



# ZERO BEAT

HCRA's 75th Anniversary - 1948 - 2023!

## Meeting Update!

### In-Person Meetings Have Resumed!

Need directions?

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

## Welcome New Members

No New Members this Month!

## Whats Inside

<a href="#">From the Editor</a>	1
<a href="#">Regular Meeting Schedule</a>	2
<a href="#">From the Presidents Shack</a>	3-4
<a href="#">ARES Update</a>	5-6
<a href="#">Portable Ham Radio</a>	7-10
<a href="#">Vintage Radio Museum</a>	11-14
<a href="#">May Meeting Photo Journal</a>	16-17
<a href="#">Skywarn Reporting</a>	18-20
<a href="#">13 Colonies Special Event</a>	21
<a href="#">Nuts and Volts</a>	22-23
<a href="#">HCRA 2023 Elections</a>	25
<a href="#">HCRA Field Day 2023</a>	26
<a href="#">For Sale &amp; Wanted</a>	27
<a href="#">VOTA Operating Update</a>	28
<a href="#">HamToons - RF Humor</a>	29
<a href="#">Clublog Update</a>	30
<a href="#">ARRL Commissions</a>	31
<a href="#">Dots &amp; Dashes</a>	32
<a href="#">HCRA Stuff</a>	33
<a href="#">Local Nets &amp; Happenings</a>	34

## FIELD DAY EDITION

June 2023

From the editor,

It's hard to believe, but it's time for Field Day planning as it's nearly upon us! For details, check out this month's "[From the President's Shack](#)" and read [page 26](#) for everything you need to know, including a link to an online questionnaire.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire with what you can do to help make the HCRA's 75th anniversary Field Day a huge success!

Bill, W1FMX, has written a great article about the Vintage Radio Museum in Windsor, CT. This article is not to be missed, as it explains the updates they have recently made to their station. All this can be found on [page 11](#).

Smitty, KC1IKA, has his monthly ARES update plus a timely article about Skywarn and the correct procedure used for all reportable criteria on [page 18](#).

The June meeting means it's election time again. All board members are returning except for our Membership person, John, K1VOI, is stepping down after 8 years of doing an excellent job. Thank you, John, for all your work! Please consider running for the membership position. Information on [page 25](#).

June 15th is the approximate date that Paul, NF1G, will be bringing outgoing QSL cards to the ARRL card service. Details on [page 32](#), or <http://www.hcra.org/dx-qsl/>

I'm hoping someone will step-up and want their shack featured in the Sept issue. It's easy, take a few photos of your shack, write down a few details about your shack, radios, antennas, etc. and send it to me at [kd1ku@arrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrl.net)

73, Ken - KD1KU

## Friday June 2nd

### Elections, Field Day, Guest Speaker & More!

2023 Elections, Field Day preparations, and more. Please consider running for a Board of Directors position. Plus, virtual guest speaker Adrian Zeffert, AB2IX, with tips from the test bench on solving common issues with simple test equipment. Meeting begins at 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm.

Regular club meetings are held at the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center at 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA, 01040.

Need directions? Click <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

# Upcoming Meetings and Guest Speakers



2023

The September 8th meeting features in-person guest speakers Bob Glorioso, W1IS, & Bob Rose, KC1DSQ, who will be speaking on types of wire antennas. Both have had articles in QST & CQ magazines. Don't miss this meeting!



2023

This month's guest speaker will be announced soon!



2023

HCRA's Annual Auction is Back in-Person at the November Meeting! Ham Radio Gear and Related Accessories Only! Absolutely no computers, monitors, or PC parts! The 2022 auction was a huge hit; don't miss it this year!



2023

The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant Dec 5th. Join us for a Night of Food and Fun as we celebrate HCRA's 75th Anniversary of being an ARRL Affiliated Club with some VIP special guests.



2023

Tim Carter, W3ATB is giving a presentation on the New England Forrest Road Rally LIVE & in-person! Tim is responsible for the communications involving 45 hams & more. Info at <https://newenglandforestrally.com>



2023

Tom Vinson, NY0V will be giving a virtual presentation on his involvement in a special expedition tracing the path of Amelia Earhart and to replicate the radio communications that were in use at that time!



2023

Guest Speaker Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC with a special presentation about his "Adventures In Bora Bora" DX'ing from the South Pacific.



2023

Show and Tell is back... Enter your projects and win cool prizes! This is always one of the most popular & interesting meetings. The Raffle drawing for the Geochron will be held at this meeting.



2023

Bring and demonstrate your POTA, SOTA, & QRP rigs to the May meeting. Win a 3Ah LiPo battery & charger, storage cases will be raffled too. Perfect for portable use! Attendees get a free entry, Must be in attendance to win!



2023

2023 Elections, Field Day prep & more. Consider running for a Board of Directors position, Plus, virtual guest speaker Adrian Zeffert, AB2IX with tips from the test bench, Solving common issues with simple test equipment.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST



## June 2023

**It may be June**, but there are still a lot of things going on this month and this summer with the club and ham radio.

First off, June is the annual HCRA elections. The HCRA Board is still in need of a Membership Director. Here is the description from the bylaws:

**Membership Director:** *Shall actively recruit new members at times and places of their discretion and represent the corporation in a manner to promote growth of the organization.*

**It's not a difficult or time-consuming position.** The Membership Director also needs to attend the Board Meetings, which we have on Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm, and attend the regular meetings in person. Plus, attend and support club activities like all board members.

**Does this sound like something you can do?** Please volunteer as it's an integral position that the club needs filled as quickly as possible.

**Field Day is coming quickly.** It occurs on the 4th full weekend of June every year. It's a time when club members come together and operate in a field on generator or battery power, make a bunch of contacts, and then take down the antennas and stations. It all happens starting Friday, June 23, and ending Sunday, the 25th. For many people, Field Day is the most exciting and anticipated event.

Whether you are experienced or a new ham, come and join us. We'll start by assembling antennas, portable towers, stations in tents and everything in between. A few of us stay over Friday and Saturday nights.

The fun begins at 2 pm, on Saturday and runs for 24 hours until 2 pm on Sunday. Then we take it all down and put it away until next year.

We urge you to come and spend the weekend. It's a whole lot of fun!

**HCRA Summer Picnic:** We decided to do a summer picnic at the Field Day dinner this year. Not only will there be hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the fixings, but also a potluck dinner based on what you bring.

**You MUST RSVP to attend** this so we have enough food. This will take place at 6 pm on the Saturday of Field Day at the School Street Park in Agawam, MA.

We need to know who is attending Field Day **and** the Summer Picnic. If you have not filled out the questionnaire, please click this link and answer all the questions. It may take you 2 or 3 minutes at most to fill it out.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfq\\_KwZ5IFSfzJp33Fuvup2l0R9GkjsNzFtD7Ydmnc8lRmrPw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfq_KwZ5IFSfzJp33Fuvup2l0R9GkjsNzFtD7Ydmnc8lRmrPw/viewform)

**Operating activities are tons of fun.** Every year from July 1–7, the annual 13 Colonies operating event occurs. Here is a chance to work 15 stations and earn unique QSL cards and a special certificate.

Continued on page 4

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST

**Massachusetts will be participating too.** Last year, Team K2H worked over 21,000 QSOs in the 7 days. The most we have ever worked All 13 colonies' stations worked over 260,000 QSOs during this time. Every year, this Special Operating Event grows. Will you be part of it this year?

You do not have to work all the stations to earn a certificate. You can work any number and turn in your log to earn a certificate. Of course, working all of the stations is both fun and challenging. You can learn more at: <http://13colonies.us>.

**It used to be every two years**, the New England Convention, aka Boxboro, would occur. Through changes, Boxboro is no more, and the new Northeast HamXposition has been born in its place. It now takes place in Marlboro, MA, which is closer to Route 90 and easy to get to.

This year there are many new changes, with new and exciting forums and things to see, do, and participate in. This is my first year on the committee, and I am helping to instill change. Having the same old thing every year is boring and makes you wonder why you should attend every year. This year we have new and different forums, new presenters, new vendors, and a few events added to the flea market.

The Friday banquet is sponsored by the YCCC and is all about DX. The Saturday banquet is all about ham ingenuity and should be fascinating based on what I have heard about it so far. I'll be at the XPO all weekend.

If you did not attend last year, you owe it to yourself to attend this year. Last year, I had a superb time. I attended both banquets, made new friends, and met others whom I had only spoken to in Zoom meetings. The event completely exceeded all expectations, and I could not wait to return.

If you want to pick one day to attend, then Saturday, August 26th, is the day to attend. Tickets will be available online very soon. Make a point of attending the Grand Banquet Saturday night too. You will find it very interesting.

**The September meeting** will be live and in-person on Friday, September 8th. It will be IN-PERSON with Bob Glorioso, W1IS, and Bob Rose, KC1DSQ, on Off Center Fed Wire Antennas. Both Bobs have had articles in QST and CQ magazines. They have also recently published a book on wire antennas. This is a meeting you do NOT want to miss!

**This year the club celebrates its 75th anniversary**, and there are little special things going on all year long. The summer picnic is one of them; with special guest speakers, the December Holiday Party is the big shindig that everyone should attend. We'll have some special people attending, have some special raffle prizes (you must attend to win), and other things that are being planned.

If you haven't locked in your calendar yet, December 4th at 6:00 pm is the party date. More information will follow in the September Zero Beat, but save the date on your calendars!

**Keep in mind** that we need YOU to volunteer for the Membership Position, to participate in Field Day, and to be an active member. There are over 100 members in this club. Of that, we need just 9 people for the board. Eight have already volunteered. Will you be the 9th?

**A very hearty Thank You** to John, K1VOI, for his work in Membership these past 8 years. Your work is greatly appreciated, John! Thank you!

73, and I hope to see you at the June Meeting,  
Larry, W1AST ~ [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)



# ARES NET UPDATE

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

## What do YOU want to do with your license?

As amateur radio operators, we can choose from many different aspects of ham radio. Contesting, EmComm, NTS, POTA, SOTA, voice (SSB), QRP, EME, digital modes, CW, NVIS, DX, kit building, rag chewing, etc., etc., etc.

For the newer hams or those that haven't heard of all of these, the following is a very brief description.

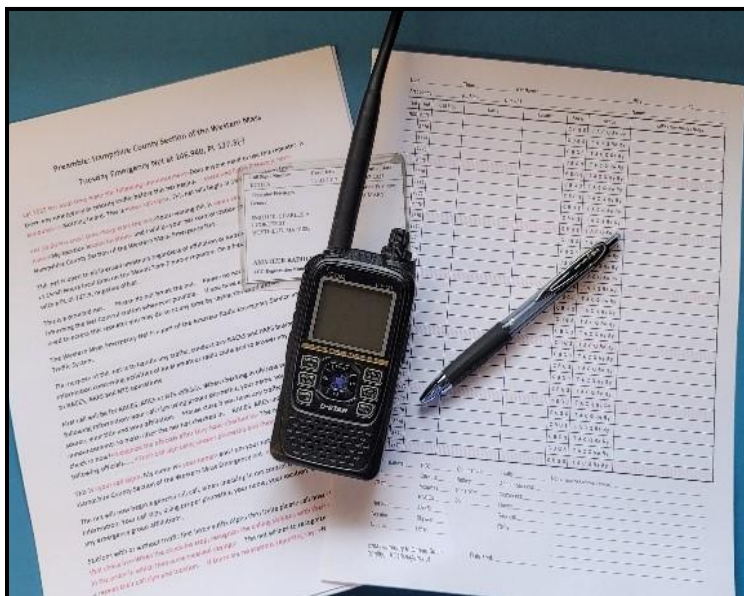
**Contesting**, operating radios to get points in various contests. Can be combined with many other choices, such as **QRP** contests, voice or **SSB** contests, **CW** contests, **DX** contests, etc.

**EmComm**, emergency communications This can be ARES, RACES, NTS, CERT, Skywarn, SATERN, MARS, etc. These groups, some of which you can just volunteer for and some of which you must be appointed to, deal with emergency communications. Some of them can be classified as served agencies, such as MARS, CERT, Skywarn, and SATERN. Most of these groups are listed at [ARRL.ORG](http://ARRL.ORG) under Public Service.

**NTS**, or National Traffic System, is part of **EmComm** but should be highlighted separately. The ham operators who specialize in NTS are sending Radiograms, what used to be referred to as Telegrams. They are extremely helpful in emergency situations and are a very specialized, highly trained group. Radiograms typically have up to 25 words and can be of routine, priority, welfare, or emergency precedence. The Precedence determines how quickly and what priority they have going through the system. These messages can go from the local level to a regional level to a national level and back down again, so they need to be transmitted very accurately with no room for error or confusion. That's why there is a 600+ page manual to work with a 25-word document.

**POTA** can stand for Parks On The Air, Peaks On The Air, Portables On The Air. These are groups that are also under **contesting** and can also be under **DX** or **QRP** as well as **SSB** or **CW**. The operators get points for contacting other like operators. SOTA is also a part of this group and can stand for Summits On The Air or Students On The Air.

**Voice**, or **SSB**, is when you communicate with other hams by talking. This can be done using low-power **QRP**, locally **NVIS**, over longer distances **DX**, and on **HF**, **VHF**, or **UHF**. You can also talk to someone by bouncing your signal off the moon and back, **EME**, or through satellites in orbit.



Continued on page 6

# ARES NET UPDATE CONT'D

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

---

Digital modes are communications where the radio signal is converted into a digital signal versus an analog signal. The digital signal typically uses less bandwidth and lower power than voice or SSB. This means that you can communicate further, more efficiently.

There are digital voice modes such as **DMR**, **DStar**, **NXDN**, **EchoLink**, and purely digital modes such as **FT8**, **Winlink**, **VaraAC**, etc. Some you need a computer to connect to your radio so someone on the other end can connect their radio to a computer and you can exchange messages.

**CW** is the original digital mode and uses Morse Code to send and receive messages. This is a very efficient way to send and receive and can reach long distances with low power and poor conditions.

**Rag Chewing** is just getting on the air and chatting with someone. No points, no contest, just talking about anything you choose.

**Kit building** and experimenting with equipment or antennas is the foundation of what this hobby was built on. Learning and innovating. One can also spend their time sharing the knowledge they have. You don't have to know everything to be able to help someone. You just need to know something they don't. You could be a brand-new ham and help someone who has been in the hobby for decades. It's all about sharing knowledge.

This is a partial list of some of the choices you have as a ham. You can explore as many, or as few as you like. I knew from the beginning I wanted to be involved in EmComm. My main purpose is to stay on the air no matter what happens to the internet, phone system, power grid, or other forms of communication and relay information as needed to whatever served agency needs help.

This club is very good at sharing many aspects of amateur radio and has a wealth of knowledge available. You just need to pick a path and ask for help. You don't have to stay on that path forever; try it for a while, then try another path. It's all good.

73,

Smitty, KC1IKA

ASEC, Net Manager, WMA ARES, Skywarn Net Coordinator

---

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

## **Share The Knowledge Video Library**

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

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





# PORTABLE HAM RADIO by John, N1JIE

## What Exactly is Portable Radio Operation?



So, May is portable radio month. What exactly is portable radio operation? Basically, it's not exactly anything—it is pretty much any radio operation that is not mobile or base station. Mobile is operating in a vehicle (plane, car, boat, etc), and base is a station that is more or less permanent—in a building, with a fixed antenna (fixed is a fluid term; HOA residents sometimes have to setup/takedown for each use). So it is actually the most wide-open category in ham radio.

The big HCRA Field Day station, with a generator, computers, jack-up towers with Tri-banders on top—yup, that's portable. How about the 3w mountain topper with an EFHW wire and a mini key? Yup, portable. That HT you got when you passed your tech? Yup, portable.

Continued on page 8

# PORTABLE HAM RADIO CONT'D

## What Exactly is Portable Radio Operation?

Like the real estate lady says, "it's location, location, location". My first portable operation was with my base radio (FTdx-1200) and a homebrew coiled dipole next to the frozen pond in Easthampton. 100w, a borrowed Bioenno battery, and made contact with South Africa. (This is where Harold, N1FTP laughs and says, "and he danced and screamed like a little girl"). The next year was on Hampton Pond with my FT-857 @100w, my EFRW antenna, my Bioenno, and Winter Field Day on ice. Much more portable, but still bulky. But this has been my basic POTA rig for the last 2 years. It just about all fits into a backpack at about 28 lb. Not hiking any mountains with that. Newest setup is smaller, lower power (QRP - 5/10w), and is geared more towards SOTA / hiking access. X6100, EFRw (Tufteln kit), tiny tablet, 3ah battery, all in a backpack weighing about 10 lbs. I've already hiked a SOTA and gotten an activation.

The important thing to remember, as with all amateur radio activities, is: what do YOU want to do? There are all kinds of things and all levels of ability. Have difficulty getting around? Setting up at or near your vehicle with the antenna nearby is a great way to activate a POTA. There are a couple of Summits you can drive right up to near the top. Get someone to go with you to help. Many POTA activations are multi-ops. It can be a great way to involve kids—let them help set up and carry stuff and be there for the activity. You can go in your backyard and practice. Or be portable in the backyard. Want to be more active? There are tons of options.

There are just a few basic components needed. A transceiver, a power supply, and an antenna. Kinda like a fire, you need air, fuel, and heat. You can go top-line at the altar of Elecraft or shop at hamfests for older, used rigs that will do the job. Antennas are the same: end-fed wire, dipole, vertical, hamstick—all will work. Power supplies—options are all over. Lead acid, LiFePO, NiCAD... There are also solar and generators.

There is NO "right or wrong" way to be portable. We had a great meeting this month. With 10+ hams showing off their portable equipment, a wide range of equipment, and lots of options.

There are a ton of resources on the internet. Several Facebook groups are devoted to portable, POTA / QRP lots of YouTube channels are devoted to the various portable events. Field Day is the world's portable event. If you haven't been to the HCRA Field Day site, it is an amazing team event with a minimum of 3 radios, going all night long, lots of on-air practice, and lots of people to learn from. It was one of the most intense events I participated in, and I went home tired and hoarse. Tons of fun!



Continued on page 9

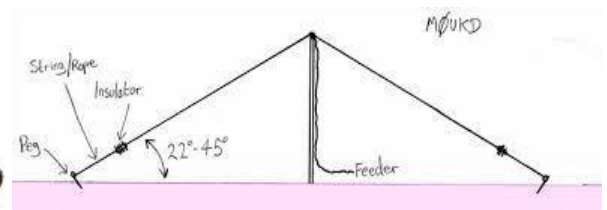


# PORTABLE HAM RADIO CONT'D

## What Exactly is Portable Radio Operation?



**Parks On The Air:** You can be a hunter or an activator, but you have to register first. If you have ever had a POTA contact from home, they will show up on your hunter log once you sign up. Lots of information, lots of "wallpaper" available. POTA contacts are some of the most fun I've had - very patient, will spend a couple of minutes to pull in a weak contact, willing to have a bit of chat rather than just a contest contact. It was started in 2016 after a National Park event with Ham Radio.



**Summits On The Air:** This is from Great Britain. Again, you have to register first. It's a bit more complicated, and it generally involves a hike, but there are lots of options. Jim, KK1W, and Frandy, N1FJ, are big SOTA guys and know a lot about remote portable operations.



**Winter Field Day:** This is an event somewhat like the ARRL Field Day but in the winter. I like to play that one because I like the challenge. Playing the bonus points is fun (battery, outdoors, in a public place, etc., like the ARRL Field Day).

**New England Ham Radios for Sale:** This is a Facebook group that has lots of used gear. There is usually a guy in Belchertown with several listings, and you can always find something to get interested in.

**QRP Guys:** This is a kit site for low power (QRP - 5/10w). It's amazing what you can do with low power. The antenna (and location) are the key.

Continued on page 10

# PORTABLE HAM RADIO CONT'D

## What Exactly is Portable Radio Operation?

**QRP Labs:** Another QRP kit site

**uSDX:** Another QRP kit / built radio. There were a couple at the meeting, and their owners were happy with them.

Full-power portable radios are also available; Yaesu, Icom, Elecraft all have great rigs; some are available used. Ebay, hamfests, and club members are good sources for used gear.

So, set your limits for budget, how remote you want to be, and what you want to accomplish. There are several of us in the HCRA that enjoy portable operations and can help. Go to Field Day with the club at least once. The experience will get you out of the basement, and get you started!

I've heard people joke that it is an expensive hobby, but it isn't any worse than golf, boating, skiing, or any other activity that uses equipment. And like those mentioned, we can also have a ton of fun outdoors!

73, John N1JIE

---

## A Letter of Thanks to the HCRA Board of Directors

Hello HCRA Board,

Today I received a nice letter and a home depot gift card in the mail. It's great that the HCRA board does things like this for certain events. The gift card will mostly end up in my wife's hands and she'll most likely use it to buy flowers. I'll make sure she gets a perennial so that it's a gift that keeps on giving.

Thanks to the HCRA board for their time and effort in the club.

- Jeffrey Bail  
NT1K



# VINTAGE RADIO MUSEUM

## New & Improved Shack at the Vintage Radio & Communications Museum

Under the leadership of Bob Allison, WB1GCM, president of the Amateur Radio Club at the Vintage Radio and Communication Museum of Connecticut (VCRMCT), the Ham Shack at the museum has been upgraded and has become an even more attractive place to visit. As someone who cares deeply about the future of our hobby, Bob's goal is to spearhead the improvements so that it can facilitate the club's mission of being "Ambassadors for Ham Radio."

The first thing a visitor sees as he or she approaches the Ham Shack is a Gates Model BC-IT transmitter for use with amplitude modulation (AM) transmissions. The transmitter, standing about seven feet tall and several feet wide, is larger than a refrigerator and first saw service with a Country Music station in Arizona. It was acquired by the museum several years ago and lent to the ARRL, where Bob Allison, acting as project coordinator, was among a group who restored it a couple of years ago. According to Bob Allison, "Museum staff, led by Dan Thomas, NC1J, restored the Gates transmitter to "broadcast" condition. Tim Smith, WA1HLR, modified the Gates transmitter to operate on 75 and 160 meters. Other hams volunteered their time, equipment, and knowledge to perfect the transmitted audio; Steve Cloutier, WA1QIX, and Dan Brown, W1DAN, in particular. The transmitter was recently returned and installed at the museum. The Gates is capable of about 1 kilowatt of output. The club has been using the transmitter for special events, as operating with high utility rates can be extremely expensive.



*Gates Transmitter (Photo courtesy of Bob Allison, WB1GCM)*

Continued on page 12



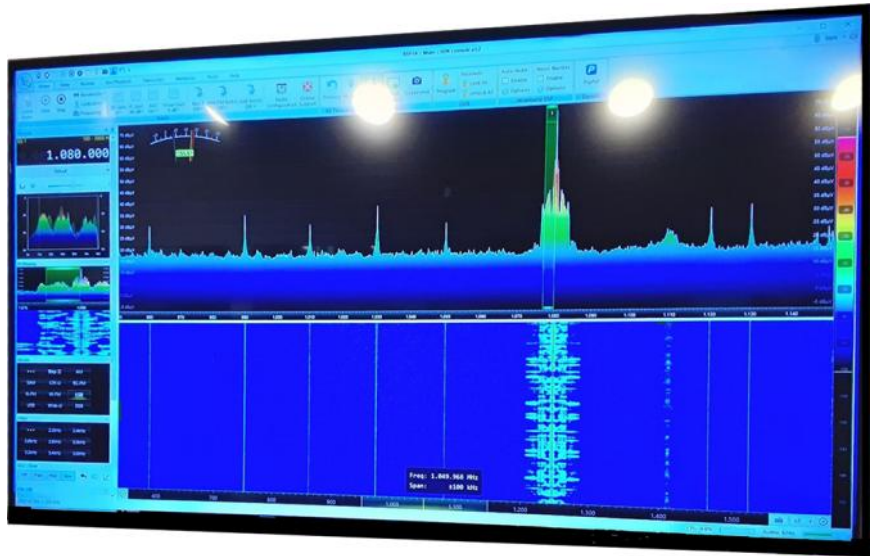
# VINTAGE RADIO MUSEUM CONT'D

## New & Improved Shack at the Vintage Radio & Communications Museum

As one enters the shack, the one item to catch a visitor's eye would likely be the large monitor linked to an SDRplay RSP1 Software Defined Radio (SDR). The display allows visitors to see and understand more about the RF spectrum.

The equipment array now in use at the shack includes a Collins 32V3 transmitter (circa 1950), which is rated at about 150 watts PA Plate power input in CW mode or 120 watts on phone. It covers the 80, 40, 20, 15, 11, and 10-meter bands. Matched with this transmitter is the Collins 75A1 Receiver (circa 1947 and later), which introduced new features that had not been available in amateur radio receivers before its production. True "Boat Anchors", these radios together weigh over 100 pounds! The club uses this Collins gear primarily for AM operation, which is very popular with it's members.

Modern solid-state gear at the club station is first represented by a Yaesu FTDX-5000, which was donated last year. The FTdx-5000 offers 200 watts of output in CW or SSB (PEP) and is very useful for demonstrations for guests at the museum; schoolchildren have been thrilled to speak over the air and hear a response from a Ham in another state or country. Next to this radio is a Kenwood TS-570D HF transceiver (first introduced over 25 years ago), which offers good audio and is easy to operate; at the club, it is often used for SSB contacts. Next to that is a Kenwood TS-140S HF transceiver dating from about 1987, which is being used for CW operation.



*Bob Allison, VCRMCT ARC President operating Collins 32V3 Transmitter & a 75A1 Receiver*

Continued on page 13

# VINTAGE RADIO MUSEUM CONT'D

## New & Improved Shack at the Vintage Radio & Communications Museum

Rounding out the operating section of the shack is a Heathkit DX-60 AM/CW crystal-controlled transmitter (circa 1965) that was originally sold in kit form and was very popular among Novice licenses 50 years ago. This DX-60 is used with a Heathkit HG-10 VFO and a Heathkit SB-610 Station Monitor Scope. Paired with the DX-60 is a National Model HRO-50-R1 Short Wave Receiver (circa 1951), which weighs nearly 100 pounds and has plug-in coils to change bands. This gear is used to operate CW and AM by club members, and all of the vintage equipment is maintained primarily by Larry Bearse, WA1LGQ.



*Pete Turbiden (W1PT) operating the Yaesu FTdx-5000*



*National HRO 50-R1 and Heathkit DX-60, HG-10, and SB-610*

The station also has a Collins 75A-4 Receiver and KWS-1 Transmitter that are in the process of being repaired. Additionally, the club has added two new dipole antennas, one for 80m and the other for 40m, which is also performing well on 15m. Soon, the club will restore its Tri-band beam and add a Hustler 6BTV vertical.

Continued on page 14



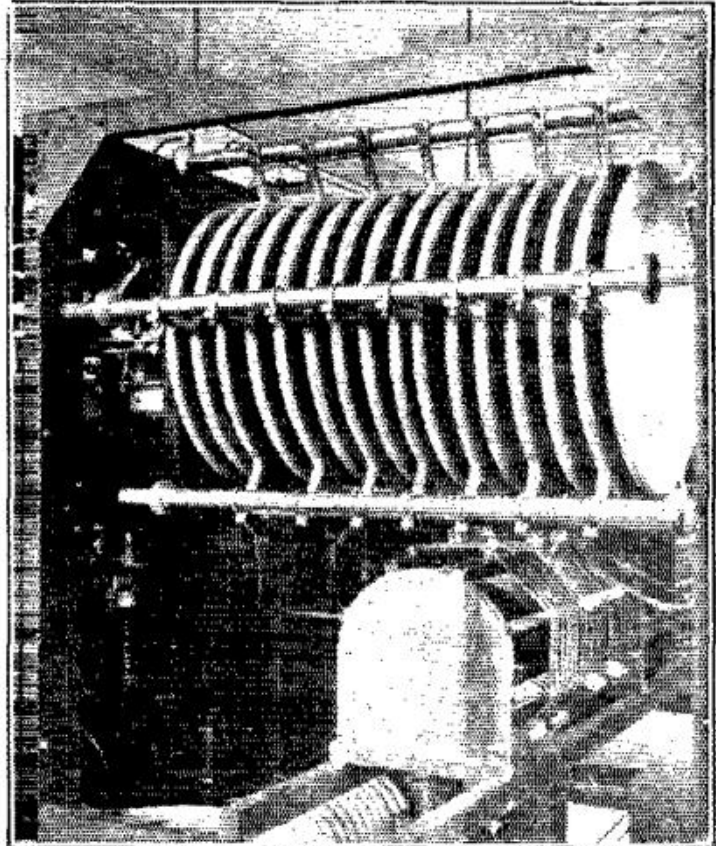
# VINTAGE RADIO MUSEUM CONT'D

## New & Improved Shack at the Vintage Radio & Communications Museum

Though not part of the station, one thing that is interesting to see displayed just outside of the shack is equipment from the old tuning station for WTIC which was featured in a QST article in 1929. The acquisition of the coil and large plate condenser was facilitated by club members who transported it to the museum.

So, this summer, a really fun way to spend an afternoon would be to schedule a trip to visit The Vintage Radio and Communications Museum at 115 Pierson Lane in Windsor, Connecticut 06095, not only to see the interesting display of vintage equipment but also to operate the station of the Ham Club there.

73,  
Bill, W1FMX



### BEHIND THE 100-KW. TUBES

*One section of the massive plate-tank condenser dominates the picture. Below it is the plate inductance and feeder-input coupling coil. A coil of tubing for cooling water may be seen below the inductance.*

Photo from QST (Oct, 1929) showing a large plate condenser

Vintage Radio and Communications Museum

115 Pierson Lane

Windsor, Connecticut 06095

<https://www.vrcmct.org>

[radioclctr@aol.com](mailto:radioclctr@aol.com)

(860) 683-2903





# LAFAYETTE RADIO

## WORLD WIDE STATION FOR AMATEUR EQUIPMENT

### THE LAFAYETTE HE-30

Professional Quality  
Communications Receiver



NO MONEY DOWN

COMPLETELY  
WIRED  
& READY  
TO USE

99.50 57.50

- TUNES 550 KCS TO 30 MCS IN FOUR BANDS
- BUILT-IN Q-MULTIPLIER FOR CROWDED PHONE OPERATION
- CALIBRATED ELECTRICAL BANDSPREAD ON AMATEUR BANDS 80 THRU 10 METERS • STABLE OSCILLATOR AND BFO FOR CLEAR CW AND SSB RECEPTION • BUILT-IN EDGEWISE S-METER

Sensitivity is 1.0 microvolt for 10 db, Signal to Noise ratio. Selectivity is  $\pm 0.8$  KCS at -6db with Q-MULTIPLIER. TUBES: 6BA6—RF Amp, 6BE6 Mixer, 6BE6 OSC., 6AV6 Q-Multiplier—BFO, 2-6BA6 IF Amp., 6AV6 Det-AF Amp. ANL, 6AQ5-Audio output, 5Y3 Rectifier.

### LAFAYETTE HE-35 6 METER TRANSCEIVER



MADE  
IN  
U. S. A.

NO MONEY DOWN

- SUPERHET RECEIVER TUNES ENTIRE BAND (50-54MC) • EFFICIENT ADJUST-ABLE NOISE LIMITER • 7 WATTS INPUT TO 6CX8 PENTODE FINAL • NEW EFFICIENT PI-NETWORK OUTPUT WITH HI-"Q" TUNED CIRCUIT • SEPARATE OSCILLATOR—FINAL STAGE • ACCESSIBLE FRONT PANEL SOCKET WITH CRYSTAL FOR 50.2 MC OUTPUT

Work the entire 6 meter band with this compact new superheterodyne transceiver. Supplied with attractive high output ceramic microphone and mounting brackets for mobile use. 6 or 12 volt power supplies are available at additional cost for mobile operation. Built-in power supply operates on 110-120 volts 60 cycles AC.

**New!**

### LAFAYETTE HE-45 DELUXE 6-METER TRANSCEIVER

- Highly Sensitive Superheterodyne Receiver Section for 50-54 Mc
- Effective Series Gate Noise Limiter
- 3-Stage, 12-Watt Transmitter with 2E26 Final
- Illuminated Panel Meter for Plate Current and "S" Readings
- Pi-Network Transmitter Output
- Built-in 117 VAC and 12 VDC Power Supplies
- Push-To-Talk Ceramic Microphone

Provides maximum convenience and flexibility in either mobile or fixed operation.

#### LAFAYETTE HE-50 10-METER TRANSCEIVER

Similar to above except for 10 meter operation

NO  
MONEY  
DOWN

109.50

MADE IN U.S.A.



### LAFAYETTE HE-34 SWR AND FORWARD POWER METER 16.95



- Reads SWR and Relative Power Output up to 1 KW
- For Continuous Use in 52 Ohm Lines
- Switch Selects SWR or Forward Power—No Reversing Necessary
- Highly Compact—Only 2 1/2 x 5 x 2 1/2"

The ideal aid in adjusting beams, trap antennas, matching networks, etc., or for tuning transmitters for maximum output.

### LAFAYETTE HE-29A 9-TRANSISTOR C.B. "WALKIE-TALKIE"™



NO MONEY  
DOWN

39.95 2-For-78.88

- 9 Transistors plus Diode and Thermistor
- Transmits and Receives up to 1.5 Miles
- Crystal Control on Transmit and Receive
- Uses Inexpensive Penlight Batteries
- 46" Telescoping Antenna
- Push-To-Talk Operation
- Complete With Leather Case, Earphone, Batteries and Crystals for Channel 10

SEND FOR LAFAYETTE'S  
NEW 1962 CATALOG

**FREE!**



LAFAYETTE RADIO, DEPT. 73L-1  
P.O. BOX 10  
SYOSSET, L. I., N. Y.

☐ Send FREE 1962 Catalog 620 featuring the full line of Lafayette Amateur Equipment enclosed for Stock No. ....

Name.....  
Address.....  
City..... Zone..... State.....



# MAY MEETING PHOTO JOURNAL

## The May Club Meeting was all about portable operating!

The May club meeting featured a demonstration from members all about portable operations, from SOTA to POTA and everything in between! HCRA has a very diverse group of members that share portable ops, and they are more than willing to share their experience with the club's newest members.

Here are a few photos of members who love everything portable; more were on hand, but there was not enough room for everyone that was in attendance! 35 members enjoyed the meeting; were you there? If not, please attend the June elections meeting and see what's happening in your club.



Jim, KK1W, was on hand showing off all of his portable gear ready for some SOTA action



Frandy, N1FJ was on hand with his SOTA & POTA portable gear



John, N1JIE had some cool POTA gear!



Larry, KD1RV had all types of portable rigs

Continued on page 17

# MAY MEETING PHOTO JOURNAL CONT'D

The May Club Meeting was all about portable operating!



Brian, KC1ONA featured an early Kenwood mobile as he is getting his POTA station ready!



John, K1YYM was explaining his latest portable operating gear to the membership



The Elecraft KX3 was one of the most popular portable transceivers!



35 members attended the May meeting which is awesome! The June meeting features elections, Field Day prep & speaker! See you there!



# SKYWARN REPORTING

## What, When, and How to Report!



After you take and pass your Skywarn class, how do you report severe weather?

The first thing you need to remember from the class is the two words "reportable criteria." Most of the time on Skywarn nets, we are looking for Reportable Criteria. If you don't remember what is considered reportable criteria, you can check the back of your Skywarn I.D. card as shown on the next page.

### SKYWARN Weather Spotter Classes 2023

A map of New England (Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Vermont) with numbered locations for SKYWARN Weather Spotter Classes 2023. The locations are numbered 1 through 7. A legend indicates that blue dots represent SKYWARN Class, light blue dots represent Deaf & Hard of Hearing SKYWARN Class, and green dots represent Virtual SKYWARN Class. A QR code is provided for registration at [weather.gov/box/skywarn](https://weather.gov/box/skywarn).

Location	Date and Time	Location
1	Tuesday April 18 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM	Sandwich, MA – Sandwich Police Department
2	Wednesday April 19 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM	Spencer, MA – Town Hall
3	Thursday April 20 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM	Lowell, MA – UMASS Lowell
4	Wednesday May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Framingham, MA – The Learning Center for the Deaf
5	Thursday May 4 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM	Providence, RI – PEMA
6	Tuesday May 9 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM	Springfield, MA – Springfield Public Safety Complex
7	Tuesday May 16 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM	Oak Bluffs, MA – Oak Bluffs Public Library
	TBD	Whitman, MA – TBD
	TBD	Hartford, CT – TBD
	TBD	New Bedford, MA – TBD
	TBD	Gardner, MA – TBD
	TBD	Walpole, MA – TBD
	TBD	Virtual – TBD

Legend

- SKYWARN Class
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing SKYWARN Class
- Virtual SKYWARN Class

Register at [weather.gov/box/skywarn](https://weather.gov/box/skywarn)

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
BOSTON/NORTON, MA

Sometimes we are just looking for specific information on the nets. Listen to what the net control station is requesting and respond accordingly.

If you need to make a report and there is no one running a net, you can call the number listed on your card to report in with your callsign, name, spotter I.D., and your report. Be sure it is something listed on the back of the card.

Sometimes we get reports that it is raining hard and there is a lot of thunder and lightning. This is not reportable criteria and can tie up a repeater or phone number, preventing someone else from reporting appropriate criteria.

Continued on page 19

# SKYWARN REPORTING CONT'D


## What, When, and How to Report!

Typically, if there is pending severe weather in the forecast, I am monitoring a special Skywarn chat group well before the weather arrives. The members of the group have decades of experience dealing with severe weather and access to resources that they start checking days in advance. I monitor the conversations in the group and sometimes will contact my Skywarn net control stations to see who may be available for nets.

By doing this before the group is ready to request coverage on the repeaters, I can respond immediately to their request. There have been quite a few storms lately that could develop or fade out, and sometimes we don't know until just before they get here. The group I listen to has direct contact with the Boston NWS and takes into account the advisories, watches, and warnings from NWS before requesting Skywarn to activate and get on the air. Well, most of the time. As we all know, weather forecasting is not an exact science, so sometimes we activate before a watch or warning is issued. If we get enough reports from the field, we can actually provide the final information the NWS needs to put out a watch or warning.

As mentioned in last month's article, Skywarn is one of the few emergency groups that it's okay to self-activate. There have been many times I have been at home, enjoying dinner with my wife, while monitoring the chat group, and I just know they are going to text me: Smitty, can you get on the 94 and call out for reports? At that point, I can be on the air in about a minute and start requesting criteria reports on 146.940. If you are always ready, you don't have to get ready.

You don't have to be an official Skywarn Spotter to call into the nets, but you should be aware of what we are looking for when we request Reportable Criteria. As soon as the net is over, the other net controllers and I type up a report and send it to the chat group so they can relay a summary to the Boston NWS office. The biggest thing is to listen to what the net control station is asking for and in what order we are filling out a log sheet, and try not to give a lot of extra information. If there is a severe thunderstorm and we are asking for hail reports, we don't need to know the temperature, dewpoint, barometric pressure, or humidity. That information just ties up the net and delays us getting the report typed and sent in. If we ask for hail reports and you have wind 40 mph or greater with trees down, a suspected wall cloud, or a tornado, that would be really good to include in your report.



Call 1 - 800 - 330 - 1147

Spotter I.D. \_\_\_\_\_

**Report What, Where, and When**

National Weather Service  
46 Commerce Way  
Norton MA 02766

1/4	1/2	3/4	1	1 1/2	2	3
-----	-----	-----	---	-------	---	---

Photo 1:

**Please Report these conditions:**

- Tornadoes / Funnel Clouds (be wary of look-alikes)
- Wall Clouds, especially if they are rotating
- 1/8+" Hail (BE SPECIFIC on size/diameter) (Severe = 1+" )
- Winds 40 mph or greater (Severe = 58+ mph)
- Damaging winds; Trees/Power Lines down ; Damage to Buildings
- Rainfall ... 1" per hour ; 2+" storm total
- ANY Flooding (Streams/Rivers, Coastal); 6+" deep on streets
- Winter Weather Extras
  - First 2" of snow; Every 2"; 1+" /hour; ALL Final Snow Totals
  - 1/3 + " of radial ice accretion
  - Precipitation type change (rain to ice to snow)
  - Any "Thunder-Snow"      • Any Snow Squalls

Photo 2:

Continued on page 20

# SKYWARN REPORTING CONT'D

## What, When, and How to Report!

---

If you would like more information, go to the website: <https://wx1box.org/> and see when there are classes, as well as links to other information such as more detail on reportable criteria, forecasts, and the official Boston Skywarn page: <https://www.weather.gov/box/skywarn>

Thanks to all who have signed up for Skywarn classes and to everyone who calls in reports to our nets.

73,

Smitty, KC1IKA

ASEC, net manager, WMA ARES, Skywarn net coordinator

---

## MAY PORTABLE OPS MEETING

### The Portable Ops Regular Club Meeting Raffle Winners!

The May regular club meeting about portable operations was a huge hit! Some of the participants are featured beginning on page 16. Along with all the portable gear being displayed there was also a free raffle for a 3Ah LiPo battery & charger, storage cases too.

#### The winner of the 3Ah LiPo battery and charger was:

- Les, K1DNX

#### The winners of the storage cases were:

- Josué, KP4JLD
  - John, K1VOI
  - Paul, AC1OZ
  - Duane, KC1FQV
-



# 13 Colonies Special Event Week 2023

Be a Part of the 15th Annual Special Event Station July 1st - 7th

2023 Event Dates / July 1st (9am Eastern) to July 7th (Midnight Eastern)

(July 1st - 1300z to July 8th - 0400z)


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. 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. Certificate can be had by working all or part of the stations shown below except for the bonus stations.

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



## The Annual 13 Colonies Special Event

GB13COL	TM13COL	WM3PEN
	NY - K2A	
VA - K2B	DE - K2E	MA - K2H
RJ - K2C	MD - K2F	NJ - K2I
CT - K2D	GA - K2G	NC - K2J
		NH - K2K
		SC - K2L
		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

CLEAN SWEEP



USS CONSTELLATION



K2H



K2I



K2J



K2K



K2L



K2M




73'

PHILADELPHIA

JULY 2021

*This Is To Certify That ARS: KD1KU Has*  
*Participated In This On-Air Independence Week*  
*Event, Celebrating The Birth Of Our Nation.*

# NUTS AND VOLTS

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

### Wanted! Helpers for Website & YouTube

Like all other support functions of the club, the website is kept up-to-date by volunteer work. Your membership dues are used in part to pay for keeping the hcra.com domain registered and to pay the company that hosts the site. The hosting company does not update any content on the site.

Vanessa, W1IRL, has been volunteering to update the site. W1IRL also established the club's YouTube channel and edits and uploads all videos to the site.

We need 1 or 2 volunteers to ensure more than one person can update the website. That is part of any basic continuity of operations plan. W1IRL will teach the volunteers how to update the site and the YouTube channel. The immediate need is for at least a second person to learn how to keep the website up-to-date. Interested members should contact Vanessa at: [webmaster@hcra.org](mailto:webmaster@hcra.org)

### HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

The next QSL card outgoing service is on or about **June 15th**. The HCRA provides "pooling" of outgoing QSL cards as a benefit to its members. You **MUST** be a member of the ARRL, and you wish to send their DX cards through the ARRL's Outgoing QSL Service.

For complete details go to: <http://www.hcra.org/dx-qsl/> or contact Paul, NF1G at [nf1g@arrl.net](mailto:nf1g@arrl.net)

### Membership Drive Save \$15

In honor of our 75th Anniversary we are offering several perks to give HCRA members a little something special. In September and October you can renew your membership for 5 years for the price of 4!

**That's right... SAVE \$15 and pay only \$60 for 5 years of HCRA membership.**

Watch for future announcements and remember this offer is **ONLY** valid during September & October!

### Marconi's Yacht Will Be On The Air

Marconi's yacht will be on the air June 10 -11, 2023, with the special event call of IY4ELE. The purpose of the event is to highlight, at an international level, the historical value and meaning of Marconi's yacht, Elettra, which was the moving laboratory of the great Italian scientist. Over the event weekend, amateur radio operators from around the world will have a chance to contact IY4ELE, which will be operated by A.R.I. Fidenza club members via a radio station located near the keel of the *Elettra*.

For complete detailed information, visit [www.arifidenza.it](http://www.arifidenza.it)

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

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

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

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

# NUTS AND VOLTS CONT'D

## ARRL & HCRA News and Miscellaneous News Worthy Items!

### 10 Meter Net Summer Schedule

The HCRA 10-meter net summer schedule will be held on the following dates: **7/10** and **8/14**, returning to all Monday evenings in September. Gary, KC1JZR, does a fantastic job as NCS. Everyone is welcome to join us on 28.375, regardless of affiliation. Have any questions? Contact [kd1ku@arrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrl.net).

The regular net schedule will continue into June, with the 19th being the last day of the regular winter schedule. Reminders will be sent out via the Reflector and Facebook a few days before the two Monday net dates as a reminder. I hope everyone will join us for this fun-filled net!

**The summer schedule begins on July 10th. The normal weekly net schedule will remain in place for the remainder of May and into June, completing the winter schedule on June 19th!**

### Worked All HCRA Award

Larry, W1AST, has been working on this for some time now, but he believes 2023 is a better fit. Why? 2023 is the year the club turns 75 years old! HCRA has been associated with the ARRL for 75 years. The goal is to work 10 different HCRA members on HF in any mode and on any band. Submit your log to [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net) and earn a commemorative certificate celebrating our 75th anniversary!

*This only runs through 2023 and is a little something special for our 75th year! January 1st through December 31st, 2023, this is just one of many special HCRA activities in 2023!*

### Interested in Becoming a VE?

Are you interested in becoming an ARRL Volunteer Examiner or VE serving the Ham Radio community, it's easy. Download and review the VE Manual. Complete and sign the VE Application form and the open-book review. Mail / Email forms to: ARRL VEC, 225 Main St. Newington, CT. 06111. Once accredited, you will receive in the mail a colorful laminated VE badge to wear at exam sessions and a certificate suitable for framing.

**For more info visit:** <http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve>

### Western Mass VE Team Resumes Exams!

I am pleased to announce that the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET) has been granted the opportunity to resume VE sessions at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Room. Beginning January 27th and every 4th Friday in 2023, we have scheduled 6 pm, and two hours of use of the hall to perform VE exams.

I would ask that you pass this information along to anyone who can benefit or would like to volunteer to be an examiner on these dates. We will need to have at least 2 others to assist on these dates, or I will have to cancel that session. You can e-mail me at [w1fab@arrl.net](mailto:w1fab@arrl.net) or call or text 413-575-2950 if you are able to assist. 73, David Cote -W1FAB-



# NOW... MODEL SX-100 SELECTABLE SIDE BAND RECEIVER BUILT TO THE SPECIFICATIONS OF 1,000,000 FIELD EXPERTS

See it at Your Jobber—only \$295<sup>00</sup>

Hallicrafters 22 years of production know-how, the engineering experience of developing over 100 different major receiver designs, plus the advice of over 1,000,000 field experts operating Hallicrafters receivers all are combined to bring you this outstanding new receiver—the SX-100! Hallicrafters alone, long recognized as the leading designer and manufacturer of quality communications equipment, can offer you the dependability and performance of this great new SX-100 at the amazingly low price of just \$295.00.

Look at these features you enjoy with the SX-100... before, they were available only on receivers costing a great deal more!

1. SELECTABLE SIDE BAND OPERATION.
2. "TEE-NOTCH" FILTER—This new development provides a stable non-regenerative system for the rejection of unwanted heterodyne. The "Tee-Notch" also produces an effective steepening of the already excellent 50 KC i.f. pass band (made famous in the SX-96) and further increases the effectiveness of the advanced exalted carrier type reception.
3. NOTCH DEPTH CONTROL for maximum null adjustment.
4. ANTENNA TRIMMER.
5. PLUG IN LABORATORY TYPE EVACUATED 100 KC QUARTZ CRYSTAL CALIBRATOR—included in price.
6. LOGGING DIALS FOR BOTH TUNING CONTROLS.
7. FULL PRECISION GEAR DRIVE DIAL SYSTEM.
8. SECOND CONVERSION OSCILLATOR CRYSTAL CONTROLLED—greater stability through crystal control and additional temperature compensation of high frequency oscillator circuits.

## Controls

Pitch Control  
Reception  
Standby  
Phone Jack  
Response control (upper and lower side band selector)  
Antenna Trimmer  
Notch Frequency  
Notch depth  
Calibrator on/off  
Sensitivity  
Band Selector  
Volume  
Tuning  
AVC on/off  
Noise limiter on/off  
Bandspread  
Selectivity

# hallicrafters

CHICAGO 24, ILLINOIS

Model SX-100. Amateur Net \$295.00  
Matching R-46B Speaker \$17.95  
Frequency Range 538kc-1580 kc  
1720 kc-34 mc



# 2023 HCRA ELECTIONS



It's that time of year again, now lets vote!

Big things are happening during the month of June, with Field Day coming in as the biggest, but there is one other major item that happens in the month of June... It's HCRA election time!

Most of your Board of Directors will be returning again next year, with one exception: John, K1VOI, has made the difficult decision to step down from the membership position after serving on the BOD for the past 8 years! Thank you, John, for all the hard work over the past 8 years keeping track of and welcoming our newest members to the HCRA.

We need someone to step up to be the next HCRA Membership Director. You can put your name in for this position and also for any of the Board of Directors positions; we welcome the competition!

If you're interested in running for the open membership position or challenging a current position, you must contact Larry, W1AST, BEFORE the June 2nd meeting! Contact him at [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net).

Just because they are staying on for another year as board members doesn't mean they can't be challenged for that position. The final say is up to you, the membership of the HCRA!

## Current Board Positions and the Members Serving

- President - Larry Krainson, W1AST
- Vice-President - Ez Moralez, W1AEZ
- Treasurer - George Collins, KC1V
- Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
- Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE
- Membership - John Plaster, K1VOI (*stepping down*)
- Technical - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN
- At Large - Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD
- Zero Beat Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU



**Elections are at the June Meeting at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room**

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

**It's your club, do your part by voting!**

**HCRA is better with you involved**



# FIELD DAY 2023

## HCRA Field Day at School Street Park, will YOU be there?

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups, or friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest, and, most of all, FUN!!!

The HCRA Field Day is held at the School Street Park, 511 School Street, Agawam, MA, 01001.

**YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU TO VOLUNTEER! This event does not run itself, volunteers are needed for the following:**



### Friday, June 23th:

- Setup begins at 1 pm at the park.
- Tow the trailer from Southwick to the Field Day site in the park. (behind the Band shell)
- Erect portable towers, assembling the antennas.
- If you have a camper, tent, or motorhome join us Friday night!

### Saturday, June 24th:

- Complete tower & antenna set up, assemble station shelters & HF stations.
- Operators are needed for: **SSB, CW, GOTA** Station (get on the air) Need operators for 24 hours of operating, Sign-up when you want to operate by contacting Larry at [W1AST@arrl.net](mailto:W1AST@arrl.net)
- Field Day runs for 24hrs beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday through 2059 UTC Sunday.
- Join in for the Summer Picnic! What will you be bringing? Side dish? Dessert?
- Camp in the park on Saturday night & do some late night operating.

### Sunday, June 25th:

- Cook Sunday morning breakfast & lunch.
- Once operating concludes teardown begins & the park must be left cleaner than when we arrived!

**Click the link below & take a minute to fill out the questionnaire. This is important if Field Day is to be held!**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfq\\_KwZ5IFSfzJp33Fuvup2l0R9GkjsNzFtD7Ydmnc8lRmrPw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfq_KwZ5IFSfzJp33Fuvup2l0R9GkjsNzFtD7Ydmnc8lRmrPw/viewform)

**To volunteer to help, operate, ask questions or anything else, contact Larry at [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)**

# ITEM'S FOR SALE & WANTED

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

**FOR SALE!**

## Kenwood TM-281A 2 Meter FM 65 Watt Mobile



*Stock Photo*

I have a Kenwood 2m FM mobile for sale. A TM-281A, 65 watts, the front firing speaker makes it a good desk rig too.

Original Box, power cable with power poles, manual, nifty accessories mini manual, mounting bracket, excellent condition. Barely used as a desktop shack 2m rig. Very easy to use.

**Price: \$90**

If interested, or have questions, contact Larry, W1AST at [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)

## ARRL Ham Radio Books, FREE!

I have the following books; anyone who can use them can have them for free (hopefully a new ham could get some use from these)... Just come and get them. Email me if you are interested in any of these.

73, Fred, N1DPM - [n1dpmfred@gmail.com](mailto:n1dpmfred@gmail.com)

**ARRL Handbooks: 1970, 1972, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1992, and 2006**

**ARRL Antenna Book: 1977**

**ARRL Antenna Anthology**

**ARRL Yagi Antenna Design by Jim Lawson W2PV (1986)**



# VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR UPDATE!

## ARRL's VOTA Operating Event Continues!

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

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

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

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



**If you didn't work W1AW/1 between April 12th and 18th don't worry as there is another week of Massachusetts operations in the Fall.**

Every volunteer is given a point value as is every member. You can't add up your points if for example, Larry, a life ARRL member, field volunteer, affiliated club president. He will be assigned the highest point value for one of those and that's what working Larry is worth. Working Larry gives the maximum points.

**Anyone who works Larry, W1AST will get 30 points as he is the WMA Affiliated Club Coordinator!**

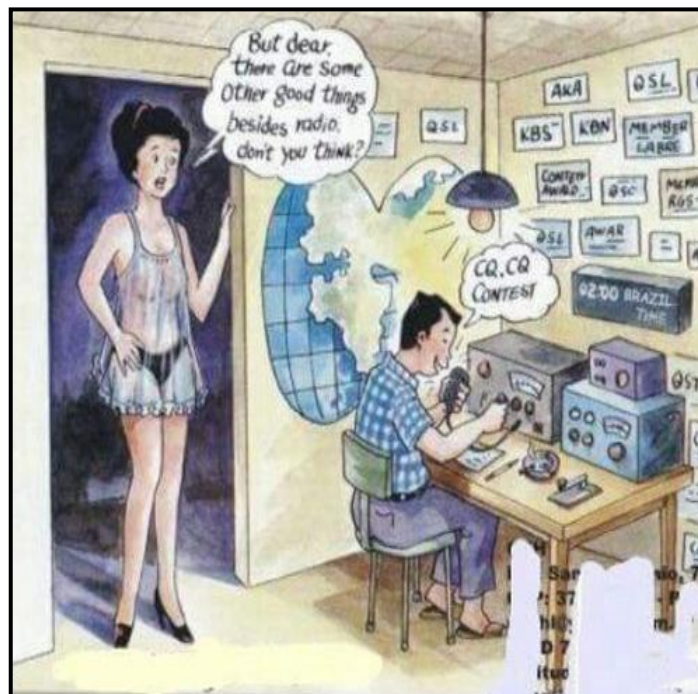
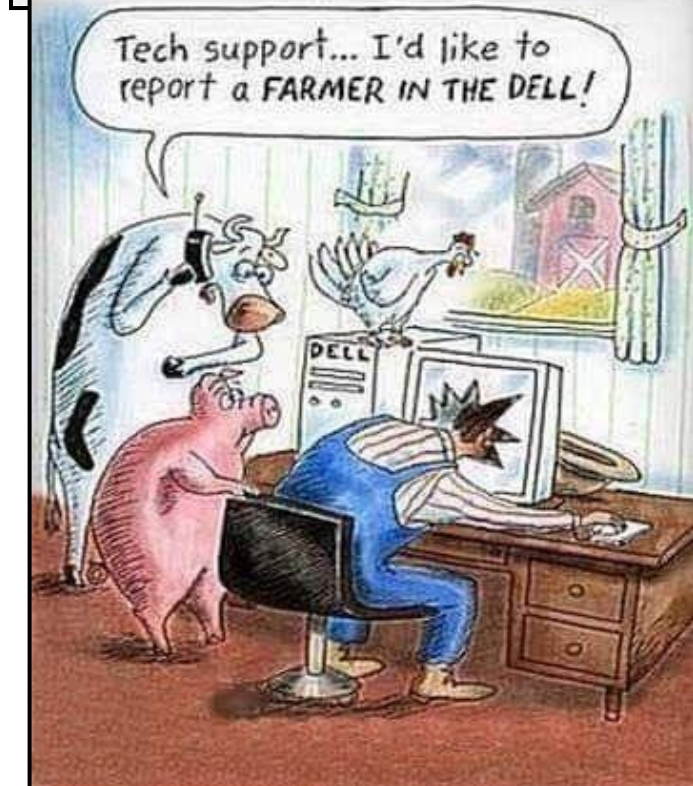
Learn more about VOTA at: <https://vota.arrl.org>

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

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

**Did you miss the Massachusetts VOTA activation last spring? You have another chance this coming November 1st through the 7th 2023. Another seven days of W1AW/1 activation!**

**Would you like to be an activator for W1AW/1 this fall? Contact Larry, W1AST, at [w1ast@arrl.com](mailto:w1ast@arrl.com) to learn more. In the meantime, start working those other states. Each one is worth at least 5 points!**





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

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

*HCRA Clublog Information Updated on May 28th 2023*



☐ No Date Filter
 ☒ 2023
 ☐ 2022
 ☐ 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	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	25	54	0	116	11	144	28	151	69	158	2	232	758	60 yrs
2	NF1G	0	9	0	21	44	88	57	121	78	89	0	204	507	39 yrs
3	KK1W+1	21	6	0	45	15	47	48	60	50	57	0	191	349	47 yrs
4	KX1X	2	37	5	85	67	92	62	117	73	116	1	171	657	26 yrs
5	K1NZ+1 ★	19	25	12	23	68	87	65	84	96	92	1	158	572	12 yrs
6	W1AST+1	2	10	0	14	14	55	33	53	69	46	2	135	298	14 yrs
7	W1PY+1	0	4	0	38	0	47	2	94	5	86	0	124	276	13 yrs
8	NE1C	23	49	0	65	0	96	0	108	0	84	0	122	425	21 yrs
9	WY1G	0	7	0	18	0	29	13	32	61	73	1	121	234	42 yrs
10	K1VOI	0	18	0	37	25	59	20	60	12	49	0	105	280	22 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	N1FTP ★	0	2	0	22	1	51	5	29	35	83	0	104	228	15 yrs
12	N1JIE	1	2	1	6	20	18	14	23	9	20	1	54	115	6 yrs
13	N1TA+3	2	22	0	3	5	8	4	14	4	6	0	46	68	22 yrs
14	W1JA+1	0	1	3	15	11	0	14	0	12	0	0	42	56	54 yrs
15	NV1Q+3	0	0	0	7	10	10	4	3	4	9	0	31	47	44 yrs
16	W1NU+2	1	0	0	9	1	3	1	0	0	2	0	14	17	8 yrs
17	WD1S	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	11 yrs
18	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	11 yrs

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

If you have never used Clublog, need a refresher, or simply have the desire to learn as much as possible about Clublog or most anything else, go to the [HCRA YouTube Channel](#) and learn. All meetings are recorded and posted on [hcra.org](http://hcra.org) plus video links are listed in Zero Beat. The link to the April 2021 meeting where Clublog was the topic of our guest speaker is listed below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qj2lKcQRNbE&t=1s>


# ARRL CLUB COMMISSION PROGRAM

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership through the HCRA!

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

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

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

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

# DOTS & DASHES

THINGS THAT DON'T FIT ANYPLACE ELSE!

## HCRA Needs Your Memories!

Do you have any memories of past HCRA events, club activities, or cool club history? Anything is great, but the older the better! Your Board of Directors needs any information, no matter how insignificant you may think it is. We would rather have too much information than not enough. This is part of HCRA's 75th anniversary!

If you have anything to submit, contact your Vice President, Ez, W1AEZ, at [ez.w1aez@gmail.com](mailto:ez.w1aez@gmail.com)

## HCRA Needs your Call Signs

HCRA President Larry, W1AST, has come up with something very cool, but he needs your help, provided you have multiple callsigns, that is. Have you changed your call from your original FCC-assigned call sign to what you have now?

**Example:** I used to be **WB1DBY**, and I'm now **W1AST**. If you can help, please use the following contact. Larry, W1AST, at [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)

## Contests and Special Event Stations

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

**ARRL Digital Contest** | 160m - 6m | June 3rd, 1800z to June 4th, 2359z

For rules and additional information go to: <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/Digital-Rules.pdf>

**ARRL Kids Day** | June 17th at 1800z to 2359z, | 80m - 10m

For rules and additional information go to: <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

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

**WWI Code Talkers at Choctaw Youth Day Camp SES** | June 28th | 1500z-2100z | W5D

For more information and complete details on this SES: [VmOklaNanOlaARC@gmail.com](mailto:VmOklaNanOlaARC@gmail.com)

## HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

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

April 15th, **June 15th**, Sept 15th, and January 15th, 2024

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

or

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





## Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

For the benefit of all HCRA members Brown Baggers is a friendly lunch get together that happens on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. It is held at [The Munich Haus Restaurant](#) in Chicopee Center at 12:00pm (Noon). Located at 13 Center St, Chicopee, MA. Across from City Hall or click the link above.

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

## 10 Meter Net Update

The 10 meter net is been going strong with new participants joining weekly. Every Monday evening at 7 pm local. Gary, KC1JZR is NCS of this fun net! This is a great way for our newest HCRA members with a Tech or greater license to get some valuable time on HF. Everyone is welcome to join in on 28.375 regardless of affiliation. Regular net season ends on June 19th. Have questions? Contact: [kd1ku@arrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrl.net)

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

## Share the Knowledge Meetings are Finished for 2023

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings are finished for 2023. This past winter and spring have seen many excellent STK meetings! If you missed any or would like to rewatch them check out all STK videos on [hcra.org](http://hcra.org) and YouTube by clicking <http://www.hcra.org/category/videos/>.

If you have an idea for a STK meeting or maybe you'd like to give a presentation in 2024, for details contact Larry, W1AST, at [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)

## Membership Memorial Page

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

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

### For Sale Items

There is a For-Sale section that is for HCRA members. Any members who have a want, something to sell, or even an item to trade.

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

### HCRA Social Media Links

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

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

## Local Nets & Happenings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



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

## Club Meetings and VE Sessions

**1st Friday of the month** at 7:30 pm HCRA Meeting.

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

**2nd Monday of the month** at 7 pm, FCARC meeting.

1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls, MA. (airport). Social Hour 6-7 pm, meeting at 7 pm. <http://www.fcarc.org/>

**2nd Saturday prior to FCARC meeting.** 8 am Breakfast at

Denny's Pantry, 496 Bernardston Rd. Greenfield, MA.

Brad Councilman [bc@councilman.com](mailto:bc@councilman.com)

**3rd Friday of the month**, MTARA Meeting, 7 pm, Castle

Of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA, 01020  
<https://mtara.org/>

**4th Friday of the month**, The Western Mass VE Team (WMVET) VE sessions at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary

Room beginning January 27th and every 4th Friday at 6pm to perform VE exams. E-mail Dave, W1FAB

[wa1dc@yahoo.com](mailto:wa1dc@yahoo.com). Call or text 413-575-2950. Need directions? <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

**President** - Larry Krainson, W1AST

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

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

[ez.w1aez@gmail.com](mailto:ez.w1aez@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** - George Collins, KC1V

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

**Secretary** - Paul Kelliher, NF1G

[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** - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN

[wa1ojn@jeffway.com](mailto:wa1ojn@jeffway.com)

**At Large** - Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD

[tipoacrata@gmail.com](mailto:tipoacrata@gmail.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

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

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



**Here is your Fabulous Issue of  
Zero Beat!**

**Plenty to Read in Our Special 75th  
Anniversary Edition**

---

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