



ZERO BEAT

Meeting Notice

The meeting room at the Holyoke Hospital is still on hold at this time. Until this changes, meetings will continue to be held on Zoom. Meeting links are in each month's "From the Presidents Shack"

Welcome New Members

Anthony Lopez, Sr. KC1QXP

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Our 74th Year as a Club!

May 2022

From the editor,

Spring has sprung and Covid restrictions have begun to ease just in time for some great events such as Hamfests, NEQP and much more!

Between Field Day, The Big-E Project and everything in between, every member should be asking themselves how you can help your club! The best way you can help is by volunteering in advance of these upcoming events! If everyone helps a little, the work is easy, fun, and goes by quickly! C'mon new members!

Many things are coming in 2022, NEAR-Fest was just held April 29th, Field Day is coming June 24th - 26th, and the HCRA Big E booth will be inside the BLC this Fall for the duration of this great fair. There will also be a Special Event Station running for the duration of the 17 day fair with N1E for a SES callsign.

Please consider volunteering! With your help, all events will run smoothly. Volunteer for one or all but please volunteer. Contact Larry, at w1ast@arrl.net.

Plenty of reading in this issue beginning with "Going Through Loops" by Bill, W1FMX. Next is an update on ARES Nets by Smitty, KC1IKA. More about the need for operators for Field Day, Project Big E, & SES, 13 Colonies operators and more.

If you have an article or idea for ZB email myself at kd1ku@arrl.net. Be sure to take part in our club activities such as the 10 meter net every Monday evening. I hope to see everyone of you at the May Zoom meeting.

73, Ken - KD1KU

May 6th Zoom Meeting

Introduction Into Antenna Modeling

With antenna modeling you can determine the pattern, feed point impedance and even the SWR of your antenna system before cutting one piece of wire or one tube of aluminum!

Zoom meeting begins at 7pm with a social rag chew 1/2 hour.
Regular meeting begins at 7:30pm on Friday, 5/6/22

Besides the regular May Zoom meeting, check out the last "Share The Knowledge" mini-Zoom meeting of the Spring. Watch the schedule on page 3 for future updates. STK Zoom meetings are open to everyone and the Zoom links are on page 3.



Upcoming Zoom Meetings and Guest Speakers

 <p>September 2021</p>	<p>Everything you need to know to work satellites with equipment you already own by Gary, AA1UE</p>
 <p>OCTOBER 2021</p>	<p>Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC will speak on his plans to be the next NE Director. After his presentation he'll be taking questions from you. This is your chance to ask him your questions... one on one.</p>
 <p>November 2021</p>	<p>November 5th 2021 How you can create and maintain your very own You Tube channel. Plus, How you can start your own POTA Activation by Rob, N1NUG</p>
 <p>DECEMBER 2021</p>	<p>The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant December 6th, 6:30 to 9:30pm A Night of Food and Fun! (subject to change due to Covid variant)</p>
 <p>JANUARY 2022</p>	<p>All About EMCOMM or Emergency Communications including Go-Boxes and several ways to power off grid operations by Charlie, KC1IKA</p>
 <p>FEBRUARY 2022</p>	<p>Ken Caruso, W01N ~ President of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be giving a special presentation about the YCCC and what its all about!</p>
 <p>MARCH 2022</p>	<p>All About The New England Forest Rally by Paul, W1SEX</p>
 <p>April 2022</p>	<p>Show and Tell is back... Enter your projects and win prizes! This has always been one of the very best and most interesting meetings</p>
 <p>MAY 2022</p>	<p>Everything you always wanted to know about Antenna Modeling Software and how it can benefit you! ~ by Greg, WA1JXR</p>
 <p>JUNE 2022</p>	<p>Elections, Field Day prep and more. Please consider running for a board position, HCRA is better with you involved!</p>

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE MEETINGS

STK ZOOM MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

The Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings are finished for this year and will return next January.

Larry, W1AST worked extremely hard putting this together for everyone's enjoyment!

If you have a suggestion for a topic or want to give a presentation contact Larry hamop.w1ast@gmail.com

Thank You Larry for Another Job Well Done!

**Thank You for attending the Share The Knowledge Zoom meetings
Be sure to watch for upcoming STK meeting announcements next Winter**

January 25th - 7pm	D-Star - What is it and how to use it	By Cory, KU1U	✗
February 8th - 7pm	Introduction to FT8 & FT4 Digital Modes	By Dom, N1DM	✗
February 22nd 7pm	Traffic Handling and the Radiogram	By Marcia, KW1U	✗
March 8th - 7pm	JS8call: What it is & what it does for you	By Aaron, KF1G	✗
March 22nd - 7pm	SOTA: How to activate	By Harold, N1FTP	✗
April 5th - 7pm	The W1 QSL Bureau - What it is and Does	By Eric, KV1J	✗
April 19th - 7pm	Using Propagation Prediction Software	By Dennis, W1UE	✗
April 26th - 7pm	Everything you need to know about NEQP	by Tom, K1KI	✗

Did you miss any of the Share The Knowledge presentations? Want to watch one again?

You can watch any of the past STK meetings by clicking or copying the link below!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNXXfxfYBbWxF5BxELHHE_ZQ



May 2022 - From the Presidents Shack

I first joined the HCRA when I was 14 or 15. I and my friends all had our licenses or were studying for them. One of our parent's would drop us off and a few hours later, another would pick us up. This went on for a few years until we could borrow our parent's car and drive at night. Gradually from high school through around 1998, I was a member on and off. Part of that time, having a new family, ham radio went to the side.

Then, around 1998 I started getting back into ham radio and rejoined the HCRA and have been active with the club ever since. I think I have been active on the board for most of those years too. Probably around 18 of the last 24 years.

I tend to be one of those people, when I am a member of a group or club, I want to do more. I want to help to make that organization better. I first joined the club board in the At Large position, then I was the ZeroBeat editor for 5-6 years, Program for several years, Vice President and now President. A position I never thought I wanted to have. I find I do like it.

Being on the board is fun. Contributing ideas for the club and generating interest is a constant and fun challenge. The members of the board are constantly working to make this a better club for you. We hold board meetings once a month to discuss all aspects of the club. Decisions that affect the club are not made by one person. Decisions are made by a vote of the board. These decisions cover everything from club purchases, to Field Day to the holiday Party and everything in between. Your HCRA board is hard at work for you.

If you have some ideas, you can contribute to the club without being on the board. We are always looking for additional assistance and new ideas. If you want to do something for your club, please contact Larry, W1AST at hamop.w1ast@gmail.com.

This June, you will be voting for a new Vice President. Bill Holden, W5JAZ has said he would be interested in joining the board in the VP position as Marcel, AA1WH, who has been the VP for the past few years, is stepping down. Marcel has done a fantastic job as VP. I hope you will take the time to thank Marcel for a job well done the next time you speak or see him.

Bill, W5JAZ, grew up in Enfield CT and resides there now. He was down in Texas for a while and earned his license down there. Bill is a fairly new ham, but his ham radio interest runs wide and he will be an excellent replacement for Marcel. The one board meeting he attended, Bill has already started contributing. He's an interesting guy who teaches and loves Jazz music. Take the time to introduce yourself to him at Field Day.

Speaking of Field Day... June 24 - 26th should be marked off on your calendar. We are returning to the School Street Park once again. We will have access to the restrooms like always as well as the band shell.

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FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

We will be camping out there all weekend and you can join us in your tent or RV or anything in between from Friday through Sunday.

Setup begins at noon on Friday. We need your help to assemble the towers and antennas, set up the operating tents, and everything in between. Are you available?

We will need operators for the radios. I'm hoping to set up a GOTA rig and antenna. GOTA is a Get On The Air rig for guests and new hams to get a taste of Field Day. We'll need ops for SSB and for CW. Which do you prefer?

The event runs from 2:00 pm Saturday through 2:00 pm Sunday. 24 hours straight through. If you are a night person, sign up for a block of time. For SSB, it's not unusual to have an op running the radio and a person beside them doing the logging.

Please consider volunteering for the following:

- ◆ Friday setup
- ◆ Friday sleepover
- ◆ Saturday setup
- ◆ Saturday sleepover
- ◆ Food - procuring and cooking Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast (bagels & muffins are fine) and Sunday lunch also
- ◆ Sunday tear down
- ◆ SSB operators
- ◆ CW operators
- ◆ GOTA station management
- ◆ Band Chair Person (20 ssb, 40 ssb, 40 cw)

We need three radios to use and two generators (Honda or similar very quiet ones). You can volunteer for one, a few or all. Your help is needed though. Please do volunteer to help the HCRA Field Day!

Before Field Day, every first weekend in May is the NEQP aka New England QSO Party. This is when everyone will be trying to work you (if you are in New England). You can learn more at: www.neqp.org or you can go to videos at HCRA.org and watch Tom, K1KI tell you all about the NEQP. Tom's presentation to the clubs Share The Knowledge meeting on April 26th discussed this topic in detail. If you missed it, go watch the video and I hope to hear you on the air for this fun New England operating event!

If you haven't heard yet, there is going to be a ham radio booth at the Big E this year. While we are still in the organization stage of it, we have some very cool, fun and interesting things planned for the 17 day run of the Big E booth!

One of those is a 17 day special event station. The call to be used is N1E. We hope to have 2 stations running at the Big E. One might be a remote Flex to a station in NH and the other will be local, right there at the booth. We also may have a hotspot running for D-star, DMR and Fusion. All for different ways to show some ham radio to the public. We have more plans too and as the event gets closer and more plans are locked in place, I'll let you know more.

Continued on page 6

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

One of the things you can do, is to volunteer for a shift at the booth. We must staff the booth from 10am through 10pm, 12 hours a day for 17 days. We will be looking for volunteers for 6 hour shifts. If you think you can help, please consider joining the group at: <https://groups.io/g/ProjectBigE> to stay up to date with everything going on. We will need your help, please volunteer!

The HF bands have been hopping. Have you been on lately? What are you waiting for? If you don't have an HF rig and antenna, say so and there are lots of us out here that will invite you in to our shacks to experience HF radio. It's a blast and something you want to experience!

May 6th Zoom Meeting Link ~ Pre-Meeting Chat at 7pm, Meeting Starts at 7:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84474923168?pwd=S2lHeFo3QWw1S0RZUFZYOFRNZ1MwZz09>

Best 73,

Larry, W1AST
W1AST@arrl.net

- ♦ ARRL WMA ACC
- ♦ HCRA President
- ♦ Visit my Ham Radio club website at: www.HCRA.org
- ♦ Team K2H - 13 Colonies Massachusetts State Manager
- ♦ Project Big E 2022 Organizer



Congratulations to Monique, KC1RDF

Monique has been a club member for some time now but she recently earned her Technician class license! On behalf of the HCRA Board of Directors

Congratulations Monique!

GOING THROUGH LOOPS

LITHUANIA, BULGARIA, AND MORE ON 8 WATTS CW!

Summer is approaching, and, maybe you – like me - have started thinking about operating QRP, especially outdoors. A few years ago, I got a Xiegu 108G that I have used as a battery-powered portable HF QRP rig with a 40M dipole that I would string up into a tree as an Inverted Vee antenna. It worked well, but the antenna was a nuisance to put up and take down. So, I have had it in mind to find an “easier to use” antenna.

A couple of weeks ago, I saw an ad on QRZ.Com for a used Alexloop antenna for about \$200. The typical price for a new Alexloop is now about \$600, and that is up from \$430 a couple of years ago, but used versions sell for anywhere from \$250-350, or higher, depending on the antenna’s age and type.) Seeing that ad got me thinking that maybe I should look into using a loop antenna as it was portable and easy to set up. So, I checked the reviews for the Alexloop on Eham.net and was amazed to see that there were over 80 reviews, with an average rating of 4.9/5. Frankly, I have not seen too many products with such a high rating, so I put in a bid for the loop antenna, but someone had already placed an offer. Fortunately, that offer fell through, and I got the antenna.

The Alexloop, manufactured in Brazil, is made really well and is easy to set-up. The version I have is one that was sold four or five years ago, so it is basic, covering 7.0 MHz -30 MHz. The antenna comes in a carrying bag and has three main parts. It has two loops – one made of heavy gauge wire at the top which is about 6” in diameter and that is surrounded by a loop of coax (with gold-plated PL-259 connectors) that is approximately 3’ in diameter. There are three ¾” black PVC tubes that support the antenna, I added a 4th section of ¾” PVC pipe to raise the antenna higher in its tripod (Note: The Alexloop is sold without a tripod). The antenna is tuned using a tuner mounted at the base of the coax loop, and it has a knob at the bottom that is rotated. After connecting the antenna to the radio, you simply rotate the tuning knob until you hear the loudest volume of noise to get the lowest SWR and best tuning, with this version of the antenna, it is best to then use an SWR meter. But actually, I had found that I could get pretty close to having the antenna tuned simply doing it “by ear.”

Current versions of the Alexloop have an added feature to make tuning easier. After the user has tuned to find the greatest level of background noise, there is now an L.E.D. indicator on newer Alexloop models that will shine most brightly when the tuning knob is set to the best place (this must be done while transmitting a carrier – i.e., pressing the key). For an older model of the antenna, the L.E.D. tuning feature is available as an “Add-on” feature called an “Alextune.” The Alextune is about the size of a small box of matches and clips onto one of the PL-259 connectors and has an LED that lights brightest when the antenna is optimally tuned.



The Alexloop Covers 40 thru 10 Meters

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GOING THROUGH LOOPS

Cont'd

LITHUANIA, BULGARIA, AND MORE DX USING 8 WATTS ON CW!

Well, when I got the antenna, it was too cold, rainy, and snowy, to set it up outdoors. So, I wondered how it would work indoors in my shack, which is in an area of the basement of our house, our house is situated on a hill, so the basement walls to the east and south are typical cement foundation walls, but the walls to the north and west are “stick construction.” The maximum transmitter output rating for the Alexloop is 10 watts CW or 20 watts SSB. So, I connected it to my ICOM 7300 and set the output for 8 watts CW. The advantage in using the 7300 is that its Band Scope allowed me to have a visual picture of when I had the antenna tuned best to the frequency I selected. I tried the antenna using CW on 15M, 17M, 20M, 30M and 40M.

So, given I was operating QRP, and that a QRP operator must have realistic expectations about the number and types of contacts possible, this antenna knocked me out. I made DX CW contacts on every band I tried, except for 40M. Among the countries I got, all were to the East (remember that cement wall in my basement?) and included Lithuania, Bulgaria, Italy, France, Sweden, the U.K., and other contacts were local like Glastonbury (Connecticut) or stateside, like Illinois and Florida. All the while, as I said, I was sitting in my shack. Now, sometimes, I “just squeaked by” with the DX contacts, but I was still getting through with this antenna. So, if you have not tried a loop antenna, I would recommend it – you might just find it adds a whole new dimension of fun operating QRP.

Here is link to the Alexloop Company website which includes information about the design of the antenna. If you look under the “Clippings” heading, there is an excellent review that was published in QST (August,2020) by testing engineer, Bob Allison, as well as information about the Alextune:

<http://www.alexloop.com/?msclkid=1f7ba659b9bc11ec9ff4f64166e382c8>

By Bill Cook ~ W1FMX



Alexloop on stand with Alextune clipped to PL-259

Volunteers Needed for Field Day, Work & Win Prizes!

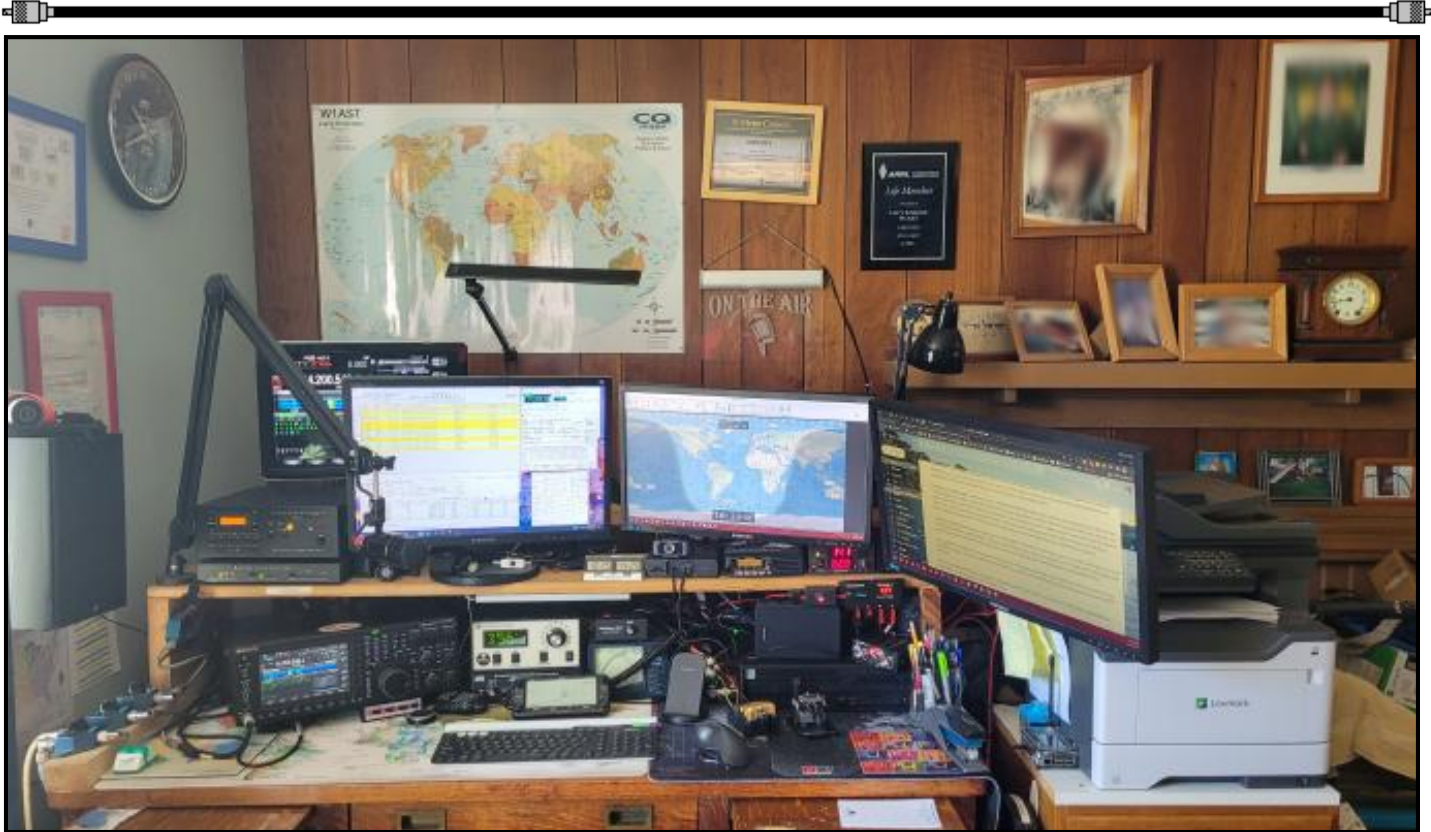
By now everybody knows, or should know that your club needs you to volunteer for Field Day and more! To help encourage members to sign-up as a volunteer your Board of Directors has decided to have prizes for any members who volunteer and work a minimum of three hours in a row.

Beginning on Friday, June 24th at 2pm with set-up through June 26th at 2pm when tear down commences. FD itself runs from Saturday at 2pm ending at 2pm on Sunday. There is something to do for everybody from operators, food prep and cooking, GOTA station, setup and tear down and more!

Beat the rush and volunteer today by contacting Larry, W1AST at hamop.w1ast@gmail.com

SHOW YOUR SHACK!

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED SHACK IS THAT OF LARRY, W1AST



From the bottom left hanging on the wall is the external speaker. I use a bookshelf stereo speaker as it sounds great with my Kenwood. Just below that are 3 switches for my antennas. The closest is my JK Antennas Navassa-5 yagi and a dummy load with ground in the middle. When not in use, all 3 are set to ground. The 2nd is the 30m & 40m end feds, the 3rd is the OCF 80m and 160m wire antenna. Above the last switch is one that selects the antenna or the Noise canceller. When not using the 80/160 antenna for those bands, it acts as a receiving antenna for the MFJ noise canceller. The noise canceller I use for 6-40m.

To the right is my Kenwood TS-890s and under is the hand switch for the Heil mic and a DX Engineering DXE-SWP8 8 button memory access, Green Heron Engineering rotor controller and below that is the MFJ Deluxe Noise Cancelling signal enhancer. In front is the Icom ID-5100, which I'm currently learning and programming and will eventually go into my truck. To the right is a Daiwa CN-901 SWR and power meter with a Winkeyer USB above it. To the right, behind the phone charger/stand is another switch to go between the Kenwood and my IC-705 (not shown) or any other rig on the desk at that time.

Further to the right on the bottom is my new office computer (Lenovo P340 - 10th gen i7 8 cores at 2.9 Ghz, 16 gigs ram, 2 TB nv.me super fast SSD, Win 11 Pro) with an audio amp and small desktop speaker on top. Above is a power pole power switch (made by KC1IKA - thank you Charlie) and a Hamsource EZ-Strip-4 with usb charger to the right.

In front of the computer is a Begali Stradivarius CW paddle and a N3ZN ZN-MM CW paddle. A Logitech Keyboard and Trackball that can switch between the two computers in front. On the shelf from left to right. Elecraft KPA500 solid state amp with Elecraft KAT500 auto tuner below, Heil PR-781 microphone. Behind the left monitor is my ham computer (Lenovo Tiny quad core AMD Ryzen 5 Pro 3.2 Ghz, 8 gigs, 256 gig SSD, W10 Pro) and the monitor for the ham programs. The two monitors on the right most are for the office computer.

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SHOW YOUR SHACK! Cont'd

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED SHACK IS THAT OF LARRY, W1AST



There is a webcam with the body of the ID-5100 below it, on the right is a Kenwood TM-281 2m rig and 2 Powerwerx power supplies. The first is for the Kenwood and auto tuner, the right for the 2m and misc other stuff that requires power. The right also goes through a Hamsource device that charges a 24 ah battery below the desk and will automatically switch to battery power if the power goes out.

In the back, is another monitor that just shows the display of the Kenwood TS-890s. It will eventually be relocated or removed if I can't figure out where to put it. Behind the 3 monitors sits another shelf with 2 Dymo label printers, misc usb hubs, network switch, raspberry pi and some other stuff. All out of sight but accessible. Plus the Lexmark MB2442adwe all in one mono printer & Zumspot hotspot to the right and out of sight is a Brother color laser printer.

Not seen in the photos is my truck in which I have a Kenwood TS-480SAT and Yaesu ATAS-120 HF antenna with a MFJ gizmo that lets me tune the antenna. There is also a VHF/UHF antenna and a 20 year old Yaesu FT-8800 that is failing and needs to be replaced by the ID-5100 on my desk. I also have an IC-705 and portable antennas that will go camping with me and occasionally sits on the desk too.

Also not seen is a Uniden Home Patrol II scanner and a small, portable shortwave receiver that will go back on the desk once I figure out where to put them. (probably in place of the ID-5100). I love chasing DX on CW, SSB and Digital. I can also be found rag chewing on CW or SSB at any given time plus learning about D-Star as I now have 2 rigs that support it.

All in all the station works quite well. There's not much I want or need. But I do hope to put up a 2/440 small beam for SSB/FM work and another 40/30 90 degrees off from what I have up now. I have so many interests in ham radio and so little time these days. I will get to it all some day. It has taken me 45 years to get to this point, I do plan to continue to have fun.

73, Larry ~ W1AST

See your shack in Zero Beat! Send a few pics in with a brief description to kd1ku@arrl.net

ARES NET UPDATE

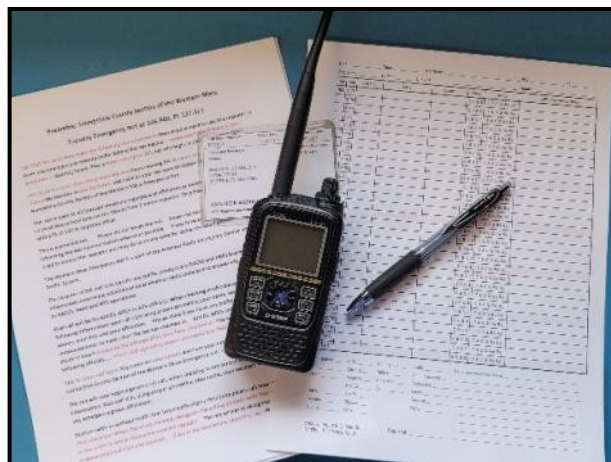
WMA ARES UPDATE BY SMITTY, KC1IKA ~ ASEC NET MANAGER

Greetings everyone!

The Western MA ARES WinLink, FLDigi, and JS8Call training will be starting up shortly. If you signed up for the training you should have received an email requesting information on your license class. It won't be long now as the trainers are finalizing their course info.

We are also still looking for three stations to sign up for NCS positions for the ARES nets. We will provide free training and you will only work one shift a month. We have one Tuesday evening half hour shift and two Sunday morning one hour shifts available. This will give you great practice listening to call signs and will help if you enjoy contesting.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for training, please contact Smitty, KC1IKA at KC1IKA@ARRL.net. Smitty is the Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator and Net Manager for Western Mass ARES.



73,
Smitty, KC1IKA
ASEC, net manager, WMA ARES

WANTED! HCRA Needs Volunteers for Field Day, The Big-E Project and more!



Beginning in June with Field Day and right through the duration of the Big-E in the fall, your HCRA has lots of exciting things planned that will put your club on the map like nobody before!

Starting with Field Day, volunteers are needed for set-up on Friday, June 24th at the School Street Park in Agawam and with breakdown at the end of the weekend after the end of the event at 2pm. Other help is needed during the weekend including food prep, cooking, operators and many other tasks!

Not that our club members need any motivation to volunteer, there will be a raffle for a wonderful prize. To be eligible for this raffle, you must work at least three consecutive hours during the weekend. There is plenty to be done and watching doesn't count as working. If you are not sure where you're needed, just ask someone.

The Big-E project will also need plenty of volunteers as well. From building the booth, setting everything up before the Fair opens to working the booth operating, talking with Fair-goers and don't forget there will be a special event station running the entire fair! HCRA is the "Home" club for this event as other clubs from New England will also help. If you would like to start this off by volunteering contact Larry at hamop.w1ast@arrl.net or join: <https://groups.io/g/ProjectBigE> it's FREE!



HAM BOOTCAMP

NASHUA AREA RADIO SOCIETY ONLINE HAM BOOTCAMP

The Nashua Area Radio Society (NARS) will be holding an online Ham Bootcamp on Saturday, May 14, 2022. The program will be held via Zoom video conferencing, and is available to new hams across the country. The NARS Ham Bootcamp was created to help new, inactive, or prospective hams learn the skills needed to build their first station and get on the air. Experienced hams who are looking to enhance their club's mentoring programs are also welcome to attend.

Spring 2022 Ham Bootcamp will be held on Saturday, May 14, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM Eastern Time. The morning session will focus on Technician-level activities, and the afternoon session will focus on HF activities for General-class or higher licensees. New this year, will be a breakout session where attendees will have a choice between three different sessions.



Here is the agenda:

Repeaters and VHF/UHF Session Activities

- Putting Together a Station for Repeaters
- How to pick an HT or Mobile Radio and an Antenna
- Making Contacts and Joining a Repeater Net
- Radio Programming Tutorial
- Getting Started with Amateur Radio Satellites
- Getting Started with FoxHunting

HF Session Activities

- Putting Together an HF Station for SSB, CW & Digital
- Picking, Putting up HF Antennas, Feedlines & Grounds
- Operating on the HF Bands Using SSB Voice
- Getting Started with WSJT-X and FT8 Digital

Breakout Session

- Learning CW
- Finding DX, Logging Contacts, and QSL'ing - Getting them Logged/Confirmed
- Portable Operating

Registration is now open for the May 14th session. You can get more information about Ham Bootcamp at <https://www.n1fd.org/ham-bootcamp/>

Contact Anita Kemmerer, AB1QB, at bootcamp@n1fd.org with any Ham Bootcamp questions

The April meeting is now on the HCRA You Tube Channel ~ Don't forget to click subscribe!

Did you miss last months club meeting? Maybe you want to re-watch all or part of any past meeting? Use the following link to the last regular meeting or search You Tube for HCRA past meetings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qgh0Kds-nJo>

THE FOXES DEN

FOX HUNTING DONE THE HCRA WAY!

Springtime is here, the sun is getting warmer with each day that passes. This is the perfect time to get out and do some Fox Hunting!

Whether you're a seasoned hunter, casual or first time hunter it's far easier and less costly than other aspects of our wonderful hobby. Radio direction finding (RDF) is better known as fox hunting to most of us. You can be very successful with minimal gear that can be easily built by anyone.

HCRA has two fox boxes that are hidden somewhere in the Connecticut River Valley. They are both on the same frequency, 147.550 but with different PL tones. Fox Box 1 uses a tone of 100.0 and Fox Box 2 uses 151.3 and the sequence to activate either Fox Box is as follows:

Key your mic, ID with your callsign, while keyed press the number 1 on the DTMF keypad for a second or two. If you are within range of the fox it will respond with a short medley (both are different) ID in CW for a total of three times then go back to sleep.

If you're a first time fox hunter all you need is some basic gear that is necessary to go after the HCRA's two fox boxes or even a "live" fox. Some sort of a directional beam such as a yagi or similar antenna. I have always used a 3 element homebrew yagi I built back in the mid 1990's and it's still functional today.

If you're like most hams who are frugal, a tape measure yagi can be built for pennies on the dollar yet they are very effective. The photo below shows one such beam and depending on your mount it can be used either horizontally or vertically polarized. I prefer vertically polarized while others might have their own preference. Besides a directional antenna you will need something to minimize a strong signal.



The next thing needed is an attenuator (see photo below). These are available commercially or you can build one as I did. Just remember NEVER transmit through an attenuator, they are for receive only!



As you can tell it doesn't take a lot of expensive gear to go fox hunting especially if you build some or all of your hunting gear. There are many tape measure yagi plans online, one that I found is listed below.

<https://www.instructables.com/The-Tape-Measure-Antenna/>

Do yourself a favor and join <https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters> it's free and upcoming HCRA fox hunts are listed in there along with the Facebook group and Reflector email list. Plans for building an attenuator can be found at the following link <https://wcar.ca/pg/bafh/>. Do some searching and see what you'd like to build!

73, Ken ~ KD1KU

New England QSO Party ~ May 7-8, 2022

20 HOURS, 67 COUNTIES, THE CHASE IS ON!

The New England QSO Party on May 7th and 8th 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 testers, 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 friends to join in the fun! Even if you can join 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

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 with 25 or more QSOs 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!

Last year we had logs from 947 stations from around the country and world.

The full rules are here -> <https://neqp.org/rules/>

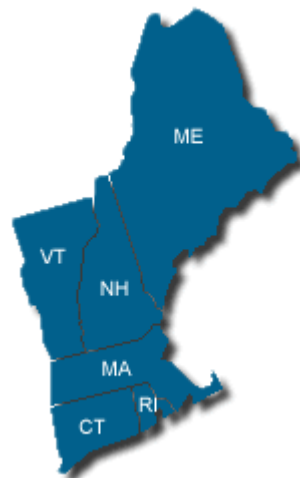
The full 2021 results were posted last month - <https://neqp.org/2021-new-england-qso-party/>

It's just three weeks until the 2022 NEQP.

Please get on and make some QSOs even if you don't want to send in a log!

Thanks!

73 Tom/K1KI



Object: To contact as many New England stations (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont) in as many New England counties as possible on 80-40-20-15-10m. (New England stations work anyone)

Contest Period: 2000Z Saturday until 0500Z Sunday (4pm EDT Saturday until 1am EDT Sunday) and 1300Z Sunday until 2400Z Sunday (9am EDT Sunday until 8pm EDT Sunday)

Categories: Single-operator high power, low power(150w or less) and QRP(5w or less) categories, plus multi-operator, single transmitter. Same four categories for mobiles in New England. Use of spotting assistance is permitted in all categories.

Contest Exchange: Send signal report and state/province (DX stations send signal report and "DX"). New England stations send signal report, county and state

QSO Points: Count one point per phone QSO, two points per CW (includes digital modes) QSO

Multiplier: Stations outside of New England use counties as multipliers for a total of 67 (CT/8 MA/14 ME/16 NH/10 RI/5 VT/14). New England stations use states(50)(Count DC as MD), Canadian provinces(14) and DXCC countries as multipliers

Contest Rules: For all of the NEQP rules and more visit: <https://neqp.org/rules/>

13 Colonies Special Event

Be a Part of this Special Event Station July 1st ~ 7th

Each year from July 1 through July 7 the 13 Colonies special event stations are on the air. The goal is to work all 13 of the colony stations plus the extra bonus stations. This is a fun event that hams of Massachusetts are part of.

The call for Massachusetts is K2H. Team K2H is looking for a few additional operators to activate K2H during the 7 days of the 13 Colonies special event station.

If you have ever wanted to be on the receiving end of a DX pileup, this is a fun way to do something very similar.

Last Year the Team K2H ops worked 15,265 stations. We are aiming to beat that this year due to much better band conditions.

Would you like to be a part of Team K2H?

Last year eight of the 20 team members were HCRA members too.

We're looking for hams that can commit to operating at least 5 of the 7 days and work at least 500 contacts, which is very easy to do. You can operate SSB, CW, Digital or Satellite.



This is the K2H 13 Colonies 2021 QSL Card (front)



13 Colonies 2021 Clean Sweep Certificate

All logging must be on a computer program that can export in ADIF file format.

If you would like to join the team or learn more, please contact:

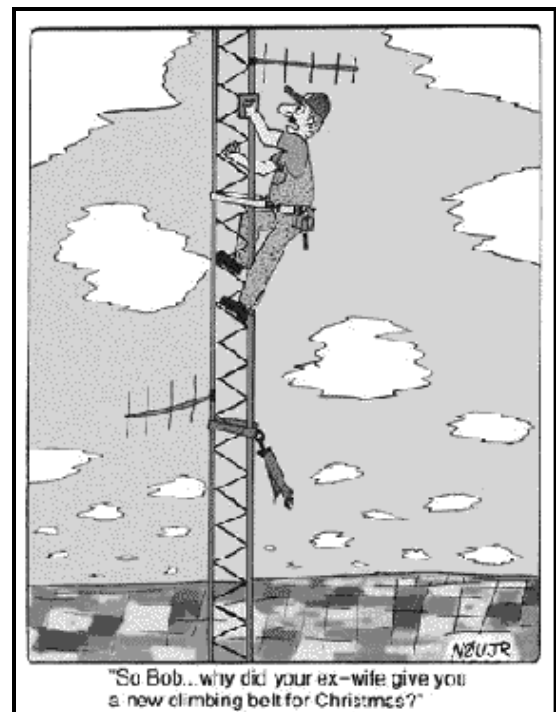
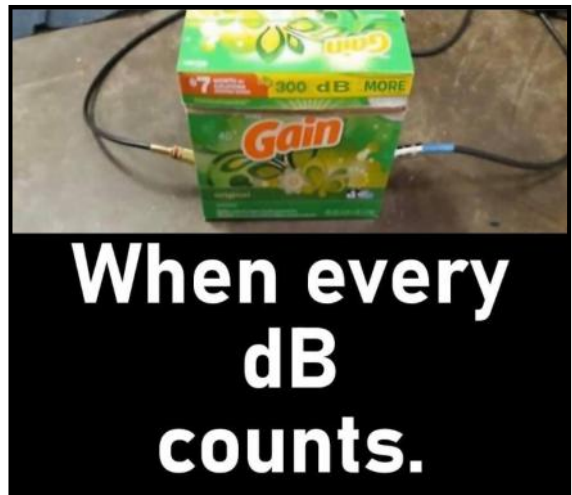
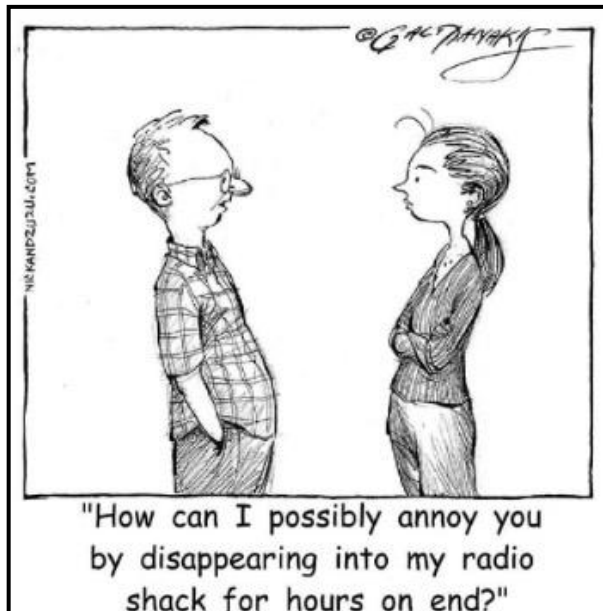
Larry, W1AST at: w1ast@arrl.net

The last day to sign up to be an operator is **Thursday, June 9th.**

Even if you're not an operator you can still take part in making as many contacts as possible during the seven day event!

Contact all 13 stations and get a Clean Sweep plus the extra bonus stations.

Either way, take part in this exciting SES!



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.

Gonna be a bit hit or miss this month, some of this info may be repeated in other parts of ZB - a scattered approach to ARRL ;-)

Whats New in The ARRL!

Membership - Did you know that there are approximately 750,000 licensed hams in the US? And that about 160,000 of them belong to the ARRL. That is a 21% membership rate. The NRA has an approximate 6.5% membership rate for gun owners. This is not a statement on the guns vs radios, but more a recognition of how important we feel that ARRL membership is. Be involved, join ARRL.

Publications - QST is the most commonly subscribed publication for ARRL members. But the NCJ (National Contest Journal) is celebrating it's 50th year of publication. Dedicated to all things contesting, it comes out bimonthly. Like all the publications, it is available electronically to all ARRL Members.

FCC - The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) reports that the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) electronic batch filing (EBF) system has been down since midday Tuesday, April 19, 2022, which is the day the FCC application fees became effective for amateur radio. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said the FCC did not estimate how long the system would be down. Some applications were processed through the system before the FCC notice was released to the VECs.

Applicants should expect delays with license and application processing.

ARRL VEC will provide an update when the FCC communicates that the filing system is back online.

Events - NEARFest is April 29, 30. This is the 31st NEARFest, it is in Deerfield NH. If you can't make it, all forums will be available via Zoom. Go to <https://near-fest.com/> on Friday at 10AM to get the link.

HamXposition is in August, and tickets are available at <https://hamxposition.org/>

Contests - NEQSO Party is May 7, 8. This is a chance to be the hunted contact and have the pileup go to you. If you are still working on your WAS, here is the chance to get the hard to get ones—AK, HI, ND...plus some dx. Contest page is <https://neqp.org/>.

Also - don't forget Field Day, it's always the biggie, and of course - this year The Big E. Larry, W1AST should be coming out with info on the Big E activities soon. I will gladly work for cream-puffs... just sayin ;-)

73, John, N1JIE

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

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



HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



Volunteer & Win Prize's

Field Day is June 24 - 26th, as Covid continues to ease it will allow us a normal Field Day. Your board of directors have begun planning activities for this years FD. There will be a raffle held for all volunteers who work a minimum of 3 consecutive hours during setup, food prep & cooking, operating or teardown plus anywhere help is needed.

The Big E Booth in the Better Living Center needs help with setup, booth workers, running the special event station, teardown & much more! HCRA is the "Home Club" as other clubs will be helping during the 17 day event.

Please volunteer for these events! HCRA is at its best when members like YOU take an active part in all club activities.

Contact Larry, W1AST at hamop.w1ast@arrrl.net

Monday Evening 10 Meter Net

Monday evenings HCRA hosts a 10 meter net at 7pm on 28.375 usb. This is a fun net where everyone is invited to participate regardless of club affiliation. Besides having a topic or open mic we have begun to have a trivia question which has turned out to be a fun experience! 28.375 is in the Tech portion of the band plan so hams new to the hobby can take part in the fun too. I hope you will join us each Monday evening at 7pm and if possible, please tell a friend! Questions? Contact kd1ku@arrrl.net

Brown Baggers are Back!

For the benefit of our newer 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!

Memorial Page

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

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

For Sale Items

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

Send item description and photo(s) to:
kd1ku@arrrl.net

HCRA Social Media Links

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

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

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

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

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

This is the HCRA Clublog for 2022 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy so far this year!

HCRA Clublog Information Updated on April 30th 2022



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 checked="" 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 type="radio"/> No Date Filter	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2022	<input type="radio"/> 2021	<input type="radio"/> 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	33	63	0	134	15	147	27	156	14	107	1	214	697	50 yrs
2	NF1G	0	10	0	24	41	76	50	111	97	78	2	185	489	38 yrs
3	KK1W+1	38	52	0	68	8	99	10	103	11	45	0	159	434	46 yrs
4	KX1X	16	57	18	87	74	102	60	114	55	70	0	147	653	25 yrs
5	NE1C	4	59	0	82	0	95	0	101	0	53	0	126	394	20 yrs
6	W1AST+1	2	8	0	39	15	56	25	61	58	34	1	113	299	13 yrs
7	K1VOI	1	24	0	32	24	61	6	53	10	31	0	93	242	21 yrs
8	W1NU+2	0	4	4	10	19	40	24	26	19	49	1	93	196	7 yrs
9	N1TA+3	1	25	0	19	8	26	8	24	2	29	0	77	142	21 yrs
10	N1JIE	1	3	5	12	15	21	28	26	15	12	1	63	139	5 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	K1NZ+1	10	0	10	0	45	1	0	23	24	2	0	57	115	11 yrs
12	W1PY+1	0	0	0	1	0	26	0	14	0	1	0	42	42	12 yrs
13	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	2	0	27	0	16	0	6	0	39	51	10 yrs
14	WD1S	2	2	0	19	0	16	0	9	0	1	0	31	49	10 yrs
15	W1JA+1	1	5	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	5	2	14	19	53 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 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=qi2IKcQRNbE&t=1s>

DOTS & DASHES

THINGS THAT DON'T FIT ANYPLACE ELSE!

The Big E Project Update

By now I'm sure most of you have heard about the Big E Project. Larry, W1AST is working closely with [New England Sci-Tech](#), Bob, K5TEC, and our New England Division Director Fred, AB1OC to make this happen! There is still plenty to do and please do your part by volunteering to help with the booth.

The 2022 Big E Booth's application for a ARISS contact has been APPROVED!

Become a Volunteer Examiner

Are you interested in becoming an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE) and serving the Amateur Radio community, it's easy! Review the [VE Manual](#), paying special attention to Chapter 2, Becoming a VE and the [Supplemental Information](#). Complete and sign the VE Application form and the open-book review. Fax, mail or email forms to the following address: ARRL VEC, 225 Main St. Newington, CT. 06111 | Fax: 860-594-0339 | Email: vec@arrl.org. Once accredited, you will receive in the mail a colorful laminated VE badge to wear at exam sessions. For more information visit: <http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve>

Contests and Special Event Stations

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

Canadian Prairies QSO Party | May 14th @ 1700z - 15th @ 0300z | 40, 20, 15, 10m

For additional details and rules visit: <https://cpqp.ve6hams.ca/>

WELCOME TO THE CANADIAN PRAIRIES QSO PARTY!

The New England QSO Party | May 7th 2000z ~ 0500z | May 8th 1300z ~ 2400z

For additional details visit: <https://neqp.org/> or email: info@neqp.org

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

May 15th - May 21st | 0000z - 2359z | National Police Week - Honor Our Fallen Hero's

For additional details visit <http://www.qrz.com/db/k3fbi>

Search for more Special Event Stations at: <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

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

See hcra.org for complete information

or

Contact Paul, NFIG at NFIG@arrl.net



Ham Radio General Upgrade Class!



The Western Mass. Train & Test Group would like to invite you to a FREE on-line course so you too can upgrade to the General Class Ham Radio License.

Free On-Line classes will start Tuesday May 3rd on Zoom
Classes will be Tuesday and Thursday Evenings starting at 7 PM

If Interested contact Ray Lajoie via e-mail -- ray.aa1se@gmail.com.

Talk to the World with your Upgrade to General
Class HF Operating Privileges
Ask Us How??

For more info, questions or sign-up contact Ray Lajoie, AA1SE at: ray.aa1se@gmail.com

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:

RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

Mondays: 1900 7pm (Local) **HCRA 10 Meter Net 28.375 usb**

New topic each week. Have an idea for a topic? kd1ku@arrrl.net

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

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

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

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

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

Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



<http://www.arrrl.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 meetings are held via Zoom. Meetings start with a rag chew session at 7pm followed by the regular Zoom meeting at 7:30pm. <http://www.hcra.org/>

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

Saturday before the FCARC meeting at 8am. Breakfast at Dennys Pantry in Greenfield (as Covid allows)

Event: FCARC Pioneer Valley Experimental Net

Location: 10 Meters 28.354 MHz

When: Every Wednesday morning, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Organizer: Brad Councilman bc@councilman.com

Please Note: As things are beginning to open up after Covid you should contact any meeting or VE session you are planning to attend to be sure they are back on schedule.

HCRA Contact List

President - Larry Krainson, W1AST
w1ast@arrrl.net

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

Treasurer - Duane Pray, KC1FQV
kc1fqv@arrrl.net

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
nf1g@arrrl.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@arrrl.net

Website - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org

W1NY trustee, John, N1JIE
n1jie@arrrl.net

WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL



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

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