



### Meeting Update!

The Holyoke Hospital has opened their meeting room to us once again. Beginning in September in-person meetings are back!

Need directions?

[www.hcra.org/meeting-location](http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location)

### Welcome New Members

Jody Boucher - WA1ZBL

Thomas Malsbury - KC1RQN

Mark Bevan - WY1G

Tina Laviana - KC1MTH

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## *Our 74th Year as a Club!*

December 2022

From the editor,

*The holidays are upon us and Thanksgiving is already in the rearview mirror! If you haven't finished your holiday shopping don't forget to order from Amazon-Smile so the HCRA will benefit from each purchase. See page 10 for all the details.*

*Speaking of the Holidays, I hope to see everyone at the Steaming Tender Restaurant for the annual HCRA Holiday Party, fun, food, and great company too!*

*This month Bill, W1FMX submitted a great interview with Rich Guerrero, KB1FGC who spearheaded a special event station for Elmer Appreciation Day on page 11.*

*The "Show Your Shack" article features a blast from the past with Gent, WA1CQF who takes us back to 1964 with his original Novice Shack on page 14.*

*Speaking of "Show Your Shack" I hope somebody will step up and share his or her shack by sending a few photos and a brief description to [kd1ku@arrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrl.net).*

*One thing I genuinely hope all members will do is take a minute to fill out the survey about the HCRA. It's your club so please be a part of it! More info about this, in this issues "From the Presidents Shack" on page 4.*

*No regular club meeting in December as it's the Holiday Party but I hope to see everyone at the party or the January meeting, in person of course!*

*Do you have a submission for Zero Beat? Please email it to [kd1ku@arrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrl.net). Don't forget the 10-meter net every Monday at 7 pm, attendance has been lacking so why not join in on the fun of this relaxed rag chew net!*

Happy Holidays!

73, Ken - KD1KU

### Monday December 5th

### *The Annual HCRA Holiday Party!*

December 5th is the Annual Holiday Party which takes place instead of the monthly meeting! Our in-person meetings resume in January along with the Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings beginning January 17th, at 7 pm.

Past meeting videos can be viewed at <http://www.hcra.org/category/videos/> or on the HCRA YouTube Channel at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HampdenCountyRA>

# Upcoming Meetings and Guest Speakers

 <p>September 2022</p>	<p>Tim Duffy, K3LR will be our September guest speaker. Tim is from the K3LR SuperStation in West Middlesex, PA. Don't miss his presentation!</p>
 <p>OCTOBER 2022</p>	<p>This month's guest speaker is Rockwell, WW1X, who will be presenting and demonstrating Remote Ham Radio in-person from the Holyoke Hospital</p>
 <p>November 2022</p>	<p>HCRA's Annual Auction is Back at the November Meeting! Ham Radio Gear and Related Accessories ONLY! NO Computers, Monitors or PC Parts!</p>
 <p>DECEMBER 2022</p>	<p>The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant Dec 5th. Join us for a Night of Great Food and Fun with your Fellow Hams.</p>
 <p>JANUARY 2023</p>	<p>Tim Carter, W3ATB is giving a presentation on the New England Forrest Road Rally LIVE &amp; in-person! Tim is responsible for the communications involving 45 hams &amp; more. Info at <a href="https://newenglandforestrally.com">https://newenglandforestrally.com</a></p>
 <p>FEBRUARY 2023</p>	<p>Tom Vinson, NYOV will be giving a virtual presentation on his involvement in a special expedition to trace the path of Amelia Earhart and to replicate the radio communications that were in use at that time.</p>
 <p>MARCH 2023</p>	<p>Guest Speaker To Be Announced</p>
 <p>April 2023</p>	<p>Show and Tell is back... Enter your projects and win prizes! This has been one of the very best and most interesting meetings</p>
 <p>MAY 2023</p>	<p>Guest Speaker To Be Announced</p>
 <p>June 2023</p>	<p>Elections, Field Day Prep and More. Please Consider Running for a Board Position, HCRA is a Better Club when you're Involved</p>

# SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE MEETINGS

## STK Zoom Meeting Schedule for 2023

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings are back again in 2023 for everyone's enjoyment

Once again, Larry, W1AST has worked extremely hard to find and host these exciting presentations!

If you have a suggestion for a topic or would like to give a presentation contact Larry at [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)

January 17th - 7pm	All About Reverse Beacons & What They Do	By Peter Smith, N4ZR
January 24th - 7pm	9 Band DXX on a Small Lot	By Mark, KE1IU
February 14th - 7pm	TBA	By ??
February 28th - 7pm	TBA	By ??
March 14th - 7pm	A Modern Guide to Radio Teletype (RTTY)	By Juergen, NV1Q
March 28th - 7pm	The YLRL (Young Ladies Radio League)	By Barbara, KC1KGS and Anne, WB1ARU

*1948 through 2023 = 75 Years as an ARRL Affiliated Club*

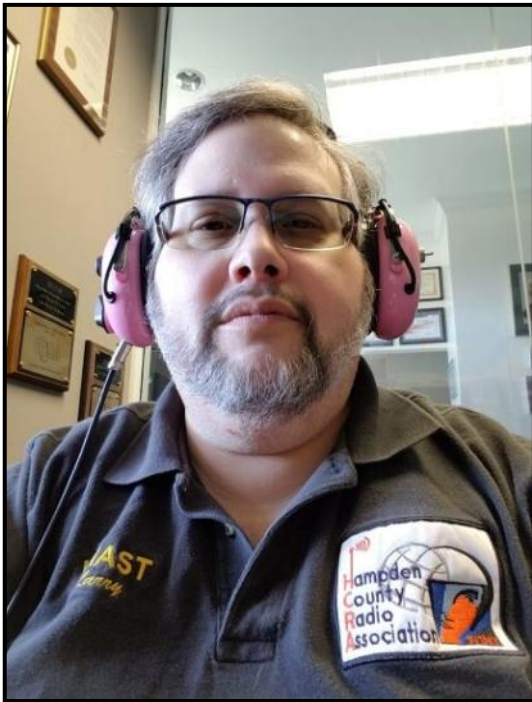


### November Auction YouTube Link

The November auction returned after a nearly ten year hiatus!  
If you missed it, here is your chance to view it but one thing  
is for sure... all of the great deals are long gone!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpqaj4lvjT4>





## December 2022

A few weeks ago, I created a questionnaire in Google Forms about club stuff. It is titled "HCRA Wants to Know". So far, only a few members have responded. It only takes 2 or 3 minutes to complete. Your club wants to hear from you!

**Can you click on the link below or copy it into your browser right now and answer the questions, please?**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rLse0qroB\\_96-OSjXrOvOo-0JxDvrfNC-xFVwUA4xm0/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rLse0qroB_96-OSjXrOvOo-0JxDvrfNC-xFVwUA4xm0/edit)

The results will help the board understand what the club members want and expect from the board, what meetings to plan and more. Please take the time, we appreciate your effort very much. I will share the results with you next month.

**The club is raffling off a Geochron Atlas 4K** plus a \$300 Best-Buy gift card for the Big Raffle. This is the first raffle we have

done since before Covid. If you are not familiar with the Geochron, you need to take a look at it because it will make for an awesome addition to your shack. Check it out here: <https://www.geochron.com/4k>

You can add all sorts of layers to be shown on the Geochron such as weather overlays with precipitation, wind speed, barometric pressure, temps, cloud cover, grey line, time zones, aviation flights, demographics, points of interest, views from space, ham radio mapsets such as propagation, stations you have worked, satellites and so much more.

Your Geochron can hang on the wall above your shack where it can be viewed at a glance. It will certainly brighten up any shack.

Tickets are just \$10 each. You can order as many as you like in person or via mail. If by mail, write a check out to 10 times the number of tickets you want PLUS an extra dollar for an envelope and stamp to get them back to you. You do not need to be present to win.

**Congratulations to Herb, KC1ABU** who won the HCRA membership \$150 DX Engineering gift certificate. Herb paid his dues before October 31st and won the prize. Everyone who paid by that date had a one in 75 chance of winning. Those are excellent odds! Maybe next year it will be you?

**10 Meters is lighting up with activity!** If you haven't been on 10m lately, you are missing out. Stations from all over the globe can be heard easily and worked with not much power. I recently heard a station in Bermuda coming in strong and decided to experiment. Instead of turning on my amp, I turned the power down to 5 watts. Three calls later, he was in my log and said he was amazed at how strong my 5 watt signal was on SSB. 10 meters being active adds a lot of excitement to our amazing hobby. I hope you'll get on the air and find out for yourself!

Every year for the second weekend in December, the ARRL holds the annual 10-meter contest. This is BOTH a SSB and CW contest. It starts at 7 pm on Friday the 9th at 7:00 pm local time and runs through 7:00 pm Sunday night.

Continued on page 5



# FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

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

This is a very enjoyable contest. It's a great way for new hams to be introduced to contesting and for experienced hams to have fun. It's a great contest to have friends over and get on the air together, have great conversations and have fun. I've done that for many years in the past and it's always enjoyable.

Your scores can be submitted for the club. Make sure to enter your club as the: **Hampden County Radio Association** - spell it out. Do not put in HCRA. This helps the HCRA compete with other clubs.

Make sure to submit your log online within 7 days after the contest ends. I usually submit my log the very next day.

The report is super simple. RS(T) and State. 59 (or 599 on CW) MA is the report if you are in Massachusetts. It's that easy.

I use N3FJP logger (<http://n3fjp.com/10meter.html>). But you can use N1MM (<https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com>) or anything you would like to log with. Using a computer log has it figuring your score automatically. Scoring made easy.

I hope to hear you on the air and work you too!

**I am sitting** at my desk, surrounded by my radios and 3 screens (soon a 4th to be added) attached to 2 computers. One is dedicated to only my ham radio and the others to work and everything else. The ham radio screen has the spot collector module from DX Lab Suite logging program running. The spot collector compares what comes in, to what my log has and highlights in red needed DX entities. I've already worked a few DX on CW this morning. I'm just sort of watching it between my work today and then trying to work an occasional station.

I don't work just the needed DX. I also work anyone as I like to rag chew. Whether it be on HF or VHF/UHF. Ham radio is all about the gift of gab. We all like to talk and some fascinating conversations can be had.

**This year I have gotten on D-Star.** I still have my DMR HT and hotspot, but haven't been on DMR in ages. I reprogrammed my ZumSpot radio hotspot for D-star in the house and use either my Icom IC-705 or more likely my Icom ID-52A HT.

I have my HT set on 100 mw of power which is perfect for my hotspot. Anywhere in my yard, I can get into the hotspot and connect to a reflector. I find myself on REF069C or Reflector 69 C which is the CT D-Star Network talking to local friends.

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**All Past Meetings are on the HCRA YouTube Channel - Don't forget to click subscribe!**

Did you miss any past club meetings? Maybe you want to re-watch all or part of a past meeting? Click or copy the following link to view past meetings or search YouTube for past club meetings

<https://www.youtube.com/user/HampdenCountyRA>

# FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

When camping, I hotspot my phone and have talked to the home reflector with the same 100 mw from western NY and northern VT. In fact, from Northern Vermont, 200 miles north of here, Faye and I were sitting in our campsite, talking through REF69C through the hotspot to my friend Bill, W5JAZ who was outside Dallas Texas or I try to catch my buddy Bob, NO4MM (ex: KA1AHR) through the Walt Disney World area reflector. It's pretty cool and lots of fun.

I've since replaced my 20 year old Yaesu vhf/uhf, in my truck, which wasn't working right with a Icom ID-5100 vhf/uhf/D-star mobile. I commonly use the W1KK 440 machine in Agawam and when out of range of that machine. I hotspot my phone and use my portable radio hotspot and connect to REF69C or wherever I would like to listen or talk. If I have phone service, I can stay connected. You could drive across the country and have one long conversation with your friends back home.

I've had some interesting conversations with hams in South Korea, Sydney Australia, England and other "DX" places as well as stateside. D-star has become another aspect of ham radio that I am enjoying.

You can start here: <https://youtu.be/ZMMt55Dtp5Q> to learn more about D-star. Maybe I'll hear you on. I very often have my ID-52A on my desk where I listen while I work or sit outside when it's warm.

**By now, the Steaming Tender** has the club's reservations for the Holiday Party. We had a superb time last year and expect to repeat that this year too. I hope to see you there!

**Happy Holidays to all and we'll see you in 2023!**

Larry, W1AST



## Remember the \$150 Gift Certificate to DX Engineering?

*and the winner is...*

Congratulations goes to Herb, KC1ABU of Pittsfield was the very lucky winner of this fantastic gift certificate! He won the gift certificate to DX Engineering just because he renewed his HCRA membership before October 31st! Talk about lucky... Maybe Herb should go play the lottery now!

## All Past Meetings are on the HCRA YouTube Channel - Don't forget to click subscribe!

Did you miss any past club meetings? Maybe you want to re-watch all or part of a past meeting? Click or copy the following link to view past meetings or search YouTube for past club meetings

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# ARES NET UPDATE

**WMA ARES Nets & More by Smitty, KC1IKA ~ ASEC Net Manager**

*Continued from the November Issue*

I am writing this the day after Veterans Day. First of all, thank you to all of you who served. Our country wouldn't have the freedoms we have if it wasn't for the men and women of our armed forces.

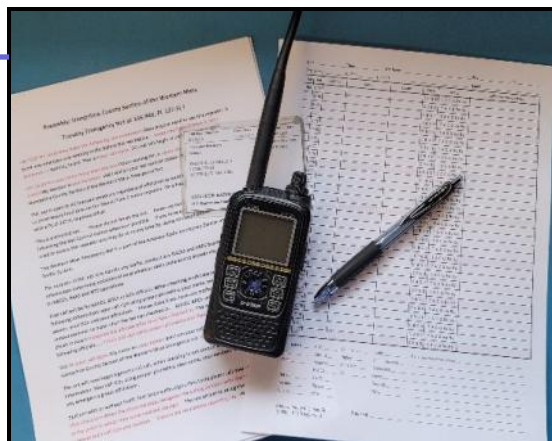
Second of all, what season are we really in??? The start of November has gone from freezing temperatures into the 70's and back again. Last night it was in the upper 60's overnight. Later this week we will struggle to get out of the 40's.

All the crazy weather makes it even more important to always be ready for any weather event. The increase in natural gas, home heating oil, and electricity make it even more important to be as efficient as possible with energy use. I am taking some actions now that will save money in the long run but also prepare me for supply issues, either weather-related or man-made.

I showed my butane stove last month. As of this morning, I am using it exclusively to prepare meals so I don't have to use my gas stove. I will be tracking butane usage and let you know next month if it works out. I will also be using the coffee percolator I had in the picture instead of my electric percolator. In addition, I will no longer use my dishwasher and do the dishes by hand. Hoping to cut back some on the electric and gas bills this way. I won't be able to tell how much I save because my utilities are part of my rent but I rent from family so it's the least I can do. These actions will also give me lots of practice if there are energy issues this winter.

What does all this and the words that follow have to do with EmComm? If you don't have reliable food, water, shelter, and sanitation you cannot operate effectively or for very long. EmComm is more than having a battery, solar, or generator-powered radios. It is, sometimes, about operating in challenging times when others have gone off the air due to a lack of preparation or underestimating their reserves. One more important item for EmComm is coffee, lots of coffee.

When the grid goes down in the summer you have to scramble to keep food safe in your refrigerator and freezer. In the winter, if there is enough snow on the ground, you can dig a hole in the snow, line it with plastic bags and bury your food in the snow. Another choice is to take zip-locked bags of snow and pack your freezer and fridge with them to keep the food cold. If it looks like a short outage I go with the 2nd choice and use all the food in my fridge first, then use the food in the freezer next. After that I go into my emergency pantry, you do have an emergency pantry, right?



**Continued on page 8**



# ARES NET UPDATE CONT'D

## WMA ARES Nets & More by Smitty, KC1IKA ~ ASEC Net Manager

Snow is also good for flushing toilets. If a city water pipe bursts due to deep frost or just age, you can melt snow to flush the toilets. Just be sure to start with just a few handfuls of snow in the pot and gradually add more snow to the water. If you try to melt a whole pot of snow at once it takes forever. Don't drink melted snow unless you have a water filter rated for stream and lake water. They are inexpensive and should remove the contaminants present in snow. The LifeStraws style filter available in outdoor stores and online are inexpensive and work well.

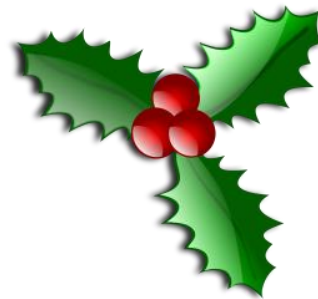
If you have rechargeable AA, AAA, C, or D batteries, you should top them off per the manufactures instructions. Some of the older ones self-discharge and can get low enough to no longer be usable. The newer ones should specify "low self-discharge" but still need to be topped off after a while in storage. These are great for flashlights, area lights, headband style lights as well as any HT you may have with an adapter for using rechargeable batteries. I finally reorganized my battery drawer in the shack. I now have a go-box with all my AA and AAA batteries as well as an AC charger and a DC charger. I can charge them all from my shack batteries which are solar-charged.

More next month, I hope to see you all at the HCRA Holiday Party on Dec 5th.

One final note. The ARES nets monthly breakfast was held at D&Js Hash House this morning. All four net controls were present and half the spouses. I have to say I am blessed with a fantastic crew and look forward to us getting even better. I am temporarily suspending the search for new net controls. The ones I have are doing a great job. If anyone is interested in joining our team, get in touch with me, at [KC1IKA@arrl.net](mailto:KC1IKA@arrl.net)

73,

Smitty, KC1IKA  
ASEC, Net Manager, WMA ARES



Thank You to the following members who have made a generous donation to the HCRA!

- **Monique, KC1RDF**
- **Tina, KC1MTH** (New Member)



# HCRA's BIG RAFFLE

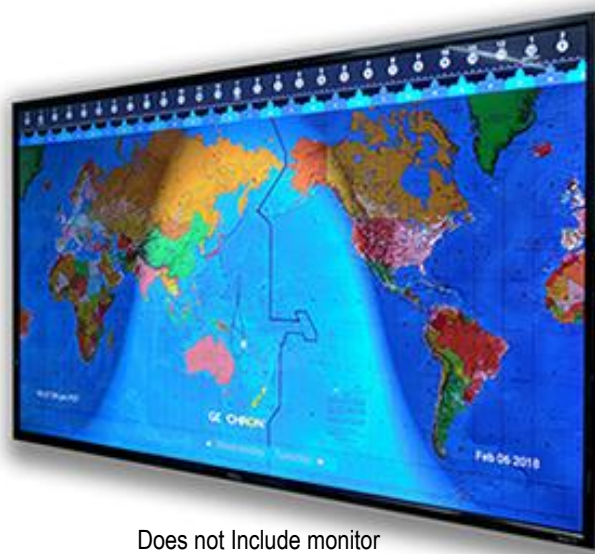
## Win a Geochron Atlas 4k plus a \$300 Gift Card to Best Buy!

The HCRA big raffle is returning for 2023. Tickets will be available at the Holiday Party, December 5th, at the January club meeting, or by contacting any board members. Get your tickets early as only 250 tickets will be sold! The drawing will be held when all tickets are sold or at the MTARA flea market next March, 2023. Tickets are only \$10 each so buy several to increase your chances of winning!

### Raffle Details:

- ◆ Tickets are \$10 each with a maximum of 250 to be sold
- ◆ Prize: Geochron Atlas 4k (Monitor not included)
- ◆ Additional \$300 Gift Certificate to Best Buy for the monitor of your choice
- ◆ Drawing: When 250 Tickets are sold or at the MTARA Hamfest in March, 2023
- ◆ Tickets are available at the Holiday Party, club meetings or board members

Inspired by our Geochron mechanical world clocks, the Geochron Digital 4k is a high resolution display in the digital world. Five map sets are overlaid by intricate patterns of human activity, and a live layer of the current position of the International Space Station. Use Location Pins to label important places, and switch time zones on the fly. Comes with a one year warranty.



Does not Include monitor



You can buy raffle tickets at the Holiday Party, future meetings or you can buy tickets by contacting Larry, W1AST at the following email address: [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)

Or by contacting any of the HCRA Board Members who's contact information is on page 21 of Zero Beat.

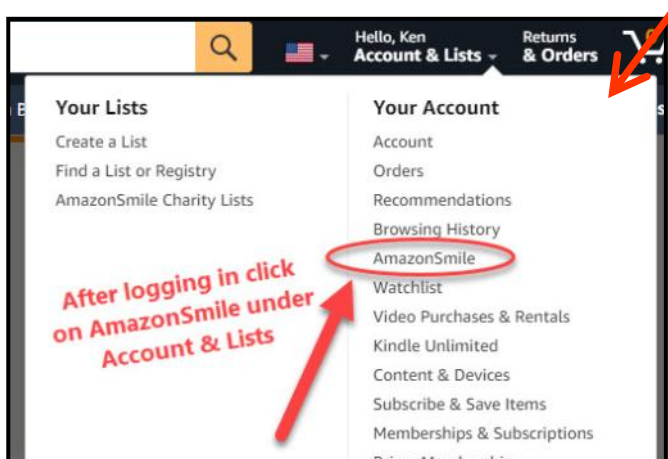
**Don't Hesitate, Get Your Tickets Today!**

## Donate .5% Of Your Holiday Purchases To HCRA With This Reminder!

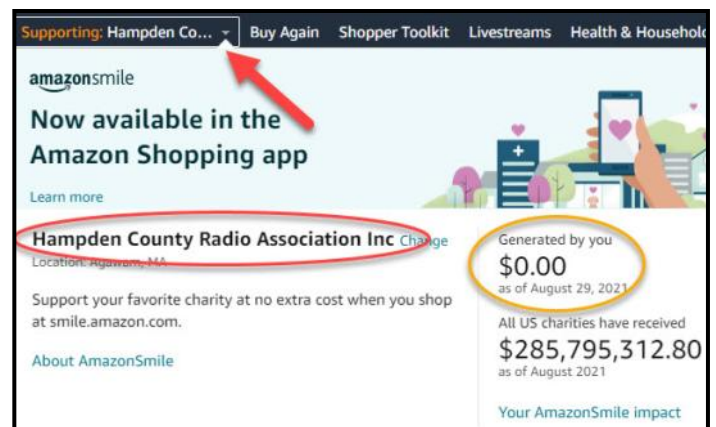
**What is AmazonSmile?** AmazonSmile is an easy way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you! AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and 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!

# INTERVIEW OF RICH GUERRERA, KB1FGC

## Creator of a Special Event Honoring Ham Radio Mentors by Bill, W1FMX

Ham Radio is a hobby that usually requires a new licensee to have a mentor to show him or her what kind of equipment to get and how to operate it. This past October (Oct. 20-23, 2022), Rich Guerrero (KB1FGC) spearheaded a special event with the call sign, “W1E/ELMER”, to acknowledge and thank Hams who help new Hams get started in the hobby. Here is an interview of Rich describing the event.

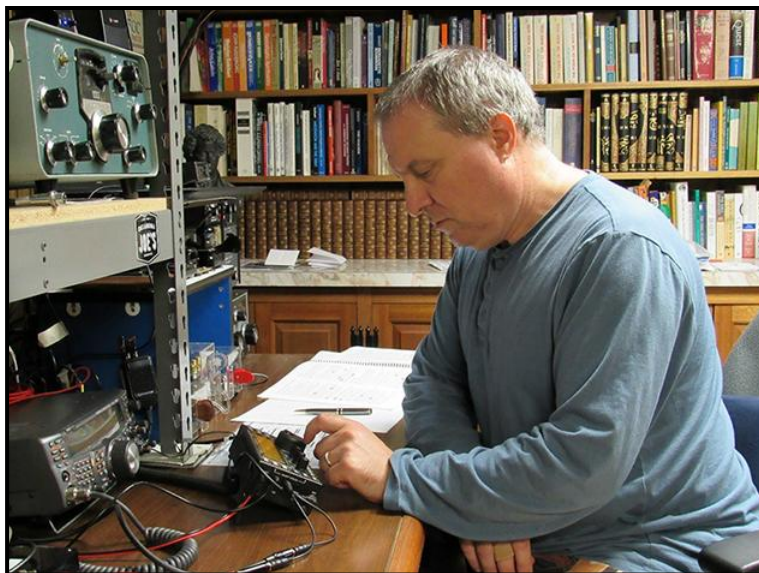
### ***1. How did you get the idea for an Elmer Appreciation Day?***

I read an online article of QST in a 2011 issue. A Ham wrote about how he hosted his own special event. I was surprised that a single Ham could host one as I thought only clubs could apply. So, I decided to try doing a special event, too.

My first event was in honor of my dad who owned a trucking business and was on the board of D.O.T (Department of Transportation) in Connecticut. I enjoyed running that event so much that I wanted to add another. I had never heard of any event honoring Hams, so I came up with the special Elmer event. I have benefited so much from helping so many other Hams. This seemed like a good idea and it was a way of saying thanks.

### ***2. What does being a Mentor mean to you?***

I think it means passing on knowledge to other Hams who need a hand. It is also about making new Hams feel at ease and working with them. In my experience, I have been treated with respect regardless of my technical ability. I find that courtesy is common among Hams, which surprised me.



*Rich Guerrero, KB1FGC*

### ***3. Talk about a Ham Radio Elmer you knew. How did he help?***

The first Ham that comes to mind is Steve (N1AOB). He lives in a town over from me. In 2000, I got licensed and was in the process of getting my code going. I found the Waterbury Amateur Radio club online and saw Steve’s name as one of the contacts. I decided to give him a call and ask a few questions about how to get started in the hobby. He told me he would come over and lend a hand with my set-up. He also invited me over to his QTH to check out his station. I was pretty taken by that as he didn't know me, but he was willing to spend time with a stranger and help me out.

### ***4. What did you have to do to get the event going?***

It took a little bit of work. First, I had to apply for the special call sign (W1E) and set the dates. The call sign can be applied for at several websites, one of them belonging to the ARRL. Also, I wanted to get the event published in QST, so notification to the magazine needed to be done 4 months prior to the event.

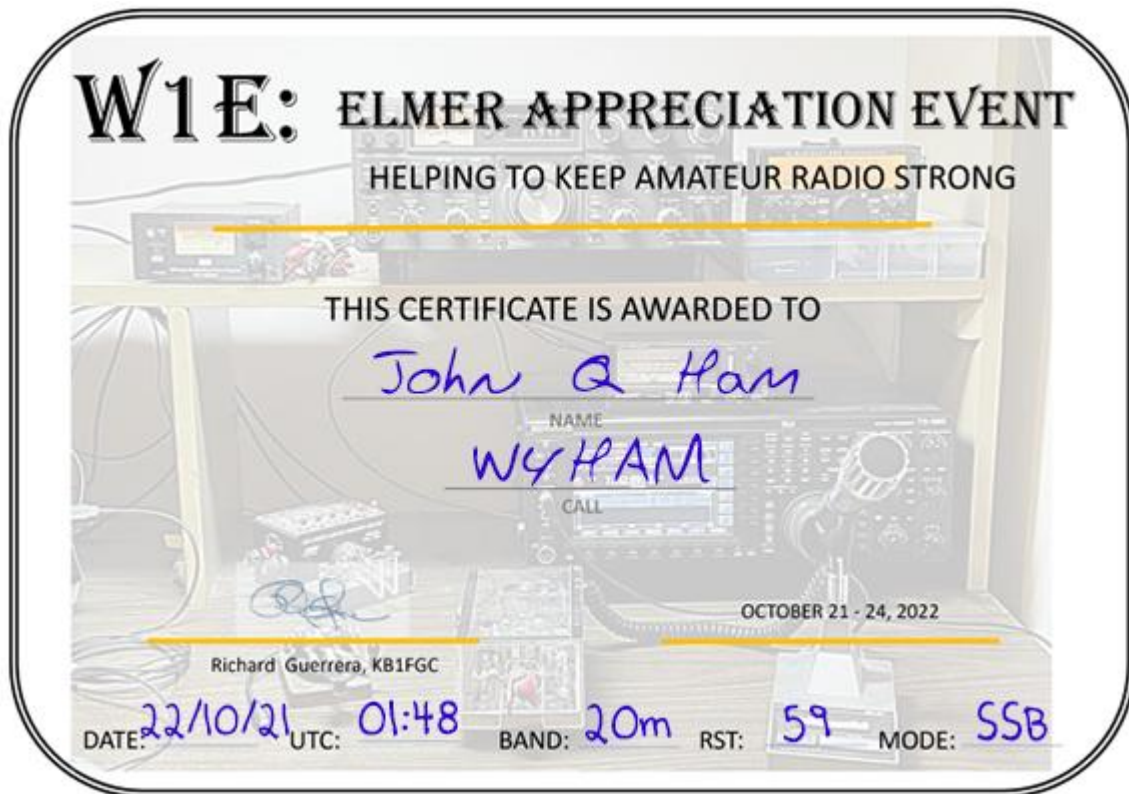
**Continued on page 12**



# INTERVIEW OF RICH GUERRERA, KB1FGC CONT'D

## Creator of a Special Event Honoring Ham Radio Mentors by Bill, W1FMX

Then, I put the word out on QRZ to try to get some other Hams to join and also asked some guys who had helped me with Ham-related matters if they were interested. Lastly, I had to get a webpage up and also create a simple certificate that those who wanted confirmation could download. One Ham, Glenn (WG3F), when asked to be an operator for the event, not only accepted but offered to make the special event certificate. The call letters and Elmer, W1E/Elmer, were also listed on QRZ.com.



### ***5. How many participated (that is how many other Hams worked the Event)?***

Originally, 8 had volunteered, but only 6 participated. So far, the operators who did it this year still want to do it again next year, plus one more fellow said he wants to participate next time. At the moment, I must say that it's not easy to get operators. I think most Hams expect an event like this to be organized by a club. So, just one Ham writing on the internet asking if Hams want to join in working a special event doesn't have the impact a club can have. But I was happy with what I got.

### ***6. How many contacts were made over the 4 days by all of the operators?***

The total for all operators was just over 300 QSO's. Next year, I may work a little faster. It was fun though! One point I did make was that it did not matter how many contacts an operator worked, just that each operator should have fun - so, really any operating technique works.

Continued on page 13

# INTERVIEW OF RICH GUERRERA, KB1FGC CONT'D

Creator of a Special Event Honoring Ham Radio Mentors by Bill, W1FMX

## *7. Did you or any of the other operators hear any good stories during the Elmer Event that should be shared in the article?*

One fellow did make a point about how he really appreciated the event and how his Elmer had a positive impact on him when he started out. Another person was Elmering a new Ham but laughed because the other guy was more technically adept than he was, but still needed some education on operating techniques.

Many did seem to appreciate what the event stood for and wished me luck. A surprising number of people we spoke with told stories about how their mentors helped them.

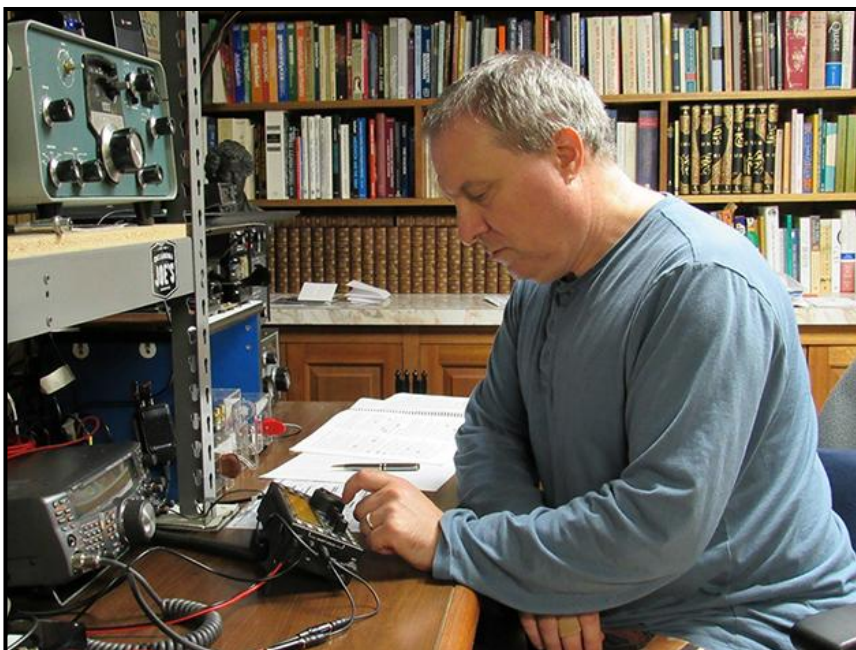
One Ham said he got his license as a teenager and his Elmer was a neighbor who had a plumbing business. If the teen called him with a problem, sometimes the older Ham would actually stop work and come over to keep the young guy from “sticking a screwdriver in the wrong place.”

## *8. Any new ideas for things you would like to add to the next Elmer Event?*

I was pleased that the event went very well. The only thing I would change is to have it last just 3 days instead of 4, and maybe work contacts a little bit faster. If I can get more Hams to operate that would be great, if not that's okay, too.

One thing though is that, if Hams from other call area become operators for the event, we'll need to get special event callsigns with those call area numbers, too.

**Note:** If you are interested in participating in next year's event honoring Ham Radio Mentors / Elmer's, please contact Rich Guerrero, KB1FGC using the e-mail address, [marzo7088@yahoo.com](mailto:marzo7088@yahoo.com) which is also listed on his <https://www.qrz.com/db/KB1FGC> account.



73,

Bill ~ W1FMX





# SHOW YOUR SHACK!

## This Month's Featured Shack is that of Gent, WA1CQF

This month's "Show Your Shack" features long time former HCRA member from the past. Below is a photo of his original shack from back in 1964 when Gent was a Novice. Also Gent has provided his current shack so you can see exactly how much things have changed over the last 59 years!

I'm sure many long time HCRA members will remember Gent, his shack, and of coarse his callsign! Continue reading for details on Gent's original Novice station from back in 1964 and what it looks like today!



**Above Photo:** *Gent, WA1CQF Former HCRA Member was Originally Licensed in 1964 as a Novice*

Gents first Novice Station in 1964 as WN1CQF. Heath HR20 receiver assembled from a kit with a home-brew power supply. Eico 723 CW transmitter kit, purchased from Springfield Radio, on Dwight St, in Springfield, Mass for \$12.

The box was water damaged with possible missing parts. The only thing missing was the power cord and all components were fine. Deal of the century for a high school kid whose only income was skipping lunch and hoarding my lunch money. Home-brew field strength and SWR meters. 40 meter dipole. No room for an 80 meter dipole and I didn't operate on 15 meters due to TVI. J38 key completed the setup. My brother gave me the test equipment.

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# SHOW YOUR SHACK! CONT'D

This Month's Featured Shack is that of Gent, WA1CQF



**Above Photo:** *Gent, WA1CQF's Current Day Shack. What a Difference Between 1964 and Today.*

At that time, novices were limited to crystal control and an input power of 75 watts. Lots of novices on the air and 40 meters was very active. Anything west of the Mississippi was considered DX!

I was originally licensed in 1964 as a novice, homebrew construction has always been my favorite part of the hobby. After upgrading in 1965, I built a VFO and 811A 200 watt amplifier featured in the ARRL 1963 handbook, Since then, I've been hooked on amplifiers.

The above photo shows not only my Elecraft K3 but also my latest amplifier. A pair of 3-500 tubes for the bands 80,40,20,15 and 10 meters with filament and high voltage soft start, tuned inputs, low voltage keying, and vernier operation of the tune and load capacitors.

Also, in the above photo to the right of the amp is an Arduino based enhancement I incorporated into my CD-45 rotator. It allows for a potentiometer to be set to a desired direction. By activating a momentary switch, the rotator will start an automatic sequence to rotate the antenna to that desired position.

73,  
Gent, WA1CQF



# ITEM'S FOR SALE & WANTED

HCRA Members Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

**FOR SALE!**

## Malahit-DSP Wide band, hand held portable SDR receiver

Covers 50 Khz to 2 Ghz (less cell phone freqs)

### Receiver Details:

- ◆ Covers 50 Khz to 2 Ghz (less cell phone freqs)
- ◆ Long Life Internal Battery
- ◆ Touch Screen
- ◆ SMA adapter
- ◆ Head Phone Jack / Ear Phone Jack
- ◆ Internal Speaker
- ◆ Charges via USB Port

*Barely used and is in excellent condition.*

**NEW Low Price! Asking \$165**

Contact Larry, W1AST at  
[hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com)

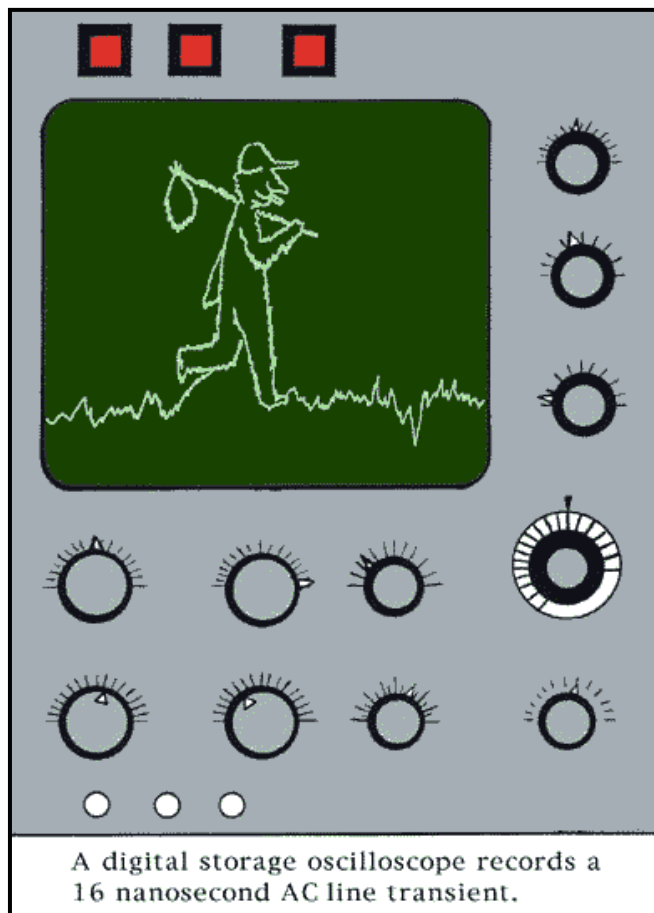
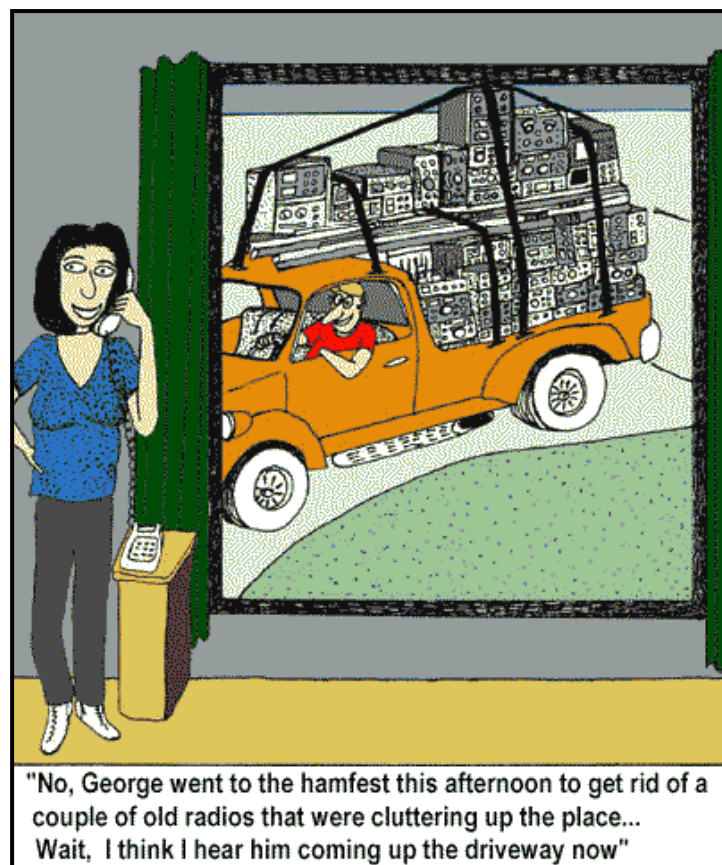




March 1876 - Alexander Graham Bell makes the first phone call ever.



Moments later - He is notified that his car's warranty has expired.





**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 2022 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy so far this year!

*HCRA Clublog Information Updated on November 28th 2022*



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	34	78	0	144	59	171	86	187	88	145	28	245	1020	59 yrs
2	NF1G	0	38	0	48	81	123	105	156	141	143	34	227	869	38 yrs
3	KK1W+1	41	55	0	76	36	125	37	119	43	62	26	224	620	46 yrs
4	KX1X	16	68	18	115	111	141	108	149	104	129	3	192	962	25 yrs
5	K1NZ+1	12	41	27	39	95	53	53	63	95	107	0	156	585	11 yrs
6	W1AST+1	2	12	0	46	17	63	52	70	81	81	1	143	425	13 yrs
7	NE1C	4	62	0	85	0	98	0	104	0	54	0	129	407	20 yrs
8	K1VOI	1	30	0	48	32	79	28	70	16	41	0	113	345	21 yrs
9	W1JA+1	1	6	4	11	28	5	17	59	28	52	7	113	218	53 yrs
10	W1NU+2	0	16	11	10	20	55	43	53	37	61	2	109	308	7 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	NT1K+2	0	12	0	34	24	61	1	48	17	30	0	109	227	12 yrs
12	N1TA+3	1	30	0	28	8	42	8	42	4	30	0	94	193	21 yrs
13	N1JIE	1	3	7	20	25	34	33	39	15	13	1	77	191	5 yrs
14	N1FTP	0	0	0	31	6	59	19	6	3	16	1	76	141	14 yrs
15	W1PY+1	0	0	0	1	0	26	0	14	0	1	0	42	42	12 yrs
16	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	2	0	29	0	17	0	6	0	41	54	10 yrs
17	WD1S	2	2	0	19	0	27	0	14	0	4	0	37	68	10 yrs
18	NV1Q+3	0	0	0	1	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	8	11	43 yrs

## Do you know what Clublog is and what it can do for you?

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](http://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>





## HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



### Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

For the benefit of all HCRA 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 Winter Schedule

The HCRA 10 meter net will return to its Winter schedule on Monday, September 5th, and every Monday evening afterwards at 7pm for the Fall / Winter months. Gary, KC1JZR is NCS. This is a great way for our newest HCRA members with a Tech license to get some time on HF. Everyone is welcome to join us on 28.375 USB regardless of affiliation. Have any questions? Contact [kd1ku@arrrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrrl.net)

***Please take part in this fun rag chew type of net every Monday at 7pm on 28.375 usb***

### Share the Knowledge Zoom Meetings

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings are back again in 2023 for everyone's knowledge and enjoyment! Beginning January 17th at 7 pm the first STK is all about reverse beacons and what they can do for you by special guest Peter Smith, N4ZR. Have a suggestion or topic for a STK meeting?

***Watch for your Zoom access code next month in the STK meeting schedule on page 3.***

### Memorial Page

All members now have the opportunity to honor club member SK's in the all new Memorial Page on [hcra.org](http://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](mailto: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@arrrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrrl.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>

# DOTS & DASHES

THINGS THAT DON'T FIT ANYPLACE ELSE!

## Dayton Hamvention Announces Theme for 2023

Hamvention® 2023 is just over 6 months away, and next year's Hamvention team has selected "Innovation!" as the event theme. The team reports that, in just one word, the theme encompasses the world of amateur radio today. "There are so many exciting 'Innovations!' worldwide in amateur radio. Hamvention 2023 runs from May 19 - 21 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. Tickets are on sale now, and can be purchased at <https://hamvention.org/purchase-tickets>.

## Club Commission Program

One of the benefits of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is that you receive a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and securing timely ARRL membership renewals. The structure for this program has been updated, the process has changed to make things easier for the clubs. The complication of adjusting funds around credit cards, checks, and cash has been eliminated. ARRL is now responsible for all of the processing. Clubs receive \$15 for each new membership or lapsed membership, for renewing members, clubs will now receive \$5. For more info visit: <http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-benefits>

## Contests and Special Event Stations

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

**ARRL 10 Meter Contest** | Dec.10th -11th | 28Mhz | 0000z Saturday ~ 2359z Sunday

*For additional details visit:* <http://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/10M-Rules.pdf>

**ARRL Rookie Roundup CW** | Dec 18th ~ 1800z to 2359z | 80 - 10 Meter HF Bands

*For additional details visit:* <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup#>

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

**Final Moon Landing of Apollo 17 SES** | Dec 8th - Dec 11th | 1500z - 2359z

*For additional information email:* [rccw5yo@cox.net](mailto:rccw5yo@cox.net)

**Search for more Special Event Stations 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, Sept 15th, and **January 15th 2023**

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

or

Contact Paul, NF1G at [nf1g@arrl.net](mailto:nf1g@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](mailto: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

**1st Friday of the month** at 7:30pm HCRA Meeting. In-Person meetings will begin on Sept.9th. Meetings start with a meet & greet session with other members at 7pm followed by the regular meeting at 7:30pm sharp.

<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](mailto:bc@councilman.com)

*Note: As things are beginning to open up after the Pandemic, you should contact any meeting or VE session that you are planning to attend to be extra sure they are back on their normal schedule!*

**President** - Larry Krainson, W1AST

[w1ast@arrrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrrl.net)

**Vice-President** - Ez Morales, W1AEZ

[Edwin.Morales@me.com](mailto:Edwin.Morales@me.com)

**Treasurer** - George Collins, KC1V

[hcra.kc1v@gmail.com](mailto:hcra.kc1v@gmail.com)

**Secretary** - Paul Kelliher, NF1G

[nf1g@arrrl.net](mailto:nf1g@arrrl.net)

**Programs** - Gary Thomas, AA1UE

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**Membership** - John Plaster, K1VOI

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**Technical** - Najm Choueiry, AB1ZA

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**Newsletter** - Ken Dion, KD1KU

[kd1ku@arrrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrrl.net)

**Website** - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL

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[n1jie@arrrl.net](mailto:n1jie@arrrl.net)

**WB1Z trustee**, Vanessa, W1IRL

[webmaster@hcra.org](mailto:webmaster@hcra.org)



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**Plenty to Read Preparing for the  
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