



ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

Our 73rd Year as a Club!

May 2021

Special points of interest:
Next Meeting:

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

HCRA is on the web in many places, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and don't forget www.HCRA.org

Welcome New Members

Brian Strout - KC1ONA

Steve Mendrek - KA1STV

From the editor,

Spring has sprung, our thoughts have turned to antenna razing parties, Field Day, Fox Hunting and more! If things keep going the way they have been with so many getting their Covid vaccination we just might have a semi-normal Field Day!

This issue has lots of interesting articles including a few by Bill, N1LJQ along with many other pages such as a brand new column that is all about Fox Hunting! The ARRL page is loaded with info including a link to a copy of the Zoom presentation that many of us missed out on due to the 100 person limit.

We will be holding a General licensing upgrade class and volunteers are needed to organize and run these classes. Plus we need Tech's that want to upgrade to General. More information can be found on page 17. Please consider volunteering!

I would like to encourage all club members to submit ham radio related articles for future issues. You don't need to worry about spelling, grammar or formatting it as that will be taken care of as long as you get the basic article and photos to me before the 20th of each month. Any submissions or articles must be sent in by the 20th of the month being issued! This is important as it can hold up the release of each issue. I would have preferred to have this issue out sooner due to the NEQP!

If you have any ideas for new articles please drop me an email at kd1ku@arrl.net and we'll consider your thoughts and ideas. With so many exciting ideas in the works whatever you do... don't turn that VFO!!

73, Ken - KD1KU

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May Meeting

Friday, May 7th @ 7:30pm - Rag Chew Time @ 7pm

Talking to the International Space Station

The May club meeting will once again be held via Zoom. For the meeting link please see this month's "Larry's From The Shack".

This will be another club meeting that is not to be missed as it features guest speaker KB1MDS, Mariusz Zielinski's discussion all about contacting and talking to the International Space Station!

This is bound to be an extremely interesting topic that many hams can achieve for far less than you might think! Hope to see you all on Friday the 7th.

FROM THE SHACK

LARRY KRAINSON W1AST



May 2021 - From the Presidents Shack

May is finally approaching and bringing that warmer weather that makes you want to get outside and do things. One of the first things that everyone asks about is Field Day.

The School Street Park in Agawam is already open and I have been contacted by the Parks Department and told our location has already been reserved for us. Field Day the HCRA way is on!

I've already spoken to the club's antenna man, Chris, W1TRK, who is psyched about getting one or maybe two towers up with antennas on them. It's undecided yet if we'll do one or two stations. Maybe more if more people commit to attending. Manning two SSB stations or one that is both CW and SSB would work out great unless more CW ops commit to operating. It's all in the idea phase now. We'll know for sure around June 1st if the park is staying open and then we'll put it all together.

We will require that ALL attendees have been vaccinated as a safety precaution. We'll also have Clorox wipes and anti-bacterial lotion everywhere for everyone's safety. We're working

on the rest. Much more info will be in the June ZB.

Another activity is the club's Fox Hunting. Hopefully by the time you are reading this (May 2021) issue, we'll have both of the HCRA Fox Boxes deployed. Fox Box 2 aka FB2 is nearly completed. The goal is to have both Fox Boxes out each weekend.

Faye and I started hunting the CT Fox Boxes recently and we're having a blast. We both love hunting it down, especially when we get close and have to start walking around to find it. Fox Box 3 in CT often has a camo cover on it making it tough to see among the grass and brush. It adds to the challenge.

I hope to hear about your foxhunting adventures and I want to see some pictures of the hunt. Get your spouses, friends, children and grand children involved in the fun. Have the kids bring their friends and get more involved in the hunts!

On Saturday, April 17th, Ken; KD1KU and I traveled to Wallingford, CT and participated with the Meriden ARC on their hunt. It started at 11am on a simplex frequency and transmitted a beep every second and ID'ed every 3 minutes. All I knew about Wallingford was from driving through it on RT 91. For some reason I thought it was flat. Boy, was I wrong.

Wallingford is a series of hills that are 400-500 feet tall. Driving through the town is up and down. We started at a high spot around 400 feet in elevation in the back of the high school and got a great reading. (as we found out at the end, the reading was right on). We sort of visually plotted it on the map and drove off. We very quickly got confused on the roads and hills. Future readings on hills gave us a good plot but the moment we went down the hill the signal vanished completely.

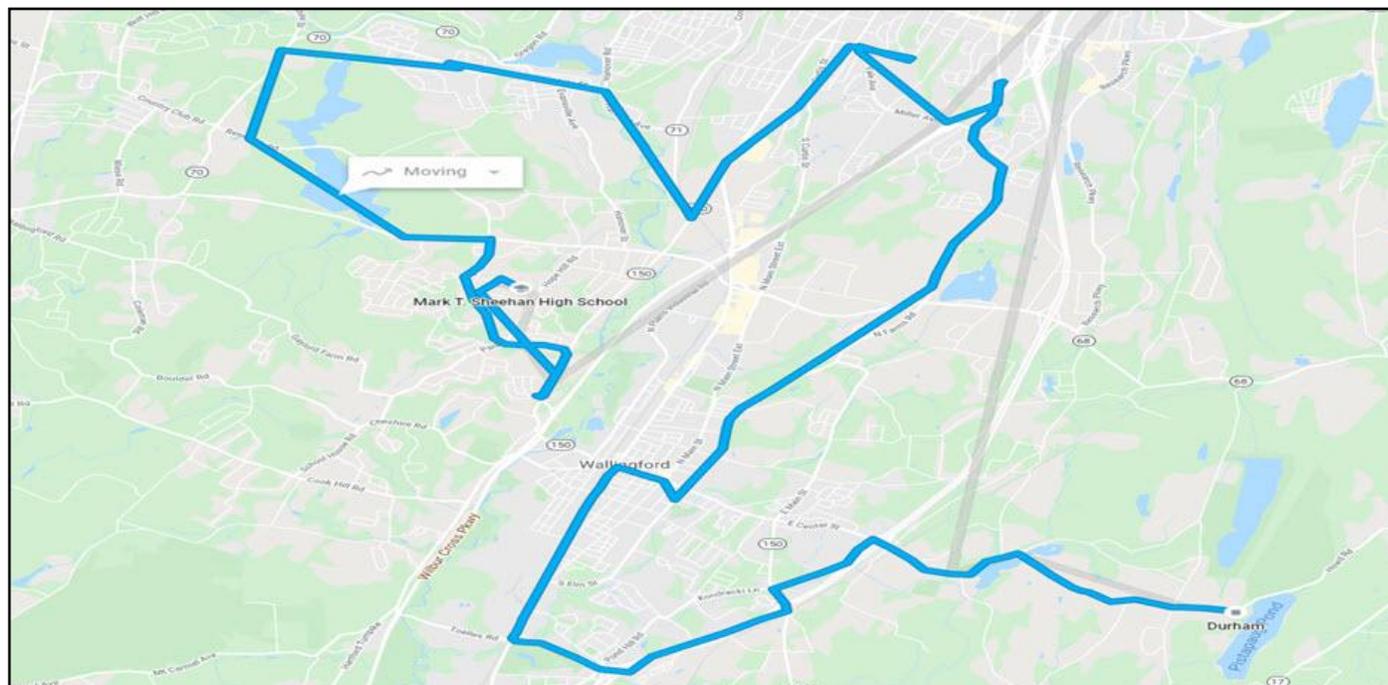
We quickly lost complete sense of direction and made a big loop. Take a look at our path of travel. Ignore the light gray lines as those are our in and out of town via the highway paths. The light blue lines were our fox hunt path.

Continued on page 3



FROM THE SHACK CONT'D

This was in the north east quadrant of Wallingford. Our first reading I mentioned I thought it was close to the Gouveia Vineyards. I wish we had used that as a point to go get another reading as the fox was just up the road from there!



It was a tough hunt. Even the locals stated it was the hardest hunt that they had done to date. Ken and I didn't feel bad having to be talked in and still not arriving last. But it was a heck of a lot of fun and I plan on going down on another Saturday to participate. Their hunts are announced on the CTfox-hunters group as well as a direct email. To get on their email list, send a quick note to: Dave, NZ1J at davidtip100@gmail.com.

Their hunts start at 11am. They actually have 3 hunts going at once on 3 different frequencies. The main one transmits a whole 1 watt. The 2nd 10 MW and the 3rd is just 1 MW. All three were at the same location on the 17th. But usually they are hidden nearby. The hunt was fun and we will be going back for another attempt.

What occurs the first weekend in May every year? The New England QSO Party, that's what. NEQP starts at 4pm on Saturday, May 1st and ends on Sunday (the next day). It's an exciting New England operating event where stations outside of New England want to work you. Your station will be in demand with hams across the country. That makes it much easier and more fun. See the rules and exchange in this ZeroBeat.

The HCRA sponsors a plaque for NEQP for the person who has the highest score in Hampden County while running low power – no amps! Work the contest barefoot and maybe you can earn that prize plaque.

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FROM THE SHACK CONT'D

This month's guest speaker is Mariusz, KB1MDS and he will be telling us all about how he and his class spoke to the International Space Station. Join us on Friday, May 7th at 7:30 pm or join between 7:00 and 7:30 pm for the pre-meeting conversations.

Here is your May Zoom meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89179786245?pwd=SHRnT2VlV1VqR2lTUHV0ZDFMYU9mUT09>

I hope to see you at the meeting. It should be very interesting, informative and fun

We have created a Silent Keys section on the HCRA.org web site. We have been asked by a number of hams where they can write their comments about hams that have become Silent Keys.

Now you have an opportunity to do just that. Write up what you wish, send a pic or two as well. Send it all in word format to: webmaster@hcra.org with a note asking that your contribution be posted to the Silent Keys section. This is your chance to contribute your memories about SK's to the club so that others may learn about those that are no longer with us. The Silent Key section can be found under Membership at HCRA.org.

I hope to hear you on the air, maybe see you while foxhunting and see you at the meeting.

Best 73,

Larry, W1AST

W1AST@arrl.net



Show and Tell Meeting Winner's

Here are the winners from April's Show and Tell meeting
1st place was a tie: Charlie, KC1IKA and Juergen, NV1Q
2nd place went to: John, WA1JKB



View the April Show & Tell Meeting via the Link Below

Last Months Meeting You Tube Link

The April meeting was the famous Show & Tell so if you missed it or want to watch it again here is the You Tube link that will allow you to view it anytime you wish.

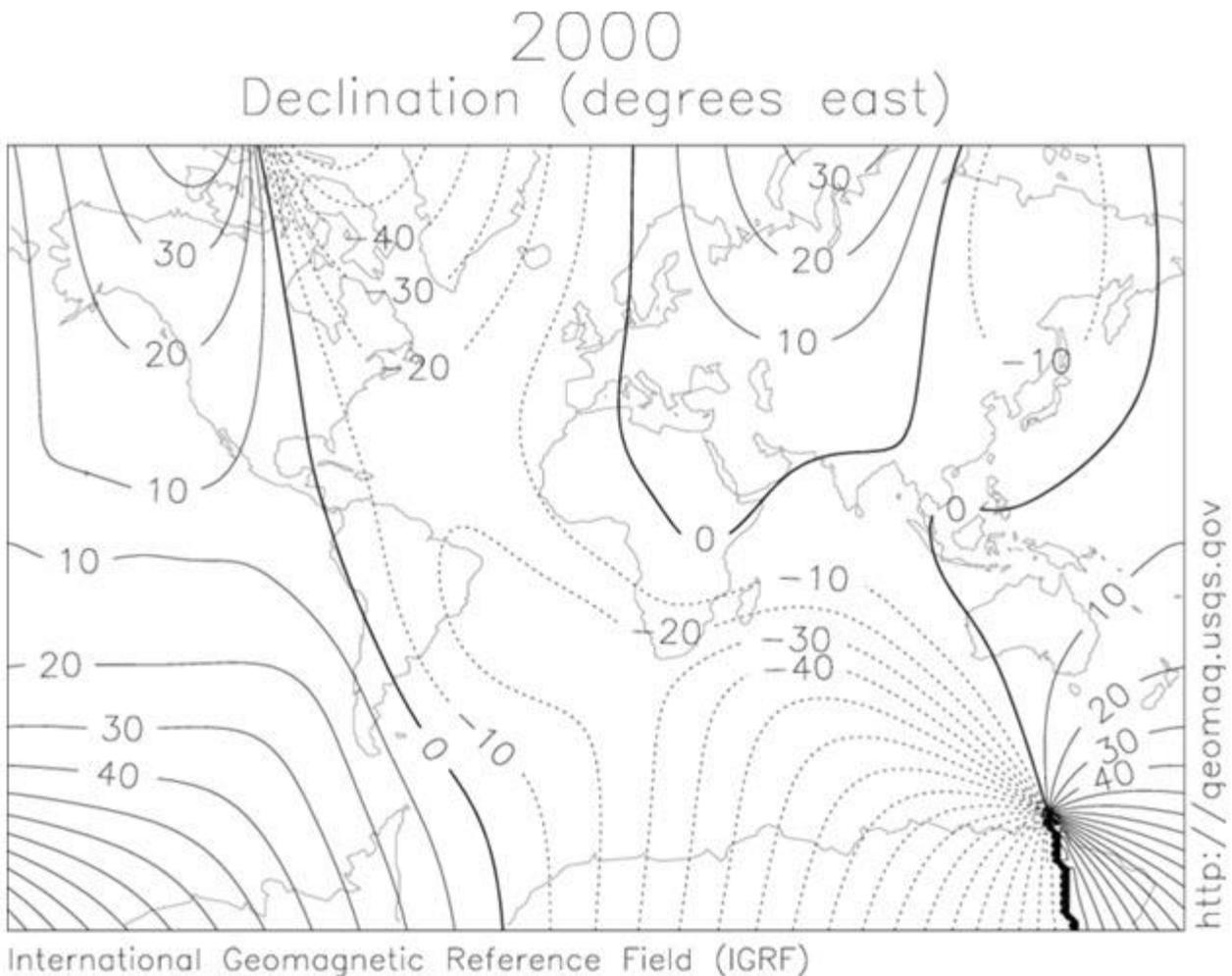
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvTR7i3ZZ58&t=2129s>

While your on the HCRA You Tube Channel don't forget to click subscribe before leaving

WHERE AM I?

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Coordinates & Grid Squares But Were Afraid to Ask

Magnetic declination, sometimes called magnetic variation, is the angle between magnetic north and true north. Declination is positive east of true north and negative when west. Magnetic declination changes over time and with location. As the compass points with local magnetic fields, declination value is needed to obtain true north.



As Spring has arrived, you may be thinking about putting up or working on your yagi or other directional antenna and rotor. Using a compass, you check for North, but then recall that you need to adjust your reading in order to determine true North. And, of course, the way to do that is to identify the angle of magnetic declination and you could consult a map like the one above. But, there is a calculator that will do this easily for you.

Continued on page 6

WHERE AM I? CONT'D

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Coordinates & Grid Squares But Were Afraid to Ask

This is what the magnetic field calculator page looks like, all you have to do is enter your address into the box circled in yellow and you'll get an answer immediately. Directly below the calculator image you'll find some useful links that'll give you all the information needed.

NOAA NATIONAL CENTERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NOAA > NESDIS > NCEI (formerly NGDC) > Geomagnetism

Magnetic Field Calculators

Declination U.S. Historic Declination Magnetic Field Magnetic Field Component Grid

Magnetic Declination Estimated Value ⓘ

Declination is calculated using the most recent [World Magnetic Model \(WMM\)](#) or the [International Geomagnetic Reference Field \(IGRF\)](#) model. For 1590 to 1900 the calculator is based on the [gufm1](#) model. A smooth transition from [gufm1](#) to IGRF was imposed from 1890 to 1900. The [Enhanced Magnetic Model \(EMM\)](#) is a research model compiled from satellite, marine, aeromagnetic and ground magnetic surveys which attempts to include crustal variations in the magnetic field too fine to appear in the World Magnetic Model. Declination results are typically accurate to 30 minutes of arc, but environmental factors can cause magnetic field disturbances. The calculator provides an easy way for you to get results in HTML, XML, CSV, or JSON programmatically (API). For more information click the information button above.

Calculate Declination

Latitude: S N

Longitude: W E

Model: WMM (2019-2024) IGRF (1590-2024)
 EMM (2000-2019)

Date: Year Month Day

Result format: HTML XML CSV JSON PDF

Lookup Latitude / Longitude

Enter a street address, street name, or street intersection. For best results, include as much location information as possible with the street address in your search, such as city, state, zip code.

Location:

Here are two links to make your task easier:

1st, a link to an ARRL article on three methods of determining location:

<http://www.arrl.org/where-am-i>

2nd, a link to an automatic calculator to determine the angle of magnetic declination for your location:

<https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/geomag/calculators/magcalc.shtml>

73,
Bill - N1LJQ

13 COLONIES

Each year from July 1st through the 7th, there is a multi-station special operating event that occurs. It's called 13 Colonies. As an operator, you may want to work all the stations and earn a certificate and get special Qsl cards. It's lots of fun.

Massachusetts is one of the states that is activated for 13 Colonies. The call for Massachusetts is K2H and I happen to be the state manager. I recruit, organize and track what the K2H ops are doing during the 7 days of the event.

Being an K2H activator is a lot of fun. If you've ever chased DX and heard the multitude of stations calling one station, that what being a K2H operator is. Only you're the desired station and everyone is calling you. It's a rush of excitement.

I've been state manager for 2 years now. The first year K2H worked a little more than 9700 stations. Last year we worked a little over 14,300 stations. I'm hoping with the slight band improvements that we can work 18,000 stations this year.

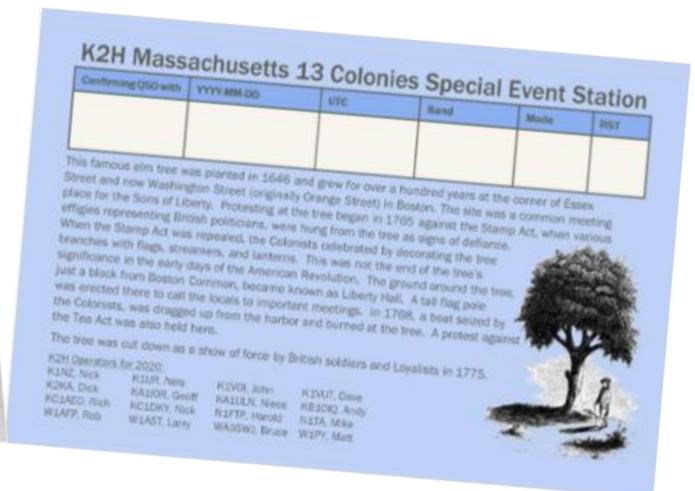
I'm looking to add a few new ops to the K2H operators. An op must be flexible and able to operate at most of the 7 days and should reach a goal of at least 500 contacts. It's very easy to reach that goal and doable in a day or few depending upon your operating skills. You can operate SSB, CW or Digital. You MUST live and operate in Massachusetts for this event.

As of right now, the following HCRA members are activators for 2021: W1AST, N1YL, W1TRK, N1FTP, K1VOI, N1TA, K1NZ and KC1AEO.

Would you like to join Team K2H?

If you would like to learn more, please contact:

Larry, W1AST at W1AST@arrl.net no later than May 15th

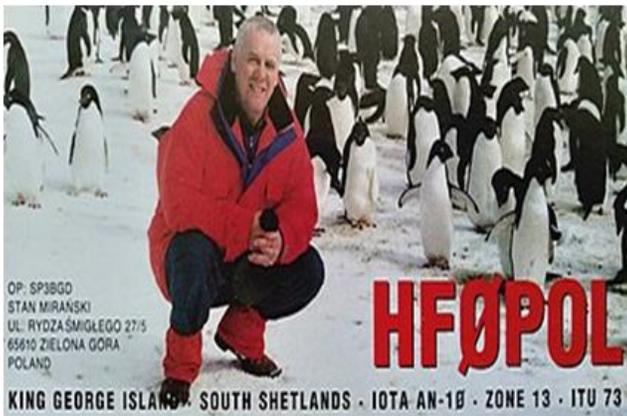


QSL TRACKING

ONE LOCAL HAM'S METHOD OF TRACKING FIRST TIME QSL CARD'S

If you are a new Ham or one who has decided to go for a Worked All States (WAS) or DX Century Club (DXCC) Award, knowing what kind of response rate to your QSL's to expect is important knowledge to have. Otherwise, you might feel frustrated.

Craig Szwed, KC1ELZ has used an Excel spreadsheet to log and track QSLs sent to his first time contacts since May 2016, when he first got on the air. His records include SSB and FM contacts for 70cm through 160m, for mobile, portable, and fixed station operation. Craig has had QSO's with Hams in all 50 states and more than 100 nations.



Before sending a QSL, Craig checks the QRZ.com page for the contact to see if the person indicates whether he or she prefers paper QSL's or e-QSL's via LOTW, eQSL, or QRZ.com. In collecting his data, if a contact responds in more than one way with an electronic QSL, he counts only the first response. But, if the contact sends both a printed QSL card and an eQSL, he counts each since they are different media.

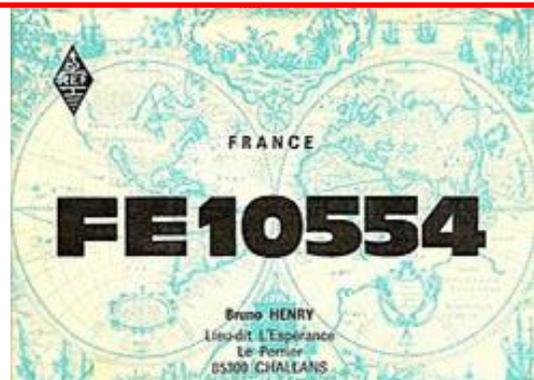
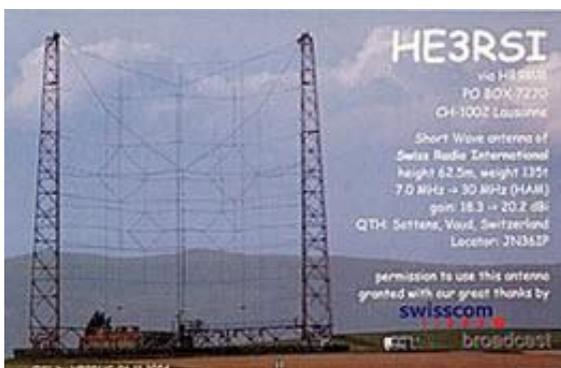
So far, Craig has sent out 1344 printed QSL cards and received 480 in return, yielding a return rate of almost 35.71%. He has sent out 1397 eQSL's and received 482 responses, which is a return rate of about 34.5%.

The results showed that about 2/3 of all first-time contacts to whom he sent a QSL in one form or the other did not respond at all. The table to the right lists a summary of his data.

1344	480	1397	482
hard copy	RXhardOSL	electro	RXelectOSL
QSLs sent	35.71%	QSLs sent	34.50%

73, Bill - N1LJQ (Big thanks to Craig, KC1ELZ for supplying the original content)

Note: This article represents one hams experience with QSL cards and may not accurately represent all hams QSL's



The Fox's Den

HOW TO FOX HUNT THE HCRA WAY

How to find that Fox

A very exciting and fun activity you can do yourself, with a spouse, kids and/or friends is foxhunting. But, what is it and how do you foxhunt?

Foxhunting is something I have done since the early 80's. Back then the idea was the same, but we used paper maps as cell phones with maps and GPS's never existed. It was very exciting then as it is now.

Foxhunting is simply finding a hidden transmitter. Whether it is a live human transmitting one minute out of every five or a foxbox transmitting continuously or a foxbox that you have to manually activate. It's all the same and simply called foxhunting.



Foxhunting is kind of like the children's game of Hide and Seek but with radio. Others think it's like geocaching but with radio. Or maybe it's a mix of the two.

How do I foxhunt? For this example, we'll be going after a foxbox.



A foxbox is usually an ammo can (metal rectangle can with a battery, radio, interface and antenna locked to a tree or something similar).

When a foxbox is placed, hams try to activate it and when they finally do, they announce where it can be activated. This becomes a good starting point for other hunters.

The usual equipment that I use is at least two HT's or two 2 meter rigs. One an HT and another one. That way I can hunt with one and activate the foxbox with the other. I use a Kenwood TH-K20a HT to hunt with as it has a decent receiver and is very simple to operate and change settings on the fly as needed. I use my mobile rig to activate the foxbox as needed.

To activate the foxbox is to be on the correct frequency with correct PL tone. Depress the mic, announce (insert your call here) and press the tone to activate the foxbox.

IF I'm close enough, I'll hear some tones for a short period of time and then a CW ID. The HCRA foxbox 1 does some tones and then sends HCRA foxbox 1 WB1Z in CW for identification. WB1Z is one of the club calls.

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The Fox's Den Cont'd

HOW TO FOX HUNT THE HCRA WAY

WB1Z belonged to Jim Allen, who was an avid foxhunter back in the day. When he became a Silent Key, the club adopted his call. It's very significant that we use it with the foxboxes as Jim loved fox-hunting.

I also use a tape measure 3 element yagi for an antenna. These can be built for less than \$20 and they work amazingly well for fox hunting. Here are some plans: <https://nt1k.com/vhf-3el-tape-measure-yagi/>

I also use a Offset attenuator. This can also be either be built as a kit or pre-assembled. I use the one by KC9ON which is available here: <https://kc9on.com/product/fox-hunt-offset-attenuation/> But there are many other plans online if you want to build your own.

The offset attenuator works very well. If the fox is transmitting on 146.52 then when using the offset attenuator, you set the rigs frequency either up or down 4 MHz. You'd tune to either 142.52 or 150.52, it doesn't matter which one.

I start my first heading by attaching the antenna directly to the radio. I try to stand a good 20 feet away from my vehicle. I have my wife Faye, activate the foxbox from the car. She announces my call and then pressed the appropriate keys to get the foxbox to transmit.

I make sure the squelch is open and I hear static. Then I rotate the antenna in a 360 degree circle to hopefully pick up the foxbox signal. Once I do I rotate between vertical and horizontal for the best signal and then fine tune to point the antenna in the direction of the strongest signal.

I watch the S-meter on my HT and also listen to the signal. Sometimes you will barely hear it, other times it will be very strong and you'll need attenuation right away.

I note the direction of the strongest signal and take a compass heading and write it down. If I know the area, I may skip writing it down and plotting it and pick a place to take the next reading. That works well for me. But if I do not know the area, plotting lines on a map are invaluable.

There is an Android app called SigTrax that I have, but have yet to figure out how to use it. There are IOS apps too, just do a search on foxhunting and direction finding. All might help with line plotting.

The idea is to take readings in different locations so two or more lines cross and where they cross is where the fox is. But, it does not always work out that way.

Take your initial heading, plot a line or pick a spot to take your next reading. When you're at the next reading location, activate the foxbox once again. This time the signal may be significantly stronger. So much so that you must put your attenuator inline.

Continued on page 11

The Fox's Den Cont'd

HOW TO FOX HUNT THE HCRA WAY

One thing with having the attenuator inline – Do Not Transmit Through It! If you do, you'll destroy it. You can do a mod that Bob, W1BOB did to his attenuator to prevent transmitting through it. Here is his directions and article: <http://www.hcra.org/2020/05/02/fox-box-attenuator-modification/>. He puts a button in line that you have to depress to put the attenuator in line removing the possibility of frying it.

With a strong signal, put the attenuator in line, turn on the attenuator and set your frequency 4 MHz up or down. Then swing the antenna around for the strongest signal. Take that strongest full scale signal and rotate the knob on the attenuator to reduce or attenuate the signal.

Take a heading and repeat the process. The foxbox only puts out a watt or two. The closer you get to it, the stronger the signal, the more attenuation you need. Until you are virtually on top of it.

At that point, if you have full attenuation, you should be able to see the foxbox. If the signal is still super strong with full attenuation, change your frequency 5 KHz at a time to reduce the signal by being off frequency. Do rotate the antenna and see where it points. Up close you should be able to walk right up to it.

You can also take the antenna off the HT and rotate again. Use your body as a shield and locate that foxbox. When Faye and I hunt, when we get close, she has eagle eyes and usually sees it before me.



Above is a picture of Faye with the antenna and radio and attenuator pointing right at the foxbox.

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The Fox's Den Cont'd

HOW TO FOX HUNT THE HCRA WAY



You have to be prepared for a sneaky foxbox hider. Do you see the foxbox in the picture above? It's very easy to walk right by it if you are not being very observant. Your antenna and attenuator should allow you to point exactly at the correct tree or area.

If you try hunting without an attenuator, you'll get frustrated very easily. You can go off frequency, but having a way to reduce the signal is best.

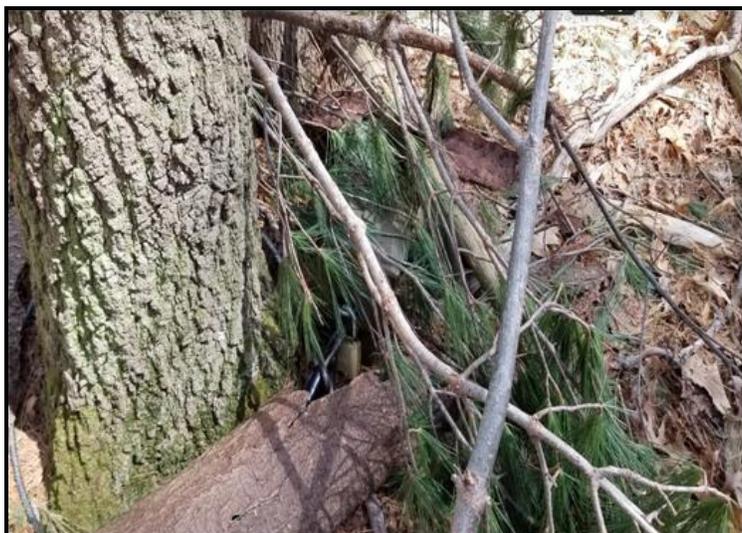
A few things to remember when hunting foxboxes:

- 1. The foxbox will always be on PUBLIC property, never on private property**
- 2. There will always be a safe place to park**
- 3. You will be able to walk up to the foxbox with ease. There will never be cliffs or dangerous obstacles. The worst obstacle may be a little bit of hilly terrain.**

Continued on page 13

The Fox's Den Cont'd

HOW TO FOX HUNT THE HCRA WAY



I welcome new hunters and will be happy to have you ride with me & teach you hunting tricks. Most hunters are happy to have guests join them.



(above: Larry, KD1RV has found the fox and a close up of where the foxbox was in the grass)

The beauty of hunting for a foxbox is you can do it anytime you want. We usually hunt on the weekend. Whatever is good for your schedule. It's a great way to get kids involved in ham radio too.

Happy Hunting,

Larry, W1AST

w1ast@arrl.net

SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS:

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

OCTOBER ✓ Beginning Contesting by Matt WIPY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARRL Stuff

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

ARRL Learning Network

The ARRL puts on webinars (kind of like a zoom meeting / presentation) on various subjects. Members (and affiliated clubs) can sign up for the live presentation, or for the recorded version. For newer hams, and smaller clubs, this is a way to access an expert presentation. The next one is scheduled for May 6, on FH noise mitigation. It follows a presentation on RFI—both are from Icom. The subjects vary from logging, Technician activities, SOTA / portable ops and the ISS. New ones are about every 2 weeks, and recorded versions are available shortly after.

So go to <https://www.gotostage.com/channel/arrl-learning-network> and see what is offered. Right now, the portable Ops, SOTA and QRM / RFI info is on my list

RF Safety - Exposure rule changes in effect 5/3/21

Part of the responsibility of a ham licensee is to ensure that the station does not expose humans to excessive radiation. For most HF bands, unless you run an amplifier, it's not an issue. There are some instances (10M-2M) where exceeding 50W can require an evaluation. It's not something that an amateur licensee must do all the time, but we should be aware of both the requirement, and how it could affect our station antenna boundaries. Most home QTH do not have unrestricted access to the antenna area, but operating portable can be different.

RF change notice: <http://www.arrl.org/news/updated-radio-frequency-exposure-rules-become-effective-on-may-3>

VEC bulletin: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/VEs/RFsafetyInfoJan2019vec.pdf>

RF Exposure Presentation If you missed the presentation on RF Exposure here is a link to a copy of it

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_qIGZhHyMrha-axJt87Dcu0UZuJO0t8F

ARRL Western Mass Section

Check the WMA section page at www.wma.arrl.org

Bob, K1YO has been working hard in getting a SET established to exercise our communications capabilities in an emergency. He has been inviting neighboring states and other served agencies to participate as well. He is looking to get as much help and participation as well. Contact Bob at k1yo@arrl.net

The HamXposition is currently scheduled for "in person" this fall. Monitoring of Covid requirements will continue, and tickets will not go on sale until August. But hey, looks like we may get to be with each other again!! [HamXposition is a "Go," September 10-12, 2021, Marlborough, MA – ARRL New England Division](#)

Larry W1AST is the state coordinator for the 13 Colonies event for MA (K2H) again. This is a week long event, and if you would like, you can operate as K2H to help out. Contact Larry ;-)
[MA Prepares for Thirteen Colonies Special Event Operation, July 1-7, 2021 – ARRL New England Division](#)

The net actually started in April, but will continue 1st week of each month. If you have radio capability in the MARS band Ch 1 (5.3305 MHz) and would like to participate, the nets will be starting off with check ins. [MARS / Amateur Interoperability Nets Starting This Week - Western Massachusetts ARRL](#)

ARRL Western Massachusetts Section Manager

Raymond P Lajoie, KB1LRL - kb1lrl@arrl.org

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

Hamtoons

RF humor (Really Funny)





HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



What's New in the HCRA?

With so many events being canceled due to Covid we're starting to see light at the end of the tunnel. In fact with many folks getting their vaccines, things are really looking up for the 2021 Field Day! Agawam's School Street Park has already contacted Larry, WIAST to notify the club that our location has already been reserved! More on this in "Larry's From The Shack" plus much more to come in the June issue of ZB.



Fox Box #2 is nearly ready to go now and in the very near future we will be having double fox hunts so get your hunting gear ready to go! Rumor has it that there is a good chance of a walking Fox Hunt happening at Field Day!

New England QSO Party (May 1+2)

The New England QSO Party on May 1st and 2nd is a great time to check out antenna systems and offers a moderately paced opportunity to work new states and countries. You'll find a wide variety of participants, from newcomers to experienced contesters, all interested in making contacts with New England stations.

Our goal is to get every one of the 67 counties in New England on the air so we hope you will encourage your members to join in the fun! Even if you can only join in on the fun for a couple of hours, we'd appreciate it! Will you be QRV? Let us know with a message to info@neqp.org

If you've never been on the receiving end of a pile-up then this is your chance!

The New England QSO Party is 20 hours long overall, in two sections with a civilized break for sleep on Saturday night. It runs from 4 pm Saturday until 1 am Sunday, then 9 am Sunday until 8 pm Sunday. Operate on CW, SSB and/or digital modes on 80-40-20-15-10 meters. For each QSO you'll give your callsign, a signal report and your county/state. Top scorers can earn a plaque and everyone who sends in a log will get a certificate. The goal is to work stations anywhere in the world - and their goal is to work New England stations, so you'll be very popular!

The full rules are here - <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>

The 2020 results were posted last weekend - <http://www.neqp.org/results.html>

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

General License Upgrade Class
The HCRA is holding a General license class. Right now we're looking for volunteers to help organize and run this class. If you're a Tech, this is your chance to upgrade! Member's please volunteer to help run this class! Contact wlast@arrl.net
More to come....

HCRA Social Media Links
You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/HampdenCountyRA>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HampdenCountyRA>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HampdenCountyRA>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hampdencountyra>

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

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

Info from 4/30/21



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

DXCC Leagues

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

<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Mode Filter	<input type="radio"/> CW	<input type="radio"/> Phone	<input type="radio"/> Data
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rank by DXCCs	<input type="radio"/> Rank by slots	Rank by band: Totals ▼	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 160M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 80M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10M <input type="checkbox"/> 6M			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Current entities	<input type="radio"/> Current and deleted	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Worked	<input type="radio"/> Confirmed
<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Date Filter	<input type="radio"/> 2021	<input type="radio"/> 2020	<input type="radio"/> Last 12 months
Filter by club/continent:	<input type="text" value="HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association"/>		

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	179	293	10	334	317	337	329	336	319	321	339	2775	58 yrs
2	NU1O+1	18	149	9	268	240	326	274	322	231	308	335	2145	33 yrs
3	KK1W+1	136	191	7	269	223	309	277	278	216	232	329	2138	45 yrs
4	NV1Q+3	27	136	0	181	111	308	257	314	232	256	329	1822	42 yrs
5	NF1G	0	157	0	233	252	301	257	263	176	203	319	1842	37 yrs
6	W1PY+1	34	116	0	200	64	246	207	242	130	204	291	1443	11 yrs
7	KX1X	67	127	62	184	145	203	127	203	49	193	252	1360	24 yrs
8	K1NZ+1 ★	115	155	86	166	190	187	160	145	83	67	247	1354	10 yrs
9	K1VOI	5	64	2	113	51	200	140	163	69	143	247	950	20 yrs
10	N1TA+3 ★	109	152	26	189	93	203	94	188	14	129	242	1197	20 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10			
11	NE1C	63	114	0	151	0	206	0	195	0	152	238	881	19 yrs
12	AB1WT	2	32	1	52	4	128	123	126	64	89	212	621	6 yrs
13	W1AST+1	3	60	9	102	28	166	106	124	10	120	202	728	12 yrs
14	NT1K+2	9	49	2	103	33	184	45	141	47	123	199	736	11 yrs
15	N1FTP	0	7	0	64	0	170	47	119	16	109	184	532	13 yrs
16	WD1S+2	49	57	1	115	23	148	40	95	11	98	176	637	8 yrs
17	AB1XW+1	0	7	1	75	22	110	42	107	29	94	144	487	8 yrs
18	W1TRK	0	3	0	11	0	64	0	34	0	1	79	113	4 yrs
19	N1JIE	2	5	0	23	7	49	22	7	1	4	72	120	4 yrs
20	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	24	0	45	0	0	1	0	54	70	5 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10			
21	N1FJ	0	0	0	6	0	30	0	16	3	16	51	71	8 yrs



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

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



Your Log

DXCC Charts

Satellite Charts

Timelines

QSL Charts

Zone Charts

Log Inspector

Log Matching

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

Generate DXCC League

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	41	69	0	103	47	159	48	83	9	25	185	584	58 yrs
2	NF1G	0	21	0	53	100	126	95	75	8	17	180	495	37 yrs
3	W1PY+1	2	4	0	32	0	134	17	21	1	1	159	212	11 yrs
4	KK1W+1	33	17	0	57	13	92	14	16	1	0	149	243	45 yrs
5	KX1X	5	63	0	105	82	106	68	75	14	14	142	532	24 yrs
6	N1TA+3 *	27	81	17	89	76	112	80	76	7	9	139	574	20 yrs
7	NU1O+1	0	0	0	3	4	82	11	30	1	5	104	136	33 yrs
8	K1NZ+1 *	29	48	9	19	64	54	39	17	5	2	101	286	10 yrs
9	NV1Q+3	0	19	0	44	0	69	0	50	0	11	89	193	42 yrs
10	K1VOI	0	21	0	48	2	67	27	36	3	7	85	211	20 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10			
11	NE1C	3	4	0	35	0	70	0	12	0	1	76	125	19 yrs
12	N1FTP	0	1	0	22	0	67	0	23	0	2	74	115	13 yrs
13	W1AST+1	3	7	0	33	1	57	5	20	0	1	71	127	12 yrs
14	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	14	0	25	0	0	0	0	33	39	5 yrs
15	N1FJ	0	0	0	1	0	21	0	6	0	0	27	28	8 yrs
16	N1JIE	2	2	0	1	5	5	0	1	0	0	9	16	4 yrs
17	NT1K+2	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	7	11 yrs



DOTS & DASHES Things that don't fit anyplace else

Members Submissions Wanted!

This is your chance to be a big part of Zero Beat! How you ask? Easy, simply write an article about something you enjoy about ham radio. It can be pretty much about anything but the best and most interesting thing is to make it about something you really enjoy as a ham. There is an endless supply of ideas and interests in ham radio so put on your thinking cap and come-up with an idea, any idea!

Here's the best part of this whole new idea, you don't have to worry about spelling, grammar, formatting ect ect. All you need to do is send the basic article along with photo's to myself at kd1ku@arrl.net and we will finish the rest.

Items For Sale or Wanted

FOR SALE!

If you would like to post an ad simply email the item details to kd1ku@arrl.net and I'll do the rest for you! No worrying about formatting your ad, I'll do that for you

Contests and Special Event Stations

Contests - www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

New England QSO Party - 5/1 2000 - 5/2 2359, Bands 3.5 - 29 CW/Phone/Digital RS(T), W1 County / State <https://neqp.org/>

VOLTA WW RTTY Contest - 5/8, 1200Z - 5/9, 1200Z, Bands 80 - 10m, RTTY RST + QSO No. + CQ Zone <http://www.contestvolta.com>

Special Event Stations

Woronoko Heights Outdoor Adventure - 5/15, 1300Z-1900Z, W1M, Russell, MA. Western Mass Council - BSA, Operating at Moses Scout Reservation

HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

QSLs will be sent to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau quarterly on the following approximate dates:

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

See hcra.org for complete information

or

Contact Paul, NFIG at NFIG@arrl.net



Local Nets & Happenings

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

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

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

Mondays: 1900 HCRA 10 Meter Net 28.375 (Note: new time)

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

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

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

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

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

Thursdays: 1900 HCRA New Ham Net 146.715

Last New Ham Net was held on 4/29/2021

Congrats to NCS Gary, KC1JZR on a well run net!

Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



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

Club Meetings and VE Sessions

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

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

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

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

Second Monday of the month 7:00pm, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting. Virtual meeting's are being held on Zoom. Meetings will continue on Zoom until it is safe to meet as a group. <http://www.fcarc.org/>

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

HCRA Contact List

President - Larry Krainson, W1AST
w1ast@arrl.net

Vice-President - Marcel LaPierre, AA1WH
aa1wh@arrl.net

Treasurer - Duane Pray, KC1FQV
kc1fqv@arrl.net

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
nf1g@arrl.net

Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE
aa1ue@amsat.org

Membership - John Plaster, K1VOI
k1voi_jp@charter.net

Technical - Najm Choueiry, AB1ZA
njc2@cox.net

At Large - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN
wa1ojn@jeffway.com

Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU
kd1ku@arrl.net

Website - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org

W1NY trustee, John, N1JIE
n1jie@arrl.net

WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL



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

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