

Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association

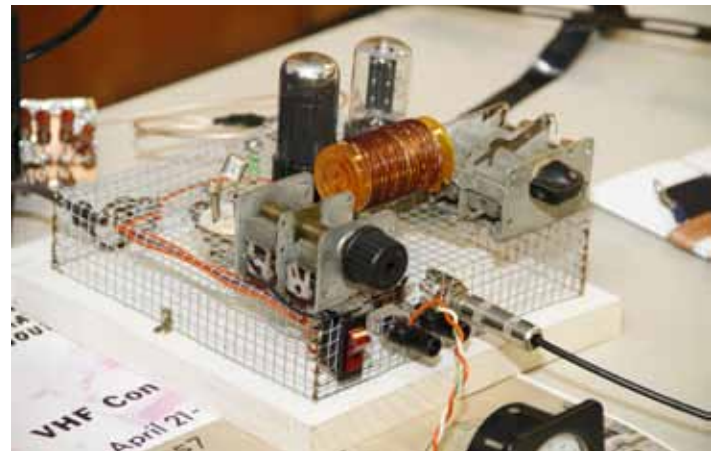
February 2013

Build your own Yagi... at our next meeting!

Our meeting Friday, February 1, will feature foxhunting (finding a hidden transmitter) and concurrently will have a “Build a Beam” workshop. See details in “From the Shack” on page 2.



Nick, K1MAZ, shown using a “home built” 2 meter tape measure Yagi on Burley Hill SOTA activation in Connecticut last year.



Al, N1AW showed this reproduction of his Novice transmitter from “a long time ago” at HCRA’s Show and Tell last year.

Get ready for Show and Tell March 1...

It’s time to finish up that project you’ve been working on over the last year and bring it to the annual HCRA Show & Tell meeting in March. No project is too small or too big (but it does have to fit through the door). [*Why?* – Ed.] Do you have something that’s not finished, but close enough to have something to show and explain? Well then bring it along. This is your chance to show your fellow club members what you’ve been working on and a chance for everyone to get ideas for projects that might improve their shack. Maybe you’ve been working on a homebrew antenna, or maybe you built a kit, or automatic antenna switch. How about a portable station, a homebrew balun, or a modification to a radio that you came up with? No project is too simple or too complex to bring to Show & Tell. However, you are going to have to explain it to everyone and bonus points will be given for keeping everyone awake! We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. Prizes will be awarded (more details soon) and refreshments will be provided with donations appreciated. So pack up that project and come on down to the March 1st HCRA meeting @ 7pm and show your fellow hams what you’ve been up to! For more information, please contact Matt – W1MSW. w1msw@arrl.net

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FROM THE SHACK

Next Meeting February 1st Foxhunting presentation and 'Build a Beam' Workshop

Meeting number two of the year is another 'double header' thanks to the efforts of Jeff/NT1K and Rich/N1KXR. Read on and see what we have in store for you this February. We will be running two concurrent activities Friday night. At the front of the auditorium will be a presentation of foxhunting and at the rear a "Build-a-Beam" workshop.

Foxhunting, what's it all about?

Whether you've thought about foxhunting, been on a foxhunt in the past or are interested in participating in future hunts this meeting is for you. We're gathering up historical data, will present a brief 'how-to' that should entice you to try foxhunting this spring and we'll talk about what foxhunting might look like in the future. If you have anything you'd like us to share from the past or suggestions for future hunts we're all ears for that too. This should be a fun presentation that will remind us the diversity our hobby provides and take our mind off the freezing cold weather for a few hours or so. Remember, spring is just around the corner.

Build your own 2m Yagi antenna! In the back of the room Jeff and Rich will be holding a 'Build a Beam' workshop. Their students will assemble a pre-cut, three element "tape measure" Yagi for 2 meters, solder on the coax and give it a try. The little Yagi is good for portable operations, SOTA, and of course – foxhunting. More details about the workshop can be found [here](#). There's still room for a few more students. If you are interested contact Jeff (NT1K@nt1k.com) right away so you don't miss out. After the beams are built everyone can watch as the happy builders give them a test run.

Show & Tell next month How's your project coming along?

HCRA's March meeting wouldn't be the same without Show & Tell. This is when YOU, the HCRA builder, get an opportunity to show off what you've been working on over the last twelve months. It's fun for the builders and the audience alike. You never know what type of project will show up. Over the years we've seen everything from stop light controllers to Van DeGraaff generators, novice transmitters to remote antenna switches, QRP rigs to kilowatt amps. Wonder what you will see this year? The only way I know of is to show up March 1st for the fun!

This year Matt/W1MSW and Frandy/N1FJ will be running

the show. I'll bet we see some different twists, don't you? Look for a separate Show & Tell article elsewhere in this issue of Zero Beat (and don't forget to keep working on your project!)

HCRA Zero Beat Archives

15 years added!

Thanks to John/AC1T and Jeff/NT1K we now have an additional fifteen years of *Zero Beats* added to the archives.

John spent many hours scanning his collection and forwarding them to Jeff for inclusion in the archives. Issues have been added from 1976 to 1990. It's interesting to see a snapshot of what both HCRA and ham radio was like 25 to 30 years ago. Some things have changed a lot, others... You'll have to see for yourself – just click

[here](#) and take a ride in the HCRA *TARDIS*!

Special request: Please take a look at the archive list. If you have, or know of someone who has other issues please get in contact Jeff so they can be added to the archive. We can accept them as a .pdf or can scan and return to you. We know there are folks out there with additional issues, here's a chance to get them preserved and easily accessible for everyone's enjoyment.



Spots from the cluster:

Silent Auction Results: January's silent auction was a success. Thanks to the many donations folks went home with bargains and HCRA added approximately \$400 to our treasury. We're still thinking of how we can bring back the 'old style' auction and welcome any suggestions.

KX3 Raffle drawing is March 2nd. There are still two HCRA meetings and one MTARA meeting offering opportunities to purchase a ticket. Your absolute last chance will be at the MTARA Hamfest on March 2nd. Visit the HCRA table, say hello, join or renew your membership AND get a ticket – how cool is that? The drawing will be held at the hamfest at noon. Who know, you could go home with a brand spanking new KX3 worth \$1000 and be on the air that afternoon!

Notes from the ARRL Cabinet Meeting of January 5th: Dave/AA1YW and I attend the NE Division meeting, here are a few highlights:

There could be a new LF band coming soon on 135.7 to 137.8 kHz, according to the FCC. Also the ARRL has filed

(Continued from page 2)

a petition for a low frequency band on 472 to 479 kHz.

The 1900 to 2000 kHz segment of 160 meters could be made 'Primary' for ham operators. We've been secondary on this segment because it was formally used by the LORAN radio location system. The LORAN last broadcast from the system was from Caribou, Maine, September 21st, 2010.

The ARRL National Convention will be held in Hartford on July 20, 21 and 22 in 2014. Hartford was picked for the 2014 location to offer an opportunity to the participants in WRTC2014 a chance to unwind and meet other US hams.

'73 and see you at the meeting,
Jim/KK1W

KX3 Raffle – Have you purchased your Ticket Yet?



Postal rates are up!

On January 27, 2013 the U.S. Postal Service® implemented a postage rate increase for all mail classes including First Class Mail®, Priority Mail and Express Mail along with many special services.

New Product: A Global Forever Stamp is being introduced to send a one ounce letter or postcard to any country in the world for \$1.10

Some of the 2013 USPS postage rate increases:

- *First Class Letters (1 oz.) increased by one cent to \$0.46 from \$0.45. Each additional ounce will cost an extra \$0.20 (no change)*
- *First Class Flats (1 oz.) increased by two cents to \$0.92 from \$0.90. Each additional ounce will cost an extra \$0.20 (no change)*
- *Postcard rates increased by one cent to \$0.33 from \$0.34.*
- *Priority Flat Rate regular envelope is now \$5.60.*
- *Priority Flat Rate legal envelope is now \$5.75.*

Successful license classes

The HCRA license classes, held at the Holyoke Hospital, concluded Saturday. The cold weather may have kept some people away; this year's class was somewhat smaller than past years -- but these candidates were determined to walk out the door with a new license or upgrade!

Congratulations to:

Thomas P. Isham passed Technician.

Douglas E. McLean passed Technician.

Cynthia Forbes passed Technician.

Eric Lacombe (Ed's brother) passed both Technician and General Class exams.

Diane Shippee is now KB1KST/AE

Ralph Gedney is now KB1LEW/AG

- John, Kx1x



It can't have been that puzzling—Ralph Gedney, KB1LEW, upgraded to General Class with flying colors!



New Technician class licensees taking VE exam: Eric Lacombe, Thomas P. Isham, and Douglas E. McLean. Not shown: Cynthia Forbes. Eric also "upgraded" to General Class.



Diane Shippee, KB1KST, seems anxious (too much coffee?) but now has her Extra Class license.

[Special thanks go to John, Kx1x for arranging licensing classes. Such activities are among the many reasons to join and support HCRA. - Ed.]

Local happenings

(All times are local time)

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

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

Mondays: 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

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

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

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

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

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

Fridays: 1200: BB's (Brown Baggers Luncheon)

Munich House

13 Center Street

Chicopee, MA 01013

Expect between 6 and 12 attendees every Friday. Good food, great company!

Club meetings & VE sessions

1st Friday of the month 7:30 PM, HCRA Club Meeting, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech St. Holyoke MA 01040 (no meetings held in July or August) <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

3rd Friday of the month 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, Springfield, Mass. (no meetings held in July or August)

4th Friday of the month 6:00 PM, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, Mass. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET). Contact: David Cote, w1fab@arrl.net

Third Monday of the month 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield High School (no meetings held in July or August) <http://www.fcarc.org/>

4th Monday of February, May, August, November 7:00 PM, FCARC VE Exams, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Northfield <http://www.fcarc.org/>

Visit our website at <http://www.hcra.org> . We are also on Facebook Groups: *Hampden County Radio Association* and *SOTAJerks*. Join us!

Flea markets in early 2013

9 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA @VFW Dave K1ZS 603 446 7312

16 Feb Marlboro MA AARC @MidSc Timothy KA1OS 508 919 6136 T

17 Feb Westford MA NEARC RadioXLIV @Regency @8 Antique Bruce 603 772 7516

2 Mar Feeding Hills MA MTARA @TurnverneinClub Mary KB1ME 413 222 1990 (KX3 drawing!)

7 April Southington CT SARA @HS \$5@8 \$20/T@6:15 Norm W3IZ 860 584 1403

7 April Framingham MA FARA @KeefeTech \$5@9 \$25/T@7:30 Bev N1LOO 508 626 2012

HCRA contact list

President, Jim Mullen KK1W (413) 237-4666
kk1w@arrl.net

Vice-President, Ed LaCombe KB1NWH (413) 250-3137
kb1nwh@comcast.net

Treasurer, Dave Cain AA1YW (413) 569-6901
aa1yw@arrl.net

Secretary, Dave Scarpa N1MFL (413) 241-0139
scarpad@comcast.net

At Large, Marty Bowen W1MJB (413) 525-3717
w1mjb@arrl.net

Newsletter, Frandy Johnson N1FJ (413) 584-9005
n1fj@arrl.net

Programs, John Pise KX1X (413) 532-7474
kx1x@arrl.net

Membership, Rich Wheeler N1KXR (413) 584-3372
n1kxr@arrl.net

Technical, Matt Wilhelm W1MSW (413) 336-4701
w1msw@arrl.net

Skywarn Liaison, Eric Tuller N1QKO (413) 967-3869
et-n1qko@juno.com

VE Session Team Liaison, Dave Cote W1FAB (413) 575-2950
w1fab@arrl.net

January 8, 2013 HCRA Board Meeting Minutes

[In the future, HCRA Board Meeting Minutes will be posted on HCRA.org and will not be published in Zero Beat]

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by the President (Jim, KK1W). Absent: Kx1x.

VP Report (Ed, KB1NWH)

Raffle update: 120 tickets left. Drawing will be March 2nd drawing at the MTARA Hamfest. Ed and Dan, KB1VWQ installed a dipole at Bob Lafleur's house (NQ1C).

Treasurer's Report (Dave, AA1YW)

Balance \$ 5804.69

Membership (Rich, N1KXR)

74 Regular Members

Technical (Matt, W1MSW)

10 Meter contest Results: 2 Gift Cards given, one for high score and one for most improved.

Zero Beat (Frandy, N1FJ)

Zero Beat deadline is Jan 25th. Articles needed!

At Large (Marty, W1MJB)

Holiday Party results: 74 members and guests attending.

Programs (John, Kx1x) (not present)

License class discussions. February meeting: assembly of tape measure VHF beam kits (Jeff and Rich). March meeting: Show and Tell (Matt and Frandy)

New Business (Jeff, NT1K)

Jeff has come up with a way to handle handling new memberships and renewals on line, using PayPal for payment. Voted to implement.

Dufresne Park in Granby will be reserved again for Field Day 2013. Jim gave a report on the New England Division Cabinet Meeting. Next HCRA Board meeting is March 5th.



**START PLANNING
YOUR NEW TOWER
AND ANTENNA
INSTALLATIONS
FOR SPRING!**



Franklin County Amateur Radio Club events for February 2013

[From FCARC.org]

- February 2:** Greenfield Winter Carnival, Sleigh Bell Race, Saturday. Race HQ and FCARC net control will be at Hope and Olive Restaurant because the library is unavailable this year. Volunteers should meet at 9 a.m., the race starts at 10. We plan to use the [FCARC 448.875 MHz repeater](#). Chris, KB1NEK is signing up volunteers. Contact him on one of the nets, call him at 413-625-0344 or e-mail him at camyers_1@verizon.net.
- February 11:** E-Board, GHS, 6 p.m. Monday.
- February 11:** Program meeting, GHS, 7:15 p.m. Monday. We meet on the 2nd Monday this month because the 3rd Monday is a holiday, but we have a VE session the 4th Monday. Program TBA.
- February 16:** Club breakfast, Denny's, 8 a.m. Saturday.
- February 25:** Amateur Radio License exams (VE session), Northfield Unitarian Church, 7 p.m.



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- February 11:** E-Board, GHS, 6 p.m. Monday.



Why it isn't always so much fun to climb mountains?

January 12, 2013 going up Bare Mountain from the Notch there were a few inches of snow combined with icy patches. Crampons were a welcome companion. But it wasn't that cold, and I made 46 QSOs on 40 and 20 meter CW from the summit, including dx. - N1FJ

Advertisement

For Sale: Heil SM-1 Shock mount for slim line microphones. New in box \$70



The SM-1 is Heil Sound's professional suspended shock mounting system. This shock mount works with the PR 20, PR 22 and similar body sizes. Does not work with the PR 35. Price is \$80 on Heil's website. Contact Matt, W1MSW. w1msw@arrl.net

Join the ARRL or renew your 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>



More "Why We Climb Mountains..."



Ragged Mountain, Connecticut



Mount Greylock, Massachusetts



25th Annual



Amateur Radio & Electronics Hamfest

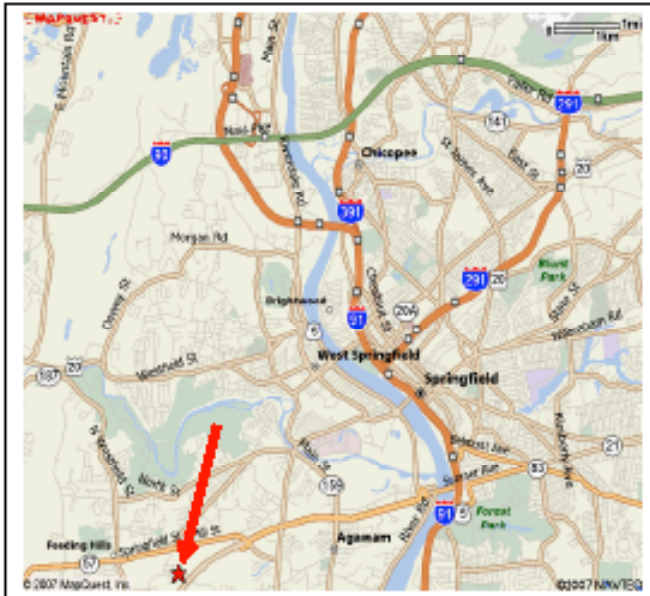
Saturday March 2, 2013

Located at:

**SPRINGFIELD TURNVEREIN CLUB
176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills, MA**

**SNACK BAR
RAFFLE PRIZES
TAILGATING
AMATEUR EXAMS**

**DOOR PRIZES
120 VAC AVAILABLE
HANDICAPPED PARKING
HELP LOADING/UNLOADING**



From North or South: Take Rte 91 to Rte 57 West. Follow Rte 57 West to the Garden Street Exit. At the end of the ramp, turn left over 57 and look for signs immediately on right

From East or West: Take Rte 90 (Mass Pike) to Exit 4 Rte 91. Take Rte 91 South to Rte 57 Exit. Take Rte 57 West to the Garden Street Exit. At the end of the ramp, turn left over 57 and look for signs immediately on right.

Mail-in Registration Form

Name _____
 Callsign _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (cell preferred) _____
 Email Address: _____
 # of Tables _____ x \$15.00 = _____
 Is 120 VAC Needed? _____

Checks payable to: MTARA
Mail to: Mary Elkins-KB1ME, 24 Shoreline Dr., Ware, MA 01082

*** The Details ***

Doors Open:

6:30 AM Vendors only
8:30 AM General Admission

Admission:

Adults: \$5.00
Children: under age 12 are *FREE!*
Tailgating: \$10.00 per parking space
Tables: \$15.00 each

VE Exam Information-10:30 AM

Space is limited, so pre-registration is strongly recommended. To register, contact Richard, AB1RS, at ab1rs@hotmail.com. Bring two forms of positive ID, and originals and photocopies of any CSCE's you hold and, if licensed, the original of your current license and a photocopy. *Walk-ins will be accepted, but only as seating permits!!*

Additional Information:

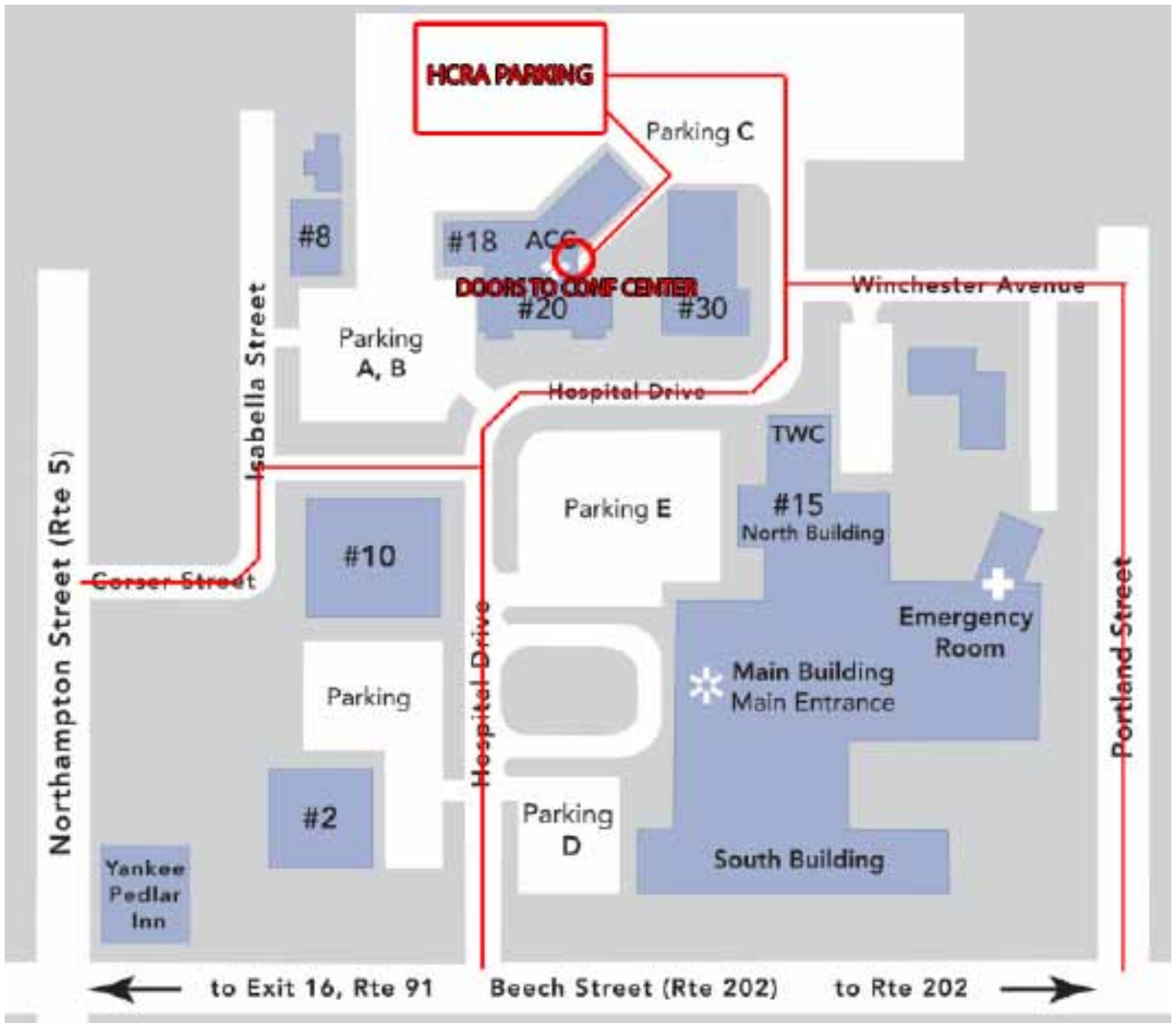
<http://www.mtara.org>

TALK-IN on the 146.94 (127.3 PL)

Mount Tom Repeater

For Table Registrations & Tailgating contact:

Mary Elkins - KB1ME
24 Shoreline Drive
Ware, MA 01082
Tel: (413) 222-1990
kblme@arrl.net



Meeting Location

Our meetings are being held at the Auxiliary Conference Center at the Holyoke Medical Center. Many of you have been here before, it's where the Western Mass VE Team has given examinations for close to a decade. We have all the details of the hall and how to get there on our website. <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

Our new location is newly renovated with state of the art heating and cooling, comfortable chairs, a complete A/V setup including screen, projector, sound system and wi-fi. Handicap access, convenient rest room, vending machines and 24/7 security round out the list. Join us!