

ZERO BEAT

HCRA's 75th Anniversary - 1948 - 2023!

Meeting Update!

The Holyoke Hospital has opened its meeting room to us once again. Beginning in 2022, in-person meetings are back!

Need directions?

hcra.org/meeting-location

Welcome New Members

Adam Strzempko, W1AJS Mike Balestri, KC1SEW Mike Kotarba, KB1WAL

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November 2023

From the editor:

Time sure has been flying by, as we're nearly into November. Even though we are at the end of October, your Board of Directors has been busy planning fun-filled activities for all of the membership to participate in.

If you missed the October meeting featuring guest speaker WWLP's Meteorologist Adam Strzempko, W1AJS, gave a wonderful presentation about severe weather and the correct way to make Skywarn reports during a severe weather event.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome new members Adam, W1AJS, Mike, KC1SEW, and Mike, KB1WAL, to the club. Please say hello to them the next time you see them at a club meeting or upcoming club activity.

Dave, KN4LEL, has part II of his article about his new hex beam with a custom homebrew tilt-over mast this month. This is the final part in a series that began last month. Be sure to check it out on page 10.

The 75th Anniversary Holiday Party is on December 4th at the Steaming Tender. With well over \$1000 in prizes plus the normal door prizes, don't miss it. Get all the details on page 16 for more information!

I'm sure everybody is tired of hearing all the reminders to renew your dues. Dues expire on August 31st, so make sure yours are renewed today. <u>Page 6b</u> for more.

The club picnic was held last month, and it was a huge success! Many people came together to celebrate the club's 75th anniversary. There is a photo journal beginning on page 14, showing some of the fun everyone had!

73, Ken - KD1KU

The HCRA Annual Auction is Back!

HCRA's annual auction is back at the November 3rd meeting! Ham radio gear and related accessories only! Absolutely NO computers, monitors, or PC parts! The 2022 auction was a huge hit; whatever you do, don't miss it this year! Complete details are on page 8.

Regular club meetings are held at the Holyoke Medical Auxiliary Conference Center at 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA, 01040. **Need directions? Click** http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/

Upcoming Meetings and Guest Speakers





In-person guest speakers are Bob Glorioso, WIIS, and Bob Rose, KCIDSQ, will be speaking on all types of wire antennas. Both Bobs have had articles published in QST and CQ magazines. This meeting is NOT to be missed!





This in-person meeting features a very special guest speaker. WWLP Channel 22's meteorologist, Adam Strzempko, W1AJS Yes, Adam is one of us!

I'm sure he will be a super fascinating in guest speaker.



2023



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



The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant Dec 4th.

Join us for a Night of Food and Fun as we celebrate HCRA's 75th

Anniversary of being a special party with 3 prizes worth over \$1000



2024

Guest Speaker to be Appounced Soon



Guest Speaker to be Appounced

2024



Guest Speaker to be Appounced



2024

The annual HCRA Show and Tell is back once again!

Enter your projects, kits or whatever and win prizes! Last year's Show and

Tell was a huge success, get started on your projects today.



Guest Speaker to be Announced

2024



Elections, Field Day prep, and more. Please consider running for a Board of Directors position. HCRA is a much better club when everyone's involved!

2024

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

By Larry Krainson, W1AST

November 2023

Back a few months ago, my friend Bob, NO4MM, had a lightning strike that took out much of his gear. That strike caused \$20,000 worth of damage. Bob filed a claim with his insurance company. His insurance company swiftly sent him a check for 50% of the value of his gear. He is now fighting with them to get the full value of his damaged gear and get it replaced.

We can all learn a lesson here. I know my equipment is covered under my home owner's policy for full replacement value. What is yours covered for? Are you sure? Make sure you check and verify.



It's a good time to do the following:

- Make a list of all your equipment and what the current replacement cost would be
- Contact your insurance carrier and find out if your ham radio gear is covered
- Make sure your gear is covered for Full Replacement Value; accept nothing else

If your gear does not have the proper coverage, adjust your policy. If your carrier cannot do that, then either change to a carrier that can or look into The ARRL Equipment Insurance.

I use a local agent for Farmers Insurance. Paul Zielinski can provide all the coverage you need for your ham gear and more. He offers an ARRL discount too. Go here to contact Paul and learn more:

https://agents.farmers.com/ma/west-springfield/paul-zielinski

Make sure your gear is insured properly before you need to file a claim.

The November meeting is the annual auction. Pull out your unused rigs, accessories, antennas, and whatnot and bring them to the auction. Do Not bring computers or computer accessories!

The club will take 10% of the sale of the item, and you get the rest. This is a great time to make a little extra cash right before the holidays, which is always useful.

This year, we have a brand new QRP rig being donated to the auction. Attending might get you a deal on a pretty cool QRP portable rig.

December is the Holiday Party. We are having it at the Steaming Tender restaurant in Palmer, MA. We always have a good time here with their excellent and interesting building, good food, and great friends.

The party is on Monday night, December 4th, from 6 to 9 pm. There are three food choices, door prizes for everyone, and three very special 75th anniversary of the HCRA door prizes. To be eligible for these, you must be a paid-in full HCRA member before November 30th, and YOU must be present at the party.

We have nearly \$1100 in special anniversary prizes. You can't win if you don't attend. You won't get better odds of winning anywhere else as they will probably be 1 in 35 or close to that.

Continued on page 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

By Larry Krainson, W1AST

The cost is just \$30 per person. See the flyer on page 16 in this issue of Zero Beat. The last day to sign up is the Monday before Thanksgiving, November 20th.

Don't miss out; join us on December 4th, as we're going to have some very special guests. I hope to see all of you there!

We had a picnic the first Saturday in October, and it was a huge success. We held it at the pavilion at the School Street Park, where we hold Field Day. 33 people attended. While it was cool and rainy outside, we were nice and dry inside. There was lots of food and chit-chat. Five people brought their portable stations and made some contacts, and fun was had by all. WWLP Channel 22 visited us and did an interview and shot some video, and we were on the evening news. More about this with photos beginning on <u>page 14</u>. If you haven't seen the WWLP video click on this link to view it. https://hcra.org/zb/picnic.mp4

The picnic was such a success that we have decided to hold a picnic every year at the same time. This is both a social event and a celebration of the HCRA's 75th Anniversary.

A <u>BIG</u> thank you goes to Ez, W1AEZ, and his XYL Lucy for organizing and coordinating the picnic as well as cooking the food and making sure everyone ate. Ez and his committee worked extremely hard to make this all happen!

If you are not on HF, you are missing out. The bands have been in good shape, and just a few watts will get your signal across the ocean. It's a great time to get on the air!

If you are a new ham and would like to learn about HF, now is a great time to find out more. The HCRA board is opening their shacks for new hams to visit and find out what HF is all about. If you are free during the December ARRL 10m contest on December 9th and 10th, plan to visit and maybe get on the air. It's tons of fun!

If you're an HCRA member and would like to open your shack for others to visit, please drop me an email with your name, callsign, town, and best contact that we can publish in the December ZeroBeat. So that new hams have an option of shacks to visit.

The Monday Night 10 meter net happens every Monday at 7 pm on 28.375. Gary, W1JZR is net control every Monday except the 4th Monday of each month. The 4th Monday is for guest net controls. I did my turn in October, and we did a bit of trivia from the 2023 World Almanac.

I gave each check-in 3 categories to choose from and then asked a question from the category they chose. We did three rounds, and the total correct answers were tallied, and a winner was announced. It was a good first run with just 4 check-ins, with KC1IZC coming in first, tied for 2nd was W1JZR and KD1RV, and third was KD1KU. Lots of fun was had by all. Join us every Monday and test your trivia on the 4th Monday when W1AST is net control.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a great month for November.

73, Larry, W1AST hamop.w1ast@gmail.com

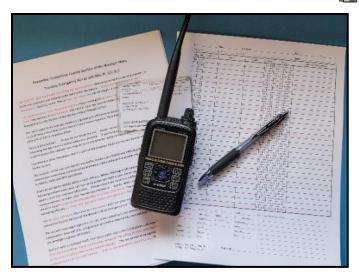
ARES NET UPDATE

WMA ARES Nets & More by Smitty, KCIIKA

Update on my position and the Team

As some of you may have noticed on the ARES nets, I no longer sign in as an official. I have resigned my field appointment as ASEC Net Manager and am happy to be back to being a Net Control Station.

From the day I decided to get into amateur radio, I wanted to be involved with emergency communications. I had full intentions of volunteering as a Net Control Station, with no plan of going any further. Sometimes your plans don't always go the way you intended. As other field appointees retired from their



positions, I was asked to be an Emergency Coordinator and then the Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator, Net Manager. I moved into the positions and did the best I could. The most rewarding activity was being able to acquire three incredible team members for net control duties on the ARES nets on Mt. Tom. I was truly blessed to have an old friend and two new friends join me to take care of the nets. Without their dedication and support, I would not have been able to step back from being a net manager. The team is operating so well that we don't really need a formal Net Manager at this time. I will remain as a kind of team leader so other officials have someone to coordinate with, but I am pleased to no longer be an official.

I still plan on adding the Skywarn practice, and that will be announced on the HCRA website and the ARES nets, as well as in this newsletter. Thank you to Mike, KC1IZC, Iain, W1IKW, and EZ, W1AEZ, for all you do for the nets and your friendship. Stay tuned for more information on the Skywarn practice!

Skywarn Net Practice Basic Information

For practice nets and real weather nets, you do not need to be a Skywarn member. You just need to be aware of what Skywarn criteria is and understand what we will be looking for. I would prefer trained Skywarn spotters, but it won't be required.

The practice Skywarn nets will be immediately after the 1930 Tuesday ARES nets on the Mt. Tom repeaters, 146.940 and 443.200. I will announce a week in advance when the net occurs, and at the beginning of the net, it will be after. At that time, I will announce what "conditions" are occurring in the area and what range of parameters we will be working with. One very important piece of data for the winter nets is your station elevation. Please get that information now.

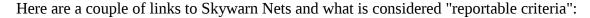
After the ARES net, we will do a practice informal net and then a formal net. Again, your elevation is very important for the National Weather Service, as it allows them to isolate snow depths or ice accretion by elevation and area. If you don't know your elevation, most cellphones have GPS apps available that can provide that information.

Continued on page 6

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ARES NET UPDATE CONT'D

WMA ARES Nets & More by Smitty, KCIIKA



https://wx1box.org/skywarn-reporting-criteria/

https://wx1box.org/southern-new-england-skywarn-frequency-list/

For the next Zero Beat, I will list what we are normally looking for in different types of Skywarn nets, depending on the season.

I will also be posting on the HCRA.org website the preambles, tracking forms, and references for Skywarn and ARES nets so you can see what is involved. There will also be links to training for Skywarn and ARES member sign-ups.

73.

Smitty, KC1IKA Western MA ARES and Skywarn NCS, CERT Radio Operator for Westfield



Are Your Membership Dues Paid?

The special 75th anniversary 5-year, pay for 4 deal ends October 31st. Many members took advantage of this excellent deal, but there are still members who haven't renewed theirs yet. Are you one of them?

Are you unsure if your current dues are up-to-date? Simply go to the club's membership page by clicking the following link: https://hcra.org/current-members/

Go to the above link and look for your name and callsign (if applicable); your membership expiration date is in the far right column. If your name is **NOT** on the list, then you **MUST** pay your dues ASAP, as your membership has expired!

For \$15 per year, you get lots of perks, including "pooling" of outgoing QSL cards for members who are also members of the ARRL and wish to send their cards through the ARRL's Outgoing QSL Service. There are monthly meetings, club activities, kit building, fox hunting, Zero Beat, and more. This year's Holiday Party is yet another special in honor of the club's 75th anniversary. Your dues **MUST** be paid in full by **November 30th** to be eligible for \$1100 in prizes. You **MUST** be present to win!

These are only a few membership perks; if you read through Zero Beat and on hcra.org, you will find many other perks that only members can get. **Renew your dues today before it's too late!**

To renew your membership, click on the link below:

https://hcra.org/online-new-membership-application-and-renewal/

Follow the instructions on the membership page no matter if you pay online or by check.



HCRA KIT BUILD

NEW Extended Deadline to Order your Kit



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QRP Labs Clock Kit

This clock kit is based on the same hardware as the Ultimate 3/3S QRSS/WSPR kit and a special firmware version. A GPS receiver module such as the QLG1 can optionally be connected for precision time-keeping. The display format is customizable; as well as time and date, you can also choose to display GPS data (e.g., location, number of received satellites, etc.).

This is a shack clock and sidereal clock kit that can optionally also be connected to a GPS receiver module such as the QLG1 to provide precise time. Alternatively, it can be used standalone or with a different 1 pulse per second (pps) signal source.

This clock's features include:

- GPS date, time, and other parameters, using a GPS module such as the QRP Labs QLG1
- Location (latitude, longitude, and altitude) and Maidenhead grid square
- Display of UT date, time, and weekday
- Display of local date, time, and weekday
- Display of Greenwich and Local Sidereal Time
- Configurable time zone offset, with a display of local date and local time
- 10 alarms, which can be configured to switch on and off 6 different external relays or output signals
- Flexible configuration of the display contents
- Multiple messages can be set up to display sequentially on the display lines, for a configurable duration
- Support for 4-line displays
- Two Analogue temperature sensors can optionally be connected to the kit to display temperature measurements (for example, indoor and outdoor temperature)





- 1. The cost of the kit without GPS module and case is \$22
- 2. The GPS module adds \$25
- 3. The enclosure kit adds \$40

This will be a group build on a Saturday morning at the Holyoke Hospital meeting room. This is a perfect addition to any ham shack, whether you are a beginner or an experienced kit builder. Join us, have some fun, and make your shack look sharp too!

The New Deadline to Order your Kit is December 31, 2023

Click below for details or to sign up with everyone else:

https://hcra.org/2023/08/15/fall-2023-tech-project-clock-for-the-hamshack/



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NOVEMBER AUCTION

The HCRA Annual Auction is Back Again for 2023!

The annual November Auction is back for 2023! Last year's auction was the first in a long time, and it was a hit with everyone. Even I can remember this event going back to the first time I joined the club in 1993.

This has always been an exciting, fun-filled event that every HCRA member wants to be a part of! It's not limited to club members either; tell your ham friends all about the auction that will happen on November 3rd at 7:30 pm at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room. **HELP Spread the Word!**

A Few Guidelines and Rules to Make This Event More Enjoyable!

When: November 3rd, Doors Open at 7 pm, Start Time is 7:30 pm

Where: Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary room (same room as our meetings)

Directions: For Directions and Map: http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location

What: Any Ham Radios or Ham Radio Related Equipment, Antennas, Elec-

tronic Components, Parts and Electronic Accessories

How: HCRA will take 10% of final selling price (\$1 minimum). Starting price

and reserve price can be set by the selling party.

Note: If an item fails to sell you MUST bring it home!

\$25 & Up is a "Live Auction" / Under \$25 will be a "Silent Auction"

Auctioneer: Your auctioneer will be Gary, AA1UE. The auctioneer reserves the right to

combine items in the interest of time. ALL auctioneer decisions are final!



TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS IN JANUARY, FREE!

Sign up today and choose between in-person or Zoom classes

Most likely, if you're reading this, you already have your license and know all the fun and excitement that your very first amateur radio technician class license has brought you.

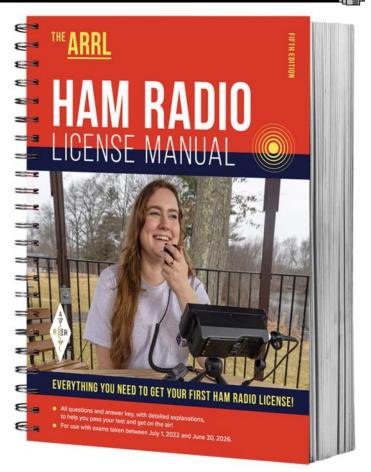
If you know of anyone who is interested in achieving this goal in life, have them register using the link below and fill out the form to get their name on the list for this FREE technician license class next January.

The list of applicants is filling up quickly, so don't wait too long to get your name or the name of the person who wants to get their license on the form by following the link below and filling out the required information. Choose between in person classes or online Zoom classes!

This class is free; you are only required to buy the license manual. Register using the form found by clicking on the link below.

Register today by clicking on the link below:

https://hcra.org/licensing-classes/



Register for this class and select between in-person classes or online Zoom classes!



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HEX BEAM MAGIC (PART II)

Part Two of Two - By Dave, KN4LEL

With two years of great success with my Hex Beam antenna, I never imagined the big mess that was about to hit me. In November 2022, Hurricane Ian came a knocking at my door. In the area of Florida where I live, hurricanes are, for the most part, not a big problem, as I live far enough away from the Gulf of Mexico. So, we don't get tidal surges, and most storms pass by far out in the gulf, generally making landfall north of my QTH, hitting the "horn" of Florida near Tallahassee, or even farther northwest into Alabama, Louisianna, or Mississippi.

When I heard Hurricane Ian was coming my way, I did a little preparation for the storm. I boarded up the windows on the house and put away all the loose stuff outside that could blow away. I did nothing at my shack (which is located in a building in the back yard) to prepare for the storm, as it is made of concrete blocks with a very strong metal roof. It is really built like a bunker. When Hurricane Irma passed us by 3 years prior, I had no damage at the shack; as all my wire antennas were still in the air after that storm had passed us, I felt the shack was pretty safe again this time.

I have to say that I was concerned about my Hex Beam antenna with the new storm, as the predicted winds from the backside of the hurricane could reach up to 120 mph. I crossed my fingers and hoped for the best.

The storm came at midday with a lot of rain and some wind. The wind, which was clocked at 60 mph in the early part of the afternoon, was not too bad. I looked at my hex beam, and it was still in the air. It looked like the antenna was going to survive the storm without a problem. As the afternoon passed, the wind speed picked up to 100 mph, but all still looked good at the shack.

I am not sure if wind speeds ever reached 120 mph, but in the early evening, I was shocked to look back at the roof of my shack and see my hex beam antenna laying sideways across it. The tail piece between the hex beam antenna and the rotor mounted to my mast was bent at 90 degrees, and the antenna seemed to have been gently laid on its side with two of the six fiberglass spreaders sitting on the roof. When I looked at the damaged antenna, I got this sick feeling. Darkness came shortly after, so I had to wait until the next morning to really inspect the damage.



What I found when daylight came was a real mess. The fiberglass spreaders remained intact on the hex beam, but I had a ball of wire elements and a bent tail piece.

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HEX BEAM MAGIC (PART II) CONT'D

Part Two of Two - By Dave, KN4LEL

I was a bit surprised that the tail piece bent as I had sleeved two pieces of mast material one inside the other for strength because of the high winds we get here in Florida. I wondered if the antenna could be rebuilt. I felt for sure I would need new wire elements. The way that the antenna was laying on my shack roof, it was really hard to evaluate the damage.

I made a phone call to my friend Bill Cook, W1FMX, and told him what had happened to my hex beam antenna as a result of the storm. We discussed repair work that could be done on the antenna as well as total replacement. What could be done on the existing antenna would depend on what the manufacturer, Radio Wavz, could supply in the line of repair parts. No matter if I went the repair or replacement route, I would have to rent a basket lift twice: once to take down the damaged antenna and later to reinstall the antenna back on the mast after repairs on the hex beam were completed.

A couple days had passed after the storm when I made the phone call to the Radio Wavz factory. I have to say I was pleasantly surprised at how helpful the customer service department was at that company. I explained what had happened to my antenna and asked if I could purchase a new set of wire elements for my damaged hex beam. They said no problem; they could send them right out to me for a \$350 cost. The real nice thing about the Radio Wavz company is that they are owned and were founded by Hams.

Their antennas are designed and built by Hams. They really understand what it is like to be off the air. They do everything they can to get your station back in operation if it involves one of their antennas.

After chatting with the Radio Wavz customer service representative, I opted to go the new Hex Beam route rather than rebuild my damaged one. The main reason for this decision was that I would not have to rent a basket lift twice. I could take down the damaged hex beam and set a new pre-built one in the air with one daily rental. The price of the Hex Beam antenna had gone up from \$975.00 to \$1250.00 in the 2-1/2 years since I purchased my first Hex Beam, but, as luck would have it, Radio Wavz had a booth currently set up at a huge Hamfest in Las Vegas at this time and was offering a show special of \$975.00 with free shipping.

That price was exactly what I paid for my first hex beam. I was told it would be a month to 6 weeks before I would be seeing my new Hex Beam antenna, but the customer service rep offered me a free loaner Hex Beam to get back on the air until the new one was manufactured and sent to me. Wow! What service!

I passed on the loaner as I did not want to get involved with the rental of a basket lift to set it on the mast, not to mention the buildup and takedown of the loaner, Hex Beam. That was way too much work given the amount of time I needed to wait for my new antenna to arrive from the factory.

Four weeks had passed since the order was placed for my new antenna. A local tree service company had shown up to do some work at my neighbor's place and noticed my hex beam laying on my shack roof. The tree service foreman came over to my place to ask what happened to my antenna. He knew me well, as he had previously done tree work at my place.

I told him the antenna was damaged by the storm, and I was waiting for my new hex beam to arrive before I took down the old one. He said that if it was any help, he would bring his basket lift that was being used for the tree work next door to my place. He would then take the damaged hex beam off of my shack roof at no charge. How could you pass by such a fantastic offer?

Continued on page 12

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HEX BEAM MAGIC (PART II) CONT'D

Part Two of Two - By Dave, KN4LEL

Soon, the damaged hex beam was sitting on the ground. This was the first time I was actually able to take a real close look at the damage. I was so surprised to find that all the wire elements were intact, with no damage! With a little disassembly and reassembly and a new tail piece, I could re-erect my existing hex beam antenna and get back on the air. It was too late, though, to cancel my order for a new Hex Beam, as it had already been shipped and was en route.

In a couple of days, my new Hex Beam antenna was delivered, and I started assembling it. I was really surprised to find that the Hams at Radio Wavz had made some very nice improvements to this new version of the hex beam antenna. The improvements included a new method to install the fiberglass spreaders on the center hub, improved heavy tension cords, and fiberglass adjusters to snug up each wire element. Radio Wavz also installed stainless steel hardware on the 40-meter driven wire element at my request, as the hardware on my first hex beam did not have this and had pretty bad rust at the connection points.

It is sure nice to deal with a company run by Hams, who make their antennas here in the U.S. They truly get what their customers want and need! With the improvements, I found I did not feel quite so bad that I had purchased a second hex beam that I most likely did not need.

Before I started the assembly work on the new antenna, I had to come up with a different type of tail piece that would not bend with our strong Florida winds. I decided the new tail piece would be built out of galvanized Schedule #40 water pipe. In the end, I went "super



strong" with this idea by sleeving a 1" diameter section inside a 1-1/4" diameter outer section of galvanized steel water pipe. This double-walled pipe tail piece should hold up against any future strong storm winds.

With the tail piece made, I assembled the hex beam antenna on the ground with the aid of a wooden stand I built. I found the improvements that Radio Wavz had incorporated in this new hex beam made it easier for assembly and also made the finished product almost perfect. I ground tested the new antenna and got very good signal reports on 20 and 40 meters.

Continued on page 13

HEX BEAM MAGIC (PART II) CONT'D

Part Two of Two - By Dave, KN4LEL

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The following day, I picked up the trailer-mounted basket lift at the local rental place and brought it to my QTH. I set the basket up, raised the new Hex Beam antenna, set it in place on the rotator on top of the mast, and bolted it in place. The installation of the new hex beam went extremely well and fast.

Now it was time to do some extensive on-the-air testing with this new antenna on all the bands it covers—that is, 10 meters through 40 meters. I found that this new hex beam model performed even better than my first one. That day, on 20 meters, I heard one heck of a huge pile-up for a station located in Saudi Arabia.

I thought this would be a very good test for the new hex beam. To my surprise, I was able to break through the pile-up on the second try while running 100 watts "barefoot" in SSB mode. I received a 5/9 signal report from the Saudi station.

In the end, I was more than pleased with the performance of the new hex beam antenna. It has almost been a year since the installation of this antenna was completed. With this new antenna, I have found I no longer need to use my antenna tuner on any of the bands, with the exception of 40 meters. Antenna performance has been even better than my first hex beam antenna, which really surprises me considering that the antenna is the same model with only a few improvements.

I ended up packaging the original hex beam antenna for storage to be used for spare parts or for possible sale. I labeled all the antenna parts and the wire elements for each band. If any of the Zero Beat readers are considering the purchase of a hex beam antenna, I highly recommend the Radio Wavz Sentinel hex beam antenna. The base cost of this antenna is a little more than other manufacturers models, but it is well worth the price for the quality and great performance you will receive. With this new antenna installation, I am looking forward to many years of outstanding performance.

73, Dave, KN4LEL





THE HCRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WOULD LIKE TO THANK IAIN, WIIKW, FOR HIS EXTREMELY GENEROUS DONATION TO THE CLUB!

ZERO BEAT November 2023

ANNIVERSARY PICNIC PHOTOS

The picnic celebrating the 75th year of HCRA & was a big hit!



The 75th Anniversary Picnic was a major success! The turnout was fantastic, and we even had WWLP TV-22 News stop by to cover our 75th anniversary story.

Thank You to Ez, W1AEZ, his committee, and his XYL, Lucy, for a wonderful job cooking the burgers and dogs, plus thanks to everyone who brought a side dish too!

If you didn't see the TV-22 News video click on this link: https://hcra.org/zb/picnic.mp4



Howard, AC1MN, works some digital stations at the picnic



This beautiful anniversary cake was enjoyed by everyone



How do you keep a pavilion full of hams quiet... FEED THEM!





Steve, N1IBS was busy making contacts on HF. Welcome back to the HCRA Steve!

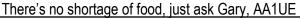
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ANNIVERSARY PICNIC PHOTOS CONT'D

The picnic celebrating the 75th year of HCRA & was a big hit!







Club President Larry, W1AST talks with a TV-22 News reporter



Larry, KD1RV, was making SSB contacts on 15 meters



Marc, K8LSB, was busy making Q's on 15 meters CW



Right Photo:

Frandy, N1FJ, displays his portable station to fellow HCRA members George, KC1V, and Bill, W1FMX, who were looking on intently.



ZERO BEAT November 2023



When: December 4th, 2023

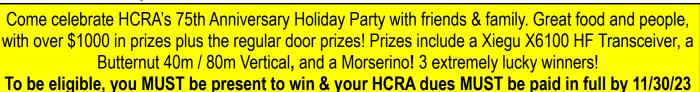
Where: The Steaming Tender Restaurant

♦ Location: 28 Depot Street Palmer, MA. 01069

♦ Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

♦ Cost: \$30 per person

♦ Deadline to purchase tickets: Nov 20th



 $\underline{\mathit{Menu}}$ Pot Roast Dinner: Braised pot roast, mashed potatoes, rich beef gravy, vegetable of the day

> **New England Turkey Dinner:** White turkey breast, cranberry herb stuffing, mashed potatoes, rich turkey gravy, vegetable of day, cranberry sauce

> Baked Haddock Dinner: Cooked in white wine topped with buttered breadcrumbs, mashed potatoes, vegetable of the day

All entrees come with an appetizer salad, dessert, and water to drink plus the bar will be open for drink purchases to suit everyone's choice.

Share this Holiday Party flyer with all your ham friends in other local clubs. Download the flyer using the following link: https://hcra.org/2023/10/01/2024-holiday-party/

Make checks payable to HCRA and mail reservations to:

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



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NUTS AND VOLTS

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

STK Zoom Meetings to Begin in January

The Share The Knowledge Zoom meetings will return in January 2024. These have been a hit over the past couple years. Each meeting is recorded and added to the HCRA YouTube archive on hcra.org where you can find all past meetings on a range of topics.

If you or anyone you know has a topic you'd like to suggest, or if you would like to give your own presentation, simply contact Larry, W1AST, at funhamradio@gmail.com. Watch for more announcements that will be coming in the very near future.

Oldest Ham in the U.S. is 106

Meet the Gaston County man who is the oldest living ham radio operator in the U.S. Gaston County resident Oscar Norris, W4OXH, turned 106 on Sept. 25, 2023. Norris is not only the oldest living amateur radio operator in North Carolina, but according to information from the American Radio Relay League, he is also the oldest living operator in the United States.

The Gaston County Amateur Radio Society and the Gaston Radio Club, both of which Norris is a long-time member, have come together to host a special airwave event for him from Sept. 20 to Oct. 1. For more info click: https://www.gastongazette.com/story/news/local/2023/09/22/oldest-living-ham-radio-operator-in-the-u-s-to-turn-106-this-month/70901152007/

Ham Radio Bootcamp on November 11th

The Nashua Area Radio Society (NARS) will host their Ham Bootcamp program on November 11, 2023, from 10 am to 6 pm ET. program includes a series of online demonstrations and tutorials designed to help newly licensed Technician, General, and Extra-class license holders get on the air.

It's available to all licensed and prospective amateur radio operators. Visit NARS's Ham Bootcamp program at http://n1fd.org/bootcamp/ for additional info or to register.

Worked all HCRA Award

This award is something Larry, W1AST, has worked on for months to give members another activity to do throughout 2023. The goal of this year-long event is to work 10 different HCRA members on HF in any mode and on any band!

Submit your logs to hamop.w1ast@gmail.com and earn a commemorative certificate celebrating our 75th anniversary! This only runs through 2023 and is a little something special for our 75th year! January 1st through December 31st, 2023, this is one of many special HCRA activities!

Western Massachusetts Section News: https://wma.arrl.org

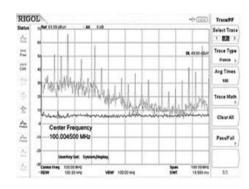
ARRL New England Division: https://nediv.arrl.org

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

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ZERO BEAT November 2023



Need Help With RF Interference Issues ?

If you have been experiencing RF interference there is a WMA resource available that's ready to assist you. Each section has established an RF interference investigative team that can help identify and possibly remedy your problem.

To initiate your request for help you can simply send an E-mail to k1yo@arrl.net with your contact information and a description of the problem and anything you may have already tried.

A member of the WMA RFI team will contact you with directions on how to initiate the formal request for assistance. This then may require several steps / tasks on your part which provide us with essential information to guide further investigative processes.

Additionally, helpful information can be found on our RFI Troubleshooting Guide online at: https://nediv.arrl.org/rfi-troubleshooting-guide/

We are ready to help - just give us a call !!

Vy 73, Your WMA RFI Team

Greg WA1JXR Barry W1HFN Najm AB1ZA Bob K1YO (Team Lead)

VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR FALL UPDATE!

ARRL's VOTA Operating Event Continues!

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

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



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

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

If you didn't work W1AW/1 last spring don't worry as there is another week of Massachusetts operations in the Fall. November 1st through the 7th is the Fall VOTA ops!

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

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

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

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

See the Points Table at vota.arrl.org for the full list of points.

The Fall VOTA dates are as follows: November 1st through November 7th 2023

Save the date... Don't miss out on all the fun! Watch http://dxsummit.fi/ for W1AW/1 spots and see if you can work the volunteers from Massachusetts.

ZERO BEAT CLASSIFIEDS

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted





Brand New D-104 Silver Eagle For Sale



FOR SALE - Brand New T-UP9-D104 Astatic Silver Eagle Mic. Classic looks with all the modern electronics for today's radios.

D-104 was removed from box and back of head was engraved with the owners callsign. Comes with original box and paperwork. **\$225 or Best Offer**





Contact kenathas@gmail.com or call 413-531-4744

Elecraft Station and IC-7300 For Sale by Larry, KD1RV

- Elecraft K3 100watt Rig \$1100
- KPA- 500, 500watt Linear Amp \$2000
- KAT-500 Antenna Tuner \$500

 Includes manuals and original boxes

Above prices are for items listed separately or \$3,600.00 as a complete Elecraft station!

Also:

• Icom IC-7300 Transceiver - \$800
Includes manuals and original box

Contact Larry, KD1RV at larrydziobek@gmail.com

Continued on page 21



ZERO BEAT CLASSIFIEDS

CONT'D



Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted



Items For Sale from Dave, WM1B, in East Longmeadow, MA.

- Antenna Tower Tuner 300 CN 300 Watt Tuner \$50
- Kenwood HF/MHZ TS-590 All Mode Transceiver \$500
- Kenwood MC-60 Desk Microphone \$50
- Yaesu G459A Rotator Controller \$50
- Rotator on 30' Tower **\$100**
- Tower Antenna \$150
- Rotatable Band \$200
- FM Band \$50
- ICOM IC-208 VHF/UHF FM Transceiver \$150
- Wooxom FM Dual Sanoer KG-UVOOP \$25
- Realistic 10-meter SSB/CW Transceiver Model HTX-100 \$75
- Vertical 5 Frequency Antenna Mast \$50
- Astron Power Supply Dual Meters \$40
- PK-88 Packet Controller with Cables & Manuals \$40

If you have questions or item clarifications contact Dave at the contact info below.

Email Dave at dfant19508@aol.com or call 484-529-0090 or 413-525-3022

If you have questions regarding items, use the contact info below

If interested, or have questions, contact Dave Fant, WM1B at dfant19508@aol.com

Email - <u>dfant19508@aol.com</u> **Phone** - **484-529-0090** (cell) or **413-525-3022**

1948 ~ 2023 75 Years as an ARRL Affiliated Club

Share The Knowledge Video Library

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

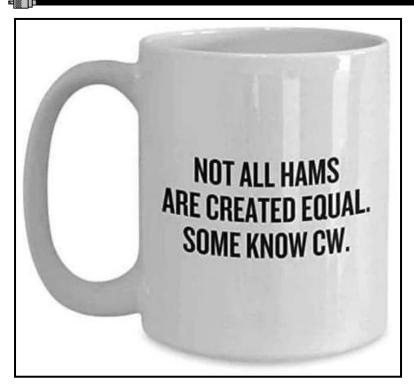
 $\underline{https://www.youtube.com/@HampdenCountyRA/videos}$



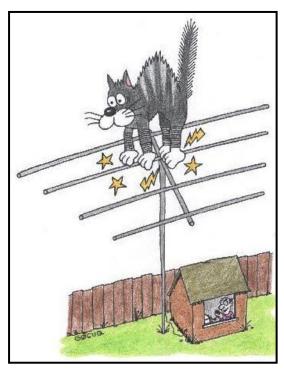
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Clublog update: Clublog can be accessed at https://clublog.org/league.php Signup is free, and there are a number of ways to lookup information. Give it a try, who knows... you just might like it!

This is the latest HCRA Clublog for 2023 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy this year! *HCRA Clublog Information Updated on October 28th 2023*



Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	27	56	0	120	13	154	64	162	79	165	7	248	847	60 yrs
2	KK1W+1	23	39	0	76	91	106	107	127	128	122	10	242	829	47 yrs
3	NF1G	0	20	0	21	70	131	103	164	112	123	0	234	744	39 yrs
4	KX1X	2	58	7	107	115	137	111	153	137	152	4	202	986	26 yrs
5	K1NZ+1 ★	20	25	24	30	90	93	73	113	119	107	5	189	699	12 yrs
6	WY1G	0	13	0	37	0	73	39	81	89	117	7	182	456	42 yrs
7	W1AST+1	2	10	0	14	14	64	52	67	80	75	4	152	382	14 yrs
8	W1PY+1	0	4	0	38	0	48	2	97	5	87	0	127	281	13 yrs
9	NE1C	23	53	0	76	0	100	0	110	0	96	0	123	458	21 yrs
10	N1FTP ★	0	2	0	26	4	59	28	47	38	87	2	123	293	15 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	K1VOI	2	21	0	42	31	71	28	70	16	56	1	118	338	22 yrs
12	W1JA+1	0	2	4	16	25	2	34	0	38	0	2	83	123	54 yrs
13	N1JIE	1	2	1	9	21	26	15	29	10	29	1	60	144	8 yrs
14	N1TA+3	2	22	0	6	5	16	4	17	4	6	0	53	82	22 yrs
15	NV1Q+3	0	0	0	7	10	16	4	17	7	16	0	40	77	44 yrs
16	WD1S	1	3	0	5	0	24	0	17	0	11	1	33	62	11 yrs
17	W1NU+2	1	0	0	9	1	3	1	0	0	2	0	14	17	8 yrs
18	AB1XW±1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	11 yrs

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

If you have never used Clublog, need a refresher, or simply have the desire to learn as much as possible about Clublog or most anything else, go to the HCRA YouTube Channel and learn. All meetings are recorded and posted on hcra.org 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.voutube.com/watch?v=qi2lKcORNbE&t=1s

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ARRL CLUB COMMISSION PROGRAM

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership through the HCRA!

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

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

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/2022 Affiliated Club Membership Application.pdf

ARRL The National Association Amateur Rad	on for dio*			ARRL Affiliated Club nbership Application
☐ I am a brand-new memb	er, or my me	embership	lapsed fo	r 2 or more years. My club will receive a \$15 commission.
☐ I am renewing (includes I	apsed mem	bers of les	s than 2 y	rears). My club will receive a \$5.00 commission.
Name				Call Sign
Address				Ptoto 7ID
				State ZIP
Email / / / /				Phone
Your Annual Membe	rshin Nu	es –		Choose your print magazine –
Circle Your Choice	ı əilih na	ь» -		Check One
	3 Years	2 Years	1 Year	☐ QST, ARRL's membership journal
US Membership	\$140	\$95	\$49	for active radio amateurs (12 monthly
International (Digital Only)	\$140	\$95	\$49	issues)
International (with mailed QST)	\$217	\$147	\$76	☐ On the Air, Beginner-to-intermediate-
Blind Family	\$30 \$30	\$20 \$20	\$10 \$10	level help and advice (6 bimonthly issues)
Student	400	\$20	\$25	☐ Digital Only (All members can access
Lineary (School)	TOTAL	. \$		the digital versions of both magazines)
Payment Enclosed is my: Charge to my: Card Number_	□ Visa	☐ Maste	ercard	☐ Charge Request ☐ Amex ☐ Discover Expiration Date

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DOTS & DASHES THINGS THAT DON'T FIT ANYPLACE ELSE!

HCRA Needs Your Memories!

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

If you have anything to submit, contact your Vice President, Ez, W1AEZ, at ez.w1aez@gmail.com

HCRA Needs Your Callsigns

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

Example: I used to be **WB1DBY**, and I'm now **W1AST**. If you can help, please use the following contact. Larry, W1AST, at hamop.w1ast@gmail.com

Contests and Special Event Stations

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

November CW Sweepstakes | 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz | Nov 4-6, 2100z to 2359z For rules and additional info go to: https://tinyurl.com/4ff64bej

November SSB Sweepstakes | 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz | Nov 18-20, 2100z to 2359z For rules and additional information go to: https://tinyurl.com/ent578b2

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

1st Transatlantic Ham QSO SES | Nov 18, 1400z-2200z | K3S | 40, 20, 15, 10m SSB/CW

For complete information, rules and details on this SES visit: https://www.grz.com/db/k3s

HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

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

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

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

or

Contact Paul, NFIG at paulkelliher@comcast.net









HCRA STUFF





HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club

Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

For the benefit of every HCRA member, Brown Baggers is a friendly lunch get-together that happens on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. It's held at the <u>Munich Haus Restaurant</u> in Chicopee Center at 12:00 pm (noon), located at 13 Center St. Chicopee, MA, across from City Hall, or simply click the link above.

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

10 Meter Net Guest Net Control Station

The 10 meter net Fall/Winter schedule has begun. Every Monday evening at 7 pm local. Gary, W1JZR is NCS of this fun filled net! **On the 4th Monday of each month there will be a guest Net Control Station**.

Like to try your hand at being a guest NCS for one Monday? Contact Ken at kd1ku@yahoo.com

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

Share the Knowledge Meetings are Coming Back for 2024

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings have been a huge hit. Last winter we had many excellent STK Zoom meetings! If you missed any or would like to rewatch them check out all STK videos on http://www.hcra.org/category/videos/. STK begins next January 2024

If you have an idea for a STK meeting or maybe you'd like to give a short STK presentation in 2024? For complete details contact Larry, W1AST, at hamop.w1ast@gmail.com

Membership Memorial Page

All members have the opportunity to honor club members SK's on the new memorial page on hcra.org. This can be done easily by sending the SK member's name and callsign along with any text, stories, and photos. Send them to our webmaster, Vanessa, W1IRL, at the email address below: webmaster@hcra.org

Please check-out the HCRA You Tube Channel and while you're there don't forget to click subscribe!

I hope that many members are working on their short video's for the club's You Tube channel.

For more info see the April issue of Zero Beat. The YouTube Channel link is below.

For Sale Items

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

Send item description and photo(s) to: kd1ku@yahoo.com

HCRA Social Media Links

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

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

ZERO BEAT November 2023

Local Nets & Happenings

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

Sundays: 9:15 am Western MA. UHF Emergency Net on

443.200, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

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

3.930 L3D

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

 $\label{eq:Mondays:7} \textbf{Pm} \text{ , HCRA 10 Meter Net on 28.375, New topic every week. Have a topic to suggest? Contact $$ \underline{kd1ku@yahoo.com}$$$

Tuesdays: 7:30 pm, 146.94, PL 127.3 - Hampshire County Emer-

gency Net

Tuesdays: 8 pm, ARES Emergency Net, on 146.985, PL 136.5 **Wednesdays: 7:30 pm,** MTARA Info Net on 146.94, PL 127.3 **Wednesdays:** MTARA Swap net: 146.94, Following Info Net

Wednesdays: N1RLX Simplex Net. Check-In's on 146.94 then QSY to

146.42 Simplex immediately following the swap net

Wednesdays: 9 am, FCARC Experimental Net, 28.354 MHz Thursdays: 8 pm, FCARC Information Net, 146.985 - 136.5

Club Meetings and VE Sessions

1st Friday of the month at 7:30 pm HCRA Meeting. In-Person meetings began in Sept. 2022. Meetings start with a meet & greet at 7 pm followed by the regular meeting at 7:30pm sharp. http://www.hcra.org/

2nd Monday of the month at 7 pm, FCARC meeting. 1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls, MA. (airport). Social Hour 6-7 pm, meeting at 7 pm. http://www.fcarc.org/

2nd Saturday prior to FCARC meeting. 8 am Breakfast at Denny's Pantry, 496 Bernardston Rd. Greenfield, MA. Brad Councilman bc@councilman.com

3rd Friday of the month, MTARA Meeting, 7 pm, Castle Of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA, 01020 https://mtara.org/

4th Friday of the month, The Western Mass VE Team (WMVET) VE sessions at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room beginning January 27th and every 4th Friday at 6pm to perform VE exams. E-mail Dave, W1FAB wa1dc@yahoo.com. Call or text 413-575-2950. Need directions? http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/

4th Monday of the month, Be a guest Net Control Station for the 10 meter net! Contact kd1ku@yahoo.com

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

President - Larry Krainson, W1AST hamop.w1ast@gmail.com

Vice-President - Ez Moralez, W1AEZ ez.w1aez@gmail.com

Treasurer - George Collins, KC1V hcra.kc1v@gmail.com

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G

paulkelliher@comcast.net

Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE aa1ue@amsat.org

Membership - Steve Rodowicz, N1SR

n1sr413@gmail.com

Technical - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN

wa1ojn@jeffway.com

At Large - Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD

tipoacrata@gmail.com

Zero Beat Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU kd1ku@yahoo.com

Website - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL webmaster@hcra.org

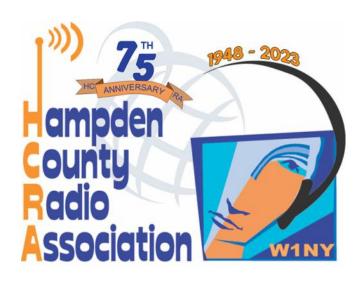
W1NY trustee, John, N1JIE n1jie@arrl.net

WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL webmaster@hcra.org





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



Here is your fabulous issue of Zero Beat!

Lots to Read in Our 75th Anniversary Edition

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