

September Meeting

Special points of interest:

- Next Meeting Friday, Oct 3
- Visit the HCRA facebook page.
- Don't forget to check out hcra.org
- Visit Summits on the Air <http://www.sota.org.uk>

How would you like a
FREE MFJ-266B
Antenna Analyzer?

Check out Page 4 and
see how.



**Join us Friday September 5th at 7:30, in the Holyoke Medical Center
Auxiliary Conference Center .**

It has been a busy summer for members of the HCRA. Jim/KK1W will brief us on all the fun that was had at Field Day, as well all the excitement they had working at the WRTC Medford site. And Eric/W1MOR will introduce us to the Bathany Assembly of God's outpost of Royal

Rangers Field Day activities at the "New England Pow Wow 2014 - Finish Righteous" located at Lake Wampanoag, Gardner Ma.



Inside this issue:

For directions to The Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center:

<http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

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HCRA's raffle this year is going to be for a Elecraft KX3!



For a mere \$10 donation to the HCRA, you get a chance to win an assembled KX3 by Elecraft valued at around \$1000.

This is an very popular and excellent HF portable radio that has an excellent receiver, low power consumption, can run on external power or 8AA batteries internally, it can transmit up to 12W and has plenty of options like an 100W amplifier, 2M module, pan adapter, ATU, Roofing filters, internal battery charger, custom CW paddle and others that can be added later.

HCRA has printed only 250 tickets and we will start selling them during field day 2014. Tickets will also be sold at meetings and other events throughout 2014 and part of 2015. The drawing will happen when all 250 tickets have been sold or during MTARA's Hamfest in March of 2015. Plenty of time to obtain your chance.

Raffle is just for the Elecraft KX3 Transceiver only. Drawing Date Subject To Change

Will you help pass HR-4969

Along with most of you, I received this email from the "ARRL Members Only Web Site". Having spent the last 10 years putting up towers for both public safety and wireless providers, I can tell you from personal experience, putting up a tower is not easy. Please help support our fellow amateurs. Call and write your local congress person, and urge them to co-sponsor HR-4969.

On the next page you will find a sample letter prepared by the ARRL to send to your local representative.

PLEASE HELP!

Gary WA1MOW ZB Editor

The September copy of QST should be in your mailbox shortly. Please pay special attention to the editorial on Page 9 from Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, regarding The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014 (or H.R. 4969) that was recently introduced in the US House of Representatives.

This legislation offers Amateur Radio the best chance for us to deal with antenna restrictions in decades. While PRB-1 has been very effective in dealing with local, state and federal restrictions for private property, it did not address the needs of the thousands of licensed hams living in property (~25 million housing units nationwide) restricted by CC&Rs (covenants, conditions, and restrictions) that are usually present in condominium and subdivisions. HR-4969 will open the door to discussions about reasonable accommodation.

Two New England House members have already signed on as co-sponsors, Joe Courtney from Connecticut's 2nd District and Peter Welch, member-at-large from Vermont. There are nineteen other House members in New England that are potential co-sponsors and we should be asking all of them for their support.

Will You Help?

We need two kinds of support in order to get this legislation moving, the first one is for you to take the time to write to your Congressperson and ask for his or her support for HR.4969. A few dozen letters from constituents really sends a message.

Here is a sample letter:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/HR%204969/Draft%20letter.docx>

If you are logged into the ARRL web site you can find your Congressperson here:

<http://www.arrl.org/contacting-your-congressional-representatives>

Otherwise, you can look up the email or postal address via:

<http://House.gov>

Make sure to send us a copy of your letter by email to n1nd@arrl.org with the words "HR 4969 letter" in the SUBJECT field of the email or by US mail to

ARRL
Attn: HR 4969 letter campaign
225 Main St
Newington, CT 06111

The second step is to set up meetings with each member of Congress. If you know your Representative personally or through professional connections, please let me know. If you have CC&R restrictions on your present ability to put up an antenna, let me know.

House members should be in their home district from now until the end of the first week of September, then will be back in Washington for two weeks. The next few weeks are ideal times to meet with them locally. We can work with you to make sure you have the information needed for a successful presentation.

For More Information

The text of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/HR%204969/Kinzinger-Courtney%20HR-4969.pdf>

Additional information on HR-4969 is on the ARRL web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/hr-4969>

Let me know if you have any questions and thanks in advance for your help!

Tom Frenaye, K1KI
New England Division Director
860-668-5444
K1KI@arrl.org

Dear Representative _____

As a constituent and a licensed Amateur Radio operator in your district, I am writing asking that you support HR 4969 – *The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014* – and request that you become a co-sponsor for this legislation.

For over 30 years the FCC and Congress have repeatedly acknowledged the “strong Federal interest” in effective Amateur Radio communications. The FCC found that municipalities often unreasonably restricted Amateur Radio antennas in residential areas. In its declaratory ruling now codified at 47 C.F.R. §97.15(b) – the FCC determined that:

“Except as otherwise provided herein, a station antenna structure may be erected at heights and dimensions sufficient to accommodate amateur service communications. (State and local regulation of a station antenna structure must not preclude amateur service communications. Rather, it must reasonably accommodate such communications and must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the state or local authority's legitimate purpose.”

HR 4969 will extend limited reasonable accommodation provisions to include all types of land use regulations, including preclusive homeowner’s association regulations and restrictive covenants. The FCC has jurisdiction to provide these protections when there is a conflict with Federal policy. This was established when, at Congress’ instructions, it enacted regulations that preempted municipal and private land use regulation over satellite dish antennas and television broadcast receive antennas in residences.

HR 4969 will provide a basis for radio Amateurs to negotiate reasonable accommodation for at least minimal outdoor Amateur Radio antennas with their homeowners’ association. This legislation is critically important to me and to the hundreds of other federally licensed Amateur Radio operators residing in your district. Please sign-on as a co-sponsor of HR 4969.

Sincerely,

FROM THE SHACK



Well here goes my first installment of from the shack. It has been a short, cool summer. Field day, WRTC, ARRL Centennial, 13 Colonies, and many other fun and exciting radio events went on this summer.

Many of the local folks made out good with the WRTC inventory. Basically new stuff only used once. At real steal prices.

The newest thing out the worth looking at from the ARRL is HR 4969.

What is it you ask?

In June, 2014 with Congressman Adam Kinzinger (IL-16) as the sponsor and Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-2) as co-sponsor, HR 4969 - the "Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014" - was introduced into the 113th Congress. This bipartisan effort would direct the FCC to extend the "reasonable accommodation" provisions for Amateur Radio antennas to include all types of land-use regulation, including deed restrictions and restrictive covenants.

What will HR 4969 do ?

Most importantly, it will ensure that every ham in the US, regardless of the community they live in, will have the opportunity to practice their avocation from their own homes without breaking any rules or fear of reprisal.

If enacted, HR 4969 would direct the FCC to extend the the reasonable accomodation protections to those amateurs who are living in deed-restricted communities. Known as "CC&Rs" (covenants, conditions and restrictions) are the prohibitions and limitations placed on properties by builders or home-owner associations (HOAs) which prevent licensed Amateurs from erecting even modest antennas.

HR 4969 would not give Amateurs "carte blanche" to do whatever they wished. It would require HOAs and other private land use regulations to extend reasonable accommodation to Amateurs wishing to erect antennas.

(The above copied from the ARRL website)

On to the fun stuff. We had an excellent raffle at Field Day 2014. It was an FT270R that went to one of the Springfield Emergency Preparedness team. We have a KX3 for our 250 raffle. For our membership raffle that will be drawn at the end of the October meeting we have a MFJ 266B Antenna analyzer.

WOULD YOU TURN DOWN A FREE ANTENNA ANALYZER?

I know I would not!

All you have to do is pay your membership dues before the end of the October meeting. That means there will be less than 100 tickets in the hat! The odds of you winning is less than **100 to 1!**

Where are you going to get those kind of odds!

FOR FREE! *

*Well you were going to pay you dues anyway, after all they are only \$15.00 for the year.

You can pay them online at:

<http://www.hcra.org/membership-payment/>
Or at the September and October meetings

Drawing will be held at the end of the October meeting. <http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-266B>



MFJ-266B Antenna Analyzer

For more information:

FOR SALE:



For sale are a set of paddles by GHD Key and sell for \$229.95 new. I'm looking for \$100 Firm. These are smooth paddles and will make your cw sending very easy. Chrome paddles with red finger grips on a marble base. In excellent conditions as can be seen from the pictures.

Also for sale is a Kenwood external speaker. Matches the size of the TS-590 and TS-570 but matches the color of the TS-570. Still looks good next to the 590 or other rigs. In excellent condition, works great, original box & manual. New is \$84.95. I am asking \$60.

Contact Larry, W1AST at 413-348-3289 or w1dbj@comcast.net

If you have a piece of Ham Radio equipment to sell, send photo and details by the 20th of the month, to w1mow@arrl.net. All submissions will be screened for appropriateness, and content. The decision to publish is at the discretion of the ZB Editor

Local happenings

Sundays: 0845: Western Mass Emergency Net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

First Monday: Southwick Regional RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

Mondays: 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

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

Wednesdays: 1930: MTARA Info net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - includes NTS Net

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

2000: MTARA Simplex Net - starts on 146.94 - PL 127.3, then goes to 146.42 direct (simplex) Usually starts immediately following the swap net.

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

Fridays: 1200: BB's (Brown Baggers Luncheon)
Munich House
13 Center Street
Chicopee, MA 01013

Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



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

Club meetings & VE sessions

1st Friday of the month 7:30 PM, HCRA Club Meeting, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech St. Holyoke MA 01040 (no meetings held in July or August.)
<http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

3rd Friday of the month 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, Springfield, Mass. (no meetings held in July or August)

4th Friday of the month 6:00 PM, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, Mass. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET). Contact: David Cote, w1fab@arrl.net

Third Monday of the month 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield High School (no meetings held in July or August) <http://www.fcarc.org/>

4th Monday of February, May, August, November 7:00 PM, FCARC VE Exams, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Northfield <http://www.fcarc.org/>

HCRA contact list

President, Ed LaCombe KB1NWH

kb1nwh@comcast.net

Vice-President, Eric LaCombe W1MOR

w1mor@comcast.net

Treasurer, Dave Cain AA1YW

aa1yw@arrl.net

Secretary, Dave Fant WM1B

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Membership, Rich Wheeler N1KXR

n1kxr@comcast.net

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k1yo@comcast.net

Skywarn Liaison, Eric Tuller N1QKO

et-n1qko@juno.com

VE Session Liaison, Dave Cote W1FAB

w1fab@arrl.net

WRTC 2014 Results and HCRA/WRTC Trivia

The scores are out! They can be found on the WRTC2104 web page.

But here's the really cool stuff.

We hosted four teams at Medfield State Hospital. Medfield was site 8 and the stations were 8A through 8D.

Here is the results from 'our' teams:

8A: K1M – IK1JHS & I4UFH – Won the SSB mode, placed 58th!

8B: N1A – DL1QQ & DL8DYL – The first YL WRTC team – placed 26th

8C: W1R – OH2BH & OH2MM – Sponsored by Azores Travel, placed 50th

8D: W1M – 4O3A & HA1AG – Placed 15th, our highest scoring team

Some of our team members held 1x1 calls for the event:

K1S: held by Don/KB5VP for the 12th placed W2SC team

N1P: held by Jim/KK1W for the 51st placed CX6VM team

N1Q: held by Dave/AA1YW was unassigned

N1R: held by Steve/N1SR for the 22nd placed UA3DPX team

W1H: held by Brian/K1LI was unassigned

About a 1/2 hour before the contest started I4UFH's power supply cable broke for his iMac.

One couldn't be found quickly and they were scrambling for a computer. John/Kx1x came up with a Window's laptop and within ten minutes the software was loaded and configured and Fabio was QRV when the opening bell rang! How cool is that?

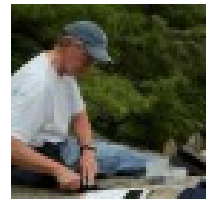
Al/KB1XG was an official WRTC2014 videographer, we can't wait to see some of his shots in the videos.

Rich/N1KXR was night security and roaming driver/helper from Wednesday through Saturday.

Nick/K1MAZ made many trips to town for team and competitor supplies.



showing for the



Jim Mullen KK1W
Past President HCRA



Richard Wheeler

Mary/KB1ME was the unofficial photographer for the DL1QQ team.

HCRA fielded 28 volunteers over the five day period. The weather was beautiful but the hot summer sun made the afternoons grueling, even with the low humidity. We drank plenty of water and used almost as much sun screen.

We serviced two cars with dead batteries (N1SR and W3SM) and changed one flat tire (KB1XG)

As far as I know, even though we spent four nights there, no ghosts were noticed haunting the Medfield complex.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered for this seventh running of WRTC. Everyone worked hard and created an outstanding experience for the teams we hosted. All competitors said they felt welcomed and appreciated by all we did for them. What a great

DOTS & DASHES: Things I can't think where to put, but are interesting.

Full moon over

- Here is an interesting web site: <http://rprr.amateur-radio.net/>
- Next month we will talk about being an "Elmer" to new hams.
- What is P.O.T.A. and how does it work.
- Connecticut State Convention, Meriden, Ct October 12th.
- Five state's have QSO Parties:
 - 9/7 Tennessee <http://www.tnqp.org>
 - 9/13 Arkansas <http://www.arkqsoparty.com>
 - 9/20 So. Carolina <http://www.scqso.com>
 - 9/27 Maine <http://www.maineqsoparty.com>
 - 9/27 Texas <http://www.txqp.net>
- ARRL VHF September Contest September 13th.
- ARRL 2014 Simulated Emergency Test October 4-5
- Our own Jim Mullen KK1W is 2nd on the ARRL VEC Honor Role for New England.
- The FCC is proposing to raise the Vanity Call Sign fee to \$21.60 for the 10 year license term.
- September's QST has the announcement of Matt Wilhelm W1MSW as Contest Manager.

HCRA Field Day 2014

Article by Matt Wilhelm W1MSW

Rich Wheeler

On the weekend of June 28-29, HCRA returned to School Street Park in Agawam, MA to operate in the annual amateur radio event called Field Day. Considered by many to be the premier operating event of the year, Field Day is an opportunity for individuals, EOCs and amateur radio clubs across the country to practice setting up and operating in less than optimal conditions to promote amateur radio and test their emergency preparedness skills.

This marked the second time that HCRA set up at School Street Park and many lessons were learned from the previous year. Careful station and tower layout proposed by KK1W and agreed upon by the Field Day planning committee completely eliminated the interference that plagued the operation the year before. Over the last year, major renovations have taken place at the park, including the removal of almost all the trees in the section where we setup. This meant even less shade than the year before, making our usual shelters even more important.

This year's tower and antenna setup was probably the most impressive we've attempted. Thanks to a loan from N1FJ, we were able to erect four 50ft AB-577 portable military surplus towers. Two supported tribanders and two had 40 meter yagis (See Tower & Antenna Configuration). Using KK1W's design, the maximum amount of available field space was utilized in order to space towers as far apart from one another as possible. Consideration was also given to the placement of antennas on the towers to help insure tribanders and monobanders wouldn't interfere with their like-banded counterparts across the field.

After two successful attempts at using triplexers at the 2012 and 2013 WRTC station tests, they were used again this year at Field Day. These devices, when used in conjunction with bandpass filters, allow separate radios to operate simultaneously on one triband yagi. This allows us to erect only one tower and antenna and put three stations on the air. Of course with the lack of good propagation on 10 meters, it really only allowed for two stations per tribander, or so we thought. Towards the end of the event, K2KHA fired up the FT-857 she had been using for ISS contacts, made some 10m contacts and we changed our entry to a 6A!

For the most part station configuration stayed the same this year (See Station, Radio & Antenna Configuration). We did combine both CW stations into one tent, which made finding an open operating position much easier. The band captain for the 15/75m SSB station changed this year to KB1NWH and KX1X was back to run the 20m SSB station.

Networking and logging was handled solely by K1MAZ this year, who did an outstanding job prepping the networking equipment and making sure everything ran smoothly. No network or logging problems were seen this year and there were no reports of laptop casualties.



AA1UE brought an impressive assortment of gear to earn our satellite bonus this year, finally nabbing the contact on Sunday morning. Gary spoke to many club members and visitors about his setup and how to get started "working the birds."

One highlight of the event that didn't count for points towards Field Day, but sparked some serious excitement among participants was K2KHA's attempt to contact the International Space Station. Not only was she successful, but also 14 other individuals at the site made contacts over several passes! The ISS contacts were a very fun and unexpected aspect of this year's event.

Overall the solar conditions were decent with contacts to almost every ARRL and RAC section. Temps were a little warm and sunburns were plentiful after Friday setup, but most agreed that they preferred the heat to precipitation.

One comment that was heard over and over was that it was the most fun Field Day they could remember in years. After some discussion, it was decided that although our setup and operating goals were grand, many of us had a relaxed attitude and weren't worried if our plans didn't come together. Of course most of them did!



Although not a contest, the points that we earn at Field Day can reflect the amount of work and planning that goes into a successful event. If that is true, then our score certainly says that our Field Day event required lots of planning and work and certainly resulted in a lot of fun (See Score Summary). I hope you all will join us again next year and if you're reading this and didn't participate this year, that you will consider joining us for our club's most popular event.

Check out these great Field Day videos! Many thanks Jim & Matt.

<http://youtu.be/hfFOo3uCk64>
<http://youtu.be/DCksX6VYIBc>

HCRA 2014 Field Day Statistics By Matt Wilhelm

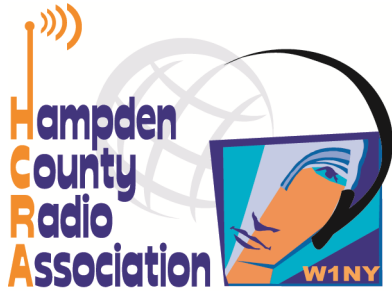
Tower and Antenna Configuration	
#1 AB-577 50ft portable tower	TH6-DXX
	80m Inverted V
#2 AB-577 50ft Portable Tower	Cushcraft 40-2CD
#3 AB-577 50ft Portable Tower	Mosely Classic
	75m Inverted V
#4 AB-577 50ft Portable Tower	Cushcraft 40-2CD

Station, Radio & Antenna Configuration			
Station	Radio	Antenna	Band Captain
20m/80m CW	K3	TH6-DXX/Inverted V	W1MSW (N1FJ Equipment)
40m SSB	FT-950	40-2CD	NT1K
15m/75m SSB	746Pro	Mosely Classic/Inverted V	KB1NWH
15m/40m CW	K3	TH6-DXX/40-2CD	W1MSW
20m SSB/Digital	ProII	Mosely Classic	KX1X
10 SSB/VHF ISS	FT-857	Mosely Classic	K2KHA
Satellite	Variety	Variety	AA1UE

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown						
	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m	150	100			101	100
40m	492	100			829	100
20m	673	100	113	100	764	100
15m	347	100			300	100
10m					19	100
6m						
2m					1	50
TOTAL	1662		113		2014	

Bonus Points	
100% Emergency Power	600
Media Publicity	100
Set-up in Public Place	100
Information Booth	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Natural Power QSOs Completed	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Youth Participation	80
Submitted via the Web	50
Educational Activity	100
Total Bonus Points	1430

Score Summary				
	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	1662	113	2014	
Total Points	3324	226	2014	5564
Claimed Score = 11,128				
Total Bonus Points = 1430				
Total Points = 12,558				



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

**How would you like a FREE
MFJ-266B
Antenna Analyzer!
See page 4 for details.**

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