA Facebook group page, email Reflector, or ask me at W1AST@arrrl.net

Participating in this contest is great fun and a great time to get on the air. Don't miss out on this fun event.

When it is all over, there is a submission page to submit your scores. Make sure in the club credit area you put: Hampden County Radio Association, just like that, all spelled out in full. Do not abbreviate otherwise the club will not be credited with your score.

Mentor a newer ham today. Help get them on the air for the 10m contest December 11th and 12th.

Here are the full rules: <http://www.arrrl.org/10-meter>

Another annual ARRL operating event happens on New Years Eve. It's called **Straight Key Night** or **SKN** for short. It runs New Years Eve from 7:00 pm for 24 hours to 6:59 pm the next day. The goal is to make at least one contact with a straight key, not a keyer! I believe a bug can be used too as it is non-electronic.

Here are the full rules for **SKN**: <http://www.arrrl.org/straight-key-night>

This is always a fun night to get on and make a few cw contacts that are slower and more conversational.

We are scheduling a few Share the Knowledge mini meetings. These will start in January and occur in the middle of the week, usually one per month. The first one has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 18th at 7:00 pm. The Guest speakers will be the two founders of the Long Island CW Club. If you have an interest in CW, you will not want to miss this mini meeting where we Share the Knowledge with you. Mark your calendar now.

The HCRA Board would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

Best 73,

Larry, W1AST
HCRA President



OPERATING ARES NET'S!

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE NET OPERATIONS BY BOB, K1YO

Hello HCRA Members!

This is just a quick note to explain some of the things related to ARES or Amateur Radio Emergency Service - that we will be putting into place shortly.

First, we are going to focus heavily on training and practice for our net operations. Charlie (Smitty) Smith, KC1IKA has accepted a position as Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator and is taking over responsibility for Section net operations. The plan is to establish regularly-occurring training nets, both for simplex and repeater VHF/UHF operations. This will provide a forum for persons interested in participating on nets to learn the proper operational procedures in an environment specifically setup for learning and practice. This should also be a good entry point for those interested in becoming a Net Control Station (NCS).

Additionally, we are initiating training in digital modes (JS8Call, FLDigi, and WinLink) to enable their use in passing messages as required on HF and VHF. Practice nets will be established and operate on a regularly scheduled ongoing basis for those interested in this type of communications. The training will also focus on getting the proper hardware and software setup and configurations to ensure you have the optimal configuration of your own equipment to operate effectively.

A link to a registration form for digital training will appear on the WMA ARES website (wma.arrl.org ... look under Emergency Services) so that you could choose which digital mode(s) you would be interested in.

Operating nets properly and effectively is of prime importance in an emergency situation. I am currently investigating the communication needs of several agencies within the Section to ensure that what we can provide fits their specific needs. We are planning to hold frequent SET-type events involving those agencies to provide ongoing opportunities to fine tune and focus our combined efforts.

Finally, we intend to reach out - through all the individual clubs - for assisting in communications with local public service events of various agencies. This has been a very common activity in the past and it would be great to see it rekindled.

Please watch our website for further developments for all the above.

Stay safe and well!

Very, 73

Bob Meneguzzo – K1YO

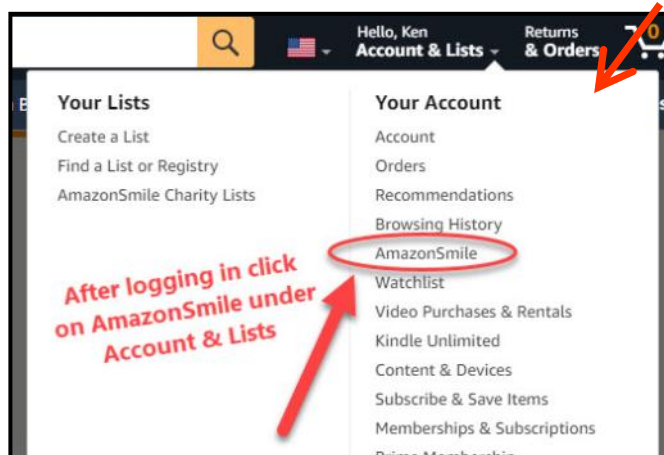
Section Emergency Coordinator, WMA ARES

k1yo@arrl.net

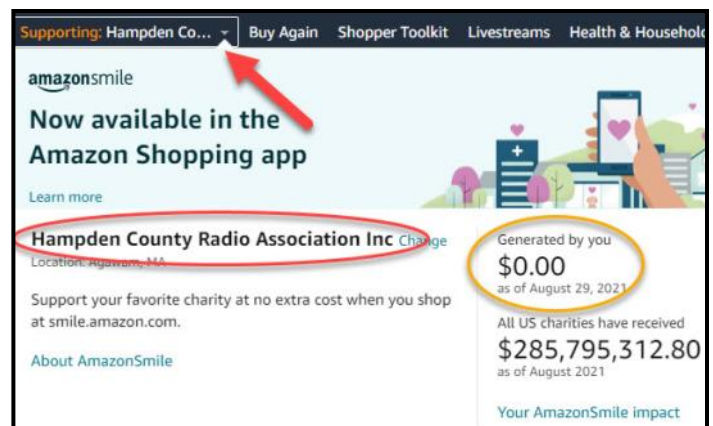
What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is an easy way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you! AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, plus the benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of all your eligible purchases to HCRA.

Start by Logging into your account, if you don't have an account follow the directions to create an account.

Once you are logged in look for the drop down menu under Accounts & Lists then select AmazonSmile.



After clicking AmazonSmile you need to select your charity. Type **Hampden County Radio Association** in the search box, just like above!



Items eligible for AmazonSmile donations will be marked as shown below (circled in Red)



Once you have Hampden County Radio Association is saved as your charity it will look like the image shown above. The Red circle shows the charity of your choice while the Yellow circle shows the total contributions made from your purchases.

It's hard to believe but it's time to begin your holiday shopping! If you're like most people online shopping is part of everyday life. Especially since the Covid pandemic more and more people are shopping from home. Whether your doing holiday shopping or just need something for your ham shack why not help your club at the same time?

Happy Holiday Shopping!

HAM RADIO GO BOXES

PORTABLE BATTERIES, SOLAR POWER & MORE! By KC1IKA, Charles (Smitty)

Greetings all!

For our January 2022 meeting I will be talking about my version of Go Boxes, Portable Battery Power and why I choose to do this.

The purpose of this article is to give you a taste of some of the items I will be talking about and how I use them. Some of you will recall the box on the right with the white rectangle. It is the HF Go Box I talked about for the club's Show-and-Tell.

The documentation for it is on the club's website which is listed below.

<https://www.hcra.org/2021/04/19/kc1ika-hf-go-box-april-2021-show-and-tell/>

The grey box is my first VHF/UHF box with built-in battery. The bag on top of it is my SuperAntenna that I use for mostly HF work.

The stack of boxes contains various items, VHF/UHF with battery, GMRS/FRS base and four handhelds (no battery), a battery only box, a power distribution box, and a cable box. What is not shown are the solar panels, USB charging solar panels, as well as the assorted cables I carry.

I will be documenting some of these items and getting them posted on the HCRA website as soon as possible so you can have something to refer to during the presentation.

73, KC1IKA, Smitty



The Last Club Meeting is Now Available for your Viewing Pleasure



The November Meeting Video Link

The November meeting featured guest speaker Rob, N1NUG who talked about how to start your own POTA Activation & more.
Don't forget to click on subscribe before leaving YouTube!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPwG3QXRcD8>



ASSISTANT SECTION EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

WESTERN MASS, NET MANAGER UPDATE - By KC1IKA, Charles (Smitty)

Wow, that's a mouthful! All kidding aside, last month I mentioned monthly updates about the nets and what ARES section management is doing to improve the nets as well as garner more interest in nets.

This is all for the sole purpose of having effective nets to support served agencies in a time of need. After all, that is why we are called Amateur Radio Emergency Services. So, here is the update for this month.

First, we are going to do more net training. We finally came up with a plan on how we are going to accomplish this. Once a month we will have a Zoom session and we will be inviting all new ARES registered amateurs, newly licensed hams who are interested in net operations, and anyone else who would like to learn more about net operations.

We will be covering all kinds of nets, ARES, Skywarn, RACES, NTS, HF, VHF, UHF, Digital, Simplex, etc. There will be guest speakers, examples of the uses of the nets, net etiquette, formal and informal nets as well as many other topics. We will be announcing more details and schedules as available using this newsletter, other club newsletters, the ARES web site, wma.arrl.org.

In the message from K1YO, Bob mentioned the digital nets we are also working on. Namely JS8Call, FLDigi and WinLink. There will be a sign up on the ARES web site for those interested in digital communications to show your preferences.

We are still looking for people to step forward to become Net Control Stations. We are losing a total of three of our six NCS operators by the end of this year. If you already sign into the nets on a regular basis, it will not cost you any more time to become an NCS. We will train you and provide the preambles (script) and log sheets.

73,

Smitty, KC1IKA
ASEC WMA ARES,
Net Manager
KC1IKA@arrl.net



FIRST TIME HAM

TIPS FOR CHECKING INTO NETS - BY VANESSA, W1IRL

You got your license and now you should start using it, why waste your efforts to get it! One of the best ways to practice or keep your skill honed is to check into your local nets. For technician license holders that usually means VHF/UHF voice or digital nets via repeaters. VHF nets on simplex are also available sometimes, especially for emergency nets. Remember to only use the frequencies where you have transmit privileges which depends on your license. If you are a technician, you can only listen to most HF frequencies, unless you have privileges on a specific band for a specific mode. For example, technicians have SSB Phone (voice) privileges on a portion of the 10-meter band where you will find a couple of local nets.



Before you check into a net, it is important to listen for a while to become familiar with the proper way to interact in that net, that is, become familiar with that net's etiquette. A couple of weeks of only listening might be good, before you first check into the net. Some nets are very formal, they are directed. A directed net is orchestrated by a Net Control Station (NCS). The NCS is the director that ensures the smooth flow of the net and prevents chaos.



Asking for check ins is called the roll call. For some nets the NCS will ask for check ins based on the letters of your call sign suffix. For example, W1IRL, will check in when the NCS asks for those with a suffix starting with the letter "I". KC1RTS will check in when NCS asks for check-ins from people whose suffix starts with "R".



When your turn arrives, listen first before you press the PTT button (key-up) to minimize or avoid doubles. A double is when one or more operators try to check-in at the same time, talk at the same time. Also, pause a second after you key-up to allow the repeater to start transmitting. Otherwise, your first word or two may not be transmitted. A check-in might be like this: listen, you did not hear anyone, key-up, pause a second then say "This is" or "Here is" or "I am", then release the PTT. Listen for three seconds, if no one else is talking, key-up again, pause a second, then provide the information net control requested. At a minimum you need to provide your call sign, using proper phonetics based on the international phonetic alphabet, see figure 1. Some local emergency nets ask for your call-sign, name, location, power source (battery, commercial, solar, or generator), title and emergency group affiliation.



Continued on page 10




FIRST TIME HAM CONT'D


TIPS FOR CHECKING INTO NETS - BY VANESSA, W1IRL

Below are examples of ARES net check-ins (remember the information you provide depends on what net control asks for)

Example 1. Signing in from your home base or shack

 (Press PTT), pause a second, "This is" (pause by releasing PTT for 3 seconds listening for other stations), (Press PTT again), pause a second, "This is Whiskey One India Romeo Lima, Vanessa, Leeds, battery power, ARES and Skywarn for Western MA, good evening to the net" (release PTT)

Example 2. Signing in when you're not at home base location.

 (Press PTT) pause a second, "This is" (pause by releasing PTT for 3 seconds), (Press PTT again), pause a second, "This is Whiskey One India Romeo Lima, Vanessa, portable in Ware, battery power, ARES and Skywarn for Western MA, good evening to the net" (release PTT).

After everyone checks-in to the group that was called, NCS will acknowledge each person by repeating their call-sign in the order received. NCS will then proceed to request the next group of check-ins.

After everyone checks-in to the group that was called, NCS will acknowledge each person by repeating their call-sign in the order received. NCS will then proceed to request the next group of check-ins.

Important:

In other nets the roll call may be different. If you hear net control call for EOCs only, only Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) should check-in. When net control calls for hospitals, only hospitals should check-in. Only when net control calls for a group that might apply to you should you check-in. As an example, after calling for EOCs, hospitals, and other groups, net control might call for ARES or other amateurs interested in emergency communications regardless of affiliation. That is the opportunity for those not part of an EOC, Hospital, etc., to check-in. Do not check-in under a group that does not apply to you. Do not break (interrupt) the net unless you have a life-or-death emergency! That is why it is important to become familiar with the net's specific etiquette.

The above is just scratching the surface. The process is not complicated, but it does require that we listen, listen, listen, and learn the specific etiquette for a net before we can become good participants.

Figure 1

73, Vanessa - W1IRL

ITU Phonetic Alphabet		
Word list adopted by the International Telecommunication Union.		
A ALFA	J JULIET	S SIERRA
B BRAVO	K KILO	T TANGO
C CHARLIE	L LIMA	U UNIFORM
D DELTA	M MIKE	V VICTOR
E ECHO	N NOVEMBER	W WHISKEY
F FOXTROT	O OSCAR	X X-RAY
G GOLF	P PAPA	Y YANKEE
H HOTEL	Q QUEBEC	Z ZULU
I INDIA	R ROMEO	

Figure 1, Shows the Phonetic Alphabet which is used to properly say each letter of the call-sign of the person checking-into the net.

References and attributions:

"Ask" icon by Freepick: Flaticon.com

"Director" icon by ultimatearm: Flacon.com

"Ear" icon by Freepick: Flaticon.com

HOW I GOT STARTED IN HAM RADIO (PART II)

WHEN ASKED, 'HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?' HERE'S MY ANSWER - By Dave Slowik, KN4LEL

Continued from the November issue of Zero Beat!

Getting ready for things before my ticket arrived in the mail was my next hurdle. I had no transmitter, straight key, antenna, or SWR Bridge. I had a little money saved up from my neighborhood work. I paid \$10.00 for a Monarch SWR Bridge, and \$3.00 for a Monarch Straight Key, purchased at Jeff Tronic's. The Coax Cable I purchased from another surplus electronics outfit selling 100 ft. lengths of new military surplus 58-ohm coax cable for \$3.00. It was just a few ohms off from the standard 52-ohm coax cable, so I figured it should still work? The transmitter was going to be a bigger financial problem.

My Grade School friend, Bill, came to the rescue again. It seems that Gene at Jeff Tronic's had a pile of WWII surplus ARC 5 transmitters bought on a government bid. These transmitters had seen better days, looking like they had been stored in the desert for many years. They were stripped of all tubes. They all covered the same frequency range, which was between the 40 and 80 meter ham bands. Bill saw this pile in the store and the asking price of \$3.00 each. He grabbed two of them to experiment with, and went to the 50 cent, and \$1.00 tube bushel baskets in the store, and purchased some second-hand tubes for those transmitters.

He was pretty talented when it came to making something out of nothing. Bill found out that, by turning the slug in all the way on the final drive coil of an Arc 5, he could put one of these transmitters right in the middle of the 80 meter Novice CW band. If he totally removed the slug from the final drive coil, he could put the 2nd transmitter he purchased, right in the middle of the Novice 40 meter CW band. It did not take long for me to get to Jeff Tronic's to purchase 2 of my own ARC 5 Transmitters. We did the same conversion to my sets, and they worked perfectly. I was able to power these units with the same power supply I was using to run the receiver. I was pretty much out of money by now, and still needed some copper wire for an antenna. There was another kid around my age who lived up the street, named Don, who also had his Novice ticket.

He was following my progress in getting my station up and running. I told him I had everything but a couple of Dipole Antenna's, but ran out of funds for copper wire. Don could help, as he said his dad had a big roll of stranded copper wire, and he would give me what I needed. Don, and I got his ARRL Antenna Book out, and cut the needed lengths of copper wire to make both 40, and 80 meter dipole antennas. I was now ready to get on the air.



ARC 5 WWII Military Transmitter



Heathkit HR-10 Receiver

Continued on page 12

HOW I GOT STARTED IN HAM RADIO CONT'D

WHEN ASKED, 'HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?' HERE'S MY ANSWER - By Dave Slowik, KN4LEL

For about the sum of \$50.00 I had everything I needed to make my first contact on 40 meters. I came home from school one day, and there in the mail was my 2-year Novice License. I ran to the basement, turned everything on, and let the tubes warm up. About a half hour later, I made my first contact, with another Novice located in Pennsylvania. It was a great day for me. My dream had finally come true! After a few months though I decided I needed to update my station, to do more with the hobby. I had nothing that would cover 15 meters, and I wanted to try this Band badly. Back to Jeff Tronic's I went to look at equipment in his used Ham gear section. I found a real clean Heath Kit DX-60 Transmitter for \$50.00, and a very nice Heath Kit RX-1 Receiver for \$125.00. I had worked quite a bit around the neighborhood for a few months, and had saved up a lot of the needed money. I had about \$120.00 saved up, but I was still short \$55.00.



My mother, and father came to the rescue, and gave me a \$55.00 advance, as a Christmas gift! My Mom and Dad were always tight with money when it came to my hobbies. I was surprised that they gave me the \$55.00. (Many years later when I was in my late 30's, my mother explained why they did this. She said they never had to worry what I was doing, or where I was in my teen years. I was always in the basement on the radio. If I was out of the house, I was doing something with Ham Radio, being supervised by other adults in the hobby.) I was very happy with this new transmitter and receiver set. It was my first commercial Ham gear! It took me no time at all to make it to Don's house for more copper wire, to construct a 15 meter Dipole Antenna. I ordered some 15 meter crystals for \$1.50 ea. from a company advertising in CQ Magazine. When I got the crystals, I was able to get on 15 meters CW, and work some stations located in Europe. Working DX, was a real thrill and adventure for me.

I was now making contacts all over the world and the U.S. In the late 1960's, 15 meters was a great band to work DX. It was not uncommon to send out a CQ DX, and get 2 or 3 stations to come back to you at the same time. Sending out and receiving QSL cards was much easier, and cheaper in those days. Most of the time if you sent out a card, you got one in return. It was not long before I was getting cards in the mail from Japan, countries in Europe, Africa, and South America. I even had a weekly Sunday morning schedule with a Ham located in Asiatic Russia. With all this fun, I finally had to take the time to realize that I had less than a year left on my Novice ticket! It was time to start studying for my General Class License. In the late 1960's, and 1970's, the Novice license was for a 2 year period, and it was not renewable! I had an older friend that was Ham, whom I had met over the air, who lived in the suburbs of Cleveland. He offered to take me to the Main Post Office in Buffalo N.Y. to take the test, which was given by the FCC Field Examiner. I Knew I would have no problem with copying the 13 wpm code test, as my speed was up to about 18 wpm. The written exam was another story, as the tests given in those days seemed a lot harder than the ones given today! Half of the questions had multiple choice answers, and the rest of the questions were fill in the blanks with the correct answer, or required figuring what value resistor was needed to complete a circuit shown on the test, or calculating the length of wire needed for a particular type of antenna. To do this kind of thing, you had to know the various formulas. I passed the code test without missing a beat. The written exam was another story! I really bombed the written test. I just did not study long or hard enough for this test! The ride back to Cleveland from Buffalo was a long one. The rest of my time in 1969 to 1970 was spent being on the air, and the day did come that my Novice license expired.

Continued on page 13

HOW I GOT STARTED IN HAM RADIO CONT'D

WHEN ASKED, 'HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?' HERE'S MY ANSWER - By Dave Slowik, KN4LEL

I had decided I had to take the General Class license test again, but somehow never found the time to study for it. I had after school and weekend jobs, and still cut lawns, and pulled weeds for my customers in the neighborhood. I was saving up quite a bit of money, and decided a receiver upgrade was going to be needed, when I got my General ticket. I checked out many used Ham receivers, and decided to go new! The Drake R4B would be perfect, and was one of the best receivers out there at the time. I checked with Gene, at Jeff Tronic's for a price on one. He came back with an outstanding price of \$400.00, with the matching MS4 speaker. A great price in 1970, as most other dealers were selling the same setup for around \$500.00. Gene was the kind of guy who tried to help kids in the hobby, and he gave them a break, when he could, even when it came to making a smaller profit on a sale. He is another guy I think a lot about these days! I wish he was still around so I could thank him! I got the receiver home and found out it was light years ahead of others. With the Drake Band Pass Filters on this receiver, I could copy CW with ease, even in the crowded Novice section of the Bands.

Time went by quickly and before I knew a year had passed since my Novice license expired. At that time, if your Novice ticket expired, you could get another Novice ticket, if you waited one year. I took the Novice Exam again in 1972, and passed the code, and written tests with ease. I was back on the air, using my DX-60, and the Drake R4B, with my 2nd Novice ticket. At this time, I decided to update my transmitter, and purchased a Drake 2NT transmitter, but not from Gene, at Jeff Tronic's. Gene no longer was selling Ham Gear. He strictly was selling surplus electronic items. I bought the Drake 2NT from a competitor. With the 2NT, and R4B, I had a slick setup. The pair worked much like a Transceiver with interconnect cables between both units. Again 2 years passed quickly, and the Army got in the way. In 1974, my 2nd Novice ticket expired, and my station grew very cold in my parents' basement. After the Army, I moved to my own place, and my life went in a different direction. For 17 years my station sat in that basement. One day when I visited my parents in 1991, they said the station had to go! Either sell it or move it, or they would dispose of it. Some of the items I sold off, but kept many things and boxed them up including the Drake R4B receiver, and the 2NT transmitter, for the day I would get that General Class License. In my mind I never gave up that dream. The gear sat in storage boxed up at my house until 2015, when I retired. My wife and I moved to Florida and my old Ham gear moved with us. Well, the Ham bug bit me again in 2018, and I decided to go for that General Class License. I studied to take the Technician Test first, and passed, and then a couple of weeks later I took the General Class test, and passed.

When I got my General Class ticket, my mind was kind of stuck in a time warp. To me Ham Radio was still the same as it was when I left it in 1974. Huge technical improvements had been made with Ham gear since 1974, but I had no knowledge of it. I sent both the R4B, and the 2NT off to be checked out and rebuilt. Like Rip Van Winkle, after a 44-year sleep, I went back on the air with the same gear I was using in 1974! I was amazed that I could still send and receive CW after this 44-year time lapse. In fact, my copy speed was still about 13wpm. I have purchased a new Yaesu rig since those days, but I am still using my old Drake Novice gear, and have acquired more of the old vintage Drake gear from the 1970's. Running that old Drake gear makes me feel like a 17-year-old Novice again!

Ham Radio really helped shape me as an adult. It taught me responsibility, and how to work, and save money, and shoot for goals. It also gave me an appreciation for all those relationships I made with the people in the hobby when I was a teenager.

Continued on page 14

HOW I GOT STARTED IN HAM RADIO CONT'D

WHEN ASKED, 'HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?' HERE'S MY ANSWER - By Dave Slowik, KN4LEL

I look back on my life now after being around for 68 years, and realize how much this hobby has given me, and continues to give! If all those that helped me with this hobby over the years can hear me somehow, I want to give you my deepest and most heartfelt thanks!!!

73, Dave Slowik - KN4LEL

Dave's Current Station With His Drake Equipment Purchased in 1974



SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE

ZOOM SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE MEETINGS!

Tuesday, January 18th, 2022 at 7:00 pm

HCRA Share the Knowledge Zoom Meeting!

K2UPS and WB2UTX from the Long Island CW Club will be Zooming in from Long Island to give us a great presentation about their club and of coarse CW. Mark your calendar for this informative, exciting and fun evening. Whatever you do, don't miss it!

Tuesday, February 8th, 2022 at 7:00 pm

HCRA Share the Knowledge Zoom Meeting!

Featuring another Share the Knowledge Zoom presentation by Dom, N1DM all about FT-4 and FT-8 with everything you need to go digital.

Don't miss these presentations and watch for more STK Zoom meetings coming soon!

Share The Knowledge or STK meetings are a great way to get lots of information out to as many HCRA members as possible and as quickly as possible. There will be many more of these special Zoom STK meetings coming in the not so distant future.

Watch the Reflector email list for the STK Zoom links to access each meeting. Don't forget to also watch the clubs Social Media outlets including Facebook, Twitter, IG and hcra.org for future details.





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.

OK, this is the last on the director election, from me ;-)

This was a very close election—only 121 votes between first and last candidates. Much closer than the Roanoke Region (there was 800+ votes between first and last candidate there).

So, what does that tell us? Ok, there was no major mandate of one strength over another. However, it DOES show that this region has diverse interests that spread across the board from contesting, legislation, technology, band use and new hams. That is great! And it also tells us that our region is not stagnant, and there are members willing to step up and take on higher duties. We are very lucky to have 3 candidates that have such strong support from our membership!

I hope everyone will welcome Fred Kemmerer AB1OC as our new Director for the New England Region of the ARRL, and continue to be active, strong members.

ARRL Scholarships

Are you (or someone you know) an active licensed Ham and attending or planning to attend college? Well, the ARRL Foundation has over 100 scholarships that range from \$500 to \$25,000. This year, Applicants will no longer choose which scholarships they would like to apply for; instead, the new software will match the applicants with all of the scholarships they qualify for. This is another way to support young hams, and an incentive to be an active ham in college.

Transcripts and any additional required documents must be submitted WITH the application and not emailed separately as was done in the past. A number of scholarships require additional documents, such as a letter of recommendation from a sitting Officer of an ARRL-affiliated club. **Applications without accompanying transcripts and additional required documents (if applicable) will not be considered.**

Applications are online at: <http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-application>. Applications for the 2022 ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program will be accepted between midnight **November 1, 2021 and 11:59pm EST on December 31, 2021.**

ARRL Foundation scholarships are funded by individuals or groups with either an endowment of \$30,000 or greater, or an annual contribution of \$1000 or more. Many have requirements for residency, program at college or similar. Many have no requirements other than active licensed Ham. Part of your estate planning can include such a scholarship so that your interest and love of Ham radio can continue. Something to think about. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/sample-terms-of-reference>

Hamcation or Hamvention?

The ARRL Convention is in Orlando February 11, 2022 at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Orlando at SeaWorld. This is the annual meeting for ARRL members and Board of Directors. The Orlando Hamcation is Feb 11-13 at Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park. A great place to be warm during our cold winter. <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-expo>

Dayton Hamvention May 20-22, 2022 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Dayton OH. This is the big one—the largest ham gathering in the world. <https://hamvention.org/>

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>



ITEM'S FOR SALE

HCRA MEMBER ITEMS FOR SALE, TRADE OR WANTED

FOR SALE!



From the Estate of W6IS Ham Equipment - Contact Larry,

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Collins 75S-1 \$800 | 14. Yaesu FT - 209RH Handheld B \$20 |
| 2. Kenwood SSB Transceiver 3.5 - 29.7 MHz Model TS520 \$125 | 15. Collins Station Control Model 312B - 4 \$150 |
| 3. Kenwood Model TS940S \$650 | 16. Butternut HF2V 80 & 40m Vertical Antenna (New in box!) HRO LIST \$450 \$275 |
| 4. Collins Type 5164 - 2 S/N 10378 | 17. Astron RS - 12A \$35 |
| 5. Collins 32S - 1 \$800 | 18. Kenwood TM221A 2m mobile \$50 |
| 6. Sprague tube tester Model | 19. MFJ Deluxe Electronic Keyer MFJ-407B \$30 |
| 7. Kenwood Model TS440S \$275 | 20. HY-GAIN Tail Twister Direction Control Model T2X \$75 |
| 8. Kenwood SP430 Speaker \$25 | 21. Kenwood SP930 Speaker \$50 |
| 9. Samlex America Model SEC1212 Switching DC Power Supply \$30 | 22. RCP Radio City Products Model 664 \$30 |
| 10. Yaesu FT727R Dual Band HT 2 meter \$25 | 23. Yaesu SP55 Speaker \$20 |
| 11. ICOM IC210OH w/mobile mic \$80 | 24. Precision 120 Meter \$(make offer) |
| 12. Yaesu FT - 100D \$350 | 25. Vibroplex Iambic Chrome w/plastic cover \$150 |
| 13. Yaesu FT - 109RH Handheld \$20 | |

Items for Sale by John, K1VOI / Contact John at: k1voi_jp@charter.net

- | |
|---|
| 1. Ameritron ALS-600 amplifier - \$800.00 |
| 2. LDG-600 Pro Autotuner (600 watt) - \$175.00 |

Seasons Greetings



FROM THE HAMPDEN CNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION!



HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



General Upgrade Class!

The club is looking for someone to organize a General license upgrade class this Winter or Spring but we need your help to make this work. All we need is a volunteer to lead this class. You don't have to teach the class rather we need somebody to organize the class and get other members to teach ect.

If someone doesn't step up to do this, there will NOT be an upgrade class at all!
Please step up and lead this class so that other members can get their General license!

For additional information contact Larry at: w1ast@arrl.net

Brown Baggers are Back!

For the benefit of our newer members Brown Baggers is a friendly lunch get together that happens on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. It is held at [The Munich Haus Restaurant](#) in Chicopee Center at 12:00pm (Noon). Located at 13 Center St, Chicopee, MA. Across from City Hall or click the link above.

Enjoy lunch, conversation and camaraderie with your fellow hams. Everyone is welcome!

10 Meter Net fall/winter Schedule

The 10 meter net Fall schedule will be as follows: Beginning in Sept. the net has returned to every Monday at 7pm on 28.375usb. Marcel, AA1WH is NCS. Everyone is welcome to join in regardless of club affiliation. Weekly topics are posted on the HCRA Facebook group and the Reflector email list.

Memorial Page

All members now have the opportunity to honor club member SK's in the all new Memorial Page on hcra.org. This can be done by sending in the SK members name and callsign along with any text, stories and can also include photo's too. Send them to our webmaster, Vanessa, W1IRL at the following email address: webmaster@hcra.org

**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 You Tube Channel link is below**

For Sale Items

There is a For-Sale section that is for HCRA members. Any members who have a want, something to sell or even to trade.

Send item description and photo(s) to:
kd1ku@arrl.net

HCRA Social Media Links

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

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HampdenCountyRA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hampdencountyra>

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 might like it!

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

HCRA Clublog Information Updated on December 1st 2021



Your Log

DXCC Charts

Satellite Charts

Timelines

Grid Squares

QSL Charts

Zone Charts

Log Inspector

Log Matching

League Tables

DXCC Leagues

Satellite Leagues

Zone Leagues

Club Leagues

CDXC Challenges

Super League

Uniques League

Tools

DX Cluster

Log Search

Call Tester

Most Wanted

DXCC Analysis

Propagation

Great Circle Maps

LoTW Sync

ADIF Diff

QSL Archive

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
 ☐ CW
 ☐ Phone
 ☐ Data

☒ Rank by DXCCs
 ☐ Rank by slots
 Rank by band: Totals ▼

☒ 160M
 ☒ 80M
 ☒ 60M
 ☒ 40M
 ☒ 30M
 ☒ 20M
 ☒ 17M
 ☒ 15M
 ☒ 12M
 ☒ 10M
 ☒ 6M

☒ Current entities
 ☐ Current and deleted
 ☒ Worked
 ☐ Confirmed

☒ No Date Filter
 ☐ 2021
 ☐ 2020
 ☐ Last 12 months

Filter by club/continent:
 HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association ▼

Generate DXCC League

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1JA	58	175	29	239	193	316	204	302	148	286	57	340	2007	44 yrs
2	W1RM+1	179	294	10	334	317	337	329	336	319	320	90	339	2865	58 yrs
3	KK1W+1	140	196	7	274	228	309	279	281	218	234	78	330	2244	45 yrs
4	NV1Q+3	27	136	0	181	111	308	257	314	232	256	2	329	1824	42 yrs
5	NF1G	0	161	0	243	257	305	267	270	200	219	78	319	2000	37 yrs
6	W1PY+1	34	118	0	201	64	248	211	243	132	205	8	292	1464	11 yrs
7	KX1X	67	132	65	187	160	208	140	216	92	197	20	256	1484	24 yrs
8	N1TA+3	111	154	27	199	104	211	108	199	33	133	0	256	1279	20 yrs
9	K1NZ+1	115	159	86	171	200	187	168	152	97	72	8	253	1415	10 yrs
10	K1VOI	5	67	2	114	60	205	141	163	72	144	3	247	976	20 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	NE1C	63	114	0	151	0	206	0	195	0	152	2	238	883	19 yrs
12	W1AST+1	5	60	9	103	28	168	116	134	16	121	7	204	767	12 yrs
13	NT1K+2	9	49	2	103	36	184	45	142	47	123	1	200	741	11 yrs
14	N1FTP	0	7	0	64	0	170	47	119	16	109	2	184	534	13 yrs
15	WD1S	49	56	0	116	33	143	30	95	11	98	2	172	633	9 yrs
16	W1NU+2	2	38	21	86	40	131	76	60	27	38	4	147	523	8 yrs
17	N1JIE	2	5	3	31	31	61	29	14	6	7	2	86	191	4 yrs
18	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	24	0	45	0	0	1	0	0	54	70	5 yrs
19	N1FJ	0	0	0	6	0	30	0	16	3	16	0	51	71	8 yrs

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

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 HCRA Clublog for 2021 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy so far this year!



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DXCC Charts

Satellite Charts

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 ☐ 2020
 ☐ Last 12 months

Filter by club/continent:
 HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association ▼

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	47	92	0	145	56	207	101	158	24	101	32	233	963	58 yrs
2	NF1G	0	32	0	93	129	166	146	137	103	85	59	226	950	37 yrs
3	KK1W+1	39	29	0	78	46	140	45	48	19	10	56	225	510	45 yrs
4	N1TA+3	30	90	18	119	93	143	100	115	28	61	0	204	797	20 yrs
5	KX1X	10	88	25	131	129	143	110	145	76	86	17	180	960	24 yrs
6	W1PY+1	2	12	0	42	0	146	23	33	3	5	2	178	268	11 yrs
7	K1NZ+1	29	60	9	41	93	54	58	36	37	20	3	132	440	10 yrs
8	W1AST+1	5	15	0	38	1	80	57	88	9	21	2	112	316	12 yrs
9	K1VOI	1	27	0	55	19	87	42	60	7	13	0	110	311	20 yrs
10	W1NU+2	1	13	16	29	35	93	59	32	11	19	4	106	312	6 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	NV1Q+3	0	19	0	44	0	69	3	50	0	11	0	89	196	42 yrs
12	NE1C	3	8	0	35	0	71	0	12	0	1	0	77	130	19 yrs
13	N1FTP	0	1	0	22	0	67	0	23	0	2	1	74	116	13 yrs
14	N1JIE	2	2	3	14	30	30	16	8	6	4	2	55	117	4 yrs
15	NT1K+2	0	0	0	6	5	36	0	25	0	1	0	42	73	11 yrs
16	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	14	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	33	39	5 yrs
17	W1JA	0	8	0	6	9	6	15	5	3	1	1	32	54	44 yrs
18	N1FJ	0	0	0	1	0	21	0	6	0	0	0	27	28	8 yrs
19	WD1S	1	1	0	2	13	13	0	0	0	1	1	24	32	9 yrs

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

DOTS & DASHES

THINGS THAT DON'T FIT ANYPLACE ELSE!

Amateurs Asked to Keep Frequencies Clear

Following the earthquake in Haiti, radio amateurs are being asked to keep the following frequencies clear. The statement came from IARU-R2 Emergency Coordinator (EMCOR) Carlos Alberto Santamar Gonzalez, CO2JC. The frequencies are: 3750 kHz, 7150 kHz, and 14330 kHz. Jean-Robert Gaillard, HH2JR, President of the Radio Club of Haiti, reported significant structural damage.

FCC Application Fees Unlikely to Go into Effect Until 2022

The schedule of FCC amateur radio application fees likely will not go into effect before 2022. FCC staff confirmed during a recent virtual meeting. The agency is still working on the necessary changes to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) software and other processes and procedures. The new estimate is that the fees won't go into effect until early next year. Once it's effective, the \$35 application fee will apply to new modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications. Changes to the licensee's name, mailing, or email address, will be exempt from fees.

Contests and Special Event Stations

Contests - www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

December 11-12, 2021 - ARRL 10-Meter Contest - 0000 UTC Saturday; 2359 UTC Sunday

For more details visit: <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/10M-Rules.pdf>

RTTY Roundup - January 8 - 9th, 2022, 1800 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday

For additional details see: <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf>

Special Event Stations - [Special Event Station Search](#)

12/11/2021, 1700Z-2359Z, USS Midway Museum Ship Event - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

For additional details see: <http://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw>

Search for more Special Event Stations (SES) at - <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

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, September 15th and January 15th

See hcra.org for complete information

or

Contact Paul, NFIG at NFIG@arrl.net



Local Nets & Happenings

Sundays: 0845 Western MA. Emergency Net on 146.94, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

Sundays: 0915 Western MA. Emergency Net on 443.200, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

1st Monday:

RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

Mondays: 1900 7pm (Local) **HCRA 10 Meter Net 28.375 usb**

New topic each week. Have an idea for a topic? kd1ku@arrrl.net

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

Wednesdays: 1930: MTARA Info net followed by the swap net & the N1RLX simplex net on 146.94, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

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

2000: MTARA (N1RLX) Simplex Net, Check-in's 146.94, PL 127.3, then goes to 146.42 Simplex Immediately following the swap net

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

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.arrrl.org/membership>

Club Meetings and 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 at 7:30pm HCRA Meeting.
Virtual meetings are held via Zoom. Meetings start with a rag chew session at 7pm followed by the regular Zoom meeting at 7:30pm. <http://www.hcra.org/>

2nd Monday of the month 7:00pm, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting. Virtual meetings via Zoom until it is safe to meet in person at the Greenfield Community College. <http://www.fcarc.org/>

Saturday before the FCARC meeting at 8am. Breakfast at Dennys Pantry in Greenfield (as Covid allows)

Event: FCARC Pioneer Valley Experimental Net

Location: 10 Meters 28.354 MHz

When: Every Wednesday morning, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Organizer: Brad Councilman bc@councilman.com

HCRA Contact List

President - Larry Krainson, W1AST
w1ast@arrrl.net

Vice-President - Marcel LaPierre, AA1WH
aa1wh@arrrl.net

Treasurer - Duane Pray, KC1FQV
kc1fqv@arrrl.net

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
nf1g@arrrl.net

Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE
aa1ue@amsat.org

Membership - John Plaster, K1VOI
k1voi_jp@charter.net

Technical - Najm Choueiry, AB1ZA
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At Large - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN
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Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU
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Website - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org

W1NY trustee, John, N1JIE
n1jie@arrrl.net

WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL





**Here is your exciting new
copy of Zero Beat!**

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