



# ZERO BEAT

HCRA's 75th Anniversary - 1948 - 2023!

## Meeting Update!

The Holyoke Hospital meeting room is opened to us once again. In-person meetings are back!

Need directions?

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

## Welcome New Members

Mike Suls - KB1BKI  
Chris Culppepper - AB1TJ  
Steve Judycki - KC1TQR  
Bob Scagliarini - KB1WAL  
Marvin Turner Jr - W0MET

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From the editor:

December 2023

*Happy holidays to everyone. Your Board of Directors has been busy planning fun-filled activities for all of the members to participate in during the final month of our club's 75th anniversary!*

*The 75th Anniversary Holiday Party is December 4th at the Steaming Tender. With well over \$1000 in prizes plus the normal door prizes. There will be some very special guests joining us as well.*

*One thing is true, and that's the fact that we have a very good-sized crowd of people joining us at the party. The food is great, and the company is even better! Being in a club that's been around for 75 years doesn't happen every day!*

*This 75th anniversary has been lots of fun throughout the entire year. I truly enjoyed every part of the club's anniversary, especially all the extras to get everybody excited about taking part in the activities.*

*Bill, W1FMX, has penned yet another great article on [page 12](#) about a 1920's-style transmitter. Don't miss the FREE tech license class, so tell anyone you know who wants their ham radio license. This class is led by Gary, AA1UE.*

*Don't forget to welcome our newest members at the next club meeting. I hope everyone gets the holiday gifts they wrote to Santa about. Everybody have a safe and fun holiday. May your stockings be full of ham gear!*

73, Ken - KD1KU

## The 75th Diamond Celebration

The annual holiday party has expanded into the 75th anniversary of the HCRA, going back to 1948. I certainly hope everyone will join us at the Steaming Tender restaurant in Palmer, MA. Fantastic food, great people, great conversation, with door prizes for everyone plus three very special prizes only available to members! Festivities' begin Dec. 4th at 6 pm.

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

## Upcoming Meetings and Guest Speakers

 <p>September 2023</p>	<p>In-person guest speakers are Bob Glorioso, W1IS, and Bob Rose, KC1DSQ, will be speaking on all types of wire antennas. Both Bobs have had articles published in QST and CQ magazines. This meeting is NOT to be missed!</p>
 <p>OCTOBER 2023</p>	<p>This in-person meeting features a very special guest speaker. WWLP Channel 22's meteorologist, Adam Strzempko, W1AJS Yes, Adam is one of us! I'm sure he will be a super fascinating in guest speaker.</p>
 <p>November 2023</p>	<p>HCRA's Annual Auction is Back in-Person at the November Meeting! Ham Radio Gear and Related Accessories Only! Absolutely NO computers, monitors, or PC parts! The 2022 auction was a huge hit; don't miss it this year!</p>
 <p>DECEMBER 2023</p>	<p>The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant Dec 4th. Join us for a Night of Food and Fun as we celebrate HCRA's 75th Anniversary with a special party with 3 prizes worth over \$1000</p>
 <p>JANUARY 2024</p>	<p>The January guest speaker is Marvin Turner, WOMET, who will be talking about Winter Field Day. He is the WFD president and also a new resident of the WMA section.</p>
 <p>FEBRUARY 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>MARCH 2024</p>	<p>March's speaker features everything you always wanted to know about DMR by Steve Shore, WA1ZEV. Be sure not to miss Steve's presentation.</p>
 <p>April 2024</p>	<p>The annual HCRA Show and Tell is back once again! Enter your projects, kits or whatever and win prizes! Last year's Show and Tell was a huge success, get started on your projects today.</p>
 <p>MAY 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>June 2024</p>	<p>Elections, Field Day prep, and more. Please consider running for a Board of Directors position. HCRA is a much better club when everyone's involved!</p>

# SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE MEETINGS

## STK Zoom Meeting Schedule for 2023

**Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings are back in 2024 for everyone's enjoyment!**

Club President Larry, W1AST, worked extremely hard to find and host these exciting presentations!  
Have a topic to suggest? Would you like to give a presentation? Contact [hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com)

January 9th at 7pm	<i>All About Raspberry Pi</i>	<i>By Aaron, KF1G</i>
January 23rd at 7pm	<i>All About D-Star and how it compares to DMR and Fusion</i>	<i>By Terry Stader, KA8SCP</i>
January 30th at 7pm	<i>All about WRTC 2023 in Italy</i>	<i>By Dennis Egan, W1UE</i>
February at 7pm	<i>To Be Announced</i>	
February at 7pm	<i>To Be Announced</i>	
March at 7pm	<i>To Be Announced</i>	
March at 7pm	<i>To Be Announced</i>	

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



### **March 2022 Clublog Video How-to**

I'm sure many members aren't sure what Clublog is or what it does. If you missed it, here is your chance to watch it again.  
Watch this video, and you'll know what's happening on page 25.

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



# CALL SIGN GAME

Remember club president Larry asked for your old call signs?

A little game to test your local ham radio knowledge: How well do you know your friends?

Can you match the name and current call sign with a call sign they used to hold?

The answers will be in the January issue of Zero Beat.

How many did you get correct without looking them up?

Post your correct score and any comments on the HCRA Facebook group and email list.

Name	Current Call		Old Call		Calls to Choose From
Al	N1AW				DK1TM/W1
Alan	AB1XW				K1BOW
Brad	W1BCC				KC1IRL
Frandy	N1FJ				N1KQH
Gary	AA1UE				N1EOE
Harold	N1FTP				WN1GJM
Jim	KK1W				N1ZQH
Ken	KD1KU				N3IMU
John	KX1X				W1BGD
John	W1JA				WA1FJW
Juergen	NV1Q				WA1ZUH
Larry	W1AST				N1FSF
Pete	W1RM				WB1FJP
Steve	AA1HF				WN0KFH
Ted	K3FEC				WB1DBY
Vanessa	W1IRL				WN1JMO

Print this page, write in your answers using your best guesses in the "Old Call" column (*without looking them up*), then wait for the answers in the January issue to see how well you know your fellow Hams.

## December 2023

**December 2023 is an exciting month!** We start with the annual holiday party on Monday night, December 4th, at the Steaming Tender. Everyone will gather for good food, a great environment, and fantastic companionship with your friends. Spend time with old ones and make new ones. There are door prizes for everyone, and there are three very special door prizes for the 75th anniversary of the club.

We've been celebrating the club's anniversary all year long, and December is no exception. We'll end it with a big bang. We have \$1100 of special door prizes, and some special guests will be joining us in honor of the 75th anniversary too. You don't want to miss this event!

**The ARRL 10 meter contest** is on December 9th and 10th. It starts Friday at 7:00 pm local time and goes 48 hours to 6:59 pm Sunday. This is both SSB and CW, and it is always tons of fun. If the propagation gods are with us, there should be many stations on the air.

**Here are the official rules:** <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/10M-Rules.pdf>

The contest is one where the scores are aggregated and credited to the HCRA as well as your own score. Make sure to put down the club as Hampden County Radio Association in the club area.

The report is super simple: 59 WMA or 59 CT for SSB or 599 and state for CW.

Log in with N1MM, N3FJP, or any contest logging software. (<https://n3fjp.com/10meter.html>)

**Open your shack** to technicians as well as other license classes. This is something your board is doing this year. If you would like to visit a local shack and learn about HF, get on the air. Be mentored or coached, and get on the air! This is a perfect opportunity for you.

Contact someone from the board (<https://hcra.org/contacts>) and ask when would be a good time to stop by and see their shack and get on the air. You need to contact people, not just show up. Or volunteer and open your shack to new hams, inactive hams; help others get on the air and help them catch that HF bug!

I've opened my shack in the past and have had a number of visitors. Faye has cooked something yummy, and people have bought food for all to share. And we get on the air, converse, and enjoy the contest. It's tons of fun! Plan to participate or visit another shack!

**Have you ever been to the Dayton Hamvention?** Hamcation in Orlando? Those are just some of the larger ham conventions in the US. There are some a bit smaller, like Huntsville down south and another out west.

**But what about New England?**



Continued on page 6



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST

The Northeast HamXposition committee is working on making it a major ham convention in 2024. HamXpo already has the largest number of forums in the country. Now we are working on bringing in many more vendors and ways to enhance the flea market.

Soon a new website will be going up showcasing the changes.

Plan to attend. Put August 23, 24 and 25 in your calendar for 2024. You won't want to miss the next HamXpo!

**Is your family always asking you what you want for a holiday or birthday present?**

A weekend at the HamXpo would be perfect. A few nights in the hotel, both the Friday and Saturday night banquets, Saturday night story telling (very funny this past year), lots of fun, and a great way to spend the weekend!

**Portable operation** in the form of field operating, POTA, or SOTA, is huge right now. New portable QRP radios seem to be announced every week. It's very easy to add new rigs to your collection for a reasonable amount of money.



**Here are some QRP rigs to look up and suggest to your loved ones as something you would like to own.**

- TRuSDX
- Elecraft KH1 and KX line
- QRP-Labs QMX
- Icom IC-705
- Xiegu X6100 and others
- Mountain Topper
- FX-4CR
- and many others

Continued on page 7

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST

A great source of hands-on, in-the-field reviews is [qrper.com](https://qrper.com) (<https://qrper.com/category/qrp-radios>). His insight and operations of different rigs, antennas, and all things you may need or want to go portable with are listed in each article. All of them are worth reading.

**Do not forget** about the QRP-Labs clock kit we are building. We extended the sign-up to the end of September. This is an easy, fun, and useful project. It'll be hands-on soldering, with help available as part of the group build. A good way to learn proper soldering techniques, organizing, and assembly ideas to make your kit a success. See elsewhere in this issue for the clock kit sign-up. This is another good thing to suggest to family members as a holiday present. I love my clock, and it has a special place on my desk where it is visible all the time.

**Starting in January**, the HCRA will be starting the shutdown of the email reflector. We are moving to Groups.io. This will give us much greater flexibility for getting the word out. Groups.io allows photos, web links, colored texts, special notices, and much, much more flexibility than our current email reflector.

The information and directions will be announced in the January ZeroBeat. One of the immediate changes is that you must sign up instead of being signed up automatically. There will be more information on sign-up and how groups.io works next month.

**Starting in January, the Share The Knowledge** mini-meetings will start up again. I have been so busy that I have not had much time to plan them. There are three scheduled for January so far. I have a few feelers out there for other speakers, but no others have been confirmed yet (as of 11/12). Do you have a subject that you would like to learn more about or a speaker in mind? Send me an email at [hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com), and I will see what I can do.

*Don't forget to get on the air for the ARRL 10m contest the weekend of December 9th and 10th! I hope to work you!*

*The HCRA board wishes everyone a safe, healthy, and fun holiday season.*

73,  
Larry, W1AST  
[hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com)

*YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WOULD LIKE TO THANK HCRA MEMBER  
LARRY, W1ELG FOR HIS VERY GENEROUS DONATION TO OUR CLUB!*



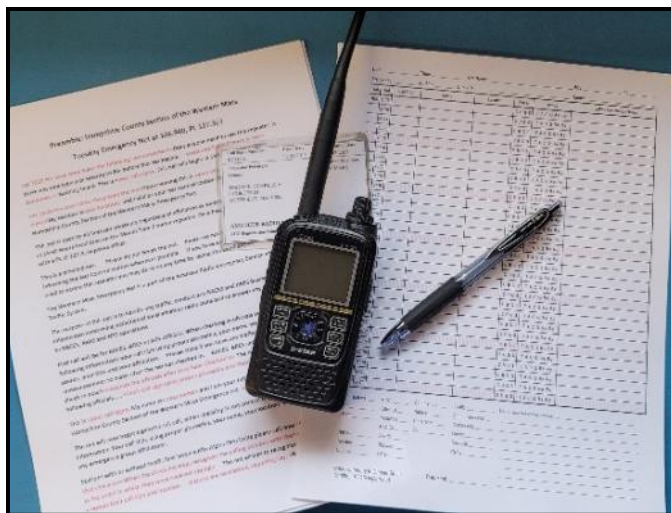
*thank you* 😊

# ARES AND SKYWARN NET UPDATE

WMA ARES Nets & More by Smitty, KC1IKA

## It happens every year...

One of the many things that amuses me this time of year is the mad rush of shoppers at the announcement of the first significant snowstorm. They rush out to purchase snow shovels, car window brushes and scrapers, fuel for their snow blowers, and ice melt for their sidewalks. Winter happens every year around this time, and we always get at least one significant snow storm. Instead of waiting for the storm to be a day or two away, why not do something different this year? Get ready now! My favorite mantra with just about everything I do is, "If you are always ready, you don't have to get ready."



A few things that can take more time than checking to see if they are present are items like snow blowers and emergency generators. Make sure you check them out now, before you need them. Make sure they start and you have fresh fuel. If you have a pellet stove or wood stove, make sure the chimney is clean and free of obstructions. Be sure to have enough fuel on hand for those as well. If you are like me and operate off of battery power, make sure your batteries are topped up and ready to use. Put your light sources where you can find them and make sure they are charged, or you have a couple of sets of batteries. Every year, there are fires started by the careless use of candles for lighting. If you do use candles, be sure to keep them away from combustibles and secure them from falling over.

Extra blankets and good-old hot water bottles are excellent for those cold nights when you just need a little more warmth. The hot water bottles are also good for warming up a bed before you get in it. And they are reusable. A hint about hot-water bottle usage: when I empty the water out of them, I use that water for my plants instead of just pouring it down the drain. You should always have enough supplies for three to five days, minimum, in case the power goes out due to a storm. Don't forget about being able to charge your cell phone. There are multiple options for that as well. Worst case, you can charge your cell phone in your car.

The key to being comfortable during a winter power outage is being prepared. If there is plenty of snow, you can use bags of snow to keep your food from spoiling. You can also melt snow to use in your toilet or hot water bottles. So, get ready now. Winter happens every year, and we have significant snowfall at least once each winter. For practice nets or real weather nets, you do not need to be a Skywarn Spotter. You just need to be aware of what the Skywarn criteria are and understand what we will be looking for. I would prefer trained Skywarn spotters, but it won't be required.

## Skywarn Nets

There will be occasional practice Skywarn nets immediately after the 1930 Tuesday ARES nets on the Mt Tom repeaters, 146.940 and 443.200. I will announce a week in advance when the net occurs and at the beginning of the net it will be after. At that time, I will announce what "conditions" are occurring in the area and what range of parameters we will be working with. One very important piece of data for the Winter nets is your station elevation. Please get that information now.

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# ARES AND SKYWARN NET UPDATE CONT'D

## WMA ARES Nets & More by Smitty, KC1IKA

After the ARES net, we will do a practice informal net or a formal net. Again, your elevation is very important for the National Weather Service, as it allows them to isolate snow depths or ice accretion by elevation and area. If you don't know your elevation, most cell phones have GPS apps available which can provide that information. You do not have to be a Skywarn member to participate. In the spring, the schedule for Skywarn training will be announced.

The key to participating on the nets is to listen to what information the net control is requesting and just give that information. They will also let you know at the beginning of the net how to properly sign into formal nets. Informal nets are a lot easier to participate in as we are usually just monitoring the repeater to take reports as they become available.

**Here are a couple of links to Skywarn Nets and what is considered "reportable criteria":**

- <https://wx1box.org/skywarn-reporting-criteria/>
- <https://wx1box.org/southern-new-england-skywarn-frequency-list/>
- <https://www.weather.gov/box/skywarn#>

73, Smitty, KC1IKA

*Western MA ARES and Skywarn NCS, CERT Radio Operator for Westfield*

## Have You Paid Your Dues?

The special 75th membership deal is over, and many members took advantage of this deal, but there are still some members who have yet to renew... Are YOU one of them?

**If you're unsure if your current dues are up-to-date, Simply go to the club's membership page by clicking the following link:** <https://hcra.org/current-members/>

Look for your name and callsign; your membership expiration date is in the far right column. If your name is NOT on the list, then you MUST pay your dues ASAP, as your membership has expired!

For \$15 per year, you get tons of perks, including outgoing QSL cards through ARRL's Outgoing QSL Service. Monthly club meetings, club activities, kit building, fox hunting, a newsletter, and more. This year's Holiday Party is yet another special one in honor of the club's 75th anniversary. Your dues MUST be paid in full, and you MUST be present to be eligible for the three big prizes.

These are only a few membership perks; if you read through Zero Beat and on hcra.org, you will find many other perks that only members can get. **Renew your dues today before it's too late!**

**To renew, click the link below and follow the instructions on the membership page.**  
<https://hcra.org/online-new-membership-application-and-renewal/>

# HCRA KIT BUILD

**NEW Extended Deadline to Order your Kit**

## QRP Labs Clock Kit

This clock kit is based on the same hardware as the Ultimate 3/3S QRSS/WSPR kit and a special firmware version. A GPS receiver module such as the QLG1 can optionally be connected for precision time-keeping. The display format is customizable; as well as time and date, you can also choose to display GPS data (e.g., location, number of received satellites, etc.).

This is a shack clock and sidereal clock kit that can optionally also be connected to a GPS receiver module such as the QLG1 to provide precise time. Alternatively, it can be used standalone or with a different 1 pulse per second (pps) signal source.

### **This clock's features include:**

- GPS date, time, and other parameters, using a GPS module such as the QRP Labs QLG1
- Location (latitude, longitude, and altitude) and Maidenhead grid square
- Display of UT date, time, and weekday
- Display of local date, time, and weekday
- Display of Greenwich and Local Sidereal Time
- Configurable time zone offset, with a display of local date and local time
- 10 alarms, which can be configured to switch on and off 6 different external relays or output signals
- Flexible configuration of the display contents
- Multiple messages can be set up to display sequentially on the display lines, for a configurable duration
- Support for 4-line displays
- Two Analogue temperature sensors can optionally be connected to the kit to display temperature measurements (for example, indoor and outdoor temperature)

### **Sample Clock:**



1. The cost of the kit without GPS module and case is \$22
2. The GPS module adds \$25
3. The enclosure kit adds \$40

This will be a group build on a Saturday morning at the Holyoke Hospital meeting room. This is a perfect addition to any ham shack, whether you are a beginner or an experienced kit builder. Join us, have some fun, and make your shack look sharp too!

**The New Deadline to Order your Kit is December 31, 2023**

**Click below for details or to sign up with everyone else:**

<https://hcra.org/2023/08/15/fall-2023-tech-project-clock-for-the-hamshack/>

# JANUARY TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS, FREE!

Sign up today and choose between in-person or Zoom classes

Most likely, if you're reading this, you already have your license and know all the fun and excitement that your very first amateur radio technician class license has brought you.

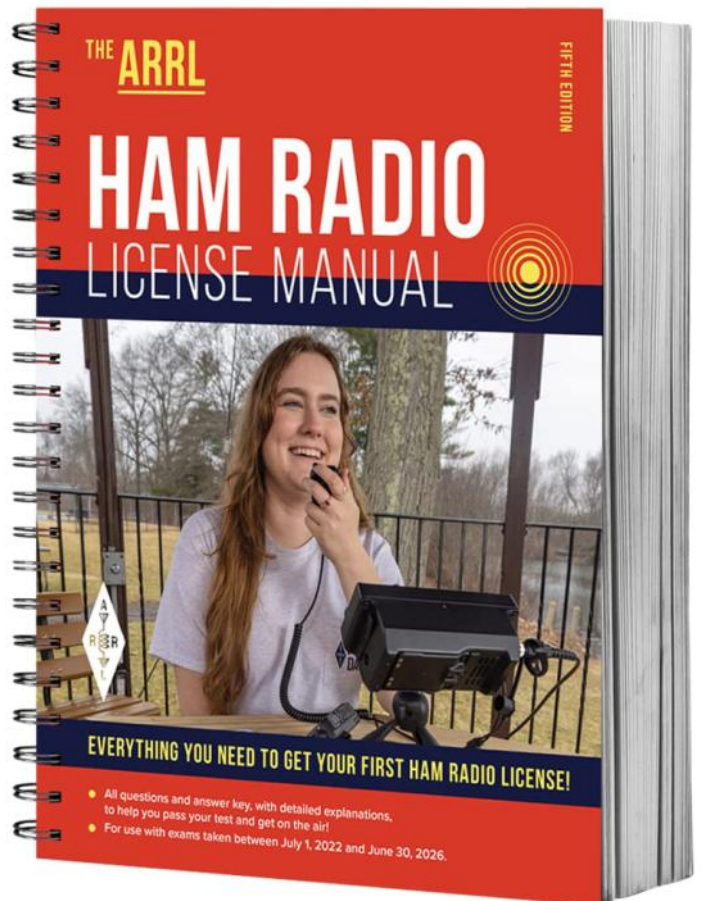
If you know of anyone who is interested in achieving this goal in life, have them register using the link below and fill out the form to get their name on the list for this FREE technician license class next January.

The list of applicants is filling up quickly, so don't wait too long to get your name or the name of the person who wants to get their license on the form by following the link below and filling out the required information. Choose between in person classes or online Zoom classes!

This class is free; you are only required to buy the license manual. Register using the form found by clicking on the link below.

**Register today by clicking on the link below:**

<https://hcra.org/licensing-classes/>



**Register for this class and select between in-person classes or online Zoom classes!**



# 1920's STYLE HAM RADIO TRANSMITTER

If you were a ham in the 20's you might have used a station like this

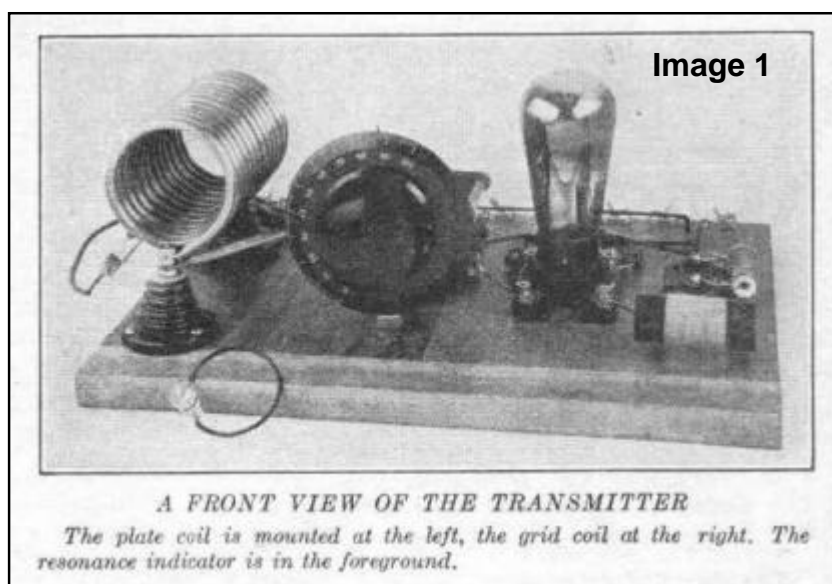
The Wireless Association (AWA) sponsors an annual event known as "Antique November," also known as "The Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party," which invites interested hams to get on the air with transmitters that are either antiques from the 1920's or replicas of those radios made using designs, tubes, and vintage parts from the 1920's. As these old transmitters operated on CW, only hand telegraph keys or vibroplex-type keys were used. Participants attempt to contact as many other 1920's style stations as possible.

If you happened to listen to the CW portions of the 160M, 80M, or 40M bands during the event, then you would likely have heard some unusual sounds. The AWA announcement notes this about the event: "Since we use early designs, it is a cacophony of whooping, chirping, buzzing, clicking, drifting, swishing, swaying, warbling, and other interesting signals. This is what ham radio sounded like in 1929, and for two weekends in November, it's 1929 again on the ham bands!"

Locally, one of the 1920's transmitters heard on the air for the AWA QSO Party was operated at the Vintage Radio and Communication Museum of Connecticut (VRMCT). It was designed and built by museum member Larry Bearse, WA1LGQ. The radio he designed is a "TNT" (tuned-not-tuned) transmitter that works on the 80-meter band using antique type #10 or VT25 tubes. The transmitter can produce an RF output of up to 11 watts.

TNT transmitters were popular with new Hams during the early era of Ham Radio, as these devices were fairly simple to build and operate. More sophisticated circuits required many adjustments and the use of as many as four controls to tune the transmitters—something that was really too much of a challenge for beginners. An alternative was to use a transmitter that required the plate (of the one tube used in the transmitter) to be tuned, but that did not require the operator to tune the grid of that same tube, as this was found not to be critical; thus, the "Tuned, Not Tuned" transmitter was the one suggested for beginners. An article appeared in QST magazine (December 1929, page 29) explaining the TNT.

The TNT transmitter was envisioned as a "breadboard" project that could be built for a small investment since it utilized only one tube and a few parts. In this design, the oscillator was tuned, but the antenna was not. So, the user had to make sure to pair it with a resonant antenna, all of which is explained in the QST article; thus, the user would need a 127.5-foot-long antenna to operate at 3750 kilocycles. Here is a schematic of the 1929 TNT:



Continued on page 13

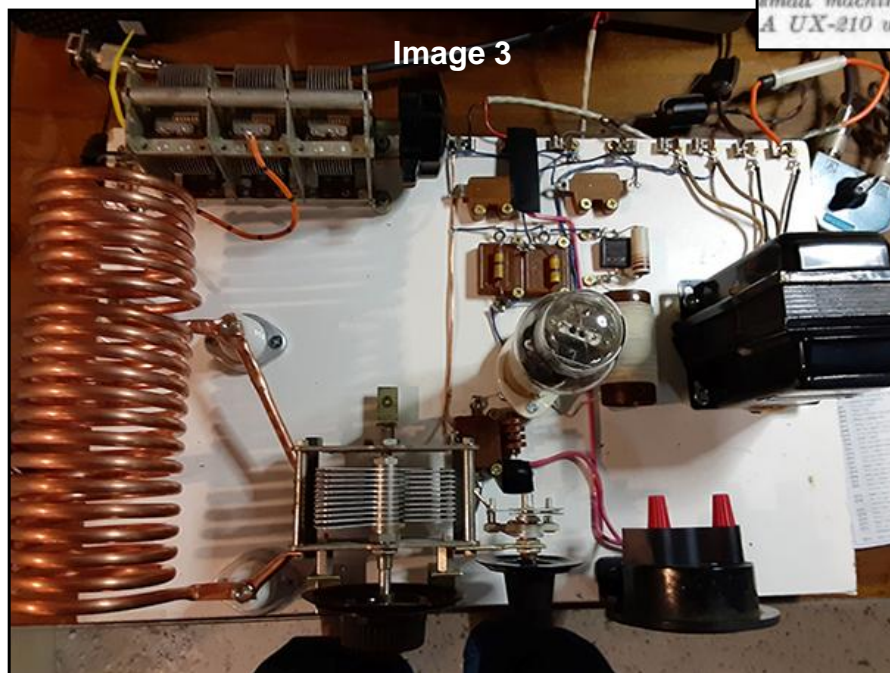
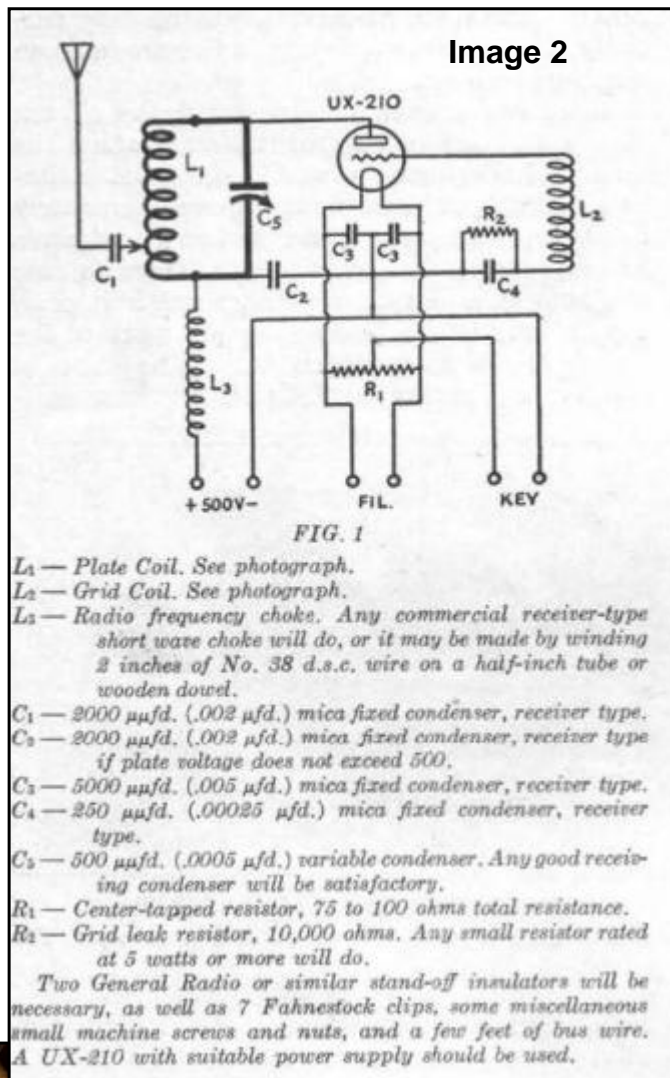


# 1920's STYLE HAM RADIO TRANSMITTER CONT'D

If you were a ham in the 20's you might have used a station like this

Starting some time before the AWA event, Larry Bearse began to collect the parts he would need for the transmitter he was building. He found a variable capacitor at a Hamfest and some of the old resistors and capacitors among the materials stored at the museum. The copper tubing had to be hand-wound to precise measurements. He hand-wound another inductor using fabric-coated wire, too. Additionally, Larry added some other components to the basic circuit, such as a milliampere and another variable capacitor used in matching the antenna. Power for the TNT was supplied by an old Heath-kit power supply. For reception, a vintage Collins receiver was put into service.

On the first evening of the AWA event, Larry Bearse fired up the TNT, and he made contacts with other stations operating old transmitters based anywhere from Maine to Ohio. Listening to the other transmitters is an experience; there is all of the "chirping, buzzing, and whooping" promised in AWA's announcement. As he operated, Bearse also used an SDR display, which showed exactly how some of the signals were sliding around on the band. Suddenly, the "T" in Readability, Strength, and Tone (RST) reporting became significant again. Months of planning and work were rewarded with a chance to experience Ham Radio as it was practiced nearly 100 years ago.



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# 1920's STYLE HAM RADIO TRANSMITTER CONT'D

If you were a ham in the 20's you might have used a station like this



Image 4

- Image #1 - A photo of a 1929 TNT transmitter that appeared in QST in November 1929
- Image #2 - The schematic of a 1929 TNT Transmitter as it appeared in QST in 1929
- Image #3 - Overview of WA1LGQ's TNT Transmitter
- Image #4 - Larry Bearse, WA1LGQ operating the 1929 TNT

73,

Bill, W1FMX & Larry Bearse, WA1LGQ

# NUTS AND VOLTS

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

### STK Zoom Meetings Begin in January

The Share The Knowledge Zoom meetings will return in January 2024. These have been a hit over the past few years. Each meeting is recorded and added to the HCRA YouTube archive on [hcra.org](https://www.hcra.org) where you can find all past meetings on a range of topics.

If you or anyone you know has a topic you'd like to suggest, or if you would like to give your own presentation, simply contact Larry, W1AST, at [funhamradio@gmail.com](mailto:funhamradio@gmail.com). Watch for more announcements that will be coming in the very near future.

### First WAS Certificate for the 33-Centimeter Band

Al Ward's, W5LUA, 38-year quest to contact all 50 states on the 33-centimeter band ended when he received the first-ever Worked All States (WAS) certificate for 902–928 MHz.

Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, was one of the first to congratulate Ward stated, "It's my privilege to confirm the ARRL Awards Department has received your WAS application and we have issued the 33-centimeter WAS Award #1 to you in culmination of your 38-year quest to contact all 50 states." Details below.

<https://www.arrl.org/news/the-first-worked-all-states-certificate-awarded-for-the-33-centimeter-band>

### SKYWARN Recognition Day

2023 SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) is December 2 from 0000z to 2400z. The event honors all SKYWARN storm spotters and amateur radio operators for their contributions to the National Weather Service (NWS) during severe weather. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website is now updated with the SKYWARN registration form, mapping form, and rules and information you'll need to check in for this year's event. More information can be found at,

<https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>

### Worked all HCRA Award

This award is something Larry, W1AST, has worked on for months to give members another activity to do throughout 2023. The goal of this year-long event is to work 10 different HCRA members on HF in any mode and on any band!

Submit your logs to [hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com) and earn a commemorative certificate celebrating our 75th anniversary! This only runs through 2023 and is a little something special for our 75th year! January 1st through December 31st, 2023, this is one of many special HCRA activities!

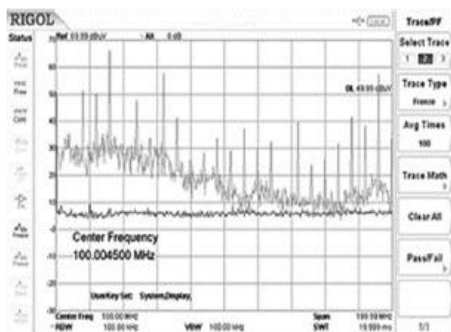
**Western Massachusetts Section News:** <https://wma.arrl.org>

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

**ARRL Western Massachusetts Section Manager** - Raymond P. Lajoie, AA1SE - [aa1se@arrl.org](mailto:aa1se@arrl.org)

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





# Need Help With RF Interference Issues ?

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

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

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

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

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

Vy 73,  
Your WMA RFI Team

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



# VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR FINAL MONTH!

## ARRL's VOTA Operating Event is Winding Down!

ARRL's yearlong operating event, Volunteers On the Air, or VOTA, began January 1, 2023. The event is organized as part of ARRL's 2023 theme, "Year of the Volunteers," which recognizes the contributions of ARRL member volunteers, and offers opportunities to become more active and involved in amateur radio and ARRL.

VOTA encourages participants to make contacts with ARRL members and volunteers, earning points for each contact. Point values have been assigned (see the Points Table at [vota.arrl.org](https://vota.arrl.org)). All scoring is automatically calculated through ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW, <https://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>). If you are already a LoTW user, continue uploading your QSOs to participate. If you're a new LoTW user, visit Getting Started with LoTW.

As part of the event, there will be week-long activations by W1AW portable stations operating in all US states and territories. W1AW/# portable operations are worth 5 points for each contact, and they can be contacted on all bands and modes. There's also an opportunity to earn the W1AW Worked All States Award. There will be two week-long W1AW operations from each of the 50 states.

Only two-way contacts qualify for points (cross-band, cross-mode, and repeater contacts are not valid), using any mode (CW, phone, or digital) - including EME and satellite operations - on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, and 1.25 meters, as well as 70 centimeters, VHF/UHF/SHF, and microwave bands available to US amateurs above 2 meters (2190-, 630-, 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter band contacts are not counted for credit in this event).



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**The VOTA program has been an enjoyable experience, but it's not over yet. December has many chances to grab that last-minute, elusive QSO.**

Every volunteer is given a point value, as is every member. Get all of the information to help you grab that last special VOTA activation. Use the following links to get every edge you can to grab that last QSO.

**Learn more about VOTA at:** <https://vota.arrl.org>

**Search the VOTA Leaderboard,** can be searched at: <https://vota.arrl.org/leaderboard.php>

**See the Points Table at** [vota.arrl.org](https://vota.arrl.org) for the full list of points.

**Get a last minute tip on where to find the last VOTA stations at:** <https://vota.arrl.org/w1awPortable.php>

**Get out there and make the most out of the final month and make those contact's  
Above all... HAVE FUN!**

# ZERO BEAT CLASSIFIEDS

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

**FOR SALE!**

## Brand New D-104 Silver Eagle For Sale



FOR SALE - Brand New T-UP9-D104 Astatic Silver Eagle Mic. Classic looks with all the modern electronics for today's radios.

D-104 was removed from box and back of head was engraved with the owners callsign. Comes with original box and paperwork. **\$225 or Best Offer**



Contact [kenathas@gmail.com](mailto:kenathas@gmail.com) or call 413-531-4744

## Elecraft Station and IC-7300 For Sale by Larry, KD1RV

- Elecraft K3 100watt Rig - \$1100
- KPA- 500, 500watt Linear Amp - \$2000
- KAT-500 Antenna Tuner - \$500  
*Includes manuals and original boxes*

*Above prices are for items listed separately  
or  
\$3,600.00 as a complete Elecraft station!*

Also:

- Icom IC-7300 Transceiver - \$800  
*Includes manuals and original box*

Contact Larry, KD1RV at [larrydziobek@gmail.com](mailto:larrydziobek@gmail.com)

Continued on page 19

# ZERO BEAT CLASSIFIEDS

CONT'D

**FOR SALE!**

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

## Items For Sale from Dave, WM1B, in East Longmeadow, MA.

- Antenna Tower Tuner 300 CN 300 Watt Tuner - \$50
- Kenwood HF/MHZ TS-590 All Mode Transceiver - \$500
- Kenwood MC-60 Desk Microphone - \$50
- Yaesu G459A Rotator Controller - \$50
- Rotator on 30' Tower - \$100
- Tower Antenna - \$150
- Rotatable Band - \$200
- FM Band - \$50
- ICOM IC-208 VHF/UHF FM Transceiver - \$150
- Wooxom FM Dual Sanoer KG-UVOOP - \$25
- Realistic 10-meter SSB/CW Transceiver Model HTX-100 - \$75
- Vertical 5 Frequency Antenna Mast - \$50
- ~~Astron Power Supply Dual Meters - \$40~~ **SOLD**
- PK-88 Packet Controller with Cables & Manuals - \$40

**If you have questions or item clarifications contact Dave at the contact info below.**

Email Dave at [dfant19508@aol.com](mailto:dfant19508@aol.com) or call 484-529-0090 or 413-525-3022

*If you have questions regarding items, use the contact info below*

If interested, or have questions, contact Dave Fant, WM1B at [dfant19508@aol.com](mailto:dfant19508@aol.com)

Email - [dfant19508@aol.com](mailto:dfant19508@aol.com)

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

*1948 ~ 2023 75 Years as an ARRL Affiliated Club*

### Share The Knowledge Video Library

All STK meetings have been uploaded to [hcra.org](http://hcra.org) and YouTube. If you missed any of these exciting, informative meetings, simply click the link below to view them.

<https://www.youtube.com/@HampdenCountyRA/videos>









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

This is the latest HCRA Clublog for 2023 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy this year!

*HCRA Clublog Information Updated on November 28th 2023*



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	29	64	0	133	64	174	66	182	85	182	7	259	986	60 yrs
2	KK1W+1	23	41	0	84	101	115	113	134	143	129	10	257	893	47 yrs
3	NF1G	0	29	0	21	74	133	107	167	114	128	0	239	773	39 yrs
4	KX1X	2	73	13	116	123	149	113	168	145	163	4	213	1069	26 yrs
5	K1NZ+1 ★	20	26	24	32	98	99	75	122	132	117	5	203	750	12 yrs
6	WY1G	0	20	0	40	0	77	48	87	99	132	7	196	510	42 yrs
7	W1AST+1	2	23	0	26	18	68	56	79	87	80	4	161	443	14 yrs
8	N1FTP ★	0	2	0	32	8	73	30	52	42	111	2	146	352	15 yrs
9	W1PY+1	0	4	0	38	0	48	2	97	5	87	0	127	281	13 yrs
10	K1VOI	2	22	0	42	34	74	28	72	18	57	1	126	350	22 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	NE1C	23	53	0	76	0	100	0	110	0	96	0	123	458	21 yrs
12	NV1Q+3	0	3	0	40	10	84	5	78	7	76	0	110	303	44 yrs
13	W1JA+1	0	3	4	19	30	2	48	0	49	1	2	101	158	54 yrs
14	N1TA+3	3	23	0	12	9	19	4	25	5	7	1	68	108	22 yrs
15	NT1K+2	0	0	0	18	0	36	0	14	0	36	0	62	104	13 yrs
16	N1JIE	1	2	1	9	21	26	15	29	10	30	1	61	145	6 yrs
17	WD1S	1	3	0	5	0	24	0	17	0	11	1	33	62	11 yrs
18	W1NU+2	1	0	0	9	1	3	1	0	0	2	0	14	17	8 yrs
19	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	11 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>


# ARRL CLUB COMMISSION PROGRAM

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership through the HCRA!

One benefit of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is that your club earns a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and for renewing members! Download the form, fill it out completely including payment (check only), and mail it to **Hampden County Radio Association, P.O. Box 562, Agawam, MA. 01001**

**When joining or renewing your ARRL membership please download the form using the handy link below and send it to the HCRA P.O. Box above and NOT directly to the ARRL.**

[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/2022 Affiliated Club Membership Application.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/2022%20Affiliated%20Club%20Membership%20Application.pdf)

 <b>ARRL</b> The National Association for Amateur Radio®		ARRL Affiliated Club Membership Application	
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a brand-new member, or my membership lapsed for 2 or more years. My club will receive a \$15 commission.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I am renewing (includes lapsed members of less than 2 years). My club will receive a \$5.00 commission.			
Name _____		Call Sign _____	
Address _____			
City _____		State _____	ZIP _____
Email _____		Phone _____	
Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____			
<input type="checkbox"/> My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (Annually \$10 per member)			
Name _____			
Name _____			
<b>Your Annual Membership Dues -</b> Circle Your Choice			
	3 Years	2 Years	1 Year
US Membership	\$140	\$95	\$49
International (Digital Only)	\$140	\$95	\$49
International (with mailed QST)	\$217	\$147	\$76
Blind	\$30	\$20	\$10
Family	\$30	\$20	\$10
Student			\$25
TOTAL \$		<input type="text"/>	
<b>Choose your print magazine -</b> Check One			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>QST</b> , ARRL's membership journal for active radio amateurs (12 monthly issues)			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>On the Air</b> , Beginner-to-intermediate-level help and advice (6 bimonthly issues)			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Digital Only</b> (All members can access the digital versions of both magazines)			
<b>Payment</b> Enclosed is my: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Charge Request			
Charge to my: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Amex <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card Number _____		Expiration Date _____	
Card Holders Signature _____			
Toll Free (US) 1-888-277-5289 or 860-594-0200 • ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1400 membership@arrl.org • www.arrl.org/join			

# DOTS & DASHES

THINGS THAT DON'T FIT ANYPLACE ELSE!

## Thank You for your Memories

The HCRA Board of Directors would like to thank every HCRA member that took a few minutes to send their club history and other artifacts to our Vice President, Ez, W1AEZ who did a great job along with his committee members.

**A huge thank you goes out to everybody who helped to make this 75th anniversary happen!**

## The Ham Bands are on Fire!

Solar Cycle 25 is already beginning to show its influence on long distance radio propagation...and ARRL members get a front row seat! Enjoy exclusive ARRL Cycle 25 content and resources throughout the pages of our membership magazines, website, and opportunities to discover and learn. Let ARRL help you get ready and on the air. **Cycle 25 is here!**

**For more info like this check out On The Air online Magazine:** <http://arrrl.org/on-the-air>

## Contests and Special Event Stations

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

**10 Meter Contest | 28 MHz | December 9-10, 2023 | 0000z Saturday - 2359z Sunday**

*For rules and info go to:* <https://contests.arrrl.org/ContestRules/10M-Rules.pdf>

**December Rookie Roundup CW | 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz | Dec 17th - 1800z to 2359z**

*For rules and additional information go to:* <http://www.arrrl.org/rookie-roundup#>

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

**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day | Dec 7, 1800z - 2100z | 7.275Mhz - 14.275Mhz**

*For complete information, rules on this SES:* <http://www.qrz.com/db/n3tal>

## 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 2024**

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

or

Contact Paul, NFIG at [paulkelliher@comcast.net](mailto:paulkelliher@comcast.net)



## Local Nets & Happenings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Wednesdays**: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, Following Info Net

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

**Wednesdays: 9 am**, FCARC Experimental Net, 28.354 MHz

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

## Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



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

## Club Meetings and VE Sessions

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

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

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

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

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

**4th Monday of the month**, Be a guest Net Control Station for the 10 meter net! Contact [kd1ku@yahoo.com](mailto:kd1ku@yahoo.com)

**President** - Larry Krainson, W1AST  
[hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com)

**Vice-President** - Ez Morales, W1AEZ  
[ez.w1aez@gmail.com](mailto:ez.w1aez@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** - George Collins, KC1V  
[hcra.kc1v@gmail.com](mailto:hcra.kc1v@gmail.com)

**Secretary** - Paul Kelliher, NF1G  
[paulkelliher@comcast.net](mailto:paulkelliher@comcast.net)

**Programs** - Gary Thomas, AA1UE  
[aa1ue@amsat.org](mailto:aa1ue@amsat.org)

**Membership** - Steve Rodowicz, N1SR  
[n1sr413@gmail.com](mailto:n1sr413@gmail.com)

**Technical** - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN  
[wa1ojn@jeffway.com](mailto:wa1ojn@jeffway.com)

**At Large** - Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD  
[tipoacrata@gmail.com](mailto:tipoacrata@gmail.com)

**Zero Beat Newsletter** - Ken Dion, KD1KU  
[kd1ku@yahoo.com](mailto:kd1ku@yahoo.com)

**Website** - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL  
[webmaster@hcra.org](mailto:webmaster@hcra.org)

**W1NY trustee**, John, N1JIE  
[n1jie@arrl.net](mailto:n1jie@arrl.net)

**WB1Z trustee**, Vanessa, W1IRL  
[webmaster@hcra.org](mailto:webmaster@hcra.org)



## Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

For the benefit of every HCRA member, Brown Baggers is a friendly lunch get-together that happens on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. It's held at the [Munich Haus Restaurant](#) in Chicopee Center at 12:00 pm (noon), located at 13 Center St. Chicopee, MA, across from City Hall, or simply click the link above.

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

## 10 Meter Net Guest Net Control Station

The 10 meter net Fall/Winter schedule has begun. Every Monday evening at 7 pm local. Gary, W1JZR is NCS of this fun filled net! **On the 4th Monday of each month there will be a guest Net Control Station.**

**Like to try your hand at being a guest NCS for one Monday?** Contact Ken at [kd1ku@yahoo.com](mailto:kd1ku@yahoo.com)

***Take part in this fun rag-chew style of net every Monday at 7pm on 28.375 usb***

## Share the Knowledge Meetings are Coming Back for 2024

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings have been a huge hit. Last winter we had many excellent STK Zoom meetings! If you missed any or would like to rewatch them check out all STK videos on [hcr.org](http://hcr.org) and on YouTube by clicking <http://www.hcra.org/category/videos/>. STK begins next January 2024

If you have an idea for a STK meeting or maybe you'd like to give a short STK presentation in 2024? For complete details contact Larry, W1AST, at [hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com)

## Membership Memorial Page

All members have the opportunity to honor club members SK's on the new memorial page on [hcr.org](http://hcr.org). This can be done easily by sending the SK member's name and callsign along with any text, stories, and photos. Send them to our webmaster, Vanessa, W1IRL, at the email address below:  
[webmaster@hcr.org](mailto:webmaster@hcr.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 YouTube 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 an item to trade.

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

### HCRA Social Media Links

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

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

**Hampden County Radio Association's  
75th Anniversary!  
1948 ~ 2023**



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

**Lots to Read in Our 75th  
Anniversary Edition**

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