



# ZERO BEAT

## Special 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. Get your meeting link in this issues "From the Presidents Shack".

## Welcome New Members!

Stephan Monska NG1NR

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## *Our 73rd Year as a Club!*

November 2021

From the editor,

Here we are well into Fall and Thanksgiving is almost here. We just had the first LIVE fox hunt in many years and I for one hope there will be many more coming.

If you haven't already done so, please send in your reservation for the Holiday Party as the deadline is November 22nd. See page 5 for all the details!

Once again Bill, W1FMX has a fantastic two part article in this month and the Dec. issue too. There is far to much to mention here but there is an awful lot of really cool stuff going on now or in the near future so don't miss it!

If you haven't paid your annual dues yet then do so before it expires. I already sent mine in and if your not sure if you paid yours click the link below and look for your name and callsign. If it's not there then you need to pay your dues ASAP!

Do you have an idea or submission for Zero Beat? Drop me an email at [kd1ku@arrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrl.net). I hope everyone has an enjoyable Thanksgiving and I hope to see everyone at the November meeting. 73, Ken - KD1KU

## Membership Dues Have Expired On August 31st!

Your membership dues are only \$15 which gives you an awful lot for your money! Dues help to pay for many things like Zoom subscription, Holiday Parties, FoxBoxes, Field Day supplies and food!

It's not easy and I know nobody likes online meetings but without Zoom we wouldn't even have those meetings we have been having. Click [HERE](#) and if your name isn't listed you need to pay your dues!

## November Meeting

**Friday, November 5th at 7:30pm - Rag Chew Time Begins at 7pm!**

**Guest Speaker, Rob, N1NUG Talks About YouTube and POTA!**

The upcoming meeting will feature guest speaker Rob, N1NUG, who will be speaking about YouTube and POTA. These are two of the hottest topics in ham radio today! POTA activation's can be a blast whether you're the activator or the hunter! This is sure to be an excellent meeting!

**Get your Zoom meeting link in Presidents shack, don't miss this meeting!**



# 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><b>November 5th 2021</b> 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 (subject to change due to Covid variant)</p>
 <p>JANUARY 2022</p>	<p>All About EMCOMM or Emergency Communications including some Go Boxes and ways to power off grid operations by Charlie, KC1IKA</p>
 <p>FEBRUARY 2022</p>	<p>Building your very own Contest Station - Presented by DX Engineering</p>
 <p>MARCH 2022</p>	<p>It's almost balloon time once again and here to give us all of the latest updates for the next launch is Marcel, AA1WH</p>
 <p>April 2022</p>	<p>Show and Tell is back... This has always been one of the very best and most interesting out of all the meetings!</p>
 <p>MAY 2022</p>	<p>Guest Speaker To Be Announced</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>



## November 2021 - From the Presidents Shack

I have talked to several my friends in eastern MA and around New England about what their clubs are doing for meetings. They all, just like us are still using Zoom for their meetings. But they are also doing gatherings, meals, parties, picnics and more for everyone in person for those that have been vaccinated.

That is exactly what we in the HCRA are doing too. We still do not have access to the room at the Holyoke Hospital. We are hopeful that sometime in 2022 that will change and we can finally meet in person again each month. But for now, join us for the monthly meeting on Zoom from the comfort of your own home.

This month we have N1NUG, Rob Zielfelder speaking to us on two topics. The first is how to Create Your Own YouTube Channel and the second is How to do a Parks On The Air (POTA) activation. Both should be extremely interesting and fun. I do hope you will join us.

### Here is the November Meeting Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88318335333?pwd=a1pmOUQ4dFVnVDY3TjIMbVNvOU1FUT09>

Are you ready for an HCRA Holiday Party in person? Reserve Monday, December 6th from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at the Steaming Tender restaurant in Palmer. For \$25 per person, you will have your choice of a great meal, be able to sit with friends or make new ones, be entered into a raffle, and have a fun and social evening.

The HCRA has held several holiday parties at the Steaming Tender and they were always fun and enjoyable. We are returning there for that again. The restaurant is a very interesting old building with real trains still going by outside. We will have the restaurant to ourselves. A fun time will be had by all.

The deadline to get your payment in with your meal choice (see elsewhere in this ZeroBeat) is Monday, November 22nd. Please, Covid vaccinated people only. This is a chance to bring your spouse/significant other/date too. Also, young hams are welcome as are well behaved children too. Don't wait and miss the opportunity to join in on all the fun! November 22nd will be coming up very quickly! That is the Monday BEFORE Thanksgiving. Whatever you do, don't miss out on all of the action!

Both fox boxes have been back in hiding for the past month. There have been new hunters out there which is great. But, how do we get everyone else out hunting too? By the time you read this, the Halloween foxhunt will have been held. This will have been a live foxhunt with one of the fox boxes somewhere near the fox's den. More details will be in the December issue of ZeroBeat.

Continued on page 4

# FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

Fall is the time when the big HF contests start. The ARRL and CQ contests are loads of fun and always a chance to get that needed state or countries that you might be collecting. Or maybe just want to get on and work a bunch of people. Watch the website [contestcalendar.com](http://contestcalendar.com) or sign up for the weekly newsletter to find out what is happening each week.

I make sure to put the contests I am interested in operating in my calendar along with basic info or a link to the rules for that contest. It is much easier to remember what is when that way.

For many years I stayed away from contesting. Then, as I started chasing DX and other awards, I started doing one here and there. Now I try to participate in half a dozen or so each year. All are different and all very enjoyable. If you have never participated in one, ask a friend or someone who has done it before and if possible, you can visit their shack and join in the fun. This is how we all learned.

Opening your shack to new hams or to hams that are looking for help is the way to give back to our wonderful hobby. It used to be called Elmering. The modern word is Mentoring and gradually the word is becoming popular.

If you would like to honor someone who has mentored or elmered you, go here: <http://www.arrl.org/elmer-award> and the ARRL will send them an Elmer award certificate, it's a little thing that will go a very long way.

Not only new hams need guidance and assistance, but also those that have been hams for a while. Being able to help is a good thing to do. The HCRA offers anyone the ability to ask a question without worrying that others will judge you. Just visit here: <http://www.hcra.org/ham-radio-help-for-members/> and ask. The HCRA will pair you with the proper person to assist you.

I love helping hams. Often, I get asked what they can do for me and I tell them to pay it forward. Help someone else in the future. There are times when I need help too and I know who to ask. All you need to do is to ask. That help is always there for anyone.

I hope to work you on the air in the coming months during the 10m net every Monday at 7:00 pm on 28.375 and during some upcoming contests.

I also hope to see you at the HCRA Holiday Party on December 6th.

Both myself and the entire Board of Directors would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!  
Best 73,

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







# HOLIDAY PARTY

## The HCRA Holiday Party at the Steaming Tender Restaurant

Monday evening December 6th - Don't get left out, Reserve yours today!

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Location: The Steaming Tender Restaurant ~ 28 Depot St Palmer, MA 01069

Cost: \$25 per person

(Spouses/Significant others & Friends are welcome as are well behaved children over 14 or young hams)

Deadline: Tickets **MUST** be purchased **NO later** than \*\*\* **Monday, November 22nd** \*\*\*

Payment: Check's should be made out to: HCRA and mailed to our P.O.Box (see below)

Your payment is your RSVP

*Door Prizes will be Available!*

### MENU CHOICES

**Don't forget to include your meal choice with your payment**

*Yankee Pot Roast Dinner: Braised pot roast topped with rich pan sauce served with mashed potatoes, and vegetable of the moment*

*New England Turkey Dinner: Roasted turkey, cranberry herb stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetable of the moment & cranberry sauce topped with rich turkey gravy*

*Baked Haddock: Baked haddock cooked in white wine topped with buttered bread crumbs and a side of mashed potatoes and home made tartar sauce*

*Lemon Berry Chicken Salad: Romaine lettuce, strawberries, blueberries, crumbled goat cheese & pistachios served with lemon dressing topped with grilled chicken*

All entrees come with their fabulous bread pudding for dessert and water to

**Make checks payable to  
HCRA and mail reservation's to:**

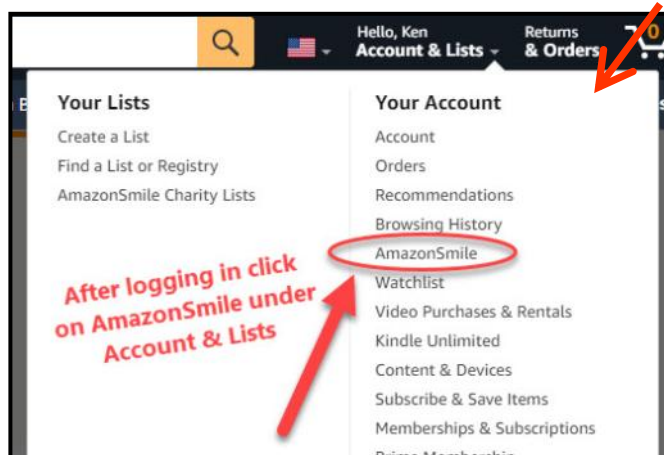
**Hampden County Radio Association  
P.O. Box 562  
Agawam, MA 01030-0562**



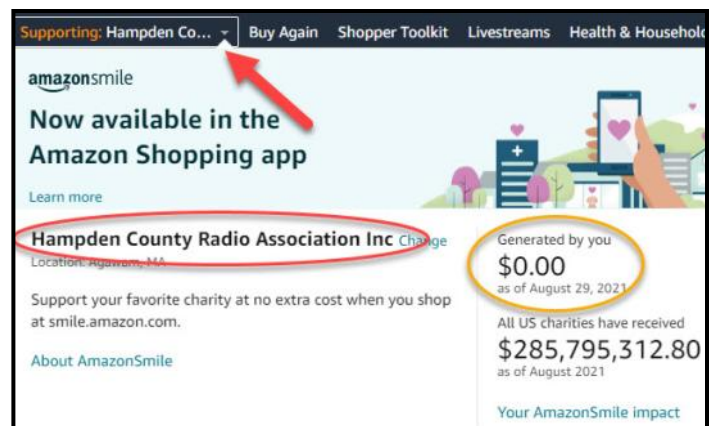
**What is AmazonSmile?** AmazonSmile is an easy way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you! AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, plus the benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of all your eligible purchases to HCRA.

Start by Logging into your account, if you don't have an account follow the directions to create an account.

Once you are logged in look for the drop down menu under Accounts & Lists then select AmazonSmile.



After clicking AmazonSmile you need to select your charity. Type **Hampden County Radio Association** in the search box, just like above!



**Items eligible for AmazonSmile donations will be marked as shown below (circled in Red)**





Once you have Hampden County Radio Association is saved as your charity it will look like the image shown above. The Red circle shows the charity of your choice while the Yellow circle shows the total contributions made from your purchases.

It's hard to believe but it's time to begin your holiday shopping! If you're like most people online shopping is part of everyday life. Especially since the Covid pandemic more and more people are shopping from home. Whether your doing holiday shopping or just need something for your ham shack why not help your club at the same time?

**Happy Holiday Shopping!**

# INSURANCE DISCOUNT

GET AN INSURANCE DISCOUNT FOR BEING AN ARRL MEMBER!

<h2>Reasons to Switch</h2> <h3>YOUR AUTO INSURANCE CARRIER</h3>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Special Group Rates</li><li>• Convenient Payment Options</li><li>• Superior Service</li><li>• A Company You Know And Trust</li></ul>	 <p>A group auto insurance program from MetLife Auto &amp; Home.</p> <p>Call or log on today for a free insurance review and no-obligation quotes.</p> <p><b>1 800 GET-MET 8</b> <b>(1-800-438-6388)</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.metlife.com/mybenefits">www.metlife.com/mybenefits</a></p> <p>100941</p>
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## MetLife® Auto, Home, Renters, Boaters, Fire Products

There is only one thing I can appreciate and that is getting a discount just for being a member of the ARRL. Switch your insurance carrier to MetLife® and start saving today!

Read the information below and call or email Paul Zielinski at [PZielinski@FarmersAgent.com](mailto:PZielinski@FarmersAgent.com)

As an ARRL member in Massachusetts or Connecticut, simply call or text Paul Zielinski, Agent, at 413-739-3199 or e-mail: [PZielinski@FarmersAgent.com](mailto:PZielinski@FarmersAgent.com) for your no-obligation insurance quote today.

When calling, please advise that you are a member of the American Radio Relay League so that you can be quoted under our Group Insurance Discount Program.

As part of a group discount program, you may be able to enjoy up to a 20% discount on various insurance programs depending on the state of your residence.

Find out why you should switch today! Learn more from MetLife®, now part of the Farmers Insurance Group. Type in “American Radio Relay League” in your e-mail or text to ensure you

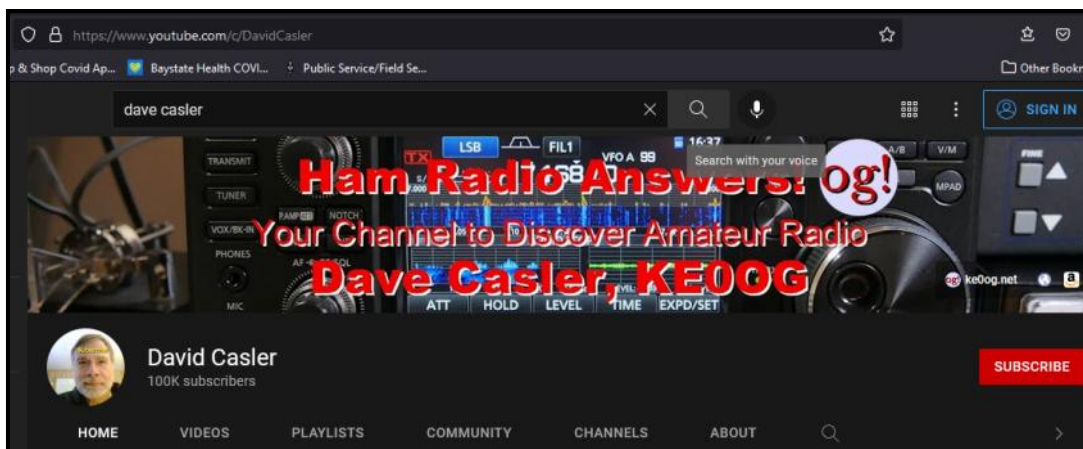
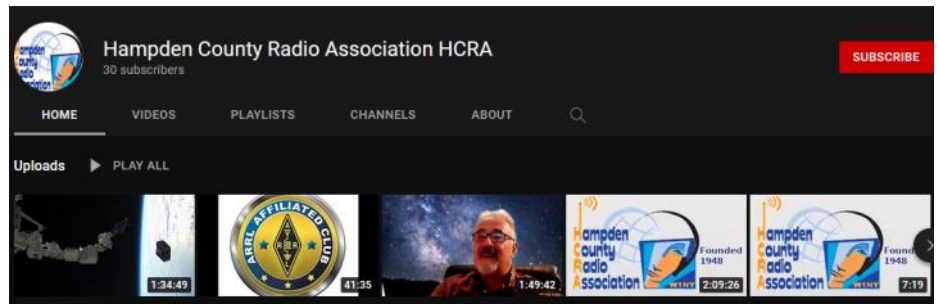


# YOU TUBE & HAM RADIO

## HOW CAN HCRA's YOU TUBE CHANNEL HELP YOU WITH HAM RADIO!

You might think you do not use social media as you do not have a social media account. That is, you do not have a Facebook, Pinterest, Tweeter, Instagram, or other account like that. If you have watched YouTube frequently, or infrequently, you are a social media user. How is YouTube relevant to us amateur radio operators? For one you can find all sorts of information on how to do things from people that want to share their knowledge. When I was attempting to program a DMR HT, I relied on YouTube a lot.

I was able to gather the information I needed from different sources and successfully programmed the radio. It is nice to be able to pause, rewind and re-watch a portion you might have missed. Interruptions like your spouse talking to you, you must take the dog out, etc. are unavoidable. You get the idea. You can save videos you cannot watch at the moment for later. You can save your favorites, thus creating your own library of favorite YouTube videos. YouTube is like a virtual HAM mentor (Elmer) to me.



If you ever miss a HCRA meeting, since the pandemic started, you can find the recording on our YouTube channel. Do not forget to subscribe to receive notifications when new videos are published!

Some of the ham radio YouTube channels I view regularly are: **David Casler**, which I discovered when I was studying for my Tech exam. I used his videos all the way to my Extra exam to supplement other study aids. Dave Casler, KE0OG, took over hosting the QST magazine column that was called The Doctor is In, after the prior host retired this year. I also subscribe to **KB9VBR Antennas**, **Jim W6LG**, **Radio Prepper**, **DX Commander**, **New England ARES Academy**, and others.

Another of my favorite sites is **DIY Solar Power with Will Prowse**. Although not a ham radio channel, he deals with solar power, which I use to charge the batteries I use to run my station. In a way, I am always operating portable. I have learned a lot from Prowse's channel.

If you have always yearned to share your knowledge with a potentially worldwide audience, YouTube might be for you. Become a YouTube creator. You can upload videos or host live streams. Setting up a YouTube channel is easy. If you share enough content and get many, many subscribers, your channel can become a source of income. I follow the **Content-on-Content** channel to learn more about video production.

**If you want to learn all the details about YouTube, don't  
Don't miss our November 5th Zoom meeting.**

**73, Vanessa - W1IRL**



# FIRST TIME HAM

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS?

*Whether you've been a licensed ham operator for four months or forty years this is one way you can help your community just by being a ham radio op and have a desire to help others during a severe weather event or anything else that may require emergency communications. This is where you come-in... Read on!*

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### WMass ARES Nets Updates

As is typical of many amateur radio clubs, this club has a wide range of interests among its members. Some operators are into Fox Hunts, Contesting, Parks on the Air (POTA), Summits on the Air (SOTA), Portables on the Air (also POTA), Earth-Moon-Earth, Long Distance communications (DXing), and the list goes on. If you are like me and interested in Emergency Communications (EmComm) then you might be aware of the group, ARES, Amateur Radio Emergency Services.



I am KC1IKA, Charlie, also known as Smitty. Recently I was appointed ASEC, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Western Mass ARES overseeing the ARES Nets, also known as ASEC for WMA ARES. All these abbreviations are confusing to new operators but come in handy.

I have only been a ham since November of 2017 and pretty much right off I was interested in EmComm. In less than a year I found out the nets were losing one of their Net Control Stations (NCS) and needed someone to volunteer. I put my hand up and was fortunate to have K1VWQ, Danny, out of Southwick train me. Not long after that I was asked to be an Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Eastern Hampden County. Last month the ASEC for WMA retired from the position and I was tapped on the shoulder once more. So that is how I got to where I am.

With the quality of this newsletter by Ken, KD1KU, I hope to be able to, semi regularly, send him net updates to show how ARES is growing in this area under the direction of Bob, K1YO, the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) for Western MA (WMA) ARES.

First update! We are going to lose a total of three NCS this year due to retirements. We need some volunteers to get trained for the positions that they are vacating. I did all this with very little experience, just a desire to learn and help. You can too!

Continued on page 10

# FIRST TIME HAM CONT'D

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS?

We are also expanding the ARES nets. We will be adding three digital modes to practice, FLDigi, JS8Call and Winlink. There will also be a once-a-month net for those new to formal nets. This will allow you to learn the correct protocols and what we are looking for in all the ARES nets. The details are being finalized for all of this and we will let you know on the air and in print as soon as we have the details.

Again, we are looking for anyone who may be interested in being a Net Control Station for the ARES 2-meter (VHF) or 440 (UHF) nets here on the W1TOM repeaters. There are openings on Tuesday evenings at 19:30 as well as Sunday mornings at 08:45 and 09:15.

You don't need to have decades of experience; we will provide the preambles and training. Anyone with a technician license or above and a desire to assist with emergency communications can apply. It's a great opportunity to increase your skills in being proficient at listening to station call signs and what messages and traffic are being passed. This can also help you to deal with pile ups if you are into contesting, POTA or SOTA.

If you are interested in being a Net Control Station, please contact... Charlie, KC1IKA, ARES Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Western Mass and Net Manager for these nets. Or you may contact Dan, K1VWQ, Rich, KC1AEO, Gary, KC1JZR or Marcel, AA1WH. All are presently ARES Net Control Stations and can give some insight on what to expect during these nets.

73,

Smitty, KC1IKA

ASEC WMA ARES, SkyWarn NCS, CERT member for Westfield

[KC1IKA@ARRL.net](mailto:KC1IKA@ARRL.net)

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For Additional Information on ARES or to Join Click on the Link Below  
[Apply for Western Massachusetts ARES Membership](#)



# POTA OR PARKS ON THE AIR

## PARKS ON THE AIR ~ OR WHAT IS POTA?

**SOTA, POTA, BOTA, IOTA and now COTA, are on the list!**

Let's focus on POTA right now as it stands for Parks on the Air and is the main focus of this article in this issue of Zero Beat.

Welcome to the Parks on the Air® (POTA) site for international portable amateur radio operations that promote emergency awareness and communications from national, federal, state and provincial level parks.

Parks on the Air or POTA is a fantastic portable, off the grid amateur radio activity. POTA is much more than just whacking the paddles or yelling into the mic. POTA will get you out of the ham shack, off the grid. Every State Park has a park number. To find parks in your area, [click on this link to open the map](#), enter the DXCC entry (United States for me) and the State (Massachusetts in my case), then zoom in to your specific area. Click on any of the dots to get the related park number.

Not all State Parks are good for a POTA activations! Before bringing your gear out, take a drive to the park and be sure there are favorable conditions for operating. For instance, there is a local park here with no actual entrance. If there's a trail leading to the park (following POTA rules) you can safely operate, then you have a park that can be activated. Now you are a Park activator

If you are unable to get to a park you can join in on the fun by becoming a Park Hunter. Park hunters can use the [pota.us spotting page](#) to find park activators. No logging is required for park hunters. The park activators are responsible for all log submissions. Now you are a park hunter.

There is so much more behind POTA than can be said here in this short article, there are several links included following this paragraph that will give you much more information plus what-ever



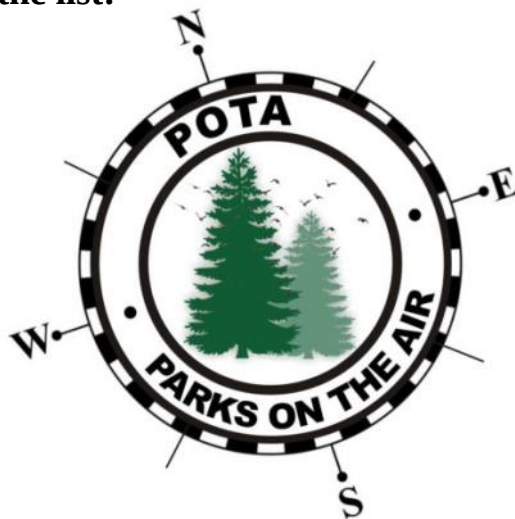
you do, don't miss the November 5th HCRA meeting where Rob, N1NUG will be doing a presentation about POTA and how it all works!

Official POTA site: <https://parksontheair.com>

[www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?)

I hope everyone will attend the November Zoom meeting! It has everything to make it interesting!

73, Ken - KD1KU



# HOW I GOT STARTED IN HAM RADIO

WHEN ASKED, 'HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?' HERE'S MY ANSWER - By Dave Slowik, KN4LEL

For me, it all started in a very simple way. I had a Grade School friend in the neighborhood named Bill, and that friendship set things in motion which would give me a lifelong interest in H.F. Radio. Bill was the kind of 12-year-old kid that liked to tinker with things. He came up with a Crystal Radio Set, made out of a Crystal Diode and a wire coil salvaged from an old A.M. radio, with an earphone from a transistor radio. Bill loaned me this Crystal Radio, and I was just amazed at how I could receive radio signals, with no battery? Forget that I could hear three radio signals at the same time. Living in Cleveland, Ohio, we had 3 very powerful radio stations in the city, and I was able to hear them all at the same time on this basic crystal set.

It was not long before I made it to the library in my Junior High School, to come up with a design for a more selective crystal set. The library had a book that gave me a schematic diagram for a crystal set with a variable tuner, as well as the needed parts list. I made a trip after school to the local Ham Radio, Surplus Electronics Store. The place was called "JeffTronics" and had in stock what I needed to build this set. The owner, named Gene, took me around the store, and showed me the necessary items to build the set and the associated cost for each item. More about Gene later in my writings. But the cost would be about \$4.00 to build the whole thing. This estimate did not include a \$3.00 headset. Where was I going to get \$7.00? In 1966, most of the kids in my neighborhood did not have that much money to spend. Some were getting small weekly allowances from mom and dad, but many of us got nothing! After some financial discussions with my parents, I was told by them to go out and find some lawns to mow in neighborhood to make some money for this radio project. This is the way I supported my new radio hobby all the way through Junior High, and then, later, during High School. Cutting lawns, at an average of \$2.00 or \$3.00 took some time to get the needed \$7.00. In a couple of weeks, I had the money and purchased the parts. I built the crystal set, and I as I remember it worked well, but still, I could hear more than a single Broadcast Station.



Image © Courtesy of Nuts & Volts Magazine

About the time I completed the new crystal radio set, my cousin, Jeff, came up with an old hand-held, transistor short-wave radio, that had seen much better days. He had a friend who had gotten mad at this radio because it would not play and had thrown it against a wall. He gave it to Jeff, who then put fresh batteries into it and got the radio to work. When I heard Short-Wave Radio broadcasts for the first time, I was hooked! I actually begged my cousin for that beat-up radio, which even had no outside case! I don't think my cousin was really attached to the radio, so he ended up giving it to me. I was having a ton of fun listening to all those Short-Wave Broadcast Stations. I found the 40- and 80-meter ham bands, and could listen to Hams who were still running in the A.M. mode. The little radio had no BFO, so I could not monitor SSB signals. Eventually that radio died, and even my Grade School friend Bill could not get it working again! That was a very sad day for me.

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# HOW I GOT STARTED IN HAM RADIO CONT'D

WHEN ASKED, 'HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?' HERE'S MY ANSWER - By Dave Slowik, KN4LEL

It was not long before Bill came up with a solution to my problem. Bill had noticed a vintage 1934 table top Stewart Warner AM, Short-Wave Radio, in the window of a second-hand store in our neighborhood. They wanted \$11.50 for this radio, and it worked quite well. We made a trip on our bikes to look at it. I just had to get this radio! I knew it would take weeks to come up with \$11.50. I continued to cut lawns in the neighborhood and decided that to gain more revenue quickly by adding weed pulling to my services. Weed pulling was no fun, but I found many new customers, when I added this service to the list of things, I could do to make money. I also added snow shoveling to make money in the Winter months. To this day, at age 68, I really hate weed pulling! While building up my bank account to purchase this radio, I made daily trips to the 2nd hand store to see if the radio had not been purchased by someone else. My luck held out, and after a couple of weeks, I purchased it. Getting the radio home, I had the time of my life, listening to all those Short-Wave Broadcasts, and the A.M. Ham signals. To this very day, I still have this radio, and still listen to it, having had it completely restored. There's still nothing like an old radio to use to listen to Base Ball Games on those hot summer nights!



In the 1960's, Ham Radio was super-hot. Just about everyone was talking about Ham Radio, or the other mode of communication, which was Citizen Band Radio. We had 3 Ham Radio Stations within a couple of blocks of my house. The year was 1967, and my friend Bill, and I decided to introduce ourselves to the owners of these stations. We were very well received when we told these owners, that we were interested in becoming Ham Radio Operators. All 3 operators gave us much of their time. These 3 operators were WWII Navy Vets., that were radio operators during the war. One of the operators was still a professional Radio Operator on one of the Ore Boats on the Great Lakes, still sending C.W. Many Summer afternoons were spent talking on SSB, and getting our interest up in getting that coveted Novice License! These seasoned Hams loaned us books on learning Morse Code, including record albums to play, to learn receiving code starting at 5 WPM. They loaded us their old Straight Keys, and showed us how to send C.W., and gave us their old QST magazines to look at. Their wives always seemed to come up with some sort of snack for us boys, along with either a glass of lemonade or soda, when we were visiting. Those Hams knew that we were the future of the hobby and were going to do what it took to get us licensed! Bill lost interest in learning Morse Code and did not take it up until a couple of years later, but not me. I was hooked, and spent the entire Summer of 1968 learning the entire alphabet! (Eventually Bill did get his General Class license in 1971.)

The old Stewart Warner Short Wave Radio would not cut it for listening to C.W. as it had no Beat Frequency Oscillator (BFO)! I wanted some practical experience copying C.W. signals over the air. There were plenty of operators sending slow speed C.W. in the Novice portion of the 40-, and 80-Meter Ham Bands at that time. I needed a better receiver to be able to do this. Bill and I took a trip to the Jeff Tronic's store as we sure that they would have something affordable that I could purchase. In 1968, though WWII had ended only 23 years earlier, there was still a ton of WWII Airforce and Navy Receivers to be had with BFO's. Sitting in the store were some WWII aircraft receivers. Some had really cool identification Department of the Navy tags on the sets.

Continued on page 14

# HOW I GOT STARTED IN HAM RADIO CONT'D

WHEN ASKED, 'HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?' HERE'S MY ANSWER - By Dave Slowik, KN4LEL

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I could receive CW on any of these sets, as they all had BFO's. I purchased one for \$10.00, but was not out of the woods yet, as I needed to build a power supply to get this radio up and running. Fortunately, the store had additional surplus parts and I already had some parts from cannibalizing old T.V. sets, to build this power supply. Altogether, I spent about \$20.00 for everything. As I recalled how much time was spent mowing lawns and weed pulling to purchase all this stuff, I was still happy as I was on my way to getting that Novice license. Bill designed the power supply and helped me build it. Everything worked at the first try, and I was able to hear my first CW signals.

Things started to heat up with the hobby in the Summer of 1968, and I learned about a Ham Radio Club in my area which had a monthly Friday night meeting which everyone was welcome to attend. I wondered how a 15-year-old kid would be accepted by a club full of old guys, but was very surprised to find how great all the members treated me. Like my Ham friends in my neighborhood, they looked at me as the future of the hobby, and wanted to do whatever they could to encourage me. One member actually paid my \$3.00 yearly club dues! Wow I was in, a member of a Ham Radio Club. I think of all those Hams these days with fond memories and miss all of them. A couple of other kids my age became club members in short order. The club invited me to my first Field Day exercise, that summer. I got to help set up things for the station, and sat by and listened to the contacts being made on phone, spending quite a bit of time during the weekend watching how it all worked. One of the old-time club members decided it be a good way to encourage my Ham ambitions, by letting me make a couple of Field Day contacts, on phone. He probably figured I spent enough time watching how things were done, and could handle doing something like this? He got out of his chair, and said, why don't you give it a try? I was shocked, and thrilled at the same time. I sat in the chair, and made my first Field Day contact! After a couple of more contacts made, I turned it back to him. I will never forget that day as long as I live!

Immediately after Field Day, I dug into copying CW over the air. The Ham bug bit me hard. Now, I was determined to get that Novice ticket! That entire summer when not working, I lived and slept, with CW on my mind. Soon, I could easily copy around 10 WPM, so I figured I could pass the 5 WPM for the Novice Exam, but still had to study for the written exam. One of the Hams in the neighborhood loaned me the ARRL Exam Manual for Novices. In October, I was ready. Gene, the owner of Jeff Tronic's was a Ham and offered to conduct the Novice Exam for me. He gave me the code test first, and I passed with flying colors. Then he gave me the written exam. I was never good with taking tests, and I was sweating it a little. When I was done, he looked my answers over, and said, "You passed." I was on cloud 9! My dream of becoming a Ham Radio Operator had come true!

Getting ready for things before my ticket arrived in the mail was my next hurdle. I had no Transmitter, Straight Key, antenna, or SWR Bridge. I had a little money saved up from my neighborhood work. I paid \$10.00 for my Monarch SWR Bridge, and \$3.00 for my Monarch Straight Key, purchased at Jeff Tronic's. The Coax Cable I purchased from another surplus electronics outfit, located in Lima, Ohio, called Fair Radio Sales. They were selling 100 ft. lengths of new military surplus 58-ohm coax cable for \$3.00. It was just a few ohms off from the standard 52-ohm coax cable. I figured it should still work? I was always on a very tight budget in those days. The transmitter was going to be a bigger financial problem. My Grade School friend Bill came to the rescue again. It seems that Gene at Jeff Tronic's came up with a pile of WWII surplus ARC 5 transmitters on a government bid. These transmitters had seen better days, looking like they had been stored in the desert for many years. They were stripped of all tubes.

Continued on page 15

# HOW I GOT STARTED IN HAM RADIO CONT'D

WHEN ASKED, 'HOW DID YOU GET STARTED?' HERE'S MY ANSWER - By Dave Slowik, KN4LEL

They all covered the same frequency range, which was between the 40-, and 80-meter Ham Bands. Bill saw this pile in the store, and the asking price of \$3.00 ea. He grabbed two of them to experiment with, and went to the 50 cent, and \$1.00 tube bushel baskets, Gene had in the store, and purchased some 2nd hand tubes for these transmitters. Bill was pretty talented, when it came to making something out of nothing. He found out that by turning the slug in all the way on the final drive coil, he could put one of these transmitters right in the middle of the 80-meter Novice C.W. Band, and if he totally removed the slug from the final drive coil, he could put the 2nd transmitter he purchased, right in the middle of the Novice 40-meter C.W. band. It did not take long for me to get to Jeff Tronic's to purchase 2 of my own ARCS 5 Transmitters. We did the same conversion on my sets, and they worked perfectly. I was able to power these units with the same power supply I was using to run the receiver. I was pretty much out of money by now, and still needed some copper wire for an antenna. There was another kid my age up the street, named Don, that had his Novice ticket. He was following my progress with getting my station up, and running. I told him I had everything but a couple of Dipole Antenna's, but ran out of funds for copper wire. Don came to the rescue, as he said his dad had a big role of stranded copper wire, and he would give me what I needed. Don, and I got his ARRL Antenna Book out, and cut the needed lengths of copper wire to make a 40-, and 80-meter dipole antenna. I was now ready to get on the air.

For about the sum of \$50.00 I had everything I needed to make my first contact on 40 meters. I came home from school one day, and there in the mail was my 2-year Novice License. I ran to the basement, turned everything on, and let the tubes warm up. About a half hour later, I made my first contact, with another Novice located in Pennsylvania. It was a great day for me. My dream had finally come true! After a few months though I decided I needed to update my station, to do more with the hobby. I had nothing that would cover 15 meters, and I wanted to try this Band badly. Back to Jeff Tronic's I went to look at equipment in his used Ham gear section. I found a real clean Heath Kit DX-60 Transmitter for \$50.00, and a very nice Heath Kit RX-1 Receiver for \$125.00. I had worked quite a bit around the neighborhood for a few months, and had saved up a lot of the needed money. I had about \$120.00 saved up, but I was still short \$55.00. My mother, and father came to the rescue, and gave me a \$55.00 advance, as a Christmas gift! My mom, and dad were always tight with money when it came to my hobbies. I was surprised that they gave me the \$55.00. (Many years later when I was in my late 30's, my mother explained why they did this. She said they never had to worry what I was doing, or where I was in my teen years. I was always in the basement on the radio. If I was out of the house, I was doing something with Ham Radio, being supervised by other adults in the hobby.) With this new transmitter, receiver set I was so happy. My first commercial Ham gear! It took me no time at all to make it to Don's house for more copper wire, to construct a 15-meter Dipole Antenna. I ordered some 15-meter crystals for \$1.50 ea. from a company advertising in CQ. Magazine. When I got the crystals, I was able to get on 15 meters CW, and actually work some stations located in Europe. Working DX, was a real adventure for me.

*Continued in the December Zero Beat!*



## **The October Meeting Video Link**

The October meeting featured guest speaker Fred Kemmerer, ABIOC who talked about mentoring new hams to keep them interested in ham radio and what we all can do to help.  
**Don't forget to click on subscribe before leaving YouTube!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMLVaWH0x7w>



# WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO THIS SUMMER

BY MARCEL – AA1WH

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Summer is over and fall is well underway. As I'm writing this, Halloween is only 4 days away. Most are aware, the HCRA 10 Meter Net was on hiatus for most of the summer. We met once in June and once in August. July was simply too busy for me to fit the net in. The good thing to come from this is that we now have several members who have offered to fill in as net control when I'm not available. We meet weekly on Monday evening at 7:00 PM on 28.375 MHz., all licensed radio amateurs are invited to participate. Please check in if you have some time. I've changed the format of the net to be sure we end by 8:00 PM. It is still common practice for some stations to carry on in a rag chew after the formal net concludes, so drop in and join us!

My balloon project has been on hiatus also, but that was due to weather. In years past, the common advice was to fly in months that had an "R" in them to reduce the chance of encountering large storms. Well, that advice flew out the window when my first balloon hit a towering storm in March 200 miles east of southern Delaware out over the Atlantic at some 28,000 feet in altitude. Since then, the weather has been quite remarkable. One of, if not the wettest July on record. Severe storms that have spawned tornados or at least rotation from New York, throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut have been commonplace. I had hoped to launch in October or November 2021 but we have a major storm going on as I'm writing and predictions for another wet weekend next week. So, I'm just monitoring weather in hope of finding a 7 day or so window with no storms out over the Atlantic. I really want to make it at least to Europe next time, God willing, perhaps to Asia or even a circumnavigation. But that requires a lot of luck and launching during a cooperative jet stream and no storms. I will keep everyone posted in ZeroBeat and on the local nets as we get into winter.

On Monday Oct. 25 the topic of books we are reading came up on the 10 Meter Net and I want to share information about a book I just finished, one I'm reading and 2 more that I will be reading soon. The first is "Covert Radio Agents, 1939-1945: Signals from Behind Enemy Lines" by David Hebditch. I read about this book in Practical Wireless magazine which comes out of the UK. I found it on Kindle for \$11.00 and had trouble putting it down. It goes into detail about the United States, British, Australian, Norwegian, Scottish and others who were involved in "Coast Watching" the movement of the Germans and Japanese during the war. There are vivid accounts of the exploits of numerous agents, men and women as well as the support from the various control agencies and even the deployment of the agents into occupied areas by parachute, boat and over land. For anyone with an interest in radio and history, I cannot recommend this book highly enough. It is available for Kindle, and in hardcover or soft cover from the various online purveyors.

One of the characters we meet in Covert Radio Agents is Mr. Leo Marks. A British cryptanalyst. As it turns out, Mr. Marks writes about his time and service during the war in a book titled "Between Silk and Cyanide: A codemaker's War 1941-1945." This is available in digital format for \$16.00 and also free for a free trial of Audible Audiobooks. Otherwise, it is also available in print. The opening paragraph is humorous and irreverent and I knew instantly that I would enjoy the book, and so far, I certainly have. We meet Marks as a 22-year-old who is something of a momma's boy. His genius and perseverance are quickly recognized and in short order he rises to become the head of communications at the SOE (British Special Operations Executive).

Continued on page 15



# WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO THIS SUMMER CONT'D

BY MARCEL – AA1WH

The last 2 books that are on my reading list are The Clandestine Radio Operators by Jean-Louis Perquin which includes 300 photographs, many in color. It provides an exhaustive account of the Free France – the Allied underground radio operators parachuted into Occupied Europe. Next is The Secret History of World War II: Spies, Code Breakers and Covert Operations published by National Geographic. I will report on these in a future issue of ZB.

So that's the news from my shack. I wish everyone a safe Halloween and Thanksgiving. I hope you all remain vigilant in protecting your health and your family and friends too. Until we can meet again in person for club meetings, I urge you to check into our monthly meetings on Zoom.

73

Marcel Lapierre, AA1WH

[AA1WH@arrl.net](mailto:AA1WH@arrl.net)

## The Fox's Den

**LIVE FOX HUNTING IS BACK! CAN YOU FIND A LIVE FOX?**

It's been a long time since there has been any "LIVE" Fox Hunting at least in the Pioneer Valley anyway. On Sunday, October 31st 2021 at 10am Chris, W1TRK who was the Fox and he was in hiding making transmissions every few minutes on the 146.715 repeater.

Hunters started from one of the parking lots at the Holyoke Mall and the hunters were listening to the KB1AEV repeater's input to get a heading so they know which way to go. Once the hunters were checked in and the hunt began at 10am sharp. While it wasn't a massive fox hunt with dozens of hunters it was great to have live fox hunting back once again!

Below is a photo of the "Fox" in his hiding spot just waiting to deceive the hunters who were well on their way towards the fox... or so they thought at least! The Fox was finally found in West Springfield at the Bear Hole Reservoir. The first fox to arrive at the den was Larry, W1AST at 11:20am followed by Larry, KD1RV at 11:40am. **It was the Larry and Larry show!**



### Halloween Live Fox Hunt - October 31st 2021

**1st - Larry, W1AST @ 11:20am**

**2nd - Larry, KD1RV @ 11:40am**

A great time was had by all that attended. Hopefully more hunts will be planned in the future provided there is enough interest. If you would like to see more live fox hunts email Larry at [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)

# ITEM'S FOR SALE

HCRA MEMBER ITEMS FOR SALE, TRADE OR WANTED

**FOR SALE!**

**W6IS Ham Radio Equipment FOR SALE - Contact Larry, [w1ast@arrl.net](mailto:w1ast@arrl.net)**

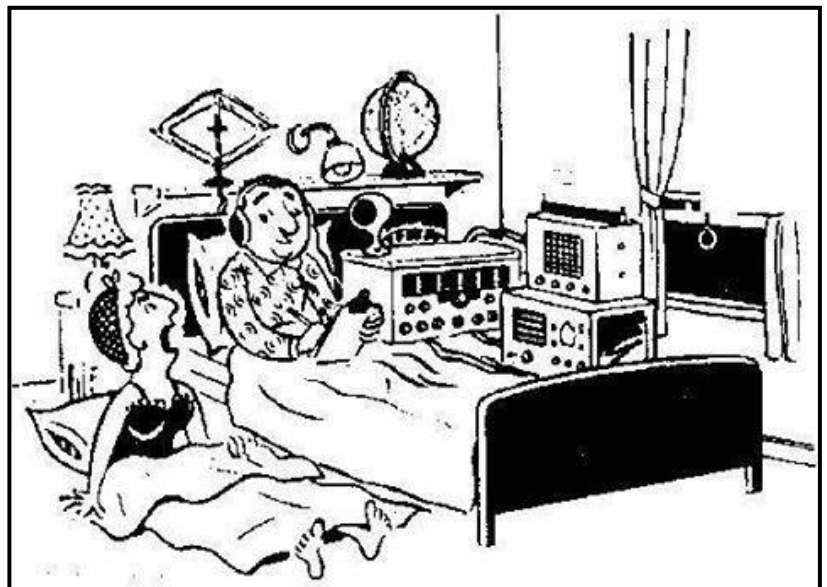
- Collins 75S-1 \$800
- Kenwood TS-520 3.5 - 29.7 MHz - \$125
- Kenwood Model TS940S - \$650
- Collins Type 5164 - 2 S/N 10378
- Collins 32S - 1 \$800
- Sprague tube tester Model (make offer)
- Kenwood Model TS-440S - \$275
- Kenwood SP430 Speaker \$25
- Samlex America SEC1212 Switching DC Power Supply \$30
- Yaesu FT-727R Dual Band HT 2 Meters \$25
- Precision 120 Meter \$ (make offer)
- Vibroplex Iambic Chrome w/plastic Cover \$150
- ICOM IC2100H w/mobile mic \$80
- HeathKit IG -102 RF Signal Generator \$30
- Yaesu FT - 109RH Handheld \$20
- Yaesu FT - 209RH Handheld B \$20
- Collins Station Control Model 312B-4 \$150
- Astron RS - 12A \$35
- Kenwood TM-221A 2m mobile \$50
- Deluxe Electronic Keyer MFJ-407B \$30
- HY-GAIN Tail Twister Direction Control Model T2X \$75
- Kenwood SP-930 Speaker \$50
- RCP Radio City Products Model 664 \$30
- Yaesu SP55 Speaker \$20
- Butternut HF2V 80 & 40m Vertical Antenna Brand New in box HRO LIST \$450 \$275





# Hamtoons

RF humor (Really Funny)



## **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.*

As in last month, I will start off with the Director election. Hopefully, all the ARRL members have sent in their ballots. This is an important election, and not the only contested one (Raleigh District has 3 candidates also). As many noticed in response to my email last month, there are strong feelings on the direction of the ARRL and our hobby.

Please accept the results when they come in, and continue to be friendly and respectful of other hams, and you would be on the air. Enjoy our commonalities rather than our differences, revel in your enjoyment of your radio activities, and share your knowledge with others.

### **Contest season is upon us!**

The winter contest season is here—all the QSO Parties, 10M, NAQP, International DX, etc. The current issue of QST has a good supplement with plenty of information, advice for new contesters, station setup, etc. It is also available online for members. In addition to ARRL contests, there are plenty of others coming up. My favorites last year were NA Qso Party, 10M and Winter Field Day. I'm not much of a contester, as I find it difficult to break through pileups, but I have had fun and made some good contacts when I have the patience.

### **Frequency Measuring Test—November 2021**

Twice a year, ARRL has a formal frequency measuring test. It is educational, and lets you know how you and your rig are performing. The November test starts at 0230 UST on November 12. Results can be submitted to ARRL on the FMT page <http://fmt.arrl.org/>. There is also information / links on how to measure frequency. No special lab

### **Eclectic Technology—review of a new CW software**

ARRL reviews and tests many things—radios, antennas, kits and sometimes software. This is a freebie—CWTY Decoder. As someone that has struggled (and not succeeded) with learning CW, I am nevertheless fascinated by it. This is a receive / transmit program that does a pretty good job decoding CW through my computer (the ARRL speed test was perfect, other random listening was better than I expected).

If you are looking for another way to try CW, this seems to be good. I have not tried transmitting yet, so I haven't made a qso, but it seems like it may be almost as easy as FT8 or RTTY.

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### **ARRL Western Mass Section - Check the WMA section page at [wma.arrl.org](http://wma.arrl.org)**

#### **Hello Western Mass Amateurs!**

This is just a quick note to explain some of the things related to Emergency Services that we will be putting into place shortly. First, we are going to focus heavily on training and practice for our net operations. Charlie (Smitty) Smith, KC1IKA has accepted a position as Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator and is taking over responsibility for Section net operations. The plan is to establish regularly-occurring training nets, both for simplex and repeater VHF/UHF operations. This will provide a forum for persons interested in participating on nets to learn the proper operational procedures in an environment specifically setup for learning and practice. This should also be a good entry point for those interested in becoming a Net Control Station (NCS).

Operating nets properly and effectively is of prime importance in an emergency situation. I am currently investigating the communication needs of several agencies within the Section to ensure that what we can provide fits their specific needs. We are planning to hold frequent SET type events involving those agencies to provide ongoing opportunities to fine tune and focus our combined efforts. Finally, we intend to reach out through the individual clubs for assisting in with local public service events of various agencies. This has been a very common activity in the past and it would be great to see it rekindled. Please watch this website for further developments for all the above. Stay safe and well!

**73 - Bob Meneguzzo – K1YO**

**Section Emergency Coordinator, WMA ARES / [k1yo@arrl.net](mailto:k1yo@arrl.net)**

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

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







## HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



### **General Upgrade Class!**

The club is looking for someone to organize a General license upgrade class this Fall or Winter but we need your help to make this work. All we need is a volunteer to lead this class. You don't have to teach the class rather we need somebody to organize the class and get other members to teach ect ect.

If someone doesn't step up to do this there will NOT be a upgrade class at all!  
Please step up and lead this class so that other members can get their General license!

For additional information contact Larry at: [w1last@arrl.net](mailto:w1last@arrl.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!*

### **10 Meter Net Fall Schedule**

The 10 meter net Fall schedule will be as follows: Beginning in Sept. the net has returned to every Monday at 7pm on 28.375usb. Marcel, AA1WH is NCS. Everyone is welcome to join in regardless of club affiliation. Weekly topics are posted on the HCRA Facebook group and the Reflector email list.

### **Memorial Page**

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

**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@arrl.net](mailto:kd1ku@arrl.net)

### **HCRA Social Media Links**

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

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


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

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

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

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

### HCRA Clublog Information Updated on October 31st 2021



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

#### DXCC Leagues

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

☒ No Mode Filter
☐ CW
☐ Phone
☐ Data

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

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

☒ Current entities
☐ Current and deleted
☒ Worked
☐ Confirmed

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

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

Generate DXCC League

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1JA	58	174	29	239	192	316	204	302	148	286	340	1948	44 yrs
2	W1RM+1	179	294	10	334	317	337	329	336	319	321	339	2776	58 yrs
3	KK1W+1	140	196	7	271	227	309	279	281	218	234	329	2162	45 yrs
4	NV1Q+3	27	136	0	181	111	308	257	314	232	256	329	1822	42 yrs
5	NF1G	0	159	0	238	257	305	267	269	200	213	319	1908	37 yrs
6	W1PY+1	34	116	0	200	64	246	207	242	130	204	291	1443	11 yrs
7	N1TA+3	111	154	27	199	104	211	108	199	33	133	256	1279	20 yrs
8	KX1X	67	129	65	186	156	208	139	214	87	194	255	1445	24 yrs
9	K1NZ+1	115	159	86	171	197	187	168	150	96	71	252	1400	10 yrs
10	K1VOI	5	67	2	114	60	204	141	163	72	144	247	972	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	W1AST+1	3	60	9	103	28	166	107	127	11	121	202	735	12 yrs
13	NT1K+2	9	49	2	103	36	184	45	142	47	123	200	740	11 yrs
14	N1FTP	0	7	0	64	0	170	47	119	16	109	184	532	13 yrs
15	WD1S	49	56	0	116	33	143	30	95	11	98	172	631	9 yrs
16	W1NU+2	2	38	21	86	40	131	76	60	27	38	147	519	6 yrs
17	N1JIE	2	5	3	31	31	61	29	14	6	7	86	189	4 yrs
18	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	24	0	45	0	0	1	0	54	70	5 yrs
19	N1FJ	0	0	0	6	0	30	0	16	3	16	51	71	8 yrs

ZERO BEAT November 2021

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**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 2021 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy so far this year!



Your Log
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League Tables
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Satellite Leagues
Zone Leagues
Club Leagues
CDXC Challenges
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Uniques League
Tools
DX Cluster
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Call Tester
Most Wanted
DXCC Analysis
Propagation
Great Circle Maps
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QSL Archive

## DXCC Leagues

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<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: <b>Totals</b> ▼	
<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 type="radio"/> No Date Filter	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2021	<input type="radio"/> 2020	<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	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	41	76	0	120	56	201	101	141	24	96	230	856	58 yrs
2	KK1W+1	38	29	0	73	44	139	45	43	19	10	218	440	45 yrs
3	NF1G	0	25	0	79	125	158	144	122	94	69	217	816	37 yrs
4	N1TA+3	30	89	18	117	93	143	100	109	28	48	201	775	20 yrs
5	KX1X	7	77	25	126	124	139	108	138	70	82	176	896	24 yrs
6	W1PY+1	2	10	0	39	0	137	18	25	1	2	164	234	11 yrs
7	K1NZ+1	29	59	9	41	86	54	58	34	35	19	127	424	10 yrs
8	K1VOI	0	27	0	54	18	84	42	60	7	13	107	305	20 yrs
9	W1NU+2	1	13	16	29	35	93	59	32	11	19	106	308	6 yrs
10	W1AST+1	3	14	0	34	1	70	16	41	1	18	91	198	12 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10			
11	NV1Q+3	0	19	0	44	0	69	3	50	0	11	89	196	42 yrs
12	NE1C	3	8	0	35	0	71	0	12	0	1	77	130	19 yrs
13	N1FTP	0	1	0	22	0	67	0	23	0	2	74	115	13 yrs
14	N1JIE	2	2	3	14	30	30	15	8	6	4	55	114	4 yrs
15	NT1K+2	0	0	0	6	5	36	0	25	0	1	42	73	11 yrs
16	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	14	0	25	0	0	0	0	33	39	5 yrs
17	N1FJ	0	0	0	1	0	21	0	6	0	0	27	28	8 yrs
18	WD1S	1	1	0	2	13	13	0	0	0	1	24	31	9 yrs
19	W1JA	0	2	0	6	6	1	8	5	2	1	20	31	44 yrs

# DOTS & DASHES

THINGS THAT DON'T FIT ANYPLACE ELSE!

## Amateurs Asked to Keep Frequencies Clear

Following the earthquake in Haiti, radio amateurs are being asked to keep the following frequencies clear. The statement came from IARU-R2 Emergency Coordinator (EMCOR) Carlos Alberto Santamar Gonzalez, CO2JC. The frequencies are: 3750 kHz, 7150 kHz, and 14330 kHz. Jean-Robert Gaillard, HH2JR, President of the Radio Club of Haiti, reported significant structural damage.

## FCC Application Fees Unlikely to Go into Effect Until 2022

The schedule of FCC amateur radio application fees likely will not go into effect before 2022. FCC staff confirmed during a recent virtual meeting. The agency is still working on the necessary changes to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) software and other processes and procedures. The new estimate is that the fees won't go into effect until early next year. Once it's effective, the \$35 application fee will apply to new modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications. Changes to the licensee's name, mailing, or email address, will be exempt from fees.

## Contests and Special Event Stations

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

Nov. 6-8 CW Sweepstakes - Begins 2100z Saturday through 0259z Monday

For more details visit: <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

Nov. 6-8 Phone Sweepstakes - Begins 2100z Saturday through 0259z Monday

For additional details see: <https://www.oceaniadxcontest.com>

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

Nov.30 - Dec.5 | Last Day of Hurricane Season 2021 - 1600Z - 2300Z

For additional details see: <https://www.cajunnavyrelief.com/W5CNR>

## HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

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

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

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

or

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

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](mailto: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 meeting's are held via Zoom. Meeting's start with a rag chew session at 7pm followed by the regular Zoom meeting at 7:30pm. <http://www.hcra.org/>

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

**Saturday before the FCARC meeting at 8am.** Breakfast at Denny's 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](mailto:bc@councilman.com)

## HCRA Contact List

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WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL



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

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