




ZERO BEAT

HCRA's 75th Anniversary - 1948 - 2023!

Meeting Update!

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

Need directions?

www.hcra.org/meeting-location

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

From the editor,

January 2023

Happy New Year to all HCRA members and friends! Let's all hope 2023 is the best year ever and if you make just one New Years resolution, make it that you will be far more active within our club and by taking part in club activities!

We're starting another year of Zero Beat and 2023 is the club's 75th anniversary of being an ARRL affiliated club with lots of features within Zero Beat and not to mention tons of special club activities.

This issue begins a great series of articles by Bill, W1FMX that will run over the next few issues about what it takes to bring boat anchors back to life!

Talking about Bill, he has graciously sent in some photos of his shack for the monthly "Show your Shack" article to start off the new year right!

Speaking of "Show Your Shack" I really need someone to step up and share his or her shack. It's easy, just send in a few photos with a brief description to kd1ku@arrl.net. Who doesn't want to show off their shack!

Being the HCRA's 75th anniversary, I hope everyone will take part in all of the very special events and activities that will be happening throughout the year.

Do you have something for Zero Beat? Email it to kd1ku@arrl.net. Don't forget to get you raffle tickets for your chance at winning the Geochron Atlas 4k on [page 10](#).

Happy New Year!

73, Ken - KD1KU

Welcome New Members

Daniel Tereso - KC1SGB

Welcome Back to HCRA

Fred Stefanik - N1DPM

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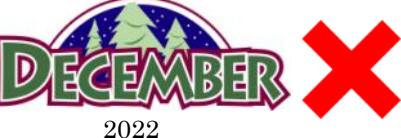




Friday January 6th

The First In-Person Meeting of 2023!

January 6th features Tim Carter, W3ATB from the New England Forrest Road Rally, in-person. He's responsible for communications involving 45 hams. Don't miss him! Doors open at 7 pm, meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

Past meeting videos can be viewed at <http://www.hcra.org/category/videos/> or on the HCRA YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/HampdenCountyRA>

Upcoming Meetings and Guest Speakers

 <p>September 2022</p>	<p>Tim Duffy, K3LR will be our September guest speaker. Tim is from the K3LR SuperStation in West Middlesex, PA. Don't miss his presentation!</p>
 <p>OCTOBER 2022</p>	<p>This month's guest speaker is Rockwell, WW1X, who will be presenting and demonstrating Remote Ham Radio in-person from the Holyoke Hospital</p>
 <p>November 2022</p>	<p>HCRA's Annual Auction is Back at the November Meeting! Ham Radio Gear and Related Accessories ONLY! NO Computers, Monitors or PC Parts!</p>
 <p>DECEMBER 2022</p>	<p>The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant Dec 5th. Join us for a Night of Great Food and Fun with your Fellow Hams.</p>
 <p>JANUARY 2023</p>	<p>Tim Carter, W3ATB is giving a presentation on the New England Forrest Road Rally LIVE & in-person! Tim is responsible for the communications involving 45 hams & more. Info at https://newenglandforestrally.com</p>
 <p>FEBRUARY 2023</p>	<p>Tom Vinson, NY0V will be giving a virtual presentation on his involvement in a special expedition tracing the path of Amelia Earhart and to replicate the radio communications that were in use at that time!</p>
 <p>MARCH 2023</p>	<p>Guest Speaker Fred Kemmerr, AB1OC with a special virtual presentation all about "Adventures In Bora Bora" DX'ing from the South Pacific</p>
 <p>April 2023</p>	<p>Show and Tell is back... Enter your projects and win great prizes! This is always one of the most popular & interesting meeting. Get your projects built as prizes will be awarded!</p>
 <p>MAY 2023</p>	<p>The May guest speaker will be announced soon!</p>
 <p>June 2023</p>	<p>2023 Elections, Field Day prep & more. Consider running for a Board of Directors position, Plus, virtual guest speaker Adrian Zeffert, AB2IX with tips from the test bench, Solving common issues with simple test equipment.</p>

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE MEETINGS

STK Zoom Meeting Schedule for 2023

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings are back again in 2023 for everyone's enjoyment

Once again, Larry, W1AST has worked extremely hard to find and host these exciting presentations!

If you have a suggestion for a topic or would like to give a presentation contact Larry at w1ast@arrrl.net

January 10th - 7pm	Everything About a DX Marathon	By Mark, WC3W 
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88952700947?pwd=eTJSWmJJYXErRTVJZDdLRFRVWUJuZz09	
January 17th - 7pm	All About Reverse Beacons & What They Do	By Peter Smith, N4ZR
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88210932668?pwd=bWphZk95NDR3T0s2bWFpa2JKNu01QT09	
January 24th - 7pm	9 Band DXX on a Small Lot	By Mark, KE1IU
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85861222403?pwd=U0dERkZ6UEJhK1lmcXQvSEw2NXVaUT09	
February 21st - 7pm	Tools for the Ham Operator (Part One)	By Bob, K1YO
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84974004235?pwd=OHk2TTIOY0VrOE5DMmNsemNzWU5Bdz09	
February 28th - 7pm	Tools for the Ham Operator (Part Two)	By Bob, K1YO
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81172992428?pwd=emoxeko1QkVaVUloekNkMzhBeUhzZz09	
March 14th - 7pm	A Modern Guide to Radio Teletype (RTTY)	By Juergen, NV1Q
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83967751507?pwd=dkhNd1piOEZjd1lxcDFZc1lyT0F0UT09	
March 28th - 7pm	The YLRL (Young Ladies Radio League)	Barbara, KC1KGS & Anne, WB1ARU
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84212172078?pwd=REhrTHA3QkNYWVpDUUlvOTVsVzBkdz09	
April 11th - 7pm	All About the ARRL and You!	By Ray, AA1SE
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88265213992?pwd=N2piU1dCUndyZ0lBbFh6QjA0TjVnQT09	

1948 ~ 2023 Equals 75 Years as an ARRL Affiliated Club



November Auction YouTube Link

The November auction returned after a nearly ten year hiatus. If you missed it, here is your chance to check it out. December had no meeting due to the Holiday Party so enjoy the auction.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpqaj4lvjT4>

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST



January 2023

Happy New Year to all! I hope you got on Straight Key Night. I made a few contacts on my straight key, which comes out of storage every Dec 31st, just for this occasion, and then goes back into storage.

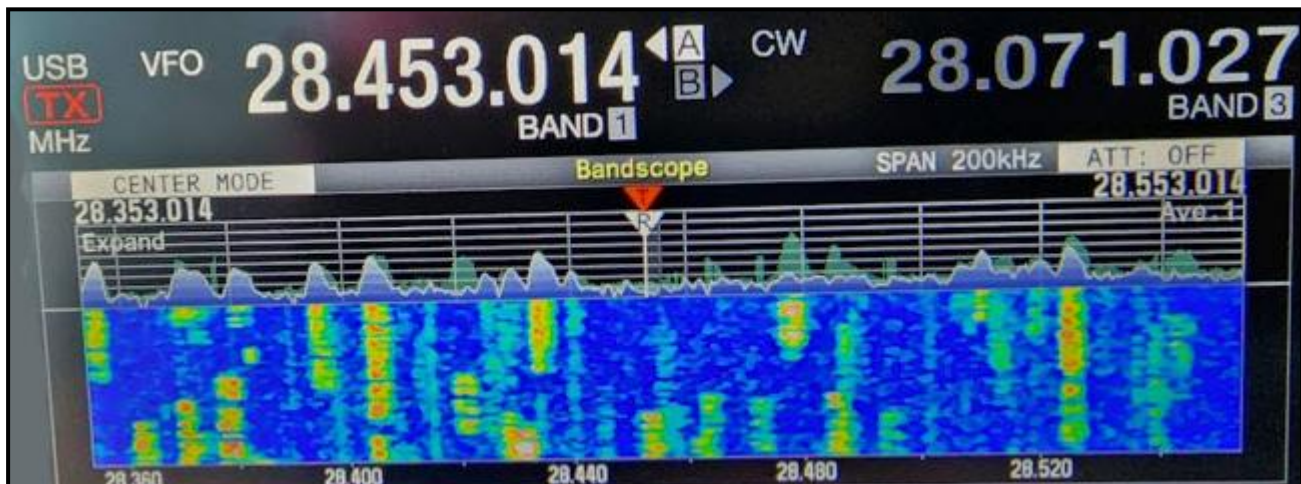
Did you attend the Holiday Party? We had a great time at the Steaming Tender with 46 people attending. The food was delicious, the atmosphere was interesting and comfortable and the company was unbeatable!

As 9 pm approached, we had to go around to the tables to ask everyone to leave so the club didn't have to pay for another hour of hall rental and the wait staff could go home.

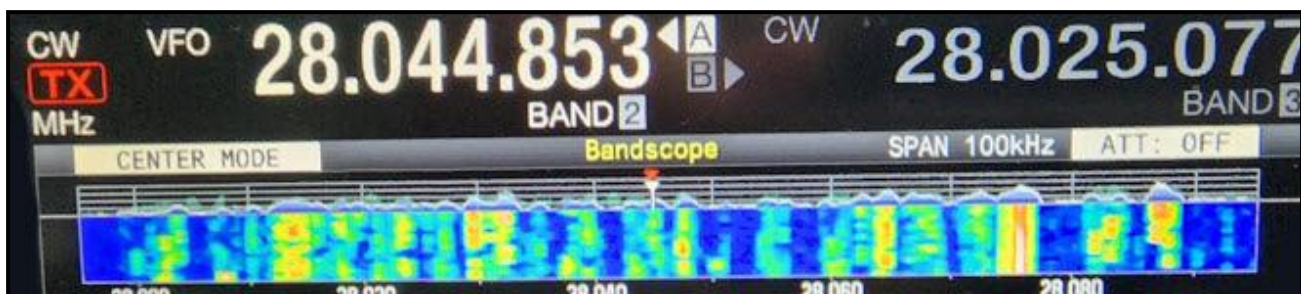
The restaurant has already been reserved for next year's 75th Anniversary Party on December 4th. Mark your calendar for this special party!

Get On The Air! Did you happen to get on the air for the ARRL 10m contest over the weekend of December 10-11? If you did, you heard the explosion of activity on 10m. Both CW and SSB were crazy busy with signals.

All those vertical lines are signals on the band in a 200 KHz spread.



Above is SSB



Above is CW in a 100 KHz spread

Continued on page 5

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

If you are not on HF, you are missing the fun, and what fun it is! Suddenly stations we couldn't hear are there and loud. With the sunspot cycle improving, it's time to get on HF and enjoy the bands. They should be good for the next 4-5 years hopefully.

HCRA BIG Raffle: The club has once again decided to hold the big raffle. This is a fundraising event for the club. The first one we have done since before Covid. This year, we are raffling a Geochron Atlas 4K plus a \$300 gift card to Best Buy. This way, you can purchase the size screen you want for the Geochron to display on. I would LOVE to have one of these displayed on the wall in my shack.

I was at W1AW recently and they had one hanging on the wall. It looked awesome. It was crisp, clear, and was variously changing information. Can you imagine one hanging in your shack?



At \$10 per ticket, you stand to have good odds of winning. There are a max of 250 tickets and based on past raffles there were around 180 tickets sold. One in 180 gives you really good odds of winning!

Tickets are on sale at all the HCRA meetings or contact w1ast@arrl.net. You can order one on the hcra.org website via the donate link and please add an extra \$2 for postage and an envelope and to cover PayPal's fee and we will mail you one or more back.

Continued on page 6

All Past Meetings are on the HCRA YouTube Channel - Don't forget to click subscribe!

Did you miss any past club meetings? Maybe you want to re-watch all or part of a past meeting? Click or copy the following link to view past meetings or search YouTube for past club meetings

<https://www.youtube.com/user/HampdenCountyRA>

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

The club is looking into other alternate payment methods to escape the ever-growing PayPal fee every time someone pays via PayPal. More to come on this in the near future.

There are a lot of contests every month. From big ARRL and CQ contests to little, much shorter span contests. You can learn more at <https://www.contestcalendar.com>. I receive a weekly list of contests that are planned for the next 7 days. It's a very handy reminder.

One of these days, I hope to have time to tinker with some of the weekly or monthly smaller contests. But for now, the big ones are all I have time for.

What is coming up in January that may interest me?

- K1USN Slow Speed Test (CW) – SST for short. Exchange is name and state. A short contest I love participating in and probably the only smaller one I do. Great fun, short and easy. Takes place a few times per month
- North American QSO Party
- ARRL January VHF – I only have a 2m vertical, but still fun with QRP and limited resources
- Winter Field Day – I plan to enter from home running QRP with my IC-705 and a battery. 5 or 10 watts max, lots of fun. If you are hardier like N1JIE or N1FTP who set up on a frozen lake in an ice fishing tent, more power to you. I'll be warm in the house thank you. WFD contest is growing in popularity and you can participate too. Or, if you want, contact me, and come operate here. January 28 at 1900z to Jan 29 at 1900z (<https://www.winterfieldday.com>)
- CQ 160m CW Contest. Jan 27-29. Hmm, WFD or 160m CW? Maybe both

That's just a few that interest me, and that I hope to participate in. It's perfect for the cold and snowy days (and nights) when the shack is more inviting than going outside. Check the year-long calendar for planning future months' activity: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Worked All HCRA Award: I've been working on this for a while and decided to hold it back until 2023. Why? 2023 is the year the club becomes 75 years old and has been associated with the ARRL for 75 years!

The goal is for you to work ANY 10 HCRA members on HF. Any mode is fine. But 10 different people. Submit your log to w1ast@arrl.net and earn a certificate.

This only runs for 2023. Something special for the year. Starting January 1 and running to December 31, 2023. This is just one of a few special HCRA things going on in 2023. Watch for other special club happenings during the year.

Continued on page 7

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

Kudos to Gary, AA1UE as he has filled the monthly speakers schedule through June. Look at the list elsewhere in this issue and in every ZeroBeat. The next time you see or hear Gary, please give him a thank you.

An additional thank you goes to Najm, AB1ZA who has been the club's technical advisor for the past few years. Najm recently stepped down from his position. In his place, we are sliding Bob, WA1OJN into technical. Bob is more than qualified as he has helped with many club projects over the past few years. If you have any technical questions, contact Bob and he can help you.

With Bob in technical, the At large position has now been filled by Josue, KP4JLD a newer ham and HCRA member. You may have met Josue at Field Day in 2022. He was the one enjoying the heat. He has also been at the regular meetings and the recent holiday party. Make sure you introduce yourself to him at the next meeting and welcome him to the board.

For now, **Get On The Air** and have fun. Or if you don't yet have HF equipment, contact W1AST or a friend and have them show you what it's all about and get you on the air from their station.

73,

Larry, W1AST
W1AST@arrl.net

Thank You to the HCRA

The following letter was sent to club President, Larry, W1AST on behalf of the HCRA whose members helped with the removal of the tower and antennas of past members Norm, W1BMK (SK), and Betty, KB1CPZ

Dear Larry Krainson, President

I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the following members of The Hampden County Radio Association for removing the tower and antennas from my home:

K1VOI-John Plaster for helping with the arrangements for this to happen and was part of the Ground Crew.

W1TRK-Chris Thornton Tower Work

N1SR-Steve Rodowicz and KD1KU-Ken Dion Ground Crew

The removal was done diligently and in a professional and safe manner by all.

Thanks again as this was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

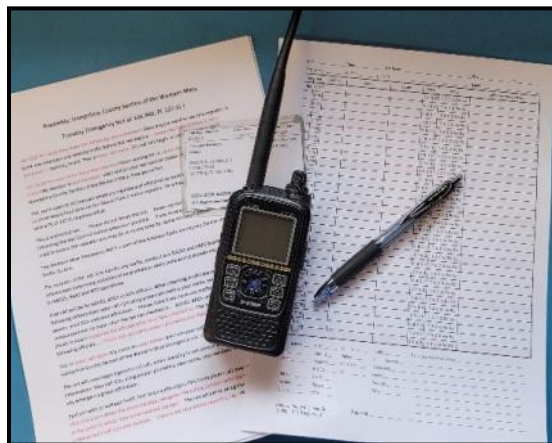
Betty Gregoire KB1CPZ
73's

ARES NET UPDATE

WMA ARES Nets & More by Smitty, KC1IKA ~ ASEC Net Manager

Well, after a month of just using a butane stove for cooking I have the results. I have used about 5 cans of butane, working on the fifth one now. This works out to about \$15 of butane for a month of cooking. I don't know how that compares to natural gas.

I am writing this just after our first plowable snow. A big thank you to all the Skywarn members who called in snow depth reports on the three Sunday evening nets and the Monday morning final total net. Altogether there were 23 reports turned in to the NWS. A really big thanks to Richard, KC1AEO, and Bob, K1YO for volunteering to take the Sunday evening Skywarn nets as Net Control Stations. They did a great job and made my life a lot easier. Thanks, guys!



I would like to see more club info and upcoming net info on the ARES nets. There is a section toward the end of the nets requesting anyone with announcements to call in. Please feel free to call in to announce your weekly or special nets as well as any club activities you would like to share.

I am hoping to add some NTS, National Traffic System, Radiograms to the nets in the near future. I just need to practice with the Net Control Stations so we can do it properly. Stay tuned for updates.

Speaking of Net Control Stations, NCS, I have given the nets a temporary break from reading the request for additional NCS. This doesn't mean we don't need more, we are operating on what I would call the minimum we should have. I would like to see two to four more NCS sign up. This isn't a permanent assignment, try it for a few months and see if it's something you would like to continue doing. We have a great team, if you would like more information on joining us, contact me at KC1IKA@ARRL.net.

Enjoyed seeing everyone at the Holiday party. Our table had a good mix of old and new friends as well as a new ham operator. The food was good and the conversations were even better.

Well, that's about it for this month. Hope to see everyone at the January club meeting and hear everyone on the nets. Happy holidays to all!

73,

Smitty, KC1IKA

ASEC, net manager, WMA ARES, Skywarn net coordinator

WANTED! Consider Helping with these Events

Your Club is Better when YOU are Involved!

HCRA Needs your Memories

Do you have any memories of past HCRA events, club activities, or simply past club history? Anything is great, but the older the better. Your Board of Directors needs any info no matter how insignificant you may think it is. We would rather have too much info than not enough info.

This is all part of the year long planning of the HCRA's 75th Anniversary this year! If you have anything you would like to submit please contact your Vice President at the email below.

Ez, W1AEZ at ez.w1aez@gmail.com

Can You Help Teach A Tech Class?

Ray, AA1SE, your WMA Section Manager is looking for volunteers to help teach a Technician license class in early 2023. These classes will be virtual and taught via Zoom, not an in person class.

Not only will you be helping Ray, but many others as well not to mention all those new licensees.

If you can help Ray, contact him at the email below, don't forget to mention you're a HCRA member!

Ray, AA1SE at ray.aa1se@gmail.com

HCRA Needs your Call Signs

HCRA President, Larry, W1AST has come up with something very cool, but he needs your help, provided you have more than one callsign 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 contact below.

Larry, W1AST at w1ast@arrl.net

**An extremely generous donation was made to the
Hampden County Radio Association on behalf of John, N1JIE**



Happy Holidays John, from Joe



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

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

ARRL Western Massachusetts Section Manager - Raymond P. Lajoie, AA1SE - aa1se@arrl.org

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

HCRA's BIG RAFFLE

Win a Geochron Atlas 4k plus a \$300 Gift Card to Best Buy!

The HCRA big raffle has returned for 2023! Tickets are available at club meetings, from board members, on hcra.org using the donate button (add \$2 to cover PayPal fees) or contact Larry, W1AST. Only 250 tickets will be sold! Drawing to be held when all 250 tickets are sold, or at the MTARA Flea Market in March. Tickets are only \$10 each so buy several to increase your odds of winning!

Raffle Details:

- ◆ Tickets are \$10 each with a maximum of 250 to be sold
- ◆ Prize: Geochron Atlas 4k (Monitor not included)
- ◆ Additional \$300 Gift Certificate to Best Buy for the monitor of your choice
- ◆ Drawing: When 250 Tickets are sold or at the MTARA Hamfest in March, 2023
- ◆ Tickets are available at club meetings, hcra.org or Larry, w1ast@arrl.net

Inspired by our Geochron mechanical world clocks, the Geochron Digital 4k is a high resolution display in the digital world. Five map sets are overlaid by intricate patterns of human activity, and a live layer of the current position of the International Space Station. Use Location Pins to label important places, and switch time zones on the fly. Comes with a one year warranty.



Does not Include monitor



You can buy raffle tickets at future HCRA meetings, by contacting Larry, W1AST at w1ast@arrl.net, from board members or they can be had at hcra.org by clicking the donate button, please add \$2 to cover PayPal fees.

Or by contacting any of the HCRA Board Members who's contact information is in the back of Zero Beat.

**Don't Hesitate, Get Your Tickets Today.
250 tickets are sure to sellout FAST!**

“BOAT ANCHORS”

Getting a “Boat Anchor” Back On the Air: By Bill, W1FMX (part I)

Last year, I got to see a re-creation of the first transatlantic transmission test by a Ham Radio operator which was held at the Vintage Radio and Communication Museum of Connecticut (Windsor, CT). A replica of a one-hundred-year-old transmitter was used (though a replica, it was made of parts that were from that era). It was quite exciting as there were flashes of light and a very loud bang when a part failed. But the transmitter was fixed and a signal was received in Europe that night. The event showed just what it was like for a Ham to operate a station in the early days of radio.

Perhaps you have wondered what it was like to operate a radio in the days of “Hollow State” state (i.e., electron tube) radios, or you may be an older Ham who recalls getting started as a novice with such a station. In either case, would you be interested in getting on the air with an old radio or “Boat anchor”? If so, over the next couple of months, a series of articles will be featured in ZB describing how to get started and how to do some basic repairs and maintenance of a Boat Anchor.

My beginnings as a Ham are in the late 1960s, the end of the Boat Anchor era. Though I have enjoyed using solid solid-state since the 1980s, a couple of years ago I decided it might be fun to get an old radio on the air. I still had my HW-100 from 1970, so I called the ARRL for advice about restoring it and was advised to forget trying to do that as parts were unavailable. So, I gave up for a while, but, then I noticed that there were online conversations about working with old radios which piqued my curiosity again. I discovered that there were a lot of people out there still using them!

Then, one day, I saw a note about equipment being sold from the estate of a Silent Key (SK) and that one of the radios was a Heathkit HW-32A transceiver. Well, that is a 75-meter SSB monoband transceiver that is pretty basic in its circuitry. So, I figured that it might be worth a try to get it and see if I could put it on the air. When I actually got the rig, I was discouraged as it looked really bad – even had grease (as in automotive grease) inside the chassis. Frankly, at that point, I was going to just take the radio as a loss, but one of the SK’s family members told me that it meant a lot to them to know that the radio would be used again. So, I promised to get it on the air.

Well, it was kind of like jumping into the ocean in late Spring - that is to say, it was like getting hit with cold water - as I started to work on the radio and realized I was already in over my head as I had few test instruments and not even a bench to repair the radio on. Also, I discovered that I had forgotten so much of what I knew about tube radios many years before as a new Ham.



Continued on page 12

Heathkit HW-12A – Original Condition

“BOAT ANCHORS” CONT'D

Getting a “Boat Anchor” Back On the Air: By Bill, W1FMX (part I)

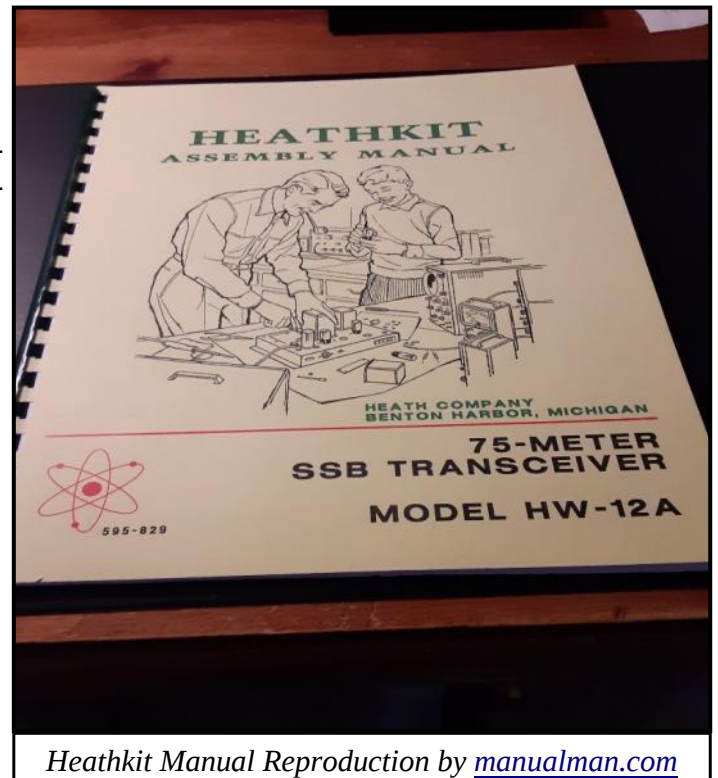
But I had given my word to get the radio back on the air, so I soon realized I had to find a manual for the HW-32A. As I searched the internet, I was pleased to discover that there are not only used manuals available but also reproductions that include excellent copies of schematics and photographs included in the original manuals (among the best producers of these manuals is a fellow named Pete, who has an online store at manualman.com). So, I got the HW-32A manual and began to study the book.

Now, the great thing about working with a Heathkit radio is that the manuals are very thorough. The step-by-step kit-building directions are very helpful as are the drawings and photos. But, the two most valuable sections of a Heathkit manual for a restorer are the circuit descriptions and the Troubleshooting guide. So, I began by carefully reading those sections.

If you do get an old radio, especially one that has not been used in a long time, it is a good idea to avoid powering it up until you have checked it over as there may be hazards such as a deteriorated cord. One good technique is to slowly power up the radio using a Variac (a transformer that has a fixed input voltage, but variable output). If you don't have a Variac available, as in my case when I first got started, I would suggest cleaning up and examining the radio for obvious problems before connecting it to power. If you are working on a Heathkit, there are resistance charts that will allow you to check resistance in the radio to see if there are possible circuitry problems.

The next thing I had to do was clean up the radio – there were over 50 years of grime on the cabinet, chassis, and components. Cleaning the cabinet is straightforward – after removing it from the chassis, I just used dishwasher liquid and water and scrubbed it clean. (Sometimes, the cabinets require re-painting or touch-up painting... more on that in a later article). Next, I removed the tubes and wiped them off with Isopropyl alcohol; I also used swabs and alcohol to clean the printed circuit boards and components. The advantage of using alcohol is that it is effective and evaporates quickly. By the way, some restorers actually will remove sensitive parts like the meter and then wash the chassis and components in a sink using water with a brush and dish soap. They then put the radio in the oven for a few hours at a low temp and dry it out.

After that, I cleaned the tube sockets using dental brushes and DeOxit cleaner. I also used DeOxit to clean the controls (potentiometers) and switch contacts. DeOxit comes in a spray can, but I spray it into a cup and use swabs to clean contacts, though the spray can be used on potentiometers.



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“BOAT ANCHORS” CONT'D

Getting a “Boat Anchor” Back On the Air: By Bill, W1FMX (part I)

Another thing to do is to test the electron tubes. In my case, I decided to buy my own vintage tester (it is an old Eico (circa 1960s) that I found online for \$40. I use an emissions tester which is the simplest type to use – these used to be readily available in places like drug stores. Essentially, you check a chart for that particular tube and set the dials of the tester to the correct settings, and press a “Test Switch” – there is a meter that indicates how good the tube is. You may be surprised to find how durable tubes are – it is likely that almost all -or even all – tubes in the radio will be fine. If you do find a bad tube, there are many places online that sell used or “New Old Stock “(NOS) tubes to replace the ones that fail.

Now, there was another step that I needed to take to get the radio on the air – it required a separate power supply that I had to acquire. More on that later.

So, with the radio cleaned up and one or more tubes replaced, I tested it, and it powered up without sparks or smoke – a good sign! Connected to an antenna, the radio received well, so I then tried tuning up the transmitter to see if I got any output – I did, though it was a bit lower than I expected. Next, I connected a microphone and got it on the air. After a few successful QSO's, I decided to re-paint the cabinet and get replacement knobs for the radio.



Eico Tube Tester



Restored Heathkit HW-12A

Next Month:

In Part II we will be learning all about how old radios work! This will be interesting so don't miss it!

Editors Note:

This series will be featured in several upcoming issues of Zero Beat beginning in January 2023.

73,

Bill, W1FMX

SHOW YOUR SHACK!

This Month's Featured Shack is that of Bill, W1FMX

January's shack belongs to Bill, W1FMX who you will recognize from the fantastic articles Bill submits to Zero Beat each month. Without Bill's help putting out this newsletter would be far more difficult and it would suffer greatly. Enjoy Bill's shack, who knows... you might grab a Q with him down the log! -Editor-



Here are a few photos and description of Bill's shack, starting from the right:

(a) Modern Gear

ICOM IC-7300, Samlex-1235M 30 amp Power Supply, Yaesu G450 Rotor Controller
Daiwa CN-501H SWR/Power Meter, Palstar AT2KD HF Antenna Tuner, and Ameritron AL-811 Amplifier

(b) Vintage Gear (circa 1965-1970)

Bottom Shelf:

Heathkit SB-600 Speaker w/HP-23A Power Supply (installed within the cabinet)
Heathkit SB-101 HF Transceiver, Heathkit HW-32A 20 Meter Transceiver with HP-23A Power Supply

Top Shelf:

Heathkit HM-102 SWR/Power Meter, MFJ-949E Versa Tuner, Heathkit SB-200 Amplifier
Heathkit HW-16 CW Transceiver and HG-10 VFO,

Cart below Desk:

QRP/Portable Station: Yaesu FT-817ND Transceiver and LDG Auto Tuner
(All Heathkit gear was restored by Bill, except the SB-200 amp (working) but will be restored this winter)

Continued on page 15

SHOW YOUR SHACK! CONT'D

This Month's Featured Shack is that of **Bill, W1FMX**



Above: Mosley 2-Element Mini - Yagi Tri-band, 10m, 15m, & 20m Mounted at 30' on a Rohn Mast with a Yaesu Rotor



Above: Hustler 6BTV Vertical Antenna (with 17meter adapter by DX Engineering) with 60 buried radials

(The 17 meter add-on kit was featured in the February 2022 Zero Beat. To download it [CLICK HERE](#))

VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR

Welcome to ARRL's Volunteers On the Air (VOTA) Operating Event!

As announced in the January 2023 issue of QST ARRL is celebrating a year-long operating event honoring all ARRL volunteers: Volunteers On the Air.



In similar fashion to the 2014 ARRL Centennial Celebration, and the 2018 International Grid Chase, this event will be exclusively driven only by QSOs uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW).

Highlights of the event include:

- Earning Points for contacting W1AW Portable Stations: There will be week-long activations of portable W1AW/# stations in all 50 states, and in several US Possessions/Territories, that will generate on-air activity to earn points. Each state will be activated twice. The schedule of when which states will be activated as posted in the dashboard above will be updated as changes/additions occur. See the POINTS TABLE for the full list of points.

- Contacting ARRL Volunteers or Members on the air: ARRL Officers, Directors, Section Managers (and their appointees), Staff, and even Members domestically (and DX) can be contacted for points. See the POINTS TABLE for the full list of points.

Using Logbook of the World (LoTW – see <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>) as the QSOs data source, the 2023 Volunteers On The Air event features W1AW activations from all 50 states (twice) and several territories during 2023. Weeks will begin on a Wednesday and end on a Tuesday. Some weeks will be shown as off weeks to avoid other major operating events.

Participants will work W1AW portable stations and ARRL volunteers (see links in dashboard at top of this page) to earn QSO points.

Participants do not need to upload to, or participate in LoTW. Uploads to LoTW by W1AW portable stations and by the volunteers will feed the points scoring system. *[Participants are not required to be ARRL Members. Even so, we encourage all Amateur Radio operators who are not members to consider joining the comradery with our 160,000+ current members. When joining, you'll discover support, inspiration, and advice to elevate your Amateur Radio experience.]*

A Leaderboard will be activated after the event ramps up, and Certificates will be available during and after the event concludes. Once the year is completed, a final summary will be released.

Larry, W1AST is the Mass state operator coordinator for both sessions. One in the Spring and the Fall.

Important VOTA Links:

State Activator Scheduling Sheet: [Click to Download File](#)

Announcements / Event Guidelines: [Click to Download File](#)

View web page for any updates: <http://www.arrl.org/volunteers-on-the-air>

NEAR-FEST DATE CHANGE

NEAR-Fest XXXIII Date Change: April 28-29, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEAR-FestXXXIII will be held on April 28th and 29th 2023 and not on its traditional date which always has been the first weekend in May every year since 2007. NEAR-Fest XXXIV scheduled for October 13th and 14th 2023 is NOT affected.



Last month the Deerfield Fair Association informed me that they booked two events, the NH Farm, Forest and Garden Show and the NH Arabian Horse Ass'n Show at the Fairgrounds for May 5th and 6th 2023 which is the weekend before Mothers Day. We were told we were welcome to hold the NEAR-Fest at the same time with the two other shows but there would be a "few small changes" to the parts of the Fairgrounds that we would be allowed to use.

Ben, KB1NZN, and I attended a meeting on Thursday December 15th with the DFA Directors and officers and were told that we would have to move what we consider the central part of the flea market to a remote area of the grounds to accommodate the horse show. Two of our food vendors, Patty and Angelino's, would also be affected.

Regretfully I decided the best course of action is to take a chance on the weather one week earlier and change the date. My team agrees with me. It's the best way to deal with it. We have full use of the grounds with no stinking and noisy horses and outsiders to bother us. I resisted it at first but changed my mind after discussing it with my colleagues who run the fester with me.

Is this a one-time thing or is it permanent? Depends on if the horse show comes back next spring. We could co-exist with the Farm Show but it is the horse show that causes us the problems because we use part of the grounds adjacent to the Horse Show ring and bleachers.

I still don't like it but I know it is the right decision.

We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause anyone.

Happy New Year my friends.

Mike Crestohl, W1RC



HOLIDAY PARTY

2022 Holiday Party Photo Journal at the Steaming Tender



*More Holiday Party Photos to
come in the February issue!*

RARE DXPEDITIONS

#2, Bouvet and #3, Crozet the Most Wanted DX and YOU Can Work Them!

The Number 2 (Bouvet) and Number 3 (Crozet) most wanted DX are, or should be, on the air this month. FT8WW, Thierry is on the air from Crozet now at seemingly all hours using FT8 and some CW on 20 meters (FT8 14.085) and CW (14.031) as well as 30 meters (FT8 10.131 and (CW 10.115).

The best propagation to NA appears to be late afternoon/early evening. Note that he is NOT using Fox/Hounds but is transmitting multiple streams using MSHV instead.

The 3J0Y (Bouvet) team is leaving from the Falklands in a week or so and should be on the island for about 22 days beginning at the end of January. Their website has much more information.

Thierry will be on the Crozet Island for three months BUT his HF operating privileges' only run to January 26th. It was hard enough to get a license to operate so he basically had to accept the limitations. On the way home in March he will be stopping by Tromelin and Amsterdam Islands but will not be allowed to operate. **For details on Crozet visit:** <http://crozet2022.r-e-f.org> or **Bouvet at:** <https://www.3y0j.no>

WINTER FIELD DAY

Winter Field Day is a communications exercise. WFD is held on the last full weekend in January. WFD can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location. You can participate by yourself or get your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact. Similar to the ARRL's Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, satellite contacts, and more.



Winter Field Day is sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association. We passionately believe that Ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments as the potential for freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards present unique operational concerns. WFD is formatted to help increase your level of preparedness for disasters and improve your operational skills in sub-par conditions. Click here to read more about the history and purpose of winter field day.

During the last weekend in January, ham radio operators worldwide participate in Winter Field Day. We encourage you to grab your radio, get outside and join us during this uniquely challenging event. Click on the links below to view our 2023 Rules and our Resources page. The Resources page has a plethora of information, including FAQs, logging software recommendations, operating aids, and more.



Winter Field Day - January 28th and 29th

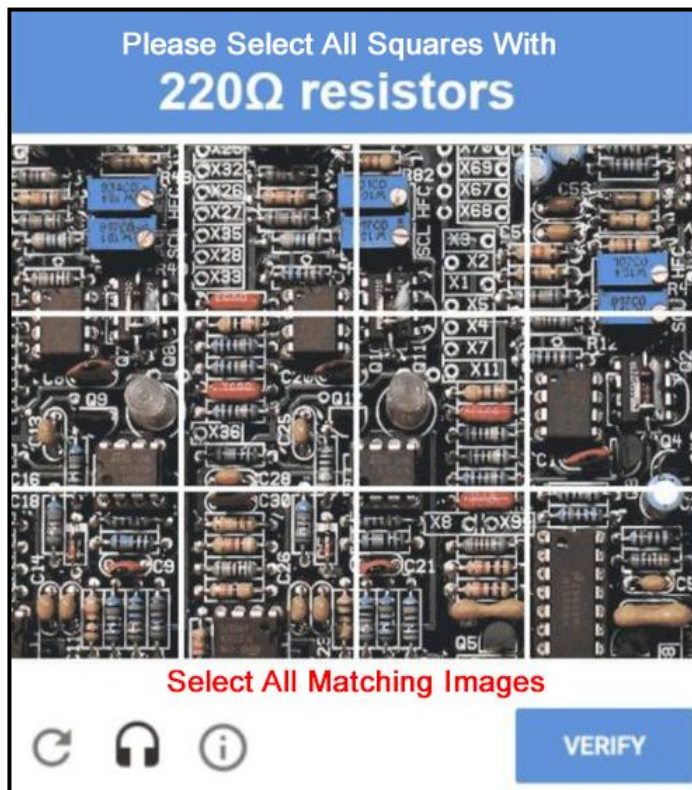
Rules

<https://www.winterfieldday.com/rules.php>

Resources

<https://www.winterfieldday.com/resources.php>





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

HCRA Clublog Information Updated on December 31st 2022



League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	37	96	0	158	62	183	89	195	91	157	28	247	1096	59 yrs
2	KK1W+1	41	57	0	90	40	131	37	120	48	112	26	235	702	46 yrs
3	NF1G	0	44	0	57	91	128	111	159	147	161	34	231	932	38 yrs
4	KX1X	16	74	19	120	114	145	112	151	107	136	3	196	997	25 yrs
5	K1NZ+1	12	42	27	39	102	53	55	63	96	115	0	165	604	11 yrs
6	W1AST+1	2	12	0	46	25	64	53	70	83	94	1	150	450	13 yrs
7	NE1C	4	62	0	85	0	98	0	104	0	54	0	129	407	20 yrs
8	K1VOI	1	30	0	48	32	80	28	70	16	41	0	114	346	21 yrs
9	W1JA+1	1	6	4	11	28	5	17	59	28	52	7	113	218	53 yrs
10	W1NU+2	0	16	11	10	20	55	43	53	37	61	2	109	308	7 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	NT1K+2	0	12	0	34	24	61	1	48	17	30	0	109	227	12 yrs
12	W1PY+1	0	0	0	2	0	31	1	29	1	74	0	101	138	12 yrs
13	N1FTP	0	0	0	32	8	64	28	25	16	64	2	99	239	14 yrs
14	N1TA+3	1	30	0	29	8	42	8	47	4	36	0	96	205	21 yrs
15	N1JIE	1	3	7	21	26	34	33	39	16	14	1	80	195	5 yrs
16	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	2	0	29	0	17	0	15	0	45	63	10 yrs
17	WD1S	2	2	0	19	0	27	0	14	0	4	0	37	68	10 yrs
18	NV1Q+3	0	0	0	2	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	8	12	43 yrs

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

If you have never used Clublog, need a refresher, or simply have the desire to learn as much as possible about Clublog or most anything else, go to the [HCRA YouTube Channel](#) and learn. All meetings are recorded and posted on hcra.org plus video links are listed in Zero Beat. The link to the April 2021 meeting where Clublog was the topic of our guest speaker is listed below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qj2lKcQRNbE&t=1s>



HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

For the benefit of all HCRA members Brown Baggers is a friendly lunch get together that happens on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. It is held at [The Munich Haus Restaurant](#) in Chicopee Center at 12:00pm (Noon). Located at 13 Center St, Chicopee, MA. Across from City Hall or click the link above.

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

10 Meter Net Schedule

The HCRA 10 meter net has returned to its Winter schedule on as of September 5th, and every Monday evening afterwards at 7pm for the Fall / Winter months. Gary, KC1JZR is NCS. This is a great way for our newest HCRA members with a Tech or greater license to get some time on HF. Everyone is welcome to join us on 28.375 USB regardless of affiliation. Have any questions? Contact: kd1ku@arrl.net

Please take part in this fun rag chew type of net every Monday at 7pm on 28.375 usb

Share the Knowledge Zoom Meetings

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings are back again in 2023 for everyone's knowledge and enjoyment! Beginning January 10th at 7 pm the first STK of the year is all about DX Marathon's by Mark, WC3W. Checkout the complete STK schedule in this and every issue of Zero Beat on page 3. Have a suggestion or topic for a STK meeting? Maybe you'd like to give a STK presentation? If you would like more info contact Larry, W1AST at w1ast@arrl.net

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>

DOTS & DASHES

THINGS THAT DON'T FIT ANYPLACE ELSE!

HCRA Members Outgoing QSLs to the Bureau

This reminder that I will be sending the next batch of outgoing QSLs to the bureau before January 15th. Please get your cards to me as soon after the New Year as possible. We are going away after the 15th so I want to get them in the mail. Please get them to me or contact me and I can arrange to get them from you. I reference you to hcra.org for the particulars if you have never taken advantage of this membership perk. Remember you must be a HCRA and ARRL member!

Happy Holidays to all
73, Paul - NF1G

Club Commission Program

One of the benefits of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is that you receive a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and securing timely ARRL membership renewals. The structure for this program has been updated, the process has changed to make things easier for the clubs. The complication of adjusting funds around credit cards, checks, and cash has been eliminated. ARRL is now responsible for all of the processing. Clubs receive \$15 for each new membership or lapsed membership, for renewing members, clubs will now receive \$5. For more info visit: <http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-benefits>

Contests and Special Event Stations

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

North American QSO Party, CW | Jan 14th -15th | 1.8 - 28Mhz | 1800z Sat ~ 0559z Sun

For details visit: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=218>

North American QSO Party, SSB | Jan 21st - 22nd | 1.8 - 28Mhz | 1800z Sat - 22nd 0559z

For additional details visit: <https://ncjweb.com/naqp/>

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

QuartzFest Distance Challenge W7Q - SES | Jan 22nd - Jan 28th | 1500z - 2159z

For additional information: https://nadxa.com/activities_qfdc.html

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

HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

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

April 15th, June 15th, Sept 15th, and **January 15th 2023**

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

or

Contact Paul, NF1G at nf1g@arrl.net



Local Nets & Happenings

Sundays: 08:45 Western MA. VHF Emergency Net on 146.94, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

Sundays: 09:15 Western MA. UHF Emergency Net on 443.200, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

1st Monday:

RACES Drill, 18:45, 146.49 Simplex

Mondays: 19:00 7 pm (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

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

<http://www.hcra.org/>

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

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

Event: FCARC Pioneer Valley Experimental Net

Location: 10 Meters 28.354 MHz

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

Organizer: Brad Councilman bc@councilman.com

Note: As things continue to open up after the Pandemic, you should contact any VE session or meeting that you would like to attend to be sure they are back on their normal schedule!

President - Larry Krainson, W1AST
w1ast@arrrl.net

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

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

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
nf1g@arrrl.net

Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE
aa1ue@amsat.org

Membership - John Plaster, K1VOI
k1voi_jp@charter.net

Technical - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN
wa1ojn@jeffway.com

At Large - Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD
tipoacrata@gmail.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
webmaster@hcra.org

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



**Here is your Fabulous Issue of
Zero Beat!**

**Plenty to Read in Our Special 75th
Anniversary Edition**

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