



# ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

March 2016

## Special points of interest:

- **Next Meeting Friday, April 1st**  
Show & Tell,  
Jeff ABIWT  
Portable IRLP/Echolink Node
- [Visit the HCRA facebook page.](#)
- Don't forget to check out [hcra.org](#)
- [Visit Summits on the Air](#)
- [Visit POTA413 facebook page](#)

Don't forget the

## MTARA HAMFEST

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

## March's Meeting

**Join us Friday March 4th at 7:30, in the Holyoke Medical Center  
Auxiliary Conference Center .**

Due to some FRC scheduling conflicts,  
Ace's High Team #176 is not able to  
make this month's meeting.

Gary Thomas will talk about how to  
work satellites and the International  
Space Station.

If you ever wanted to work the ISS,  
this is not the meeting to miss!



Astronaut  
Samantha  
Cristoforetti,  
IZ0UDF

For directions to The Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center:

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

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

It's that time for the Hampden County Radio Associations (HCRA) annual raffle. This year the board of directors wanted to raffle off a 100w base station transceiver. The Kenwood TS-590SG (\$1700 Retail) was the perfect choice because it's a very excellent radio packed with features that rival radios that cost much more. HCRA has printed 250 tickets. Due to the price of the item, HCRA has put a limit on the minimum amount of tickets that can be sold before the raffle is allowed to take place. If the minimum amount has been reached, the item will be raffled at the Mount Tom Amateur Repeater Association's Ham Fest in 2016. We're asking \$10 for each ticket.



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

# MY BACKYARD WEATHER STATION

LARRY KRAINSON W1AST

Since I went to my very first Dayton Hamvention and saw Davis Instruments weather stations, I have wanted one for myself. I liked what they showed, that they did it wirelessly and other features. But one thing held me back – the price. I just could not get myself to spend around \$500 for one. So I didn't buy it at that Dayton Hamvention.

I've been pining for a wx station ever since and used to weekly go to the Davis web site and look at what I wanted, then look at my budget and close both. I've subsequently been to 3 more Hamventions and done the same. The last time was in 2013.

A friend of mine (Chris, KC1BDL) told me about his wx station that he's had up for years and works great. It's by a Chaney Instruments under the Acurite brand. So that along with others, I started looking again and what the Acurite brand offered, got me thinking and had me create a wish list of features. Especially since the Acurite stations were around half the Davis' price. So I signed up for specials and waited for what I wanted.

A few months later, there it was. The combination of features, display, wireless plus internet and Android app. All for cheap (they're on sale right now for \$140, regular \$270 at [HTTP://www.acurite.com/weather-environment-system-with-5-in-1-pro-sensor-display-with-pc-connect-901wes.html](http://www.acurite.com/weather-environment-system-with-5-in-1-pro-sensor-display-with-pc-connect-901wes.html)). The reviews on it were mixed, but reading closely, the negative reviewers sounded like they had no idea what they were doing.

So now it's October of 2014 and my new wx station finally arrives. It's model 01056 and consists of 3 components: Aculink Internet Bridge, Acurite Color Display and the Pro+ 5-in-1 Weather Sensor. There is a version with PC Connect for internet access, but that required a connection to a PC and the PC be on at all times. I didn't want that as I wanted it connected to the internet at all times so I could take my PC portable with me when I needed to and still have the weather station working as normal. Don't buy the PC connect version unless you don't have an internet router or open port on your router or router modem available.

The sensor was to eventually go on a leg of my roof tower, but for now, it's on a 10 foot pole in the center of the picnic table in the backyard. Just until I made sure everything was working properly (It's still there, hopefully will get on the tower this spring). The sensor covers temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, rainfall measurement. It runs on solar and has 4 AA batteries as backup.



The Internet Bridge connects to a port of my wireless router and wirelessly talks to the wx sensor by setting common channels. The Internet Bridge does blink an alternating blue LED and sits atop our hutch. So at night, my neighbor across the street see a blinking blue light in the dark thru the window and originally thought something was wrong. I straightened that out quickly.

The color display sits on my ham shack table and shows wind speed at peak and average and current and direction, outdoor temp and humidity, barometric pressure in a graph and a future forecast, rainfall amounts per day, month & year totals, a wx select switch that can display one at a time of heat index, dew point, wind chill, indoor temp or rainfall rate. Plus it show the time, wireless signal, date, and a selection of other options at the bottom. Mine is currently set for indoor temp showing current temp and more. You can also set an alarm for any of the features such as rain fall rates, etc.



I can, at a glance at the display, see important information and usually check this when I wake up each morning. I can also check the app in my phone. This lets me select options to display or turning sideways, shows me all the 5 sensor readings at once. (see



pic). The app lets me see the 5 sensors for temp, humidity, wind, rainfall and pressure. Each one shows current, hi and lo, 12 hour average, 24 hour change, bar chart of change in hours or days. I can also select current, records or change settings. To do this you just need to make an account for your weather station when it goes online. (see the vertical pic of the app). Also, records show weeks Lo/Hi, Months, Years and All Time Lo/Hi at my station. Settings allows me to name the station (My Wx Station – very original I know), configure placement as indoor or outdoor, choose sensor type, display units in English or Metric, whether to share the sensor data online and to display tenths. Plus it knows that my sense is in Longmeadow, MA.



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## MY BACKYARD WEATHER STATION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE #3)



Then there is the web access of my wx station data on any web device. I have this on both of my computers. I can be in my office in the basement and bring it up and know what the wx is doing at any given time. I just log in to the dashboard site for My Backyard Wx and have access to the same info as the app and color display give plus can chart any sensors data too. You can choose which blocks

For example, my wx station temperature will display current temp, lo and hi in a block and any days data, alarm settings and the ability to chart it. Charting the temp gives you a chart across the bottom of the screen that can show temperature by today, this week, this month or custom. And you can save the data in a CSV format. (see picture of My Backyard Weather).

All in all, my Acurite Weather Station is perfect for my needs. It's been reliable, it is super simple to set up and get working. I can add other sensors if I want to in the future. And it gives me my backyard wx in the palm of my hand with the app or on the computer from anywhere too. But the app is nice if you're away and want to know what's going on at home. For example, I was away Feb 13-15th and was curious how cold it really got back home. So I was checking it often and comparing it to where I was.

I feel this is a fantastic deal for the money. It may not sample the weather as often as the Davis station does, but it's more than perfect for how I use it. Plus it's priced nicely for gifts or whim purchase without spending a lot of money and trying to justify it.

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## SO YOU WANT TO LEARN CW

ALAN DOVE PH.D AB1XW

There are two kinds of hams: those who can use CW (Morse code) at a decent speed on the air, and those who wish they could. (1) As someone who moved from the latter to the former group a few years ago, I'd like to help others do the same.

First, understand that absolutely anyone, using virtually any method, can learn to receive CW at the 5wpm minimum that I had to meet for my initial Technician license in 1990. I memorized the alphabet and prosigns in a few hours using a mnemonic memory trick and some ARRL cassette tapes,(2) and passed my test easily with a minute of solid copy. \*\*Do Not Attempt To Learn CW That Way\*\*. Here's why.

For the next 20 years, I made occasional attempts to increase my code speed to the 15wpm-plus rates I typically heard on the air, but I kept hitting a wall just short of the goal. That's because I had constructed a "look-up table" in my head with all the characters and their Morse equivalents. That works beautifully at 5wpm, and fails catastrophically at about 10wpm. The human brain simply can't do the match-ups fast enough to copy real-world code, no matter how smart you think you are.

Achieving higher speeds calls for an entirely different approach. Once I realized that, I decided to learn CW over again. It was much easier this time, because I found plenty of new tools to help.

CONTINUED ON PAGE #4

## SO YOU WANT TO LEARN CW (CONTINUED FROM PAGE #3)

### There's an app for that

Using computers to teach CW isn't a new idea. In the May 1977 QST, Ward Cunningham, K9OX, described "A Fully Automatic Morse Code Teaching Machine." This was a program, creatively named "Morse," that would play a CW character and wait for the user to press the corresponding key. The faster and more accurate your keypresses, the faster the code came. Cunningham is the same guy who invented the wiki in 1995, so if you've ever looked something up on Wikipedia you're already familiar with his work.

You can download Morse for any major operating system from Cunningham's website (<http://c2.com/morse/>), but I suggest starting with its modern successors.

At the Learn CW Online (<http://lcwo.net/>) site, you can use a web-based version of Morse or choose from a slew of more sophisticated CW learning tools. High-speed telegraphy enthusiast Fabian Kurz, DJ1YFK, maintains the site. If you're serious about learning or improving your CW, bookmark LCWO and create a free user login. You won't get spammed or sold; the account just allows you to set your preferences and track your progress.

Once you've logged into LCWO, go to the Koch Method CW Course. The introduction explains the idea. Instead of starting at 5wpm and trying to ramp up later, you'll start learning the code at 15wpm (at a character speed of 20wpm).

You read that right. How can a newbie copy at that speed? Easy, you'll start by receiving only two characters: K and M. The lesson will play a series of random five-character groups with only those two letters, e.g. "KMMKM MKMMM KKMKM ..." Type them into the text box as you receive them, then check your work at the end of each 1-minute lesson. When you're consistently copying those two letters with 90% accuracy or better, go to the next lesson, which will add the letter U.(3) Lather, rinse, repeat.

Don't binge. Try to practice every day for about 15 minutes. Some days will be better than others. Just keep plugging away at it each day, and remember that you're mastering something nearly everyone finds hard. Each little bit of progress is its own amazing triumph.

At the end of the Koch course, you'll be receiving random 5-character groups at 15wpm. Pause a moment to congratulate yourself.

Now explore some of the other features of the site, such as the callsign training. This tool sends you actual ham radio callsigns. Each time you copy one correctly, it steps the speed up. When you get one wrong, it slows down. That's ideal training for DXing and contesting. I've found some of the other features on the site less useful, such as the random code groups and words, but anything you enjoy that gets you copying code is a good choice.

If a web interface isn't convenient for you, search your smartphone's app store. The Ham Morse app for iOS and the IZ2UUF Morse Koch app for Android devices both use the same teaching method as LCWO, sending code at 15wpm from the start and gradually expanding the character set. I've used Ham Morse extensively and recommend it.

### Ever upward

Using this approach, I managed to re-learn CW in a few months, to the point where I could carry on a QSO at 15wpm and copy simple contest exchanges at nearly 20wpm. My practice sessions and on-air code use became more sporadic after that, but this is a bicycle-type skill: once you've learned it right, you can pick it up again anytime. Lately I've been back on a CW kick, and have returned to using LCWO and Ham Morse to boost my speed. I'm now copying callsigns at about 25wpm.

I've also discovered two other tools that are handy for improving code speed further once you've finished the basic training. [Morse Runner] (<http://www.dxatlas.com/morserunner/>), a free Windows application that also runs nicely under WINE or Cross-over on the Mac, simulates a DX or contest pileup. Alex Shovkoplyas, VE3NEA created this outstanding program. You can select how deep the pileup is, and whether you want to include static, interference, fading, and bad operators. With all of the options enabled, it's a shockingly realistic simulation of the HF bands.

Finally, there's the best CW practice game in the world: operating. Once you can receive the code at a decent rate, it's not hard to learn how to send it with a good quality paddle and keyer. It's even easier if you forget about the keyer and just use your logging software; all of the major loggers support sending directly from the keyboard.



# FROM THE SHACK

JEFFERY BAIL NT1K



## Show And Tell

HCRA's show and tell is just a month away! Do you have a project? Is it ready? This would be the perfect time to show your fellow club members what you've been up to. Who knows, it might encourage other people to either get more involved in the hobby. I've heard rumors about some of the projects and it looks exciting. We will be having prizes for 3 lucky members. You might be able to walk away with either a Raspberry Pi, Arduino UNO or a raffle ticket for either our current or future raffle.

## MTARA Hamfest

MTARA is having its hamfest this month (March 5<sup>th</sup>) and I would strongly suggest to check it out and attend. Personally I feel that area clubs should be helping each other out and we should help MTARA make their hamfest a success. It's a big source of their income that does help keep area repeaters on the air. MTARA has helped us out many times in the past and they even help the other clubs by offering tables. HCRA will have a table and I hope you stop by and say hello. If you do, please purchase a raffle ticket for the TS-590. If we sell enough, we would be able to raffle it at the hamfest.

## Field Day

Field Day is HCRA's biggest amateur radio event and it's just a few months away. This is the perfect chance to show the general public just one of the many aspects of amateur radio. It's also a great social gathering of operators. We're asking for your help. We need people to help with setting up, tearing down, operating and even heading up a station. Maybe we can even have a pot luck dinner/picnic. However this depends on you, the member. There will be a signup sheet at the following meetings. So far everything is on track for School Street Park in Agawam.

## HCRA's Share Your Knowledge

HCRA has many knowledgeable members. You see it before and after every meeting when people are standing in circles talking about many things. Some have a great deal of knowledge of a particular subject and are willing to talk about it. Let's take advantage of this. We can learn from each other to better ourselves.

Last month was our first session. It was about the popular software "DX Labs Suite" headed up by John Plaster (K1VOI) and Juergen Malner (NV1Q). They did an excellent presentation and was considered a success. We plan on having many more of these sessions on subjects like tower installation, digital modes, contesting and more. A big thanks goes to Gary Fields (WA1MOW) for suggesting and planning these events and to Holyoke Medical Center (HMC) for allow us to use their conference room.

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## SO YOU WANT TO LEARN CW (CONTINUED FROM PAGE #4)

Unless you're specifically interested in operating with vintage bugs or straight keys,(4) the operators on the other ends of your QSOs will usually appreciate clean, keyboard-generated code.

With free or very cheap software and a few minutes of practice every day, you'll be a serious CW operator by the time Field Day rolls around. Good luck, and I'll see you down the log.

### Notes:

1. There are two kinds of people: those who divide people into two kinds, and those who don't.
2. A cassette tape player was a devilish mid-20th century device that turned small plastic containers of magnetic tape into masses of tangled, inedible spaghetti while emitting a series of squealing sounds.
3. I'm deliberately not writing out the Morse characters with dots and dashes. Learn to recognize them by sound instead. You'll be glad you did.
4. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

# Hampden County Radio Association

- Presents -



## Show and Tell

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

**This is not a joke!**

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

Prizes Include:

### Raspberry PI Model 2 Computer

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

### Arduino UNO R3 Micro-controller

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

### HCRA TS-590SG Raffle Ticket

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





28<sup>th</sup> Annual



# Amateur Radio & Electronics Hamfest

Saturday March 5, 2016

Located at:

**Moose Family Center/Chicopee Falls Moose Lodge 1849**  
244 Fuller Road, Chicopee, MA 01020

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

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

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

### From I-90 East or West:

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

Mail- in Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

Checks payable to: MTARA

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

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

### Doors Open:

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

### Admission:

- Adults: \$5.00  
Children: under age 12 are *FREE!*

### No Tailgating

### Handicapped Parking Available

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

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

### VE Exam -10:30 AM

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

### Additional Information:

<http://www.mtara.org>

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

### Table Registrations contact:

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



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

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

### Dates and Times:

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



### Where:

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

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

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

### Interested? Please Contact

Name: Jeffrey Bail (NT1K)

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

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

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

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

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



# DOTS & DASHES:

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

## SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE DXLABS



Our first "Share the Knowledge" session was well received. 15 members were in attendance to learn the in's & out's of DXLabs. Juergen (NV1Q), and John (K1VOI) did an excellent job explaining the features and benefits.

Matt (W1MSW) and Jeff (NT1K) will be offering our own version of "Contest University" in May. Stay tuned for more information!

## FCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON PETITION TO GRANT LIFETIME AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making ([RM 11760](#)) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. The petition wants the FCC to revise § 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10-year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload, and save money.

## FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON ARRL PETITION THAT SEEKS 80/75 METER ADJUSTMENTS

The FCC has put the ARRL's January Petition for Rule Making ([RM 11759](#)) on public notice and invited interested parties to comment on what the League has called "minimal but necessary changes" to 80 and 75 meters. The ARRL petitioned the FCC to fix a "shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum" that the Commission created when it reapportioned 80 and 75 meters 10 years ago. The League's petition asked the FCC to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 kHz to 3650 kHz. The proposed change received strong support from ARRL members, and the ARRL Board of Directors adopted it as policy at its July 2015 meeting. At that time the Board also agreed to seek RTTY and data privileges for Novice and Technician licensees within their current 15 meter CW subband, and to do the same on 80 meters, depending on the outcome of the 80/75 meter subband revision.

## INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITES:

**Easy QSL** is an application designed specifically for filling up paper QSL cards using a printer. It can load an ADIF log file and print the QSL cards with data for each selected QSO. All you have to do is design a Layout appropriate for your own QSL card, load the log file and hit Print. [http://yo8saw.netroute.ro/?page\\_id=2](http://yo8saw.netroute.ro/?page_id=2)

## AREA SWAPFESTS:

Mar 5	MTARA HamFest	<a href="http://www.mtara.org">www.mtara.org</a>	Chicopee, Ma
Mar 6	NEARC Swapmeet	<a href="http://www.nearc.net/swapmeetinfo.htm">www.nearc.net/swapmeetinfo.htm</a>	Westford, Ma
Mar 12	ECARA HamFest	<a href="http://www.ecara.net/">www.ecara.net/</a>	Dayville, Ct
Mar 20	S.A.R.A HamFest	<a href="http://www.chetbacon.com/SARAFlea2016.pdf">www.chetbacon.com/SARAFlea2016.pdf</a>	Southington, Ct
Apr 29/30	NEAR Fest XIX	<a href="http://www.near-fest.org">www.near-fest.org</a>	Deerfield, NH

## CONTESTING:

### MARCH'S CONTESTS:

Mar 5	ARRL Inter. SSB DX Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx">www.arrl.org/arrl-dx</a>	Ph
6	SARL 40 Meter Sim. Emergency	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>	Ph
12	So. America10 Meter Contest	<a href="http://www.sa10m.com.ar/cqsa10m_rules.html">www.sa10m.com.ar/cqsa10m_rules.html</a>	CW, Ph,
	Oklahoma QSO Party	<a href="http://www.k5cm.com/okqp2016rules.pdf">www.k5cm.com/okqp2016rules.pdf</a>	CW, Ph, Dig
	Idaho Qso Party	<a href="http://www.idahoncj.info/qsoparty/rules">www.idahoncj.info/qsoparty/rules</a>	CW, Ph, Dig
13	No. American SSB Sprint	<a href="http://www.ssbsprint.com/rules">www.ssbsprint.com/rules</a>	Ph
	Wisconsin QSO Party	<a href="http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm">www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm</a>	CW, Ph, Dig.
	Nova Scotia Contest	<a href="http://nsara.ve1cfy.net/?page_id=82">http://nsara.ve1cfy.net/?page_id=82</a>	CW, Ph, Dig.
19	Louisiana QSO Party	<a href="http://www.laqp.louisianacontestclub.org">www.laqp.louisianacontestclub.org</a>	CW, Ph, Dig
	Virginia QSO Party	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_PARTY">www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_PARTY</a>	CW, Ph, Dig.
26	First Class CW Oper. QSO Party	<a href="http://www.g4foc.org/qsoparty">www.g4foc.org/qsoparty</a>	CW

**Hands-Only™  
CPR**



**Call 911**



**Push hard and fast in  
the center of the chest.**  
Learn more at [handsonlycpr.org](http://handsonlycpr.org)

**American Heart  
Association**  
*Learn and Live*

# Local happenings

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

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

**Mondays:** 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

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

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

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

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

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

**Fridays:** 1200: BB's (Brown Baggers Luncheon)  
Munich House  
13 Center Street  
Chicopee, MA 01013

## Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



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

## Club meetings & VE sessions

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

**3rd Friday of the month** 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building, [150 Brookdale Dr. Springfield, Mass.](#) (no meetings held in July or August)

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

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

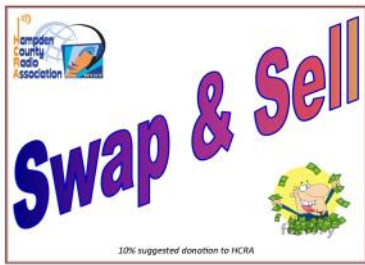
**4th Monday of February, May, August, November** 7:00 PM, FCARC VE Exams, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Northfield <http://www.fcarc.org/>

## HCRA contact list

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# SWAP & SELL

**I am reprinting this again because it is an important benefit of being a member of the HCRA.**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As always, thanks for your support of HCRA!

## FOR SALE:

If you have a piece of Ham Radio equipment to sell, send photo and details by the 20th of the month, to [walmow@arrl.net](mailto:walmow@arrl.net). All submissions will be screened for appropriateness, and content. The decision to publish is at the discretion of the ZB Editor



Drake R4a receiver. No chassis corrosion or nicotine artifacts. No yellowing of dials. Meter & dial lamps replaced with blue LED bulbs (original lamps supplied). 28.0-28.5 mhz crystal equipped. Antenna RCA jack replaced with BNC connector (original RCA jack supplied). Factory manual. \$265.



Elecraft K3 transceiver. K3/100 K3 100 watt transceiver. KAT3 automatic antenna tuner. KBPF3 general coverage receiver. KFL3A-2.8K 2.8khz, 8 pole filter. KFL3A-400 400hz, 8 pole filter. No scratches or nicotine artifacts. \$1875

Gent Lam, WA1CQF contact info: [shortwrench@comcast.net](mailto:shortwrench@comcast.net)



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

**Don't forget the MTARA  
HamFest**

**Saturday March 5th.**

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