



# ZERO BEAT

## FIELD DAY EDITION

<http://hcra.org>

## Our 73rd Year as a Club!

June 2021

Special points of interest:  
Next Meeting:

HCRA physical meetings are currently postponed until we have access to the meeting room at Holyoke Hospital. All meetings will take place on Zoom.

HCRA is on the web in many places, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and don't forget [www.HCRA.org](http://www.HCRA.org)

### Welcome New Members

Adam Greeff - KC1GVR

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### From the editor,

*This is the Field Day Edition of Zero Beat with all kinds of information to help prepare everyone for Field Day 2021, An actual in-person FD but it does have some limitations. **To participate you must be fully vaccinated!** If you're not please operate Field Day from your QTH. This is for everyone's health and safety!*

*Besides all the Field Day info there is a raffle for a Yaesu duel band HT. Work 2 hours during FD and you're automatically entered. Having fun while setting up or operating is what it's all about, you just cannot beat the camaraderie of Field Day.*

*Another new column begins this issue, "First Time Ham" is geared for our newest hams. Vanessa, W1IRL submitted a great article about Anderson Power Poles.*

*Elections are also this month and if things keep going like they have been the June Zoom meeting might very well be our last Zoom meeting! Hopefully we're in person for our September meeting. Larry has been in contact with the hospital on this.*

*Bill, N1LJQ has been working on some great articles on restoring some of his classic Heathkit HW-32A Single Bander and a Drake TR-4 Transceiver. Coming in the fall will be more articles on what it takes to restore an old Antique Radio!*

*John, N1JIE is still helping out with the ARRL page even though he is living without a kitchen during a remodel. I know what that's like without a doubt.*

*If you have an idea or submission drop me an email at [kd1ku@arrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrl.net). I hope everyone has a wonderful, safe summer, see you all in the fall.* 73, Ken - KD1KU

### June Meeting

**Friday, June 4th @ 7:30pm - Rag Chew Time @ 7pm**

### Field Day, Elections and more!

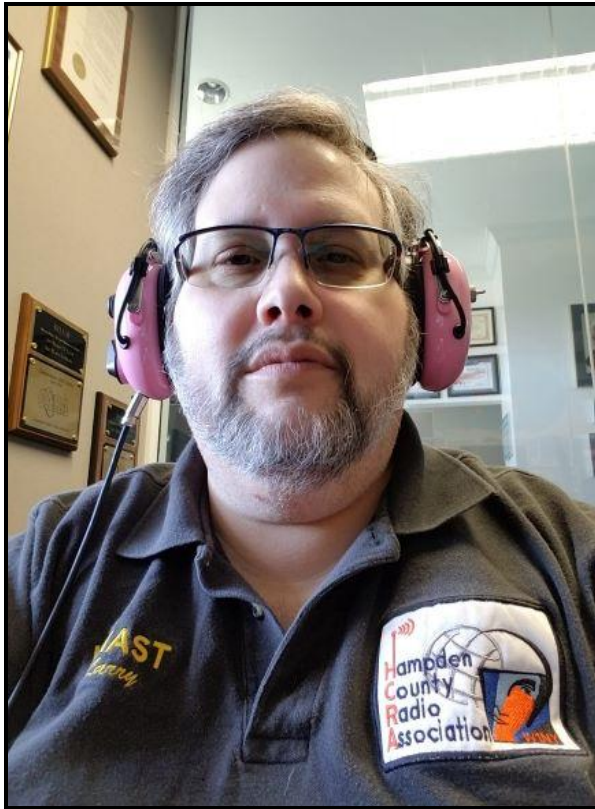
The June meeting might be the last one held on Zoom if all goes well. For the meeting link, please see this month's "Larry's From The Shack".

Everyone is returning as a board member but anybody is welcome to challenge any position. If you would like to do so you must contact Larry **BEFORE** the June meeting! For all the details and a list of current board members see page 14.

Hope to see everyone at the Friday June 4th meeting!

# FROM THE SHACK

LARRY KRAINSON W1AST



## June 2021 - From the Presidents Shack

June is finally here and that can only mean two things: Elections and Field Day!

The excellent board that has been running your HCRA for the past 12 months has decided to stay on and continue for another 12 months. You can still run for the board, we welcome you to do so. We will be doing an online election for our June Zoom meeting on the 4th of June.

If you want to participate and help the board, you can volunteer without having a board position. We have a few people doing that occasionally. Your assistance helps keep the club active in all things ham radio and is appreciated very much.

See elsewhere in this issue for more info on the election and who is returning for each position.

June will probably be our last full Zoom meeting. If all goes well, we hope to be meeting in person at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room for September. Getting everyone vaccinated will help return all our lives closer to the old normal. We also are thinking of broadcasting the live meetings on Zoom too. It will be a work in progress depending upon the internet connection quality at the Hospital. We should be able to make this work as well as posting the video of our meetings on [HCRA.org](http://HCRA.org) for viewing after the meeting.

Have you noticed how amazing ZeroBeat has been these last few issues? If you have, please take the time to thank Ken; KD1KU for the fantastic job he is doing as the new editor.

June also means Field Day! With everyone getting their Covid vaccines and the Governor of MA opening everywhere up and mask requirements being lifted, the HCRA Field Day is a GO!

**Where:** School Street Park in Agawam, MA

**When:** Set up begins on Friday, June 25th at 1:00 pm

**Wear** your HCRA clothing and get noticed! Don't have a HCRA shirt, hat or jacket, make sure to wear your badge. Don't have one, contact W1AST to order one anytime. See the samples on the [HCRA.org](http://HCRA.org) web site.

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# FROM THE SHACK CONT'D

## What Happens?

Friday setup is all about building the antennas and towers and getting them up and in the air. We're planning on one or two towers with beams for 40 and 20 meters and maybe a dipole for 80m. Plus the operating tents.

We already have the loan of 2 Honda 2kw inverter quiet generators to power everything.

There will be a few of us staying overnight Friday thru take down on Sunday. You are welcome to join us.

Saturday morning is final prep of station setup and logging.

Saturday dinner is the annual Field Day grilled burgers sponsored by the club. We ask those that want to join us for dinner bring something to share. By that I mean you need to register you will be joining us and what you will be bringing.

## We will need:

- Potato Chips
- Hamburger and Hot Dog Rolls
- Ketchup, Relish and Mustard
- Cases of water or drinks
- Dessert Munchies – Assorted cookies and more
- Field Day cake?
- Fruit and other things
- Absolutely no alcoholic beverages - not allowed in the park!

If you plan on attending, please email [W1AST@arrl.net](mailto:W1AST@arrl.net) with your name, call, how many in your group and what you will be bringing. Also send an email if you can help with the setup, tear down and as an operator. We can use all of your help!

**The deadline to sign up for the hamburger club dinner is Friday, June 18th**

Continued on page 4



# FROM THE SHACK CONT'D

**We absolutely need a head count so we can get the correct amount of food!**

The club will also be providing breakfast for operators on Sunday morning of muffins, bagels and cream cheese as well as leftover burgers for lunch for the operators and tear down crew that are on hand. We absolutely need a head count so we can get the correct amount of food.

**Please register for lunch so we have enough food on hand.**

We are also continuing the HCRA tradition of a Field Day Workers Raffle. If you spend two or more hours working with the inventory crew, setup, tear down or as an operator at Field Day, you will automatically be entered to win a brand new Yaesu FT-4XR dual band HT.

It's a perfect HT to go foxhunting with!

Everyone is welcome to Field Day. If you have been vaccinated, you are welcome to join us. Masks will be optional – completely your choice. Whatever you are comfortable with.

If you'll be staying more than an hour or two, bring a chair. Spouses and XYL's always welcome too as are kids and grand kids.

Bring your fox hunting gear as there will be one or two fox boxes hidden somewhere in the School Street Park. Find them, snap a pic, and let W1AST know where you found it. Post to the WMAfoxhunters group and the HCRA Facebook page too.

If you're interested in learning about Arduino and can attend Field Day, please email W1AST@arrl.net as an Arduino class may be run by Najm, AB1ZA. But we need to know ahead of time so Najm can be prepared.

Mostly, we need **YOU** for Field Day. We need bodies to help in all aspects of this operating event. We need operators for the stations. If you're a new ham, we'll help you get on the air and teach you how to log.

If you are a CW operator, please let us know and we can set up a time for you to operate CW.

So join us Friday the 25th of June starting at 1pm. Bring your tent or RV and stay the weekend and join in the fun!

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## **Last Meeting You Tube Link**

The May meeting was about the International Space Station and was fascinating! If you missed it below is the link to our You Tube Channel. Please click on subscribe before leaving You Tube!

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNXFxFYBbWxF5BxELHHE\\_ZQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNXFxFYBbWxF5BxELHHE_ZQ)



# FROM THE SHACK CONT'D

A few days after Field Day ends, join in the fun of operating the 13 Colonies Special Event Operation. Chase down the 13 Colony stations in the original 13 states and also the 3 special stations and earn a really cool certificate. If you collect QSL cards, send a self sticking SASE to each of the 13 states for a unique QSL card that has a different theme each year. This years theme is Sailing Vessels of the Period.

There will be stations of from July 1st through July 7th in all modes. SSB, CW and digital plus some satellite stations. This year will have 8 HCRA members as part of Team K2H activating Massachusetts out of 21 total ops for MA. We hope to hear you on the air. Watch Dxsummit.fi for spots as to where and when the K2 stations will be on the air. This is a fun operating event. I hope to hear you on the air during it!

The warm weather is a perfect time to get outside and do some operating. Maybe climb a summit and activate it for the SOTA collectors. Maybe go to a state park and activate it for the POTA collectors. Maybe go to a field and operate portable as Field Radio. Take a radio camping with you and get on the air. Whether on HF, 2m, or whatever your interest, operating outside is always more fun. Make it happen and enjoy the effort!

Don't forget to sign up for Field Day!

Best 73 Wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer for all.

Larry, W1AST

W1AST@arrl.net

**I hope to see everyone on the June meeting.**

**Here is your link for access:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81942749669?pwd=SitLL1JmTFBtTGtuUnl5RVEwTW5wQT09>



# FIELD DAY RAFFLE

## *Work Two Hours During Field Day and You're Entered!*

Unless you've been living under a rock I'm sure you've heard that Field Day is back! In-person and the way it was in the past, well almost.

The best part is if you participate for a minimum of 2 hours in any part of the Field Day weekend including set-up and tear down and those that helped with the trailer inventory have a chance at winning a brand new Yaesu FT-4XR - VHF/UHF Dual Band FM Handheld Transceiver!



The FT-4XR is a VHF/UHF Dual Band HT loaded with features that you'd expect from Yaesu! Here are some of the features of this wonderful little HT:

### FT-4XR – VHF/UHF Dual Band FM Handheld Transceiver

#### **FEATURES**

##### **Powerful Outputs**

With 5 Watts of reliable RF output power this radio is sure to be heard. Never miss a call with One watt of Crisp, Clear Audio output from the oversized front panel speaker.

##### **High Capacity Li-Ion Battery**

Packaged with a powerful 1750 mAh Li-Ion battery pack, giving the radio over 9 hours of operating time. To ensure minimal down time the FT-4XR also comes packaged with a 3.5-Hour Rapid charger.

##### **Versatile Scanning Capabilities**

Programmable VFO Scan scans all channels in the desired frequency range, Memory scan allows scanning of user selectable frequencies, Priority Channel Scan can be used to scan memory channels while making one channel a priority. Weather Alert scan alerts the user when severe weather is approaching.

##### **PC Programmable**

The FT-4XR is capable of being programmed directly from a PC making all of the advanced setup features a breeze using the optional software and SCU-35 programming cable.

##### **More Advanced Features**

Tons of advanced features are loaded into this compact radio including: Transceiver to Transceiver cloning with the optional SCU-36 clone cable, FM Band receiver equipped, ARTS (Automatic Range Transponder System), DTMF operation, CTCSS/DCS operation, TOT (time out timer) and more.



Please note, to participate in the activities you must be fully vaccinated for Covid-19. If you're not vaccinated, please take part in Field Day from home.

Vaccinated members are needed in the following areas.

Field Day is June 25th through the 27th. Setup is Friday at 1pm through Sunday, teardown usually complete by 3 or 4 pm.

Setup help is needed including antennas and portable towers ect.

Saturday, setup of operating tents, rigs, computers, etc.

Operate SSB or CW (either or both) day or night or both.

Sunday, tear down assistance needed. There is much more than this needed so please see page 7 for a complete list of what's needed.

Please contact Larry, WIAST at: [wlast@arrl.net](mailto:wlast@arrl.net) to volunteer.



# FIELD DAY 2021

FIELD DAY WORKERS NEEDED FOR THE FIRST IN PERSON FD SINCE 2019

Field Day 2021 is just around the corner and club members are needed for setup, operators for both CW and SSB and teardown on Sunday.

**Note: All Volunteers must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19! If you're not vaccinated please stay home and operate. This is for your safety and the safety of other participants!**

**If you operate from home please give club credit to Hampden County Radio Association**



Field Day 2021 is held on June 25th through June 27th, beginning Friday at 1pm through Sunday where tear-down is usually completed by 4 pm. Field Day hours are 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2059 UTC Sunday.

## We are in need of the following volunteers for Field Day:

- **Friday - Setup involves building antennas, the portable towers, etc.** (Camp at the FD site Friday night)
- **Saturday - Setup of operating tents, rigs, computers, etc.** Also someone to manage Network and Logging
- **Saturday - Operate SSB or CW** (which one or can you do both?) plus day or night operators (or both)
- **Saturday - middle of the night operators needed**
- **Saturday - middle of the night operators needed** Also campers for over night
- **Sunday - operators needed for SSB and CW** (or both) Also, tear down assistance needed at end of event

Please email your name, call, email and cell and what you would like to sign up for to: [w1ast@arrrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrrl.net)

Those club members that will be operating Field Day from home, please be sure to add the Hampden County Radio Association as the club to credit your scores to. Even if you can't be there you can still support your club!

**When:** June 25th through the 27th

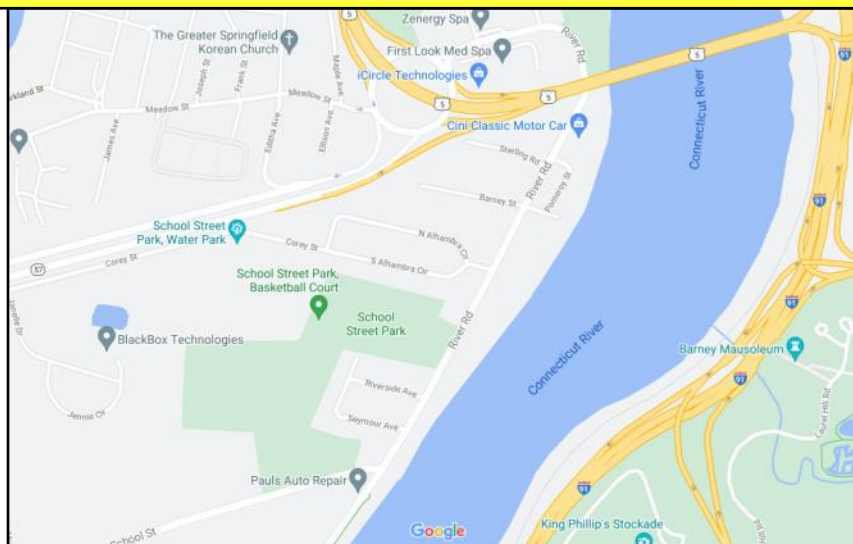
**Where:** School Street Park, Agawam, MA.

**Time Period:** Saturday 1800Z to 2059Z Sunday

**Club Credit:** Hampden County Radio Association

**W1NY** is the club call we use at Field Day

**Coordinates:** 42.073587, -72.592778



**Field Day 2021 prep is underway!**

**It's your club, how can you help?**

# FIELD DAY 2021

## FIELD DAY 2021 THE HCRA WAY!

We are looking for anyone to help with Field Day this year. We are at the School Street Park again as in past years.

If you do not know what Field Day is, it is a practice emergency setup and operation that takes place every year over the 4th full weekend of the month of June.

We set up portable towers, antennas, tents or other shelters and HF stations in each. All power is from generator or other non-electrical line power source.

The fun begins 1pm on Friday, June 25th and ends when everything has been taken down and put away Sunday afternoon. The operating event runs from Saturday at 2pm through Sunday at 2pm. 24 hours straight through.

It is up to you to decide how you can help your club. You can show up at 1pm Friday the 25th, pitch a tent and stay the whole weekend, or come and stay as long or little as you want. But we need your help.

One requirement this year is that you **MUST** have had your Covid-19 Vaccination to participate in any way. If you have not been vaccinated, please do not stop by. It is up to you if you want to wear a mask or not.

We will have Clorox wipes at all radios and antibacterial lotion spread throughout the Field Day locale.

There will be a raffle for anyone who works more than 2 hours for setup or operation. The raffle prize is a Yaesu FT-4XR dual band HT. No purchase needed. Your work time is your entry.

### **We are in need of more people to do the following:**

- Friday Setup
- Saturday morning setup
- Operate Phone and CW
- Sunday tear down
- Cook Saturday burger-fest
- Cook Sunday burger lunch



We are running two stations. One on 20 and one on 40. Two towers will be set up with two beams in use. CW will be run at the same station SSB will be run at.

If you want to come and operate, please contact Larry, W1AST at [w1ast@arrrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrrl.net) with what time and what mode you would like to operate and we'll schedule you for the time you want.

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# FIELD DAY 2021 CONT'D

## FIELD DAY 2021 THE HCRA WAY!

The park has both men's and women's rest rooms with flush toilets and running water sinks. We have our own area in the park and the police make patrols through it a few times per night and day. It is a very safe place to camp or operate. Plenty of people around even at night so once again everything is safe!

**If you will be joining us for the hamburger dinner Saturday night, we are looking for people to bring the following:**

- Ketchup, Mustard & Relish
- Individual Bags of Chips & Pretzels
- Fruit Salad
- Pasta Salad, Lettuce Salad or other Salad
- Salad Dressings (Ranch & Italian)
- Cookies & snack finger foods (those operating late appreciate these)
- Brownies
- Field Day HCRA Cake
- Brownies
- Coffee, Sugar packets & creamer/milk
- Case of Soda (Mountain Dew or Diet Coke/Coke)
- Other? Please make mention
- Don't want to bring anything? \$10 cash club donation will cover you, per person



If you will be joining us for dinner Saturday night, you NEED a RESERVATION so we have enough food for you. Same for lunch Sunday, please email [W1AST@arrl.net](mailto:W1AST@arrl.net) and let know which or both meals. Plus what you are bringing.

If you will be coming to stay or to visit, remember to bring your own chair as there are none there. Of course you are welcome to sit on the grass.

The event runs 24 hours and we need operators for all times of the day and night. Especially for 1 am through 7 am.

If you have never experienced Field Day, there will be operators there to mentor you in logging and operating as well as assembly and disassembly.

Field Day is one of the funnest and exciting operating events of the year. You do not want to miss it!

**Best 73 & See Everyone at Field Day 2021**

Larry, W1AST

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

# The Fox's Den

How HCRA Fox Box-2 WAS BUILT

## The HCRA Fox Box 2

We are finally getting Fox Box 2 deployed. It took many, many more months than I had originally hoped for, but it is now deployed and being searched for just in time for warmer weather.

What is a fox box and how does it work? From this point on, we'll call this fox box FB2 for FoxBox2.

The foxbox is a semi-automated hidden transmitter. It is powered by a battery and has a controller and a HT inside. When a hunters transmitter is keyed on a certain frequency with a certain PL and certain DTMF tone, it activated the FB to transmit. You then use your gear to direction find and try to find the FB. As needed, re-activate the FB and direction Find (DF) again until you walk up to it. The battery should keep the FB usable for approximately 5 to 7 days before it needs recharging.

### The build

It all starts with an ammo box. From there we figure out how to mount everything and how to keep it safe with a locking mechanism. For this, I got together with Bob, W1BOB and we brainstormed and came up with a strong eye bolt and mounted it to the case. We had to modify the closing mechanism so that it worked and closed over the eye bolt so everything inside could be locked and safe. We also have a heavy duty cable and padlock to prevent theft.

Next we had to figure out how to keep the battery from moving around. A few pieces of wood strategically places holds the battery in place yet allows removal if needed. We needed a way to keep the HT in place. A bent piece of angle iron does the job nicely. A power switch to turn everything on and off easily. This little switch turns on the radio and interface so everything is off when not in use and not draining the battery. (left)



A coax jumper between the HT and the antenna mount works perfectly. This is an SMA mount plus a few adapters and right angle connectors to get it just right. In between hunts, the battery must be recharged. The battery stays in the FB during this time. But the charger comes out and gets plugged in. Powerpoles connect the charger to the battery and when done, connect the battery to the HT and interface.

It all looks like this when powered on. (below)



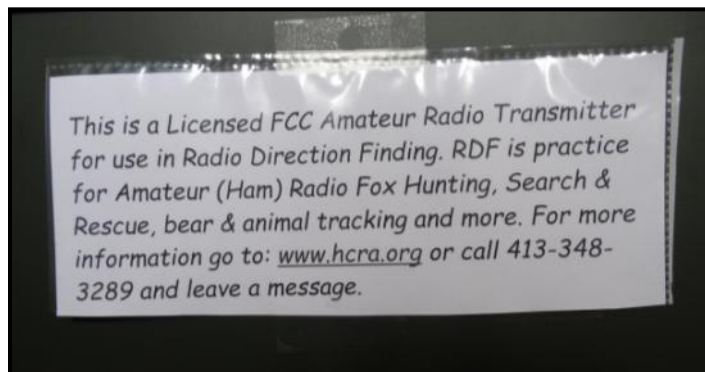
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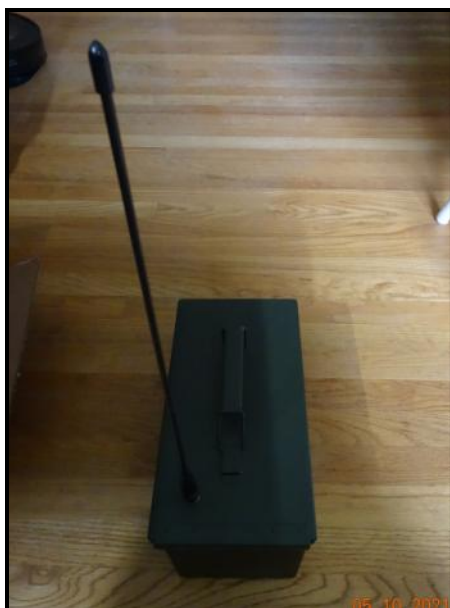
# The Fox's Den Cont'd

## How HCRA Fox Box-2 WAS BUILT

Located on the outside of the case is the ownership badge which is screwed to the FB and also a disclaimer with my contact info just in case. (see below)



Below are two views of the completed FB which is all closed up and ready to deploy.



I'd like to thank the following people who helped design, assemble and make this fox box a possibility:

- Bob, W1BOB
- Bob, WA1OJN
- Jeff, NT1K

**Thank you for your assistance to make this foxbox a reality!**

**Continued on page 12**



# The Fox's Den Cont'd

## How HCRA Fox Box-2 WAS BUILT

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The HCRA now has two fox boxes. If you would like to learn more about how to activate them and when they are hidden and who else is hunting, please join the free group:

<https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters>

Membership is free. You may already be a member of groups.io for other groups of interest.

We hope to both see you out there hunting and hear about it on the WMAFoxhunters group as well as on the HCRA email reflector and Facebook page. Tell us about your fox hunting adventures!

This is a great activity to do when you want to. You can hunt yourself with family and friends and is a great way to get kids involved too.

Happy Hunting,

Larry, W1AST  
[W1AST@arrl.net](mailto:W1AST@arrl.net)

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## First Time Fox Hunter's

There's nothing like your first time no matter if it's riding a bicycle, driving a car or taking your first steps. Well, for all of us ham radio operators getting that ticket is only the first step out of many, many more!

It begins with getting that license, that starts the ham radio journey but it does not end there. Now it's time to upgrade, but even if you decide to get to the highest class of license there are so many firsts to this hobby!

Without going into a long list of possible "firsts" there is one you can do for a very minimal cash outlay, that's fox hunting! It can be done with any type of directional antenna, a HT and some type of attenuator.

Whether your equipment is bought or home brewed is up to you but whatever you do give it a try!

Just like John, KC1EKC who recently decided to give fox hunting a try with some guidance from Larry, W1AST, last weekend John found his first foxbox! With the help of his four grandchildren and their four legged friend. Give it a try! Ride along with another hunter to learn the tricks. What better way to spend some time outdoors? John is proof it can be done, and the smiles on the grand kids faces say it all.



73, Ken - KD1KU



# First Time Ham **NEW!**

THIS NEW SECTION IS FOR NEWLY LICENSED HAM'S



If you are a new ham or even a not so new one, you might not be using Anderson Power Poles as your connectors.

Like many of us, as a new ham, you might have started buying an inexpensive HT for VHF and UHF. If you buy a mobile or base VHF/UHF or HF radio you will need to power your it from a 12V battery or from an AC outlet. (Remember you can listen on any ham frequency but can only transmit on frequencies where you have privileges) Plugging to an AC outlet requires a power supply capable of providing 13.8V of DC power. The power supply should convert your home's AC 120 voltage to 13.8V of DC. Your radio's power cable might have wires without connectors and it is up to you to provide them, or not. You can just wrap the cable to the posts on the power supply, or the battery if using DC. That is not always an option as some power supplies do not have posts and only have Anderson Power Poles.



You can terminate the radio's cable using ring terminals to attach to a battery, spade style connectors to attach to a small battery, Anderson Power Poles, or nothing, among other alternatives. Regardless, I strongly advise you use Anderson Power Poles as they are commonly used by many. They are the standard connector for Emergency Communications (EmComm) groups. The power poles are foolproof to use, once they have been crimped correctly. There is no way you will connect the negative cable to a positive terminal and vice-versa. You can install the power poles yourselves, which requires a specialized, and somewhat expensive, crimper to make the task easier or purchase ready made ones with power poles.



Just make sure you buy the right cable for your needs. I made a combination of cables and have at least one I purchased already made. Anderson Power Poles come rated for different amperage. I mostly use 30A ones, but need to order 45A ones for one cable I want to make to use a LiFePO4 battery. The wire is 10AWG. The battery end will have ring terminals or I will just wrap the cables around it, the other end will have the Anderson Power Poles to connect my radio's poles.

73 de W1IRL, Vanessa

# Election's

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, LET'S VOTE!

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Not only does Field Day happen during the month of June but there is one other major thing that comes in the very same month... It's Election time!

The entire Board of Directors is returning once again next year but if you are interested in running for a position you must contact Larry BEFORE the June meeting.

If interested please contact Larry, W1AST at [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net) BEFORE the June Meeting.

Directly below you will find a list of the current Board member's with the position they are in at this time and all have stated they will be staying on for another year.

Just because they are staying on for another year as a board member doesn't mean that they cannot be challenged for that position. The final say is up to you, the member's of the Hampden County Radio Association!

## Here are the Current Board Positions and the Member's Serving

- President - Larry Krainson, W1AST
- Vice-President - Marcel LaPierre, AA1WH
- Treasurer - Duane Pray, KC1FQV
- Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
- Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE
- Membership - John Plaster, K1VOI
- Technical - Najm Choueiry, AB1ZA
- At Large - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN
- Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU



**Online Election at the June Zoom Meeting!**

**It's your Club do your Part by Voting!**



# Antique Radios

## DID YOU EVER OPERATE AN ANTIQUE HAM RADIO?

Spring brings the return of antique cars to the road – did you ever want to drive one? It does look like fun, doesn't it?

Antique radios are similar – they can be a lot fun to drive! In this article and some future articles on this subject, we'll discuss the basics of finding and using vintage ham radios.

First, you may wonder why anyone would want anything but an SDR transceiver – the features that a modern radio can offer makes operating easier and more efficient. Secondly, what about fixing them and getting parts? But, to understand more about how Ham Radio has developed over the years, using an old radio is a must. And, not only is it fun for the operator to get an old rig on the air, it is enjoyable to see the reactions of others when they hear that your radio is over 50 years old. Finally, just as it was easier to understand how an old car worked mechanically, it is also much easier to master the workings of an antique radio.



In the picture above, there is an image of a very nice station (W4IYC) from 1960. Featured is equipment by the Collins Company, which, in those days, was really the Cadillac of Ham Radio gear. The microphone in the photo is a classic, too – it is an Astatic brand which itself was popular from about 1933 to 2000. Now, here is the really interesting thing: much of the gear the station you see in the photo is still being used by Hams today.

Learning about vintage equipment is easy. There are online Facebook Pages and websites devoted to using and maintaining the equipment, as well as nets that meet regularly. For example, if you are interested in Heathkit equipment, there is a Heathkit Owners Group on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/147848912365070/>

and also one for Drake Radios as well:

<https://www.facebook.com/RL-Drake-Amateur-Radio-Equipment-343521779825105>

Additionally, there are “on the air” nets that promote use of the old equipment. If you prefer to read about old equipment, there is a magazine devoted to the topic, Electric Radio

<https://www.ermag.com/>

ARRL's QST has excellent articles on vintage gear as well.

Continued on page 16

# Antique Radios Cont'd

DID YOU EVER OPERATE AN ANTIQUE HAM RADIO?

Here is a photo of my antique station:



Shown in the photo on the right is a Drake TR-4 Transceiver and above it an MS-4 speaker with a power supply installed – this radio was manufactured in 1965. On the left is a Heathkit SB 101 with a speaker and power supply, as well as an SWR/Power meter above it – all from about 1970. And, of course, there is an Astatic D-104 microphone. Finally, on the left is a Heathkit HW-32A Single Bander for 20 Meters SSB from 1966.

Below is a close-up of the controls on the SB-101:



So, why do I have this station?

One reason is nostalgia – I got my license in the late 1960's. But, a more important reason is the same one why I like old cars: I can understand “what goes on under the hood” and, best of all, I can fix my own radios.

What do you think? Would like to “get behind the wheel” of an old radio? If so, in future articles, we'll discuss some of the different types of popular vintage Ham radios and how to find one and how to maintain it so you can get started yourself.

73, Bill - N1LJQ



# 13 Colonies Special Event Week 2021

2021 Event Dates / July 1 (9AM Eastern) to July 7 (Midnight Eastern)  
(July 1, 2021-1300 UTC to July 8, 2021-0400 UTC)

YOU DO NOT NEED ALL 13 COLONIES TO GET THE CERTIFICATE  
YOU DO NOT NEED TO GET THE 2 BONUS STATIONS FOR A CLEAN SWEEP

All HF bands, including WARC bands, with the exception of 60 meters. Simplex on 2 meters and 6 meters is encouraged.  
Modes of operation represented - SSB, CW, RTTY, Digital, Etc. - The mode of operation is up to the individual colony state.

All HF bands, including WARC bands, with the exception of 60 meters. Simplex on 2 meters and 6 meters is encouraged. All modes of operation may be represented - SSB, CW, RTTY, Digital, Etc.

The exchange for this event is: CALLSIGN RS / RST / RSQ / STATE / PROVINCE or COUNTRY

Certificates as seen below can be had by working all or part of the stations shown below except the two bonus stations.

For complete details on how you can take part can be found by visiting: <http://www.13colonies.us>

GB13COL

WM3PEN

NY - K2A

VA - K2B

DE - K2E

MA - K2H

NH - K2K

RJ - K2C

MD - K2F

NJ - K2I

SC - K2L

CT - K2D

GA - K2G

NC - K2J

PA - K2M

## 13th Annual 13 Colonies Special Event

Independence Week Celebration July 1 - 7 2021



### COLONIAL TALL SAILING SHIPS



K2A ☆



K2B ☆

K2C ☆

K2D ☆

K2E ☆

K2F ☆



K2G ☆



CONTACTS

13



☆ K2H

☆ K2I

☆ K2J

☆ K2K

☆ K2L

☆ K2M



CLEAN SWEEP





# Field Day Trailer Inventory

MANY VOLUNTEERS MAKE A BIG PROJECT GO QUICKLY ON MAY 22ND!

Many thanks to the following who spent their Saturday morning, cleaning, testing and inventorying the club trailer. All are automatically entered into the Field Day raffle for the work they performed!



The HCRA trailer is all nice and neat which means a job well done!



John, WAIJKB helping with the count but he sure looks hungry to me!



Here it looks like everything is ready to be put back into the trailer, all nice and neat!



Faye, WIAST's better half is digging in doing more than her share of the work!



Even the mast, booms and yagi's along with many other items that had to be tested, no bad coax on FD



Chris, WITRK and Steve, KCIKEZ and the inventory job continues!



One thing that's a must have at Field Day is plenty of Sweet Roll :-)




Najm, ABIZA, John, KIYYM, Bob, WIBOB, Larry, KDIRV, Steve, NISR, Chris, WITRK, Faye, Larry's XYL and Larry, WIAST (behind the camera)

## SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS:

 **September** ✓ Show & Tell — members present their projects at Zoom meeting and show them off!!


**OCTOBER** ✓ Beginning Contesting by Matt W1PY


 **November** ✓ SDR and Flex Radio by Jeff NT1K

 **DECEMBER** ✓ The annual HCRA Holiday party—this year a Virtual Party with a guest speaker, Fred K1VR, ARRL New England Division Director, all things ARRL.


 **JANUARY** 2021 ✓ Harold N1FTP and the thrill of wallpaper certificates

 **FEBRUARY** 2021 ✓ Different Fox Hunting Techniques & Gear

 **MARCH** 2021 ✓ ClubLog: What is it, and What can you do with it? Nick K1NZ will tell us all about it!

 **April** 2021 ✓ Show and Tell is back... This is the very BEST out of all the meetings!

 **MAY** 2021 ✓ KB1MDS, Mariusz Zieliński - Talking to the International Space Station!

 **June** 2021 ✓ Elections, Field Day and more? Please consider volunteering to run for a Board position - many hands make light work, and HCRA is better with you involved

## ARRL STUFF

*Things are happening in the world of Amateur Radio. ARRL is our advocate for Government, education and organization. I hope everyone that is a member of HCRA is also a member of ARRL.*

Members - The ARRL is all about its members. Members can write in questions, opinions, articles, etc. A couple of things that ARRL does with members:

Member spotlight - each month, a brief history / biography of a member. This month is W4AYK, a long-time ham that has had breaks in the hobby as life happened.

Letters from our members - members can write in to ARRL with commentary on stories, activities, past articles. It's like letters to the editor in the newspaper, but for us.

Projects - there are 2 antennas in the current issue - one from a teen Extra. Both would be good for a remote Field Day op, simple construction, portable and they work.

The Doctor is In - here is where members can write in technical questions to the ARRL staff, and have them answered.

This month the cover photo is of Fred and Anita Kemmerer—from Nashua Area Radio Society (N1FD). Anyone that has met them will know they are 2 smart, friendly hams that do a lot in their club.

This last year has been a challenge, and now we can get together more. Field Day still is not back to normal, the bands are crazy, and 6M / 10M has opened up a bit. There is a pull out Field Guide to Field Day in this issue of QST also. As has been covered elsewhere - Field Day, 13 Colonies, portable activities, fox hunting - lots to do.

## ARRL Western Mass Section

Check the WMA section page at [www.wma.arrl.org](http://www.wma.arrl.org)

### **Field Day**

Field Day is the big thing coming up. Not comfortable in a group? That's OK, try to setup as portable as you can, as remote as you can. Remember, Field Day is not just a get together, it's an opportunity to demonstrate skills operating in the field.

### **13 Colonies**

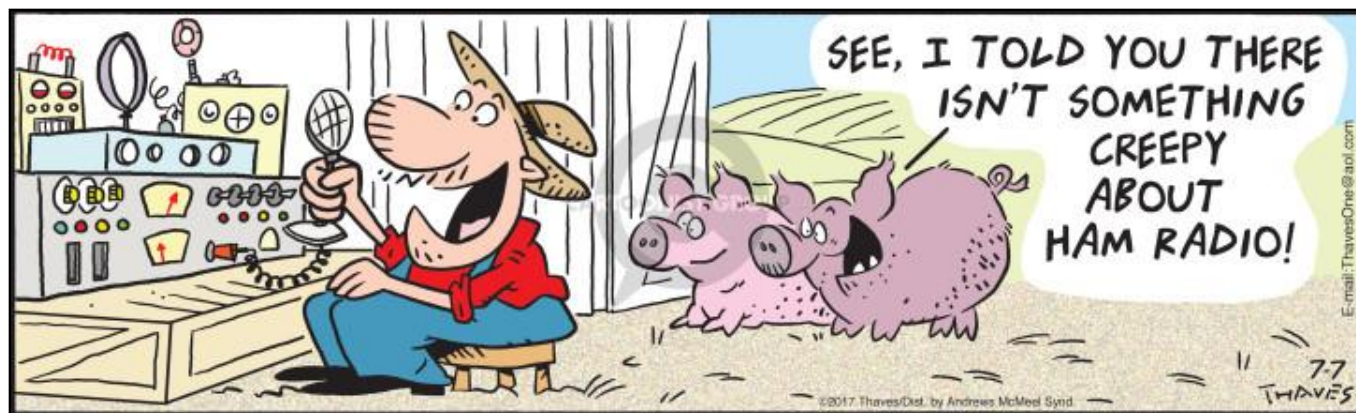
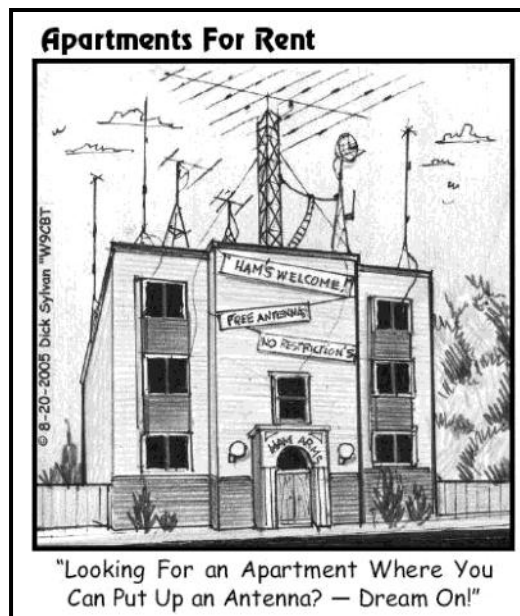
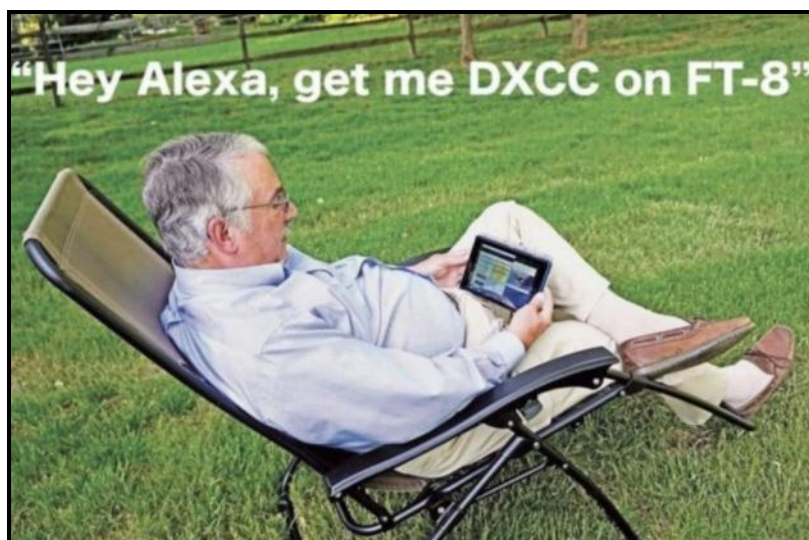
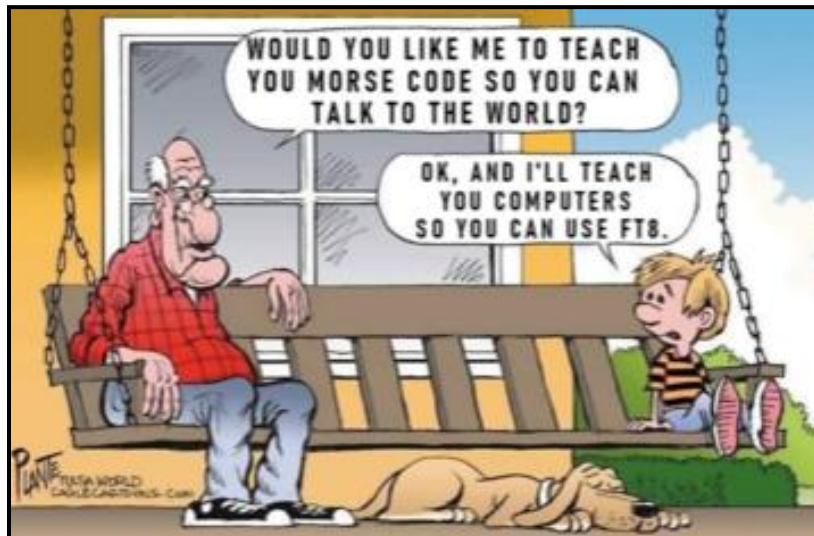
Larry, W1AST is the state coordinator for the 13 Colonies event for MA (K2H) again. This is a week long event, and if you would like, you can operate as K2H to help out. Contact Larry ;-)

[MA Prepares for Thirteen Colonies Special Event Operation, July 1-7, 2021 – ARRL New England Division.](#)

ARRL Western Massachusetts Section Manager - Raymond P. Lajoie, KB1LRL - [kb1lrl@arrl.org](mailto:kb1lrl@arrl.org)

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





## **This Month in the HCRA**

There's so much news about Field Day in this issue, this section will be devoted to everything else in the HCRA.

### **Memorial Page**

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

### **General License Class**

Beginning very soon we will be holding a General license class which is fantastic news but for this to happen we need several things, VOLUNTEERS and several of them! Please consider volunteering as a teacher or wherever help is needed. For additional information or to volunteer for any position please contact Larry, W1AST at: [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)

### **10 Meter Net Summer Schedule**

The HCRA 10 meter net summer schedule will be held as follows: 6/14, 7/12 and 8/16 returning to every Monday at 7pm in September. Marcel, AA1WH is NCS. Everyone is welcome to join us on 28.475usb regardless of club affiliation or location.

### **Fox Hunting**

HCRA has two Foxbox's that will be in hiding simultaneously throughout the summer into the fall season. For more info see The Fox's Den or join <https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters> for all the latest info including how to bring up Foxbox1 and Foxbox2 with frequency's, PL tones and more... join today, it's FREE!

### **13 Colonies Special Event Week**

In this issue of Zero Beat pretty much everything is about Field Day 2021 and rightly so as it's the first in person FD since 2019. But it's not the only thing happening this summer such as the 13 Colonies special event station. This is something that you can take part in during this week long event. There is more info and links to help you to know when and what time this is happening. This info is on page 17. To take part in this fun event contact Larry, W1AST at: [w1ast@arrl.com](mailto:w1ast@arrl.com)

**Please check-out the HCRA You Tube Channel and while you're there don't forget to click subscribe!**  
**I hope that many members are working on their short video's for the club's You Tube channel.**  
**For more info see the April issue of Zero Beat. The You Tube Channel link is below**

#### **For Sale Items**

I have added a 4-sale section that is for HCRA members only. Somebody must have something to sell, trade or wanted items.

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

#### **HCRA Social Media Links**

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

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

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

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



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

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

Info from 5/30/21



Your Log  
DXCC Charts  
Satellite Charts  
Timelines  
QSL Charts  
Zone Charts  
Log Inspector  
Log Matching  
League Tables  
DXCC Leagues  
Satellite Leagues  
Zone Leagues  
Club Leagues  
CDXC Challenges  
Super League  
Uniques League  
Tools  
DX Cluster  
Log Search  
Call Tester  
Most Wanted  
DXCC Analysis  
Propagation  
Great Circle Maps  
LoTW Sync  
ADIF Diff  
QSL Archive

### DXCC Leagues

The leagues are rebuilt once per day. Only callsigns active in the last 12 months are included in the league tables. The maximum size of a league is 2000 participants.

☒ No Mode Filter
☐ CW
☐ Phone
☐ Data

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

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

☒ Current entities
☐ Current and deleted
☒ Worked
☐ Confirmed

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

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

Generate DXCC League

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1JA	58	173	29	239	192	316	204	302	148	286	340	1947	44 yrs
2	W1RM+1	179	293	10	334	317	337	329	336	319	321	339	2775	58 yrs
3	NU1O+1	18	149	9	268	240	326	274	322	231	308	335	2145	33 yrs
4	KK1W+1	136	192	7	270	223	309	277	278	216	232	329	2140	45 yrs
5	NV1Q+3	27	136	0	181	111	308	257	314	232	256	329	1822	42 yrs
6	NF1G	0	157	0	233	252	301	260	263	176	203	319	1845	37 yrs
7	W1PY+1	34	116	0	200	64	246	207	242	130	204	291	1443	11 yrs
8	KX1X	67	127	62	184	145	204	127	204	49	193	252	1362	24 yrs
9	K1NZ+1 ★	115	155	86	166	191	187	160	145	83	68	248	1356	10 yrs
10	K1VOI	5	65	2	113	52	200	140	163	69	143	247	952	20 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10			
11	N1TA+3 ★	109	152	26	191	97	205	99	190	20	131	244	1220	20 yrs
12	NE1C	63	114	0	151	0	206	0	195	0	152	238	881	19 yrs
13	AB1WT	2	32	1	52	4	128	123	126	64	89	212	621	6 yrs
14	W1AST+1	3	60	9	102	28	166	107	125	10	120	202	730	12 yrs
15	NT1K+2	9	49	2	103	33	184	45	141	47	123	199	736	11 yrs
16	N1FTP	0	7	0	64	0	170	47	119	16	109	184	532	13 yrs
17	W1TRK	0	3	0	11	0	64	0	34	0	1	79	113	4 yrs
18	N1JIE	2	5	0	23	7	49	24	7	1	4	72	122	4 yrs
19	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	24	0	45	0	0	1	0	54	70	5 yrs
20	N1FJ	0	0	0	6	0	30	0	16	3	16	51	71	8 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10			

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

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



- Your Log
- DXCC Charts
- Satellite Charts
- Timelines
- QSL Charts
- Zone Charts
- Log Inspector
- Log Matching
- League Tables
- DXCC Leagues
- Satellite Leagues
- Zone Leagues
- Club Leagues
- CDXC Challenges
- Super League
- Uniques League
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 ☒ 10M
 ☐ 6M

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 ☐ 2020
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Filter by club/continent: HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association ▼

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	41	69	0	103	47	172	57	88	14	40	196	631	58 yrs
2	NF1G	0	21	0	56	103	131	110	83	12	18	183	534	37 yrs
3	W1PY+1	2	10	0	39	0	135	17	23	1	1	160	228	11 yrs
4	KK1W+1	33	18	0	61	13	98	15	16	1	0	159	255	45 yrs
5	N1TA+3 ★	27	83	17	102	84	131	89	81	14	43	154	671	20 yrs
6	KX1X	5	63	0	107	85	108	72	79	14	39	143	572	24 yrs
7	NU1O+1	0	0	0	4	4	95	12	30	1	21	118	167	33 yrs
8	K1NZ+1 ★	29	48	9	19	66	54	40	17	5	9	102	296	10 yrs
9	K1VOI	0	23	0	50	3	71	28	36	3	7	89	221	20 yrs
10	NV1Q+3	0	19	0	44	0	69	0	50	0	11	89	193	42 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10			
11	W1AST+1	3	7	0	33	1	64	16	22	0	1	79	147	12 yrs
12	NE1C	3	4	0	35	0	70	0	12	0	1	76	125	19 yrs
13	N1FTP	0	1	0	22	0	67	0	23	0	2	74	115	13 yrs
14	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	14	0	25	0	0	0	0	33	39	5 yrs
15	N1FJ	0	0	0	1	0	21	0	6	0	0	27	28	8 yrs
16	N1JIE	2	2	0	1	5	5	4	1	0	0	12	20	4 yrs
17	NT1K+2	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8	8	11 yrs
18	W1JA	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	44 yrs

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



# DOTS & DASHES Things that don't fit anyplace else

## Members Submissions Needed!

Want to be a part of Zero Beat, how you ask? It's easy, simply write an article about something you enjoy in ham radio. It can be pretty much about anything but the best and most interesting thing is to make it about something you enjoy. This month there is a brand new section called "**First Time Ham**" so more articles are needed that are geared for the newest hams in HCRA. We helped them get their license's, now let's teach them right from wrong with great projects like Vanessa, W1IRL did this month with her article on Anderson Power Poles!

With this whole new idea, you don't have to worry about spelling, grammar, formatting ect. All you need to do is send the basic article along with photo's to myself at [kd1ku@arrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrl.net) and we will finish the rest.

## Items For Sale or Wanted

I find it hard to believe that nobody has anything they want to sell, trade, bargain!

Don't worry about formatting your ad, I'll do that for you. Send it to: [kd1ku@arrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrl.net)

**FOR SALE!**

## Contests and Special Event Stations

**Contests** - [www.arrl.org/contest-calendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar)

**Field Day 2021** - Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. More on Field Day throughout this issue of ZeroBeat.

**2021 Event Dates / July 1 (9AM Eastern) to July 7 (Midnight Eastern)**  
(July 1, 2021-1300 UTC to July 8, 2021-0400 UTC)

**YOU DO NOT NEED ALL 13 COLONIES TO GET THE CERTIFICATE**  
**YOU DO NOT NEED TO GET THE 2 BONUS STATIONS FOR A CLEAN SWEEP**

For more information visit: <http://www.13colonies.us>

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

**6/12/2021 | 1st Annual US Island Special Event Week** - June 12 - June 20, 1200Z-2100Z  
Fredericksburg, VA. US Island Awards Program. 28.460 21.260 14.260 7.260 (US Island Chasers/Activators)  
This is a 9 day / 24hr Event - Work or Activate/Qualify as many US Islands for Certificates - [usislands.org](http://usislands.org)

## HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

*QSL's will be sent to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau quarterly on the following approximate dates:*

April 15th, June 15th, September 15th and January 15th

See [hcra.org](http://hcra.org) for complete information

or

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



## Local Nets & Happenings

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

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

**1st Monday:** Southwick Regional RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

**Mondays:** 1900 **HCRA 10 Meter Net 28.375** **Note: Summer 10m net schedule held as follows: 6/14, 7/12 and 8/16**

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

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

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

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

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

## Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



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

## Club Meetings and VE Sessions

Please contact site / organization to ensure it will meet  
Clubs meet on Zoom, VE sessions are being developed

**1st Friday of the month** at 7:30pm HCRA Meeting. Virtual meeting's are held via Zoom. Meeting's start with a rag chew session at 7pm followed by the regular Zoom meeting at 7:30pm. <http://www.hcra.org/>

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

**Saturday before the FCARC meeting at 8am.** Breakfast at Denny's Pantry in Greenfield (as Covid allows)

**3rd Friday of the month** 7:30pm MTARA Club meeting. Meetings are being held virtual via Zoom. Contact a MTARA member for link. <https://mtara.org/>

**4th Friday of the month** 6:00pm, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, **in-person exams are on hold at present.** A virtual exam is being explored. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team at <https://pvvet.org/> or contact David Cote at [w1fab@arrl.net](mailto:w1fab@arrl.net)

**4th Monday of February, May, August, November** 7:00pm, FCARC VE Exams, <http://www.fcrc.org/>

## HCRA Contact List

President - Larry Krainson, W1AST  
[w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)

Vice-President - Marcel LaPierre, AA1WH  
[aa1wh@arrl.net](mailto:aa1wh@arrl.net)

Treasurer - Duane Pray, KC1FQV  
[kc1fqv@arrl.net](mailto:kc1fqv@arrl.net)

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G  
[nf1g@arrl.net](mailto:nf1g@arrl.net)

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

Membership - John Plaster, K1VOI  
[k1voi\\_jp@charter.net](mailto:k1voi_jp@charter.net)

Technical - Najm Choueiry, AB1ZA  
[njc2@cox.net](mailto:njc2@cox.net)

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

Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU  
[kd1ku@arrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrl.net)

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



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

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