



# ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

February 2016

### Special points of interest:

- Next Meeting Friday, Mar 4th  
FIRST Robotic Competition
- [Visit the HCRA facebook page.](#)
- Don't forget to check out  
[hcra.org](http://hcra.org)
- [Visit Summits on the Air](#)
- [Visit POTA413 facebook page](#)

## February's Meeting

**Join us Friday February 5th at 7:30, in the Holyoke Medical Center  
Auxiliary Conference Center .**

John - N1OLO from [Hamsource.com](http://Hamsource.com)  
will be giving a talk about Hamsource  
and will have some products on hand.

Hamsource— Your Quality Accessory  
Source.

Hamsource brings you quality accesso-  
ries for the Amateur Radio Operator,  
including sealed lead acid (SLA) batter-  
ies, chargers telescoping fiberglass an-  
tenna poles, and other fine products.



Don't forget the

## MTARA HAMFEST

Saturday March 5th, 2016  
Elk's Lodge, Fuller Rd,  
Chicopee, Ma  
They still need  
volunteers!

For directions to The Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center:

<http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

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## HCRA's raffle this year is for a Kenwood TS-590SG!

It's that time for the Hampden County Radio Associations (HCRA) annual raffle. This year the board of directors wanted to raffle off a 100w base station transceiver. The Kenwood TS-590SG (\$1700 Retail) was the perfect choice because it's a very excellent radio packed with features that rival radios that cost much more. HCRA has printed 250 tickets. Due to the price of the item, HCRA has put a limit on the minimum amount of tickets that can be sold before the raffle is allowed to take place. If the minimum amount has been reached, the item will be raffled at the Mount Tom Amateur Repeater Association's Ham Fest in



2016. We're asking \$10 for each ticket.

Tickets will be available at HCRA meetings, VE Sessions at Holyoke Medical Center, Field Day, Selected area Hamfest/Fleamarkets and through the board of directors.

# NEW HCRA MEMBERS MESSAGE BOARD

JEFFERY BAIL NT1K

Due to a requests from some of the members of HCRA, the board of directors has created an online forum for current HCRA members. This is a place where members can discuss amateur radio related topics, sell or purchase gear and interact with the board of directors. What's great about the forums compared to our facebook group or e-mail reflector is that the information will always be there and could easily be searched.

If you're interested you can check it out at  
<http://members.hcra.org>

In order to take full advantage of the board, you will have to register for an account. Once registered an admin will check to see if you are a current member and will place you in the appropriate group. Once registered and approved, you will be able to take full advantage of the message board.

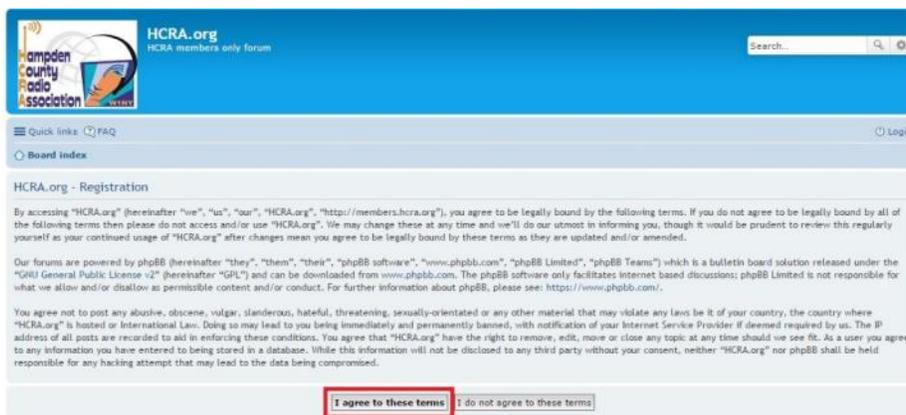
## Registration is quite easy

**Step 1:** Go to <Http://members.hcra.org>

**Step 2:** You will see what is only available to the public, you need to register an account. Click on the registration link on the upper right side of the page



**Step 3:** General rules of the forum, if you agree press the "I Agree To These Terms" button below the text.



**Step 4:**

This is where you would need to enter a username, e-mail and password. We strongly suggest that you use your callsign. If you don't use your callsign, the registration process will take longer and there is a chance that we will be un-able to confirm your membership. We also use CAPTCHA as way to deter spammers from creating accounts. When filled out properly, an e-mail will be sent to the address provided to confirm that you created an account and that your e-mail is active

# NEW HCRA MEMBERS MESSAGE BOARD (CONT.)

HCRA.org  
HCRA members only forum

Quick links | FAQ | Board index

HCRA.org - Registration

Please note that you will need to enter a valid email address before your account is activated. The administrator will review your account and if approved you will receive an email at the address you specified.

Username:

Length must be between 3 characters and 20 characters.

Email address:

Password:

Must be between 5 characters and 100 characters.

Confirm password:

Language:

My timezone:

America/New York

CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION

To prevent automated registrations the board requires you to enter a confirmation code. The code is displayed in the image you should see below. If you are visually impaired or cannot otherwise read this code please contact the Board Administrator.

Confirmation code: 

Enter the code exactly as it appears. All letters are case insensitive.

Board index | Contact us | The team | Delete all board cookies | All times are UTC-05:00

Powered by phpBB® Forum Software © phpBB Limited

Step 5: Just sit back and wait. A HCRA forum administrator has to manually confirm that you are indeed a current member of HCRA. This could take anywhere from a few hours to a day or two. You will not be able to participate until approved by an admin. Once approved you will have access to post, I would suggest going through your options so you could be notified by e-mail if any activity takes place.

HCRA.org  
HCRA members only forum

Quick links | FAQ | Notifications [0] | Private messages [0] | HCRAMemberTest

Board index

It is currently Tue Jan 26, 2016 7:58 am | Last visit was: Tue Jan 26, 2016 7:58 am

Mark forums read

HCRA	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
<b>HCRA Website</b> Please visit our website for more information regarding membership and activities: Hampden County Radio Association - <a href="http://www.hcra.org">http://www.hcra.org</a>			
<b>Upcoming Events</b> Events related to HCRA	1	1	<b>HCRA Meeting - January 01th 20...</b> by <b>admin</b> 12 Sat Dec 19, 2015 9:55 am
<b>Event Requests</b> Want to see a speaker or hold a special event? Post your requests here	0	0	No posts
<b>Membership</b>	1	1	<b>List Of Current Members</b> by <b>admin</b> 12 Fri Jan 15, 2016 1:19 pm

AMATEUR RADIO	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
<b>Antennas</b> Any topic about antennas will be placed here	0	0	No posts
<b>Equipment</b> All amateur radio related equipment posts (radios, microphones and keys, power supplies, etc.)	0	0	No posts
<b>Technical</b> Technical questions and how-to posts	0	0	No posts
<b>Projects</b> Any amateur radio related projects will be posted here	0	0	No posts

SHOP AND SALE	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
<b>Items For Sale</b> Items you would like to sell	2	2	<b>READ FIRST: Posting Items for...</b> by <b>NINTE</b> 12 Mon Jan 18, 2016 1:55 pm
<b>Wanted Items</b> Items you would like to buy/acquire	0	0	No posts

WHO IS ONLINE

In total there is 1 user online :: 1 registered, 0 hidden and 0 guests (based on users active over the past 5 minutes)  
Most users ever online was 3 on Thu Dec 17, 2015 11:17 am

Above is a sample of the areas you can post threads in. Sub forums will be deleted and/or added as requested by the membership. Even though participation is not mandatory by any means, this board was created by requests from you, the member. It's there for you to use.

A big thanks to Rob Bellville (NINTE) for stepping up to help run the forums. He's been in the background working on the forum and we're grateful for his service.

# FROM THE SHACK

JEFFERY BAIL NT1K



HCRA kicked the New Year off with an excellent meeting. It was great to see so many people show up and I would hope to see similar attendance throughout the year. We have some new things going on this year and hopefully it will attract some new faces to not only our club, but to amateur radio in general.

HCRA is sponsoring a class to help those who are interested to obtain a license. We're also having study groups for those who wish to upgrade. Please help out and spread the word to anyone you think would benefit from these classes. The more we get the better.

HCRA is making a "Welcome To Amateur Radio" package for those freshly minted hams. Getting a license is indeed an accomplishment but what good is the license if they are not going to use it? We've created a nice packet filled with operating procedures, local clubs, local activities, and bits of information that will help make going on the air much easier. These packets will be given to those who pass their element 2 (tech) exams at local VE sessions. We're hoping it creates more on-air activity and hopefully local participating in area clubs.

There will be a dedicated class to installing and using the electronic logging and control software "DX Labs Suite". This class is Free to any HCRA member willing to participate. We have a very knowledgeable membership and we should group together and share what we know with each other. It could lead to an easier and more enjoyable experience in amateur radio. If this class is a success, it's almost certain that we will do more. A big thanks for Gary Fields (WA1MOW), Juergen Malner (NV1Q) and John Plaster (K1VOI) for stepping up to help make it happen.

We've also created an online forum/message board due to a few requests from members. It's there for the membership to use. With these forums, you will be able to ask you fellow member's questions, sell gear and even just chat amongst each other. Information will be available in ZB and on the website.

Even though Field Day is 5 months away, we need to start planning for it because it will be here before you know it. So far we have a couple volunteers already signed up to help but we need more to help with setup, operation, public relations and tear down. If you are interested, you can contact me at meetings or through e-mail (NT1K@arrl.net). Along with our excellent lineup of guest speakers, it seems like some good times are ahead of us. I hope you participate and help make it happen. Even though the weather was rough in 2015, it seemed everyone had a great time.

## THE AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2015:

The ARRL has announced that currently they have 118 co-sponsors for US House Bill HR-1301. There is now 2 members of Congress from Massachusetts, District #2 James McGovern (D), and District #5 Katherine Clark (D), District #1 (Where most of the HCRA resides.) Richard Neil has yet to sign on. It is time for us to step up and get involved. [You can find more information on getting involved here.](#)

Senate Bill S-1685 currently has only 2 co-sponsors: Sen Roger Wicker of Mississippi, and Sen Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut.

There has been a hearing in front of House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. It where the bill was well received. Committee Members were aggressively questioning representatives from the Homeowners Associations. One Committee Member accused the associations of using false scare tactics and spreading lies in describing the bill to it's members.



Homeowners Associations across the country have been mobilizing against both bills. They have been using scare tactics to get their members to write opposing letters to members of Congress.

To separate fact from fiction, the ARRL produced a video. [Click here to watch.](#) (Look for a familiar face at 4:55)



28<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Amateur Radio



# & Electronics Hamfest

Saturday March 5, 2016

Located at:

**Moose Family Center/Chicopee Falls Moose Lodge 1849**

244 Fuller Road, Chicopee, MA 01020

### \*\*\*Directions\*\*\*

#### From North or South on I-91:

- \*Take the Interstate 291 E/U.S. 20 ramp to Mass Pike/Boston
- \*Merge onto I-291 E/US-20 E and continue to follow I-291 E
- \*Take exit 6 toward Ludlow/Chicopee Falls
- \*Turn right onto Fuller Rd.
- \*Turn right onto Virginia Ave. Moose Family Center  
Parking lot will be on the right.

#### From I-90 East or West:

- \*Take exit 6 toward Springfield.
- \*Turn onto I-291 W.
- \*Take exit 6 for Fuller Rd toward Ludlow/Chicopee Falls.
- \*Turn right onto Fuller Rd.
- \*Moose Family Center will be on the right.
- \*Turn right onto Virginia Ave. Moose Family Center parking  
lot will be on the right.

Mail- in Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Call sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell preferred) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tables \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Is 120 VAC Needed? \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: MTARA

Mail to: Brian Mullarney-KC1BDF, 20 Spring Street,  
Easthampton, MA 01027

### \*\*\* The Details \*\*\*

#### Doors Open:

- 6:30 AM Vendors *only*; help available for  
loading and unloading
- 8:30 AM General Admission

#### Admission:

- Adults: \$5.00
- Children: under age12 are *FREE!*

#### No Tailgating

#### Handicapped Parking Available

**Snack Bar** – hot and cold beverages, hot dogs, burgers, etc.

**Raffle Prizes** – six (6) tickets for \$5.00

#### VE Exam -10:30 AM

Bring **two** forms of positive ID; originals and photocopies of any CSCE's you hold; and if licensed, the original of your current license plus a photocopy.

#### Additional Information:

<http://www.mtara.org>

**Talk-In on** 146.94 (127.3 PL)

#### Table Registrations contact:

**Brian Mullarney – KC1BDF**  
 20 Spring Street  
 Easthampton, MA 01027  
 Tel.: (860) 478-6790  
[kc1bdf@arrl.net](mailto:kc1bdf@arrl.net)

# DOTS & DASHES:

Things I can't think where to put, but are interesting.

## SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE DXLABS

Our first "Share the Knowledge" Session will occur on Saturday February 6th, at 9 am. It will be held at the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Room. (Same place we have our meetings.) Coffee and donuts will be provided. Bring your laptops, with a current download of DXLabs. Please RSVP wa1mow@arrl.net so we get enough food. Stay tuned for other sessions in March and April

## EVER WONDER WHAT CTCSS IS, AND HOW IT WORKS?

Do you know what PL, Channel Guard, Quiet Call, PL, CG, QC, or CTCSS mean? Do you know how, and why it works? If not, there is a great article on [eHam.net](http://www.eham.net) that explains it all. Read it here: <http://www.eham.net/articles/35641>

## IS MORSE CODE DEAD?

Do you think Morse code, or CW is a thing of the past. Or is only used by hobbyists? Not true! Here is a great article about how the Navy is training radio operators to use Morse code.

Read it here: [https://www.dvidshub.net/news/187384/morse-code-staple-navy-iw-toolkit#.Vq\\_2RVJyyDk](https://www.dvidshub.net/news/187384/morse-code-staple-navy-iw-toolkit#.Vq_2RVJyyDk)

## INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITES:

Do you use Anderson Powerpoles? Do you know the proper way to use them? Do you crimp or solder them? Do you know that Anderson does not recommend soldering! Here are a couple of websites and a video on how to use them:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/TrainingModules/Technical/Anderson%20powerpole.pdf>

<http://hparc.org/wp-content/Presentations/Anderson%20Power%20Poles%20schier.pdf>

<https://youtu.be/o31iuOcQ-jo>

## AREA SWAPFESTS:

Feb 6	Connecticut Valley FM SwapFest	<a href="http://www.cvfma.org/">www.cvfma.org/</a>	Springfield, Vt
Feb 13	Algonquin Am Radio Club Fleamkt	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/n1em/">www.qsl.net/n1em/</a>	Marlborough, Ma
Mar 5	MTARA HamFest	<a href="http://www.mtara.org">www.mtara.org</a>	Chicopee, Ma
Mar 6	NEARC Swapmeet	<a href="http://www.nearc.net/swapmeetinfo.htm">www.nearc.net/swapmeetinfo.htm</a>	Westford, Ma
Mar 12	ECARA HamFest	<a href="http://www.ecara.net/">www.ecara.net/</a>	Dayville, Ct
Apr 29/30	NEAR Fest XIX	<a href="http://www.near-fest.org">www.near-fest.org</a>	Deerfield, NH

## CONTESTING:

### FEBRUARY'S CONTESTS:

Feb 6	Vermont QSO Party	<a href="http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html">www.ranv.org/vtqso.html</a>	CW, Ph, Dig
	10-10 Inter. Winter SSB Contest	<a href="http://www.ten-ten.org">www.ten-ten.org</a>	Ph
	Minnesota QSO Party	<a href="http://www.w0aa.org">www.w0aa.org</a>	CW, Ph, Dig
	British Columbia QSO Party	<a href="http://www.orcadxcc.org">www.orcadxcc.org</a>	CW, Ph, Dig
8	ARRL School Club Roundup	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup">www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup</a>	CW, Ph, Dig
13	OMISS QSO Party	<a href="http://www.omiss.net/facelift/qsoparty.php">www.omiss.net/facelift/qsoparty.php</a>	Ph
	New Hampshire QSO Party	<a href="http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqsp">www.w1wqm.org/nhqsp</a>	CW, Ph, Dig.
20	ARRL Inter.CW DX Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx">www.arrl.org/arrl-dx</a>	CW
	AM QSO Party	<a href="http://www.antiquewireless.org">www.antiquewireless.org</a>	Ph
27	South Carolina QSO Party	<a href="http://www.scqso.com/rules">www.scqso.com/rules</a>	CW, Ph, Dig.
	North Carolina QSO Party	<a href="http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty">www.rars.org/ncqsoparty</a>	CW, Ph, Dig

The advertisement features a teal background with two numbered steps. Step 1 shows a red smartphone icon with the text "Hands-Only™ CPR" and "Call 911". Step 2 shows a red hand icon with the text "Push hard and fast in the center of the chest." and "Learn more at [handsonlycpr.org](http://handsonlycpr.org)". The American Heart Association logo is in the bottom right corner with the slogan "Learn and Live".

# Local happenings

**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

## 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>

## 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, [150 Brookdale Dr. 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/>

## HCRA contact list

President, Jeff Bail NT1K  
nt1k@nt1k.com  
Vice-President, Harold Woering N1FTP  
n1ftp@yahoo.com  
Treasurer, Juergen Malner NV1Q  
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Secretary, Dave Fant WM1B  
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et-n1qko@juno.com  
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w1fab@arrl.net

# Hampden County Radio Association

- Presents -



## Show and Tell

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – 7:30pm – Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Room

**This is not a joke!**

If you're an HCRA member that has been working on an Amateur Radio related project, you are invited to show it off along with other members at our annual show and tell. If it's small enough, you could bring it in and say a couple words about it. If your project is good enough, you could possibly win a prize! Don't have a project yet? Don't worry! There is plenty of time.

Prizes Include:

### Raspberry PI Model 2 Computer

- 900Mhz Quad-Core Processor
- 1GB Ram
- 4 USB Ports
- Full HDMI Port
- Ethernet Port
- Micro SD slot
- And many more features

### Arduino UNO R3 Micro-controller

- Uses the ATmega328P
- 14 Digital input/output pins
- 16 Mhz Quartz Crystal
- USB Programming
- 5V Power (USB or DC)

### HCRA TS-590SG Raffle Ticket

- Have a chance to win a \$1500 radio
- Excellent reviews
- Great receiver
- Packed full of options



# SWAP & SELL RETURNS TO HCRA MEETINGS



Debuting at the January meeting Swap & Sell will become a monthly feature at all our meetings. Now you have yet another reason to attend besides interesting presentations, good friends, club raffles and of course Bruce's Donut Shop. How cool is that?

A Swap & Sell table isn't new to our meetings however it's been some time since it was a regular feature. It's our hope that, with your support, it will become a part of every HCRA meeting.

If you've seen it before you know what we're referring to but if your new to the game here's a brief rundown.

Every month we will have a table in the back of the room where you can bring items in to sell, perhaps trade, or even donate to HCRA – the choice is yours. We will provide space on a table, the ability to feature your item(s) on our Facebook page prior to the meeting and even labels to affix to your treasures. In return we would appreciate a suggested donation of 10% of the final selling price. Quick, easy and much cheaper the eBay or PayPal. Simple enough?

That being said there are a few guidelines we would appreciate you following:

1. Label each and every item with your Name/Call and a selling price. We will have labels and Sharpies available if something falls off between your shack and the table.
2. Any item not sold returns home *WITH YOU*, including donated items. In other words we're not offering a trash removal service .
3. It isn't necessary to remain behind the table the entire time. Experience says items sell better if you're there to answer questions but the choice is yours.
4. We do not collect money for you; that's your responsibility.
5. At the end of the evening please make your donation to the club Treasurer before leaving.

I think that's simple enough, don't you? Experience indicates items like PC's, printers, monitors, etc. are very difficult to sell. You may want to consider other venues for such items. Please try and keep your item selection to things our members may want to purchase and you'll be going home with money in your pockets.

The Swap & Sell Table as an exciting addition to our monthly meetings. It all depends on you, our members, if it's going to be a success. We provide the opportunity and the space, the rest is up to you!

As always, thanks for your support of HCRA!

## GENERATOR SAFETY

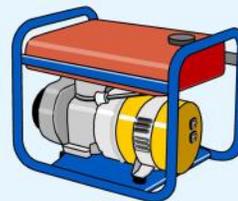
It's that time of year when having a portable generator can be a life saver. It is also the time of year when a generator can be deadly.

Every year hundreds of people lose their lives because of the improper use of portable generators.

Last year a Firefighter/Paramedic lost her life because of Carbon Monoxide poisoning in New Hampshire. She went outside to the garage to check on her generator, and was overcome by CO. Every door and window were open, she got caught in a pocket, and was quickly rendered unconscious.

### Portable generator safety

When the power goes out a portable generator can be a lifesaver, but used improperly it also can become life-threatening.



DANGER	REASON	PREVENTION
Carbon monoxide poisoning	Gasoline-powered generators exhaust carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that displaces oxygen in the hemoglobin of the red blood cells.	Operate generators away from the house, in a well ventilated area. If it's in the garage, make sure the garage is open.
Backfeed shock	The generator is connected to the home's wiring system, posing a hazard to anyone working on powerlines.	Plug appliances you want powered directly into the generator. If powering a hard-wire item, such as the furnace fan, you will need a transfer switch. The switch should only be installed by a licensed electrician and requires an electrical permit and an electrical inspection.
Fire	Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fires. Small gasoline engines can sometimes backfire, causing sparks.	Be sure extension cords are properly sized to carry the electric load. Install a spark arrest muffler and keep the generator away from combustible material.

### Symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure

These are possible complications average adults may expect from different percentages of carbon monoxide in their blood:

- 10 percent: Headaches may develop, or there may be no apparent symptoms. A carbon monoxide detector will activate.
- 15 to 25 percent: Headache and nausea.
- 30 to 35 percent: Drowsiness, weakness, dizziness, dimmed vision, severe headache, nausea and vomiting.
- 40 percent: Confusion, increased heart rate and blackout spells.
- 45 percent: Convulsions, permanent brain damage.
- 50 percent: Convulsions, coma and death.

SOURCES: VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES INC.

GNS AND THE NEWS-PRESS

# HCRA MEMBER'S PROFILE

This month's Member Profile of the Month is Jim Mullen KK1W. Jim has been one of our most prominent members in the past couple of decades, having served as president from June of 2000 to June of 2014, and before that as Secretary since Oct 1998. (ZB archives) He is also very active as a "Volunteer Examiner", always near the top on the New England list of VE's. Along with Frandy (N1FJ) is very active in SOTA. And is truly one of the nicest guys around.



- 1) **Name:** Jim Mullen
- 2) **Town:** Brimfield, MA
- 3) **Callsign:** KK1W
- 4) **Previous Callsigns:** WA1ZUH
- 5) **License Class:** Extra
- 6) **Main station equipment:** Elecraft K3s/KPA500/KAT500, 3 element SteppIR for 20 thru 6, 2 element 40m Cushcraft, dipoles for 80/30, 160 Double "L", small Beverage for 160/80. For portable operations an Elecraft KX3 and a linked 40/20 dipole. DXlabs for general logging and N1MM+ for contesting.
- 7) **Favorite Band(s):** Presently my latest challenge is 160 meters - or whatever is open at the time!
- 8) **Favorite Mode(s):** CW because it's so simple but most any mode fine. Over the years I've tried almost everything except fast scan TV. Recently I've started to dabble with JT65. Like everything else in ham radio there's always something new to try.
- 9) **Year you were first licensed and license class:** 1976 as a Novice. I sweated those 10 questions and the code exam. Upgraded the following year to General at an FCC session in Hartford, then to Extra in the early 1990's.
- 10) **How did you become interested in amateur radio?** I always liked radio as a kid. I can remember when I was 9 or 10 years old listening to BCBDX on my mom's kitchen radio. Later my father showed me short wave on an old Zenith, way cool! Then I got into the 'gateway drug' of the time, Heathkit. Built an AR3 receiver that I still own, plus a lot of other Heath gear along the way to feed my addiction. Today we have Makers, Arduino and 3D printing. Different stuff but just as addicting!
- 11) **What are some of your favorite aspects of the hobby?** Most everything really. I enjoy DX'ing and contesting but everything from digital to portable operation from SOTA to FD are enjoyable.
- 12) **What is your most memorable experience in the hobby?** There's a lot, here's a few examples:
  1. Hooking up a \$10 fleamarket Heathkit SB10 sideband adapter to my Johnson Viking for my first SSB contact, probably around 1978.
  2. While activating a SOTA summit making an RTTY contact solely on my KX3 (no PC or netbook) to Italy.
  3. Administering VE exams. I've been helping with exams for over twenty years now, still remember a few young ladies that came all the way from the Albany area for their exams. One of them went home with the General, the other an Extra. Oh, I think they were aged 9 and 11!
- 13) **If different from the above question, what was your most memorable contact on the radio?** All contacts are memorable in some way, I can't say any one of them would stand above another.
- 14) **What do you feel ham radio operators must do to help ensure the future of the hobby?** The simple and most important answer is simply, "**be active and 'on the air'**" No matter what we think our hobby should be if we don't actually *USE* it no one will ever see the exciting things it has to offer and others will want to acquire our valuable spectrum for other uses. Like almost everything else in life "*use it or lose it*" applies or amateur radio.



## Amateur Radio License Classes Apr 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 [Http://www.hcra.org](http://www.hcra.org)

Are you or do you know someone who's interested in amateur radio? The Hampden County Radio Association (HCRA) is holding classes for those interested in obtaining their Amateur Radio license. With a combination of these classes and at-home studying, it's possible to make it happen. Learn from experienced instructors who are active within the amateur radio community who are willing to help you along the way.



### Dates and Times:

- Wednesday Apr 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – 6:00pm to 9:00pm
- Thursday Apr 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – 6:00pm to 9:00pm
- Saturday Apr 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – 9:00am to 3:00pm
- VE Session: Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – 3:15pm (Walk-Ins Welcomed)



### Where:

Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Room  
525 Beech St. Holyoke MA, 01040

**Cost:** Free / \$15 Exam Fee (Additional prices may include optional study material)

Due to the short amount of time, it's up to the candidate to do most of the studying at home before attending the classes. The classes will cover the exam questions, provide some details about the questions and help you to better understand the material needed to pass the exam.

### Interested? Please Contact

Name: Jeffrey Bail (NT1K)

E-mail: [NT1K@arrl.net](mailto:NT1K@arrl.net)

Address: P.O. Box 562, Agawam MA, 01001

You can also sign up On-line by going to [Http://www.hcra.org](http://www.hcra.org) and clicking "Upcoming Classes" towards the top of the page. Please refer to website for exact directions and for any possible changes, delays or cancellations. At this time we're also trying to form study groups for those who are interested in upgrading to general or extra class license. Stay tuned!

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

[Http://www.hcra.org](http://www.hcra.org)



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

**Don't forget the MTARA  
HamFest**

**Saturday March 5th.**

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