



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!

Kevin Odum KC1OPV
Gary Roy KB1AKU
Brad Councilman W1BCC
Michael Cerreta N1NOS

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Our 73rd Year as a Club!

October 2021

From the editor,

I hope everyone worked the WBZ Special Event Station or at least enough to get one of those beautiful QSL cards! It was a fantastic event and listening to some of the fond memories so many contacts made it even better.

The October issue is full of more great things ranging from our guest speaker at the next meeting to the other two candidates and how their campaign for the next ARRL New England Director is going.

Another well done article by Bill, W1FMX that is all about testing old vacuum tubes which is big part of restoring any old tube radio ham related or not. There will be more to come along this line if you're interested in the old HF rigs!

If you haven't paid your annual dues yet then do it now before it expires. I just did mine as I remembered while I was typing this!

Have an idea or submission? Drop me an email at kd1ku@arrl.net. I hope everyone has an enjoyable, safe Fall, see you all next month. 73, Ken - KD1KU

Annual Memberships Expired on August 31st

This reminder is for all HCRA members who renew annually. All annual memberships were up for renewal on August 31st 2021.

Please renew your membership as soon as possible.

It's your dues that keep HCRA growing and maintaining activities!

The fastest way to renew is PayPal but checks work too, [Click to Renew](#)

October's Meeting

Friday, October 1st at 7:30pm - Rag Chew Time Begins at 7pm!

Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC & his quest to be the next Division Director!

Being back to meetings held on Zoom isn't such a bad thing. Yes we'd rather meet in person but lets make the best out of it by participating! For this months Zoom meeting link, be sure to read "Larry's From The Shack".

Hear what Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC has for plans in his campaign to be the next ARRL New England Director. After his presentation he'll be taking questions, this is your chance to ask him your questions, one on one.



October 2021 - From the Presidents Shack

Summer is officially over, October is here. Nicer weather is all around us with more comfortable temperatures. It's a perfect time to get out and do some portable ham radio. Whether you drive somewhere and operate out of your car or go somewhere and park and hike to a location. The weather is perfect for that. Even sitting at the picnic table in the back yard can be fun.

With more comfortable temps, we've started hiding the Foxbox's again. Ken; KD1KU has been hiding FoxBox1 aka FB1 and I have been hiding FoxBox2 aka FB2. Our goal is to hide both Foxbox's twice a month.

The foxbox will always be on public property with free parking and walk up to find it. They will never be hidden someplace dangerous. So, no cliffs, or rivers or whatnot to cross to get to either one.

A clue will always be announced when one has been hidden. Such as, it can be activated from Route 33 in Chicopee or somewhere in the town of Longmeadow. That gives you a good place to start from.

But how to activate it? Both are on 147.550 MHz. FB1 has a PL of 100.0 and FB2 has a PL of 151.3. From there you should ID. An activation sequence might be:

"W1AST foxhunting then depress the DTMF Key #1 for half a second." If you are in range, the foxbox will transmit a series of tones and end up with a CW ID.

FB2 has a newer HT and a better receiver and can be activated from further away. Rod, N1RUU was able to activate FB2 from Enfield recently when it was hidden at Laurel Park in Longmeadow, probably 3 to 4 miles away. Whereas FB1 has the Baofeng HT and you have to be much closer to be activated. But it's all part of the fun.

There will be announcements on the WMAFoxHunters group ([groups.io](https://groups.io/join/WMAFoxHunters)) and the HCRA Facebook page and email lists. If you find the foxbox, post a picture of it or pose with your gear in front of it and share with everyone.

Foxhunting is a LOT of fun and if you haven't tried it, you owe it to yourself to do so. Hunting the Foxbox's can be done on your time, when you want.

We are considering holding a Sunday morning hunt one of these days. One where you start from a location, find the main fox and then hunt one or both of the Foxbox's at the fox's den. We may do one of those towards the end of October.

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FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

If you haven't heard, the HCRA Holiday Party is back! We'll be at the Steaming Tender in Palmer on Monday night, December 6th at 6:30 pm. The cost is just \$25 per person, there will be door prizes, great food, fantastic conversation with friends. We are requiring anyone who attends to have been vaccinated. See how you can make a reservation and the menu elsewhere in ZeroBeat.

October also brings the CQ WW DX SSB contest late in the month. This is a good opportunity to work some DX and kick off the big contest season. You can subscribe and get weekly an email with a weeks' worth of contests from www.contestcalendar.com or just check there periodically. But getting the weekly reminder emails are very convenient. It also makes spotting the contests you don't want to miss much easier.

For the October meeting, my friend Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC will be bringing his excitement of all things ham radio to the HCRA. Fred is a super dynamic ham. He's huge on mentoring, educating, operating and all things ham radio. It's really hard to not catch his excitement after listening to him speak.

I consider Fred a good friend. A few years ago, I had a few deep conversations with him and he helped me to organize and jump start my ideas for the HCRA. Much of his advice still guides me with the ideas about what I do with the club. He's worth listening to. I do hope you will join us on Zoom on Friday, October 1st at 7: 30 pm.

Fred is also the hams ham. By that I mean you could be standing beside him talking to him and there are no airs about him. He'll talk to you and anyone on any level you want. Fred is also running for the New England Division Director. You can learn more about him at: <https://ab1oc-4-director.org/> and about his amazing work with the Nashua Amateur Radio Society at www.nlfd.org.

By now you have heard we are continuing the HCRA meetings on Zoom. Holyoke Hospital has told us "Not yet" for being able to return to our live meetings due to hospital policy. They are hoping more and more people will get the vaccines causing less people to get extremely sick and allowing the rest of us to return to using the Auxiliary Room. So, for now, we continue using Zoom. We hope that this will not discourage you and still want you to participate in the HCRA Zoom meetings.

Gary, AA1UE is the clubs program director and he has some fantastic guest speakers coming up. Make sure you join us the first Friday of each month. If you do miss a meeting, you can check here: <http://www.hcra.org/category/meetings/general-meetings/> to see the meeting that you missed. You can fast forward to get to what you want to see. But, very often the pre-meeting conversations are very interesting.

Ken; KD1KU has been the ZeroBeat Editor for a few months now and each issue that he produces gets better and better than the last. Ken puts a lot of work into the newsletter and if you're not reading it, you really are missing something excellent.

Take the time to thank these two board members for their hard work as well as all the board for everything they do for the club.

I do hope to see you at the October meeting.

Here is your link and "doors open" at 7:00 PM for pre-meeting conversation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89404893160?pwd=aUFLTURiaWxXaGRrVHpidEp2QzRqQT09>

Larry, W1AST



FRED HOPENGARTEN , K1VR

SEEKING RE-ELECTION AS YOUR NEW ENGLAND DIRECTOR



CQ WW SSB 2018-#1 USA Multi-Single High Power (left)

Photo courtesy of Marty Sullaway, NN1C (Newton, MA)



Cranking up the AB-577 for the W1NY tribander at HCRA
FD 2021 (right)

Photo courtesy of Ted Schiff, K3FEC (Hadley, MA)

Why I Seek Re-election as Your New England Director

Born in Boston, raised in Newton Centre, I've been a ham since age 10. Other homes: Waban, Cambridge, and Lincoln since 1980. I have been a member of a lot of clubs. I've seen many changes and have operated from many places around the world. Last time, I was an unlikely candidate – but many of you said change was urgently needed and urged me to run. I did.

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FRED HOPENGARTEN, K1VR CONT'D

SEEKING RE-ELECTION AS YOUR NEW ENGLAND DIRECTOR

I learned about the debilitating damage caused by earlier Boards, and exposed things that urgently needed attention. I accepted the challenge. I believe Members should be the driving force behind everything the League does. Despite my Massachusetts origins, a Director should represent all six states and all interests of the Division, not just his idea of what might be best. This I have done.

Here are some of my accomplishments:

- Stopping the disastrous “ARPA” which would have made life difficult for hams in HOAs. It was a giant mistake and I worked hard to get the Board to withdraw its support – publishing articles and lobbying. Since then, I’ve spent hundreds of hours writing New England state bills, and as a co-author of the replacement bill, to be introduced in Congress any day now. We are withholding the language until we know what the Congressional committee will approve.
- Selected for the CEO Search Committee, I helped hire the first stable, competent CEO in 5 years.
- As one of two Directors who are lawyers, I am appointed to the Legal Structure Review Committee to rewrite the League’s governing documents – providing transparency, and increasing support for clubs, Field Services, ARES, and traffic handlers. I released formerly secret Board Standing Orders, and worked to create the new Emergency Communications Committee.
- I began the effort to undo 40 years of investment policy neglect. A professional money management company for our endowment will be named in January. The goal – to hold dues in line and enhance ARRL programs.

In 400 words I cannot identify everything done or intend, if re-elected. For more, please see www.Hams4NewEngland.org. A graduate of BC Law, Harvard Business School, Extra Class licensee, businessman and lawyer (and former law clerk to the FTC Chairman) -- but mostly, I love ham radio. Write to me: k1vr@arrl.org.

I want to continue as your Director, to continue to work for you.
Please re-elect me,

73, Fred Hopengarten, K1VR

Fred Hopengarten, K1VR

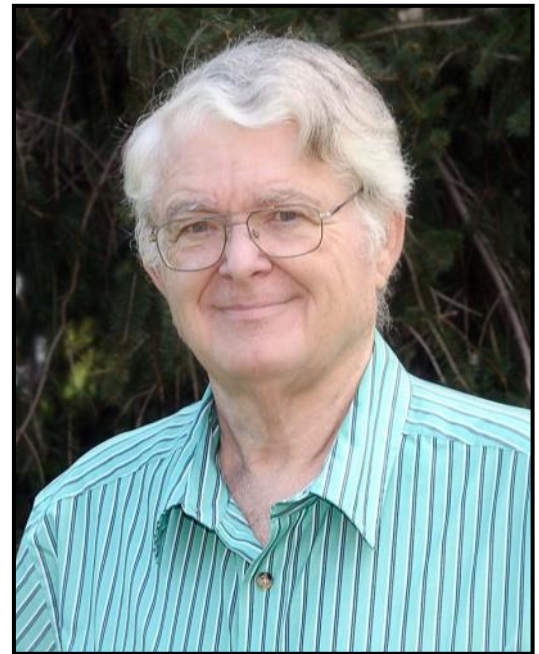
TOM FRENAYE, K1KI

CANDIDATE - FOR NEW ENGLAND DIVISION DIRECTOR

Hi, I'm Tom Frenaye from West Suffield CT (near Springfield MA) and I'm running for election as New England Division Director of the ARRL. I've served as ARRL Director in the past and am currently elected as an ARRL Director Emeritus.

I've been licensed since I was 14 years old, thanks to a middle school science teacher. Amateur Radio has been part of my life ever since! I'm particularly interested and involved in on-the-air activities. In high school I focused on DXing and county hunting and worked more than 1500 US counties. A friend and I started the California QSO Party in the early 1970s.

After graduate school I took a once in a lifetime job as a communications specialist and spent a year in Palmer Station, Antarctica, also operating as KC4AAC. Following that, I took the job of contest program manager at ARRL in Newington CT. During that time, I learned about packet radio, which led to an understanding of computer networks, and a career in information technology at a Hartford-area insurance company where I developed large corporate databases for end user access, managed the new information center and the network control operations.



Tom Frenaye, K1KI
New England Division Director Candidate

I was elected as ARRL Director and Vice President until 2018, and also as ARRL Foundation president for ten years. I've also served on several of my town's boards and commissions, including finance, technology, capital projects, and the planning and zoning commission. I've also served as mayor (First Selectman). I believe every ham should look for the opportunity to get involved in their town's government in some way.

In the 1990's I started a New England effort to get new hams on the air called the Get On The Air Program. It focused on reaching out to new hams and helping them to get started in ham radio by connecting them to local ham radio clubs. This program was then adopted by the ARRL as a major addition to Field Day - the Get On The Air (GOTA) station which is perfect for introducing and mentoring new hams on-the-air.

In 2002 I started the New England QSO Party as a way to help encourage on-the-air activity. Over the last twenty years it has grown to more than 150,000 QSOs made in a weekend and 1100 logs received.

When the World Radiosport Team Championships were held in the Boston area in 2014, I was part of the team that managed the event. My assignment was to find 50+ locations for teams to operate from, and to build the several hundred volunteers for site management. I've also served as President of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. I especially like to operate CW and on 160 meters, and really enjoy building antennas. I'm looking forward to the improving propagation on the 15 and 10m bands!

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TOM FRENAYE, K1KI CONT'D

CANDIDATE - FOR NEW ENGLAND DIVISION DIRECTOR

What have I accomplished on the ARRL Board in the past? (here are some of them)

- Grew ARRL Foundation from 20 scholarships/year to 100 scholarships/year, totaling over \$1.4 awarded
- Pushed for expanded ARRL Expo at Dayton and other large conventions
- Stopped Broadband over Powerline (BPL) – ARRL sued FCC and won
- Helped to ensure state and federal legislation regarding cell phone in cars did not include ham radio
- Strong support of International Amateur Radio Union to protect ham radio internationally
- Supported establishment of ARRL Continuing Education program (now the Learning Network)
- Filed comments with FCC protecting ham bands from commercial interests
- Strongly supported successful efforts to gain access to 2200m(135 KHz) and 630m (472 KHz) bands in 2017, as well as 60m(5 MHz) in 2002
- Chairmen of ARRL Board committees – Administration and Finance, Programs and Services, Ethics and Elections, served on Executive Committee many years, and led Entry Level License Committee
- Led effort to make ARRL Board and Executive Committee agendas available to members via email ahead of meetings, and distribute meeting minutes afterwards
- Pushed for new ARRL magazine for newcomers – On The Air
- Voted to approve making QST available in electronic format as an option (2011)
- Supported first remote Volunteer Exam sessions using Internet video
- Supported hardware improvements and programming resources for Logbook of the World
- Conducted two day long in-person meetings of Section Managers and ARRL club presidents each year to discuss ARRL policies and programs and receive input on local/club issues
- Supported Amateur Radio Parity Act in Congress to extend PRB-1 protections to condos and HOA owners
- Approved Board action to ask FCC for changes in rules to allow Pactor 4 and similar digital codes
- Supported ARRL petition to FCC to expand 80m digital band segment

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TOM FRENAYE, K1KI CONT'D

CANDIDATE - FOR NEW ENGLAND DIVISION DIRECTOR

Why run for the ARRL Board

ARRL is at a crossroads and has faltered during the last several years. There have been five different CEOs in the last five years, many of the key staff members have retired or left the organization. The ARRL Board has also had a difficult time with inexperience and failure to apply good management to the organization.

I'm running for Director because I'm critical of the way things have been managed by HQ and the Board. I believe that the right decision is not just to criticize but to step forward and be part of the solution to improve the organization.

The ARRL needs to have a current strategic plan and must focus on improving the League's relationship with both the FCC and members of Congress. Amateur radio needs to continue to adapt to the changing technological world, FCC rules need to be modernized.

Hams need relief from the condominium and homeowner association rules that limit or prohibit reasonable antennas. During the last three years, no progress has been made on that relief, and actually, the effort has ground to a stop.

The Technician license needs to be modernized so digital modes can be used on HF band segments, not just CW. We have to find a way to limit the serious problem with consumer electronic equipment RF interference, and the explosion in noisy solar energy installations. This will require action by the ARRL, Congress and the FCC, because the current rules are incapable of addressing the RF pollution, and enforcement is nearly non-existent.

ARRL conflict of interest rules for elected officials are not sufficient to deal with many current situations, and I will work to strengthen them.

I'd appreciate your vote in the upcoming ARRL Director election. Ballots will be mailed out from Newington by October 1st.

If you have any questions at all, please give me a call at 860-597-4539 or email to frenaye@pcnet.com or K1KI@arrl.net

Thanks, and 73!

Tom Frenaye K1KI



Last HCRA Meeting You Tube Link

The September meeting was all about working satellites with equipment you probably already own by Gary, AA1UE

Don't forget to click on subscribe before leaving!

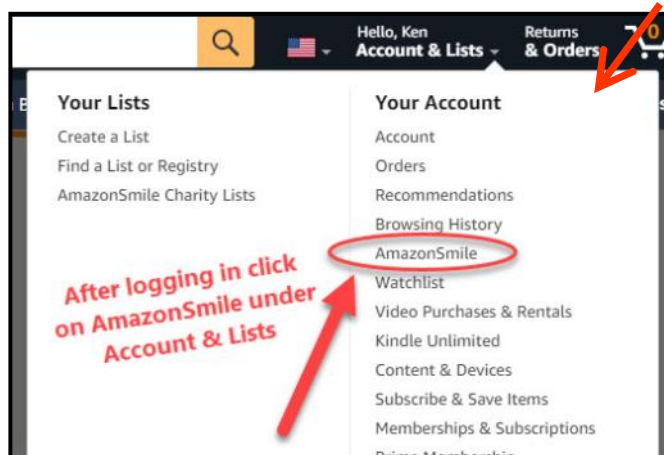
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_lcrIz9Fsw



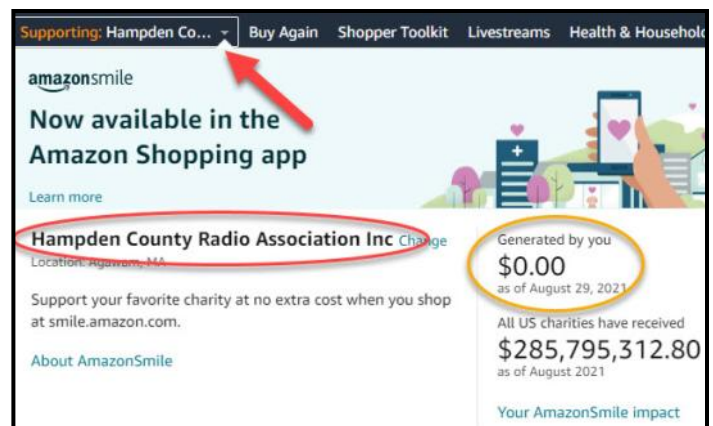
What is AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is an easy way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you! AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with 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!

THE FOX'S DEN

HCRA FOX HUNTING IS BACK! NOW LETS FIND THOSE FOXBOX'S

Fox Hunting is Back!

I know this summer was one of the wettest and hottest summers in recent memory! Both Foxbox's have remained in the darn confines of the basement!

Fall is officially here and pretty soon we'll be raking leaves. Need an excuse to get out of yard work? Simply say you must join in on the upcoming HCRA fox hunt to practice for the possible upcoming live fox hunt!

The plan is to always hide the foxbox's somewhere in the greater Springfield / Northampton area in a public place, close to safe parking and on relatively flat ground that's easy on the feet. Climbing up big hills or in Poison Ivy is avoided.

Last month both FB-1 and FB-2 were in hiding and many hunters were out there trying to locate them. Some were very successful while others were not. Don't get discouraged if you didn't find the Foxbox's, it does take practice so the more often you hunt the better you will get.

For details on upcoming hunts check:

<https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters> or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HampdenCountyRA>



How to Activate Both Foxbox's

Both Fox Box's transmit and receive on 147.550 simplex but to activate them you need the proper sequence and the correct PL tones listed below!

Foxbox-1's PL tone is 100.0

Foxbox-2's PL tone is 151.3

To activate either Foxbox go to the 2-meter simplex frequency of 147.550 (with the PL tone for that Foxbox), key your transmitter, identify yourself with your call-sign and while keyed press the DTMF "1". If the Fox can hear you (and you can hear it) you will hear its very distinctive sound. (Both Fox Box's play different melody's) It will transmit for 30 seconds, ID and then repeat 2 more times before going back to sleep. You can make it transmit as often as necessary to locate it. Sometimes it takes several try's to get a heading on a Foxbox.

To get the latest fox hunting info go to <https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters>, if you don't have an account sign-up it's free, safe and secure! Also watch the HCRA Facebook group page and the Reflector email blast for complete details and to post the pic you took after finding the FB.

This Fall when temperatures are more enjoyable foxhunts will be held twice per month. There is a very good chance of having an old school "live" Foxhunt!

Were you unable to attend the first AB10C Elect Town Hall Meeting?
Click the link to watch it now: <https://abloc-4-director.org/first-town-hall/>



HOLIDAY PARTY



The HCRA Holiday Party at the Steaming Tender Restaurant

Date: Monday evening December 6th

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

***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, grapes, 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 drink.
The bar will be available for drink purchases to suit everyone's choice.

**Make checks payable to HCRA
and mail reservations to:**

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



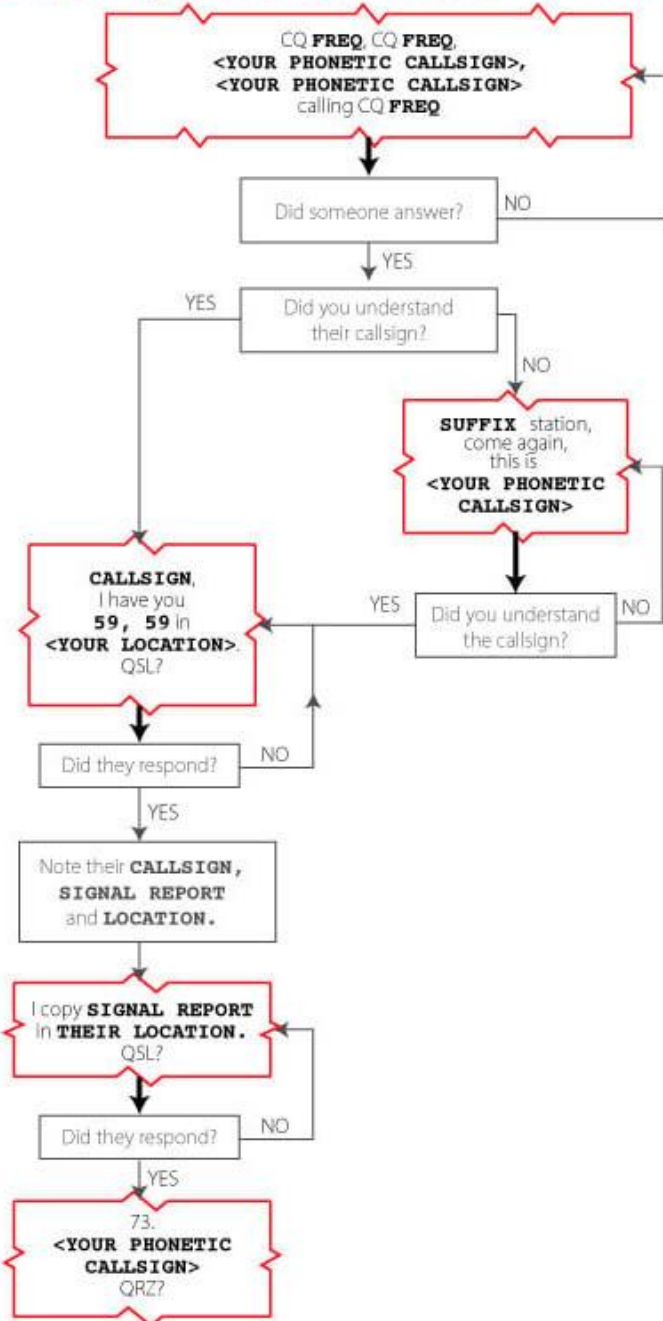
FIRST TIME HAM

TIPS ON CALLING CQ OR ANSWERING A CQ CALL

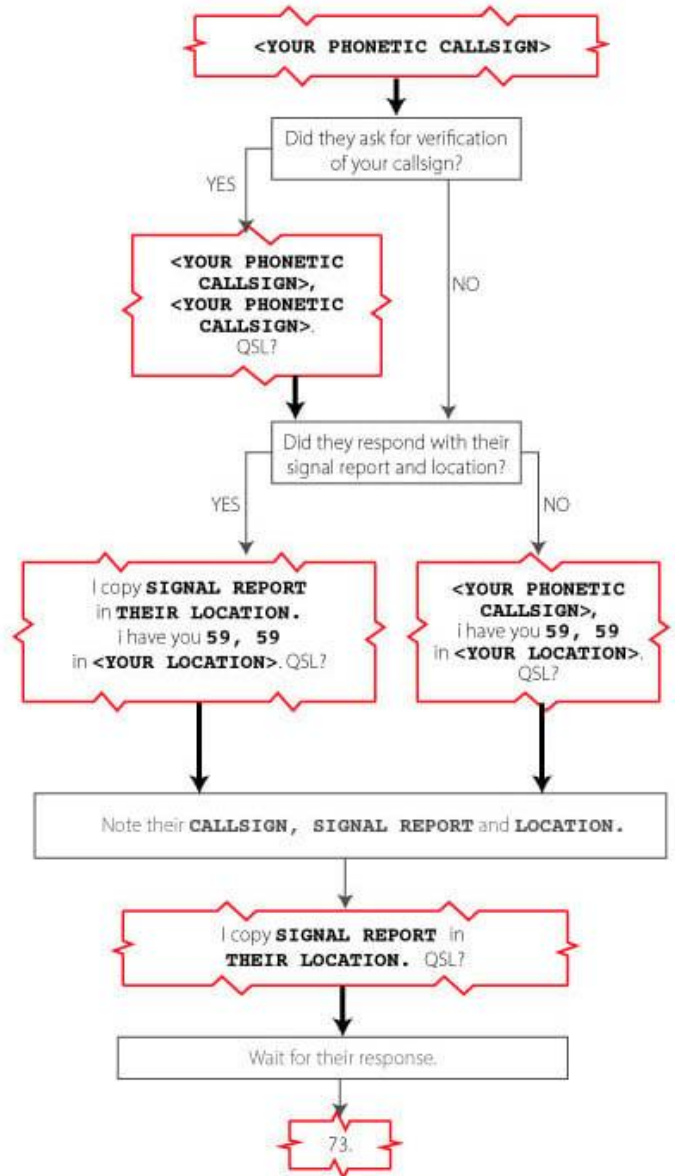
One thing that almost everyone encounters when you first get HF privileges is the proper way to call or answer a CQ. The following flow charts were courtesy of the internet and John, N1JIE and should give a new or upgraded ham a little bit more confidence to press that PTT and get on the air!

One thing I hear allot and it's not necessary, that is saying CQ 20 meters or something similar!

Before calling CQ first listen, then ask if the freq is in use!



Responding to a CQ Call



TESTING VACUUM TUBES

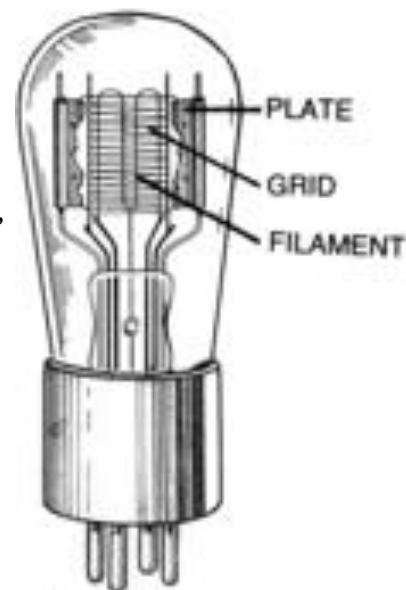
IF YOU LIKE VINTAGE RADIO'S YOU NEED ONE OF THESE!

Perhaps you have become interested in vintage Ham gear so that you can participate in the Novice Rig Round-up or are simply curious about using older radios. If that is the case, at some point, you are likely to want to use a tube tester.

First, just a bit of background on vacuum tubes which function by something known as thermionic emission – here is a greatly simplified explanation. There are three components in a vacuum tube that are important to understand: the filament, the grid and the plate. Heat is generated by an electrical current running through an incandescent filament which can release electrons or it can indirectly heat an element known as the cathode (often made of tungsten) which then releases electrons from its surface. The plate, or anode, if it is positive with respect to the filament or heated cathode, will then attract the electrons. The grid functions like a screen that controls the flow of electrons to the anode.

There are three types of tests that can be done on tubes: for shorting, emissions and a transconductance test. For now, let's just discuss the first two tests which are the simplest to understand. By the way, most basic tube testers will feature both a test for shorts and emissions.

Testing for shorts means checking to see if there are any shorts between the elements in a tube. If there are, then a neon light on the tester will glow. An emissions test looks at the flow of electrons from the cathode – it is assumed that a lower flow indicates a failing tube. When a tube is tested using an emissions tester, at a certain point, the anode will be collecting all of the electrons that it can, and the plate current at this level is known as the saturation current. A tube will fail the test if it does not approach the saturation current level.



book – here is an example. To test a 6AU6, a commonly used tube, then switch #1 is set to “A”, dial #2 is set to 7, and so forth. SKT refers to the correct socket to be used and the “Sht Test” gives the dial settings for the “short” test. The red sockets are used to tube straight pins that might be slightly bent.

Here is an Eico emissions tester. To use it, one simply looks up the socket and dial settings to be used on the tester for that particular vacuum tube in an accompanying guide book. Tubes are identified by numbers or numbers and letters. For example, a popular final amplifier tube used in ham radios of the 1960's was a 6146, while a 12AT7 might be a used for a product detector or oscillator.

In order to know which socket to use and how to set the dials, the user refers to the guide-

TUBE	1	2	3	4	Skt	Sht Test
6AR11	A	11	E	10	I	2-9
6AS5	A	1	E	2	L	2-6
6AS6	A	2	E	1	L	2-6
6AS7	A	3	E	1	E	
6AS7	A	6	E	4	E	
6AS8	A	3	E	2	A	2-1
6AS8#	B	8	E	6	A	
6AS11	A	7	E	3	I	
6AS11	A	5	E	6	I	
6AS11	A	9	E	11	I	2-10
6AT6	A	2	E	1	L	
6AT6#	C	2	E	5	L	
6AT6#	C	2	E	6	L	
6AT8	A	3	E	1	A	
6AT8	A	3	E	9	A	2-7
6AU4#	A	3	E	5	E	
6AU5	A	3	E	1	D	2-8
6AU6	A	7	E	1	L	2-6
6AU7	A					

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TESTING VACUUM TUBES CONT'D

IF YOU LIKE VINTAGE RADIO'S YOU NEED ONE OF THESE

After the tube has warmed up (this happens after approximately 30 seconds, but can take up to a couple of minutes), the user simply presses the slide switch at the lower right corner of the tester and looks at the meter reading – in this case the tube is good, but somewhat weak. If there were a short, the light located above the red slide switch would be illuminated when that test is conducted.



If the tube was bad, this is what the user would see!



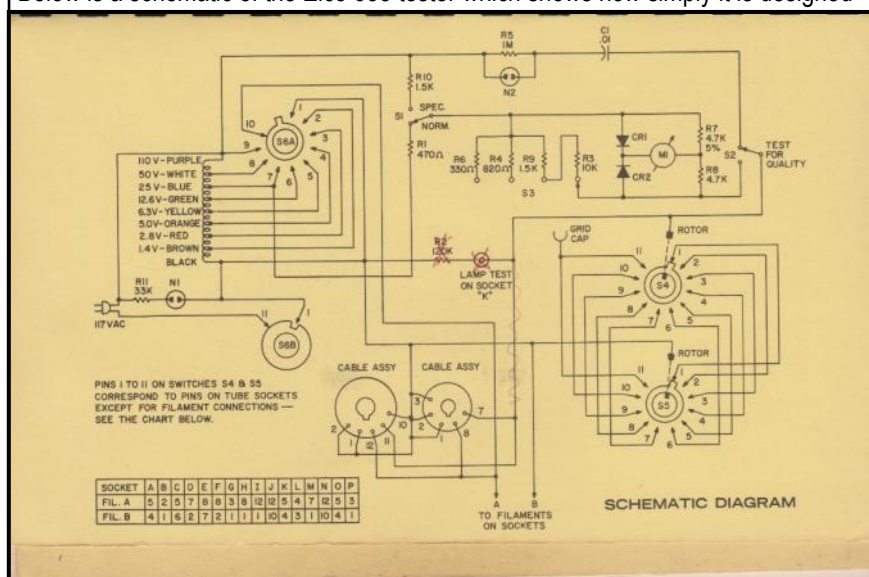
There are a couple of things to keep in mind when using an emissions tube tester. First, a tube can appear to be good, but actually it may not be useful – that is why the transconductance testers are superior. Also, as tubes are usually very old, the pins may need to be cleaned before testing with a wire brush to ensure that contact is made with the socket – otherwise, the tube may appear to be bad, when it is simply a bad connection in the socket. Finally, sometimes shorts won't show with a tube until it has heated up adequately.

So, if you do have an interest in older radios, an emissions tester can be very handy to have in the shack in order to do a preliminary check if there is a problem with your equipment. Emissions testers themselves are vintage gear and may need to be serviced (usually, though, they are very simple circuits).

If you're looking for a tube tester, the prices will range from about \$50 to \$350, depending on the brand, condition and type of tester.

73, Bill — W1FMX

Below is a schematic of the Eico 635 tester which shows how simply it is designed



ITEM'S FOR SALE

FOR SALE!

HCRA MEMBER ITEMS FOR SALE, TRADE OR WANTED

If you're interested in anything on either list please contact: k1voi_jp@charter.net

Ten-Tec Scout Model 555 HF (desk radio)
80,40,20,15,10 meters, Needs new mic cord

Ten-Tec model 526 6m and 2m (desk radio)
needs new mic cord

Radio Shack Model HTX-10 10m (desk radio)

Azden Model AZ-61 6m HT with mic and spare battery
w/charger

Yaesu FT-2800 - 2m FM transceiver 65w needs a
new mic cord, instructions and orig box

Yaesu VX-150 2m HT
2 spare batteries w/charger
1 AA battery pack, hand mic and manual

Yaesu VX-170 20m HT
Missing on/off knob, battery but no antenna

Radio Shack 25 amp switching power supply

Astron 12 amp transformer power supply

MFJ 8 pole power outlet w/meter banana connections
3 element 2m beam

G5RV Junior dipole, 40-10, New! Still in the bag

OFC dipole 80m built-in balun needs replacing

MFJ Versa Tuner model MFJ-901B

Radio Shack SWR/Power meter #21-524

Para Dynamics SWR/Power meter 15w/60w

Vanco SWR meter up to 1kw

MFJ A/B switch, **Dipole center**, W2AU Ansulator

Hustler 75m and 40m antennas no base mounts

Diamond Magmount NR770HAB 2m70cm CR270A
2m/70cm
Wall Wart Chargers

RG-8 Coax, various lengths

Yaesu FT-897D

100 watt all band (HF/VHF/UHF)
LDG AT-897 Automatic Antenna Tuner
LDG FT-Meter (power and SWR meter)
CAT Interface cable (CT-62) with software Charger for
internal batteries

Note: (batteries haven't been charged for a number of
years and they may not hold a charge any longer)

Hand Mic

Original shipping box

Manuals

List price new \$1,100

\$450.00

Ameritron ALS-600/S

600 watt solid state amplifier with switching power
supply Original shipping boxes

Ameritron ARB-704 Interface Buffer

(used to isolate radio T/R circuit from amplifier)

Manual

List price new \$1,700 to \$2,100

\$800.00

LDG-600 Pro Autotuner (600 watt)

Cables and manual

List price new \$370.00

\$175.00

Scheduled Meetings and Guest Speakers



Everything you need to know to work satellites with equipment you already own by Gary, AA1UE



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.



Everything you Need to Know About You Tube (and more) by Bob, N1NUG



The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant (subject to change due to Covid variant)



All About EMCOMM or Emergency Communications including some Go Boxes and ways to power off grid operations by Charlie, KC1IKA



Building your very own Contest Station - Presented by DX Engineering



It's almost balloon time once again and here to give us all of the latest updates for the next launch is Marcel, AA1WH



Show and Tell is back... This has always been one of the very best and most interesting out of all the meetings!



Guest Speaker To Be Announced



Elections, Field Day prep and more. Please consider running for a board position, HCRA is better with you involved!

ARRL STUFF

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

District Director elections are here. There are 3 candidates, current director Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, Tom Frenaye, K1KI, and Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC. All candidates have clear areas of expertise, and are experienced hams and leaders. There has been a good email discussion going on this week about the candidates. Beginning October 1, ARRL members will send in their ballots for New England director. Vice Director had no challenger, and was declared elected. As with any organization, elected leadership is a lot of work, and the person in that office must have a clear concept of what they believe the correct direction of the organization should be. Often, membership does not have multiple candidates to choose from. This is not a decision to leave to others. Get involved, learn about the candidates and vote.

A starting point to learning for our district could be a groups.io that I learned about from the EMA web page.

Go to <https://groups.io/g/NE-elect> and start there. Already lots of good discussion. Candidates are responding to questions, and that is a good indicator of the importance of this election.

ARRL Western Mass Section

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

ARES Membership

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible to apply for membership in ARES or Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information. Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

Become an ARES Member!

Click the link below to apply for Western Massachusetts ARES membership.

<https://wma.arrrl.org/registration/>

Event: FCARC Pioneer Valley Experimental Net, 9am - 10am

Location: 10 Meters 28.354 MHz

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

Organizer: Brad Councilman bc@councilman.com

Event: NEDECN DMR Weather Net Every Thursday at 7:30pm

You can now check in with ECHO LINK, how cool is that!

For echo link, use: K1QVC/L , that will bring up the "Derry NH closed system"

NEDECN Stands for New England Digital Emergency Communications Network.

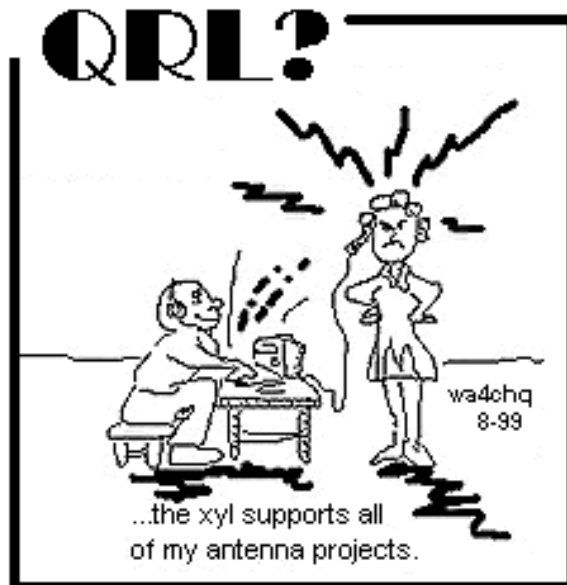
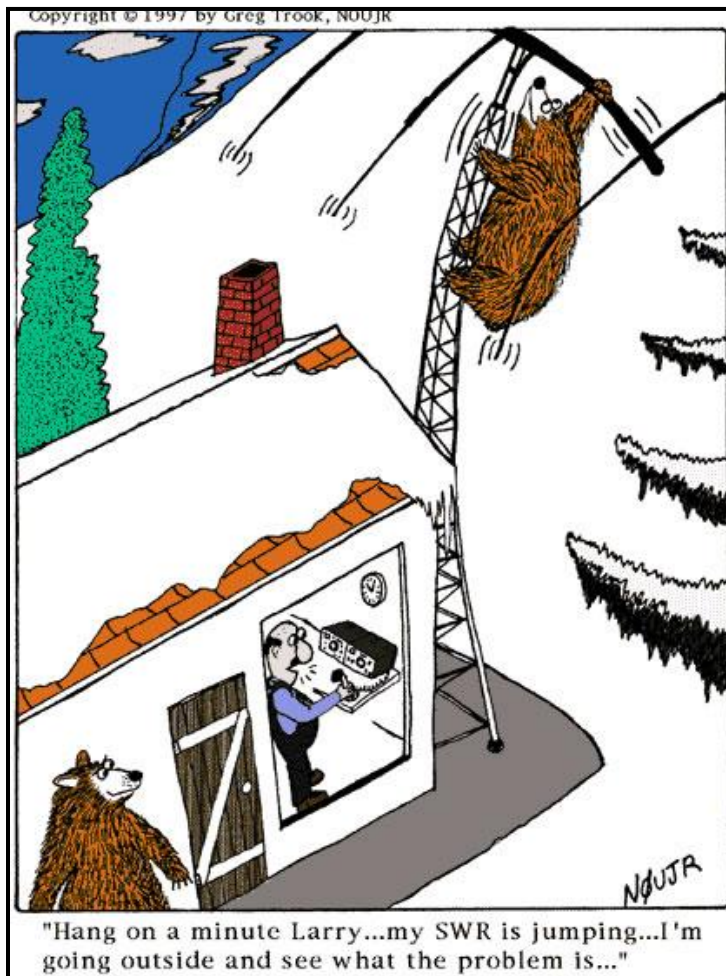
One of the talk groups on this New England DMR system is the SKYWARN talk group.

For Additional Details: For further information contact: Ralph Lovering at w1uol@verizon.net

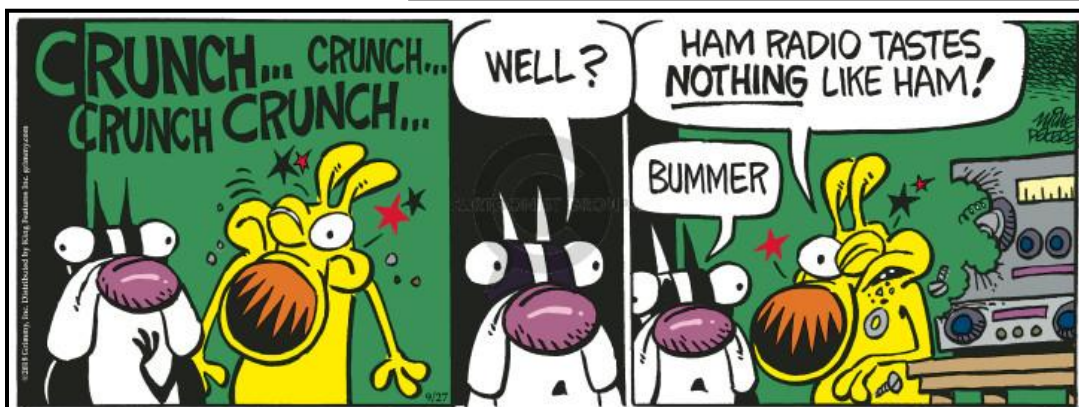
ARRL Western Massachusetts Section Manager - Raymond P. Lajoie, KB1LRL - kb1lrl@arrrl.org

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





I HATE BEING
SEXY
BUT I'M A
HAM RADIO
OPERATOR
SO I CAN'T HELP IT





HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



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!

General License Class

HCRA has plans to hold a General license class but before this can happen we need someone to head this class up! Also needed are teachers & more. Please consider volunteering to lead this class or it may be scrapped! For more information or to volunteer contact Larry, W1AST at: w1ast@arrl.net

Fox Hunting

Both Foxbox's will be in hiding twice per month during most weekends throughout the fall/winter season. For more info see The Fox's Den on page 10 or join <https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters> and get all the latest info on both FB-1 and FB-2 with frequency's, PL tones and more join today, it's FREE!

10 Meter Net Fall Schedule

The 10 meter net Fall schedule will be as follows: Beginning on 9/13 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. This can be done by sending in the SK members name and callsign along with any text, stories and can also include photo's too. Send them to our webmaster, Vanessa, W1IRL at the following email address: webmaster@hcra.org

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

For Sale Items

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

Send item description and photo(s) to:
kd1ku@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 Information Updated September 27th 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	293	10	334	317	337	329	336	319	321	339	2775	58 yrs
3	NU1O+1	18	149	9	268	240	326	275	322	231	308	335	2146	33 yrs
4	KK1W+1	136	193	7	271	225	309	279	280	216	232	329	2148	45 yrs
5	NV1Q+3	27	136	0	181	111	308	257	314	232	256	329	1822	42 yrs
6	NF1G	0	157	0	234	254	304	267	267	183	206	319	1872	37 yrs
7	W1PY+1	34	116	0	200	64	246	207	242	130	204	291	1443	11 yrs
8	KX1X	67	127	62	184	151	206	134	206	58	193	252	1388	24 yrs
9	K1NZ+1	115	156	86	166	193	187	164	146	83	68	249	1364	10 yrs
10	K1VOI	5	66	2	114	60	201	141	163	72	144	247	968	20 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10			
11	N1TA+3	109	151	26	193	98	205	99	190	20	131	244	1222	20 yrs
12	NE1C	63	114	0	151	0	206	0	195	0	152	238	881	19 yrs
13	W1AST+1	3	60	9	103	28	166	107	125	10	120	202	731	12 yrs
14	NT1K+2	9	49	2	103	33	184	45	141	47	123	199	736	11 yrs
15	N1FTP	0	7	0	64	0	170	47	119	16	109	184	532	13 yrs
16	WD1S	49	56	0	116	33	143	30	95	11	98	172	631	9 yrs
17	W1NU+2	2	38	21	86	40	131	76	60	27	38	147	519	6 yrs
18	N1JIE	2	5	3	31	28	60	29	11	2	5	85	176	4 yrs
19	W1TRK	0	3	0	11	0	64	0	34	0	1	79	113	4 yrs
20	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	24	0	45	0	0	1	0	54	70	5 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10			
21	N1FJ	0	0	0	6	0	30	0	16	3	16	51	71	8 yrs

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

This is the HCRA Clublog for 2021 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy so far this year!



Your Log
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DXCC Leagues

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

<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Mode Filter	<input type="radio"/> CW	<input type="radio"/> Phone	<input type="radio"/> Data
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rank by DXCCs	<input type="radio"/> Rank by slots	Rank by band: Totals ▾	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 160M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 80M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10M <input type="checkbox"/> 6M			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Current entities	<input type="radio"/> Current and deleted	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Worked	<input type="radio"/> Confirmed
<input 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	69	0	107	52	189	94	107	15	43	219	717	58 yrs
2	NF1G	0	21	0	65	117	151	136	99	36	20	206	645	37 yrs
3	KK1W+1	33	24	0	68	35	131	32	28	1	2	203	354	45 yrs
4	KX1X	5	74	16	118	114	126	102	107	30	51	161	743	24 yrs
5	W1PY+1	2	10	0	39	0	135	17	23	1	1	160	228	11 yrs
6	N1TA+3	27	86	17	105	86	131	89	81	14	43	157	679	20 yrs
7	NU1O+1	1	1	0	12	4	127	31	37	2	37	147	252	33 yrs
8	K1NZ+1	29	55	9	36	79	54	53	28	7	12	119	362	10 yrs
9	W1NU+2	1	13	16	29	35	93	59	32	11	19	106	308	6 yrs
10	K1VOI	0	25	0	54	18	78	41	50	7	12	100	285	20 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	W1AST+1	3	7	0	34	1	65	16	23	0	6	81	155	12 yrs
13	NE1C	3	8	0	35	0	71	0	12	0	1	77	130	19 yrs
14	N1FTP	0	1	0	22	0	67	0	23	0	2	74	115	13 yrs
15	N1JIE	2	2	3	12	27	27	13	5	2	2	52	95	4 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
20	NT1K+2	0	0	0	4	0	12	0	0	0	0	13	16	11 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10			

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

October 18-22, 2021 - School Club Roundup - Monday @ 1300z through Friday @ 2359z

For more details visit: <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>

October 2nd at 0600z - 3rd 0600z - Oceania DX Contest, Phone - 1.8 thru 28 MHz

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

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

WBZ Radio 100th Anniversary Special Event - Sept 17th at 9:00am to Sept 19th at 11:59pm

The WBZ Special Event was a huge success. There was a total of 4629 QSO's made during this special event. This was my first time as a Special Event Station operator but it's not my last. Catch a SES and have a blast.

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 for complete information

or

Contact Paul, NFIG at NFIG@arrl.net



Local Nets & Happenings

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

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

1st Monday:

RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



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

Club Meetings and VE Sessions

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

1st Friday of the month at 7:30pm HCRA Meeting.

Virtual 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)

HCRA Contact List

President - Larry Krainson, W1AST
w1ast@arrrl.net

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

Treasurer - Duane Pray, KC1FQV
kc1fqv@arrrl.net

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
nf1g@arrrl.net

Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE
aa1ue@amsat.org

Membership - John Plaster, K1VOI
k1voi_jp@charter.net

Technical - Najm Choueiry, AB1ZA
njc2@cox.net

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

Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU
kd1ku@arrrl.net

Website - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org

W1NY trustee, John, N1JIE
n1jie@arrrl.net

WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL



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

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