



ZERO BEAT

Our 76th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club

Meeting Update!

The Holyoke Hospital meeting room is opened to us once again. In-person meetings are back!

Need directions?

hcra.org/meeting-location



From the editors desk:

January 2024

Happy New Year to everyone!

May 2024 be the year of many great DX pile-ups for everyone! The 75th Anniversary / Holiday celebration held at the Steaming Tender Restaurant was a fantastic time! If you missed it, or even if you didn't, check out the photos on [page 15](#).

Also at the 75th party was an extra special drawing for three special prizes that would be great in anybody's shack! The lucky winners are on [page 20](#).

As always, don't miss "From The President's Shack" on [page 5](#), as it's loaded with interesting information to get you started off right in 2024.

More information can be found on [pages 18](#) and [29](#) and throughout this entire issue of Zero Beat! Watch for some upcoming local Hamfests within this issue too.

The FREE technician license class is right around the corner, and your help is needed. To find out more, contact Gary, AA1UE, at aa1ue@amsat.org. This class is also led by Gary, whose contact information is on [page 10](#).

One thing I'm hoping to bring back in 2024 is "Show Your Shack," so if you'd like to show off your shack, contact me at kd1ku@yahoo.com. All it takes is a few good photos of your shack with a brief description of what's in the pics.

73, Ken - KD1KU

Welcome New Members

Neil Serafin - KE1XL

Bob Rostron - Call Pending

Whats Inside

Club Meeting Schedule	2
STK Zoom Schedule	3
Call Sign Game Answers	4
From the Presidents Shack	5-7
Ham Shack Power System	8-9
Tech License Class - FREE	10
How to Use Groups.io	12-14
Holiday Party Photos	15-17
Nuts and Volts	18
And The Winner Is!	19
Zero Beat Classifieds	21-22
HamToons - RF Humor	23
Clublog Update	25
ARRL Club Commission	26
Dots & Dashes	27
HCRA Stuff	28
Local Nets & Happenings	29

January 5th Meeting

The first meeting of 2024 features Marvin Turner, W0MET, who will be discussing Winter Field Day. Marvin became the WFD president in 2022, and hopes to make great improvements and continue the tradition of WFD, making it better and better every year. Marvin is also a brand new resident of the WMA section. Doors open at 7 pm, meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

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

Upcoming Meetings and Guest Speakers

 <p>September 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>OCTOBER 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>November 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>DECEMBER 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>JANUARY 2024</p>	<p>The January guest speaker is Marvin Turner, WOMET, who will be talking about Winter Field Day. He is the WFD president and also a new resident of the WMA section.</p>
 <p>FEBRUARY 2024</p>	<p>Our February speaker is our very own Gary Fields, AA1UE. Gary will be speaking all about APRS, digital and modern packet. This is going to be an extremely interesting presentation with so much to offer!</p>
 <p>MARCH 2024</p>	<p>March's speaker features everything you always wanted to know about DMR by Steve Shore, WA1ZEV. Be sure not to miss Steve's presentation.</p>
 <p>April 2024</p>	<p>The annual HCRA Show and Tell is back once again! Enter your projects, kits or whatever and win prizes! Last year's Show and Tell was a huge success, get started on your projects today.</p>
 <p>MAY 2024</p>	<p>In keeping with the portable operations from last May, Our guest speaker for May 2024 is Mindy, KMINDY, in-person. Mindy will be discussing everything about all of her adventures in the POTA and SOTA world.</p>
 <p>June 2024</p>	<p>Elections, Field Day prep, and more. Please consider running for a Board of Directors position. HCRA is a much better club when everyone's involved!</p>



SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE MEETINGS

STK Zoom Meeting Schedule for 2024

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings are back in 2024 for everyone's enjoyment!

Club President Larry, W1AST, has been working hard to find and host these exciting presentations! Have a topic to suggest? Maybe you'd like to give a presentation? Contact hamop.w1ast@gmail.com

January 9th @ 7pm	All About Raspberry Pi https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89918489159?pwd=RjVYZUZpVDJiVmdHTWtMZEZpaDRkZz09	By Aaron, KF1G
January 23rd @ 7pm	D-Star, How it compares to DMR & Fusion https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84378734412?pwd=bIAOR05EWDZaMIJ5NjFXdXRaczNdz09	By Terry Stader, KA8SCP
January 30th @ 7pm	All about WRTC 2023 in Italy https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545047538?pwd=WDF6bTU2dUxXTkh2N1VPaIR5UEVIZz09	By Dennis Egan, W1UE
February 8th @ 7pm	Everything about End Fed Antennas https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89627540799?pwd=Uk1rbDQ4cmdpb1JvK0REYm5uY3NOQT09	By Greg WA1JXR
Feb 22nd @ 7pm	Linux and Ham Radio https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87601560527?pwd=T3FyN1A3ZDZrR2UwNVp6V2wrN2NkZz09	By Andy, KB1OIQ
March 12th @ 7pm	1st time at the New England Forest Rally https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86348549953?pwd=RFdzUTY2OXZkV1VJdzlGekRsSEZ4dz09	By Phil Lord, K1PRA

Our 76th Year as a ARRL Affiliated Club



March 2022 Clublog Video How-to

Some members might not be sure what Clublog is or what it can do for you. If you missed it, this is your chance to watch it again.

Watch this video, and you'll know what it's all about.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qi2IKcQRNbE&t=299s>



CALL SIGN GAME ANSWERS

Below are the Answers to the Call Sign Game from Last Month

This little game to test your local ham radio knowledge began last month.

As promised, below are the answers in this months ZeroBeat.

Were you able to correctly match their original call signs from the list in the last issue?

If you guessed, how many did you get correct without looking them up online?

Post your score along with any comments on the clubs Facebook group

Name	Current Call		Correct Original Call Sign
Al	N1AW		K1BOW
Alan	AB1XW		N3IMU
Brad	W1BCC		WN1GJM
Frandy	N1FJ		WN0KFH
Gary	AA1UE		WA1FJW
Harold	N1FTP		N1FSF
Jim	KK1W		WA1ZUH
Ken	KD1KU		N1KQH
John	KX1X		N1ZQH
John	W1JA		WN1JMO
Juergen	NV1Q		DK1TM/W1
Larry	W1AST		WB1DBY
Pete	W1RM		W1BGD
Steve	AA1HF		N1EOE
Ted	K3FEC		WB1FJP
Vanessa	W1IRL		KC1IRL

Happy New Year!

January 2024

We had an excellent 2023 Holiday and 75th Anniversary party on December 4th. 67 people attended, and we also had AB1OC, the New England Division Director; K9HI, the Vice Director; AA1SE, the Section Manager for WMA; and lots of HCRA members and their spouses or guests.

The Steaming Tender provided a great atmosphere with their historic location, tasty food, and great service. There were many door prize winners, and three club members went home with very special door prizes in honor of the club's 75th anniversary.

- **3rd prize of the Morserino kit went to Frandy, N1FJ**
- **2nd prize of a Butternut 40/80m vertical went to Jeff, NT1K**
- **1st prize was a Xiego X6100 with speaker, t-shirt, and hat, went to Josue', KP4JLD**



Photos are posted elsewhere in this issue of ZeroBeat as well as on the HCRA.org website.

Since 2023 is officially over and the club is moving towards its 76th year, I would like to thank the following for their support and the time they have put in to get the club this far.

- **Past presidents and board members - you're the reason we got this far**
- **The current board - your unending support, ideas, and activities have kept the club moving forward**
- **Vanessa, W1IRL, & Alan, AB1XW, are the club's web gurus. Your continued support is invaluable**

Thank you to all! You've helped to make the club into what it is today.

January brings new member and special guest speaker Marvin Turner, W0MET, in as the guest speaker. Marvin is the president of the Winter Field Day Association. Marvin has just moved here from Tennessee with his wife and is living in Southampton, MA.

Please join us on Friday, January 5th, at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room meeting location. Doors open at 7:00 pm, with the meeting starting at 7:30 pm. Ez, W1AEZ, will be bringing coffee and donuts.

This will be a very interesting meeting and a chance to welcome W0MET to the HCRA. Everyone is invited. I do hope to see you there!

Winter Field Day runs on Saturday, January 27th and 28th. Just like the summer version, there are points for all sorts of power, locations, modes, etc. I will be participating from home, running my Icom IC-705 on battery power inside my house. I am no longer hardy enough to operate outside in the cold. But some of you probably are.

Continued on page 6

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST

Wherever you operate, please try to get pictures of yourself operating and/or your surroundings and set-ups if outdoors, and send them to kd1ku@yahoo.com and webmaster@hcra.org for inclusion in future Zero Beat issues and the club website, <https://hcra.org>

Here is the Winter Field Day website: <https://winterfieldday.org>

January also starts the 3-month Share The Knowledge mini-meetings. The STK's go for approximately one hour on specific Tuesday and a few Thursday nights from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Zoom. You get to stay in your warm homes and zoom into the meetings. The schedule is growing, and new talks are being added often. All the STK's are recorded and posted to the club's website. You can see the schedule of STK's on page 3 of this issue.

Our webmasters have made an alphabetical list of past STK's. You can go to the website and peruse past meeting subjects, click the link and be taken to the video. It's an excellent way to learn about certain subjects. Before you suggest we do a specific meeting, take a look at the STK list and see if we have already had a meeting on that subject. It's very possible we have.

It's not too early to start planning to present what you have built in the last 12 months at the annual April Show and Tell meeting. This is one of the most fun meetings of the entire year. Anything you have built or planned can be presented. Participants can win prizes. So get those kits out and start working on them if you haven't yet built something. Anything goes as long as it's ham radio-related. The item does not have to be complex; it can be simple, but it has to be something you assembled, and you have to get up in front of the meeting to show it off and briefly discuss what it is and does.

The club has its first Tech class of 2024 starting the 2nd Saturday of January. Gary, AA1UE is holding the class at his office in Southampton. **PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!** The class will go for 4 or 5 weeks with testing to be held at the end. This is a great opportunity to get new people active in this great hobby. Please help get the word out!

A Change is in the Air. For a number of years now, HCRA has used a mailing list on Mailman.Qth.net as a way to get club news out to all members.

Mailman.Qth.net over the last few years has become a pain in the neck to relay information that contains a web link, photo, or something similar. It would randomly not allow web links to be emailed out. To those of us on the board who are trying to disseminate information, this is a major inconvenience and PIA.

As of January 6, 2024, the club will stop posting on mailman.qth.net.

As of January 1, 2024, we have started a HCRA group on groups.io. This is an OPT-IN for you.

Go here: <https://groups.io/g/hcra/>

It's completely free to sign up for groups.io and join HCRA's group which is listed as **Hampden County Radio Association**, not HCRA.

There is a calendar with club happenings, photos can be posted along with files, and much more. We are excited about the options that are available to the club with this venue!

On [page 12](#) in this issue of Zero Beat there are full step-by-step directions to further enhance your HCRA group experience. I hope you will join this new Groups.io platform so you will continue to get all the latest HCRA news, plus you can post and contribute to all conversations.

Continued on page 7

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST

Club meetings, flea markets, and conventions are a great way to show you belong to the HCRA. The club offers polo shirts, button-down shirts, fleece vests, windbreaker jackets and hats (for sale at every meeting), and name badges too. Show off your club's modern logo and your name and call whenever you attend a meeting or other ham event.

You can order anything by emailing Larry W1AST at hamop.W1AST@gmail.com with your clothing size, name, and call sign. For name badges (\$13 each), please provide your name, call, town, if you want the ARRL logo, and whether you want a pin or magnet-style clothing attachment.

IF you have any HCRA-wear, please wear it to the January 5th meeting!

I hope to see everyone at the January club meeting.

73,

Larry; W1AST
HCRA club president



ARES AND SKYWARN NET UPDATE

My Ham Shack Power System

When the power goes out, I need to keep my radios and some other equipment running. To do this, I have two sets of batteries. One set is just for the radios. The other set is backup for non-radio items. Most, if not all, the non-radio items would be shut down in an extended power outage. I don't need a big monitor or desktop system when I have multiple laptops and tablets that can perform the same functions and have internal batteries that I can charge from the solar panels. I also have extra solar panels I can deploy if the power is out for a while, and there aren't many days without sunshine. The more solar panels I deploy, the quicker I can charge my batteries to take advantage of whatever sunshine we do get.

Batteries and Charge Controller for Radios

All my radios are always running on batteries. All except one are in go-boxes. This way, I am always operating off-grid.

Two 20-watt panels feed a Buddipole POWERmini. The POWERmini controls and monitors the charge and draws from my two batteries under my printer.

The toolbox on the left contains five 10 Ah Dakota Lithium LiFePO4 batteries. The ammo can on the right contains two 10 Ah LiFePO4 batteries. This gives me a total of 70 Ah for operating the radios.

On a sunny day, I can get 2 Ah in from the solar panels, which is enough to run a net on either my ID-5100 or my IC-2730 radio's.

When the power goes off, I don't have to worry about getting hooked up to battery power or getting out a go-box and hooking it up. I am already off-grid and ready to go.



Continued on page 9



My Ham Shack Power System

Batteries and Charge Controller for Computer Related Items

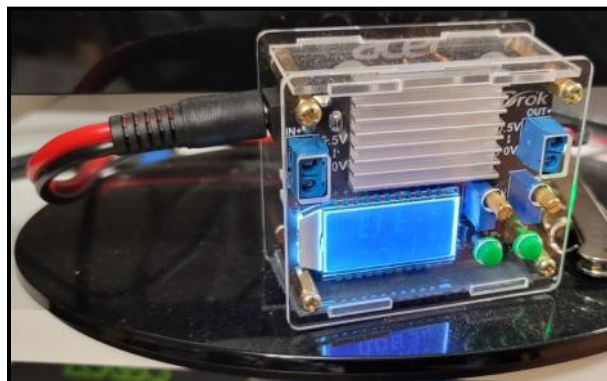
Normally, all my non-radio electronics are running on a 12VDC power supply running on AC power. When the power fails, the 12 volts comes from backup batteries.

Behind my monitor are eight 7.6 Ah sealed lead acid (SLA) batteries, totaling 60.8 Ah. These are the backup power, for the computer and monitors if commercial power is interrupted.



Commercial power powers the 12 VDC power supply that feeds into a West Mountain Radio Epic PWRgate. The PWRgate is also fed by solar panels and SLA batteries. If commercial power fails, the PWRgate switches to batteries fast enough that you don't even notice. The solar panels then take over, recharging the batteries. During normal operations, the power supply maintains the charge on the batteries.

My micro-tablet operates off 12 VDC, but the monitor has an AC transformer. I replaced it with a DC-to-DC converter, so it also operates on 12 VDC (bottom picture).



There is also a USB power buss for up to eight circuits to charge or power USB devices.

If I am running my DTV receiver to see what the news is reporting, I must run a small inverter for the AC powered DTV receiver. I plan on changing it to a smaller DTV receiver that uses 12 volts, so I won't need the inverter.

That is how I stay on the air when the lights go out. It has worked out very well, and I will continue to add extra batteries when I can afford them. The more battery capacity you have, the longer you can operate without sunshine.

73, Smitty, KC1IKA

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

JANUARY TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS, FREE!

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

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

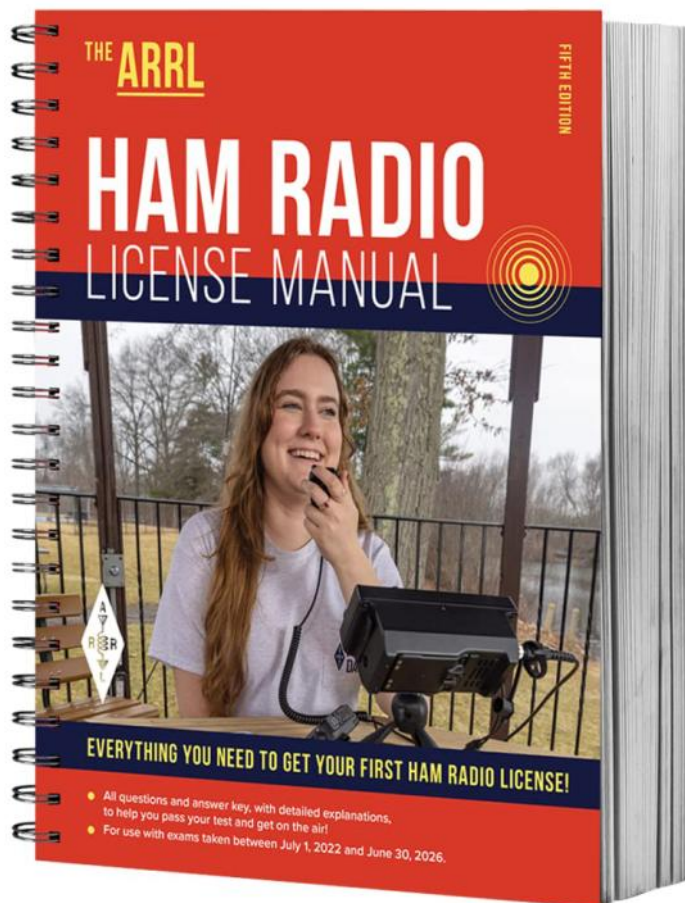
If you know of anyone who is interested in achieving this goal in life, have them register using the link below and fill out the form to get their name on the list for this FREE technician license class next January.

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

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

Register today by clicking on the link below:

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



Contact Gary, AA1UE with any questions or to volunteer at aa1ue@amsat.org



JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL NORTHEAST **HamXposition**

and ARRL New England Division Convention



AUGUST 23 TO 25, 2024
THE LARGEST HAM CONVENTION
IN THE EASTERN CORRIDOR



NEW & IMPROVED
VENDOR HALL

ENHANCED FLEA MARKET

LARGE SELECTION OF FORUMS

WWW.HAMXPOSITION.ORG



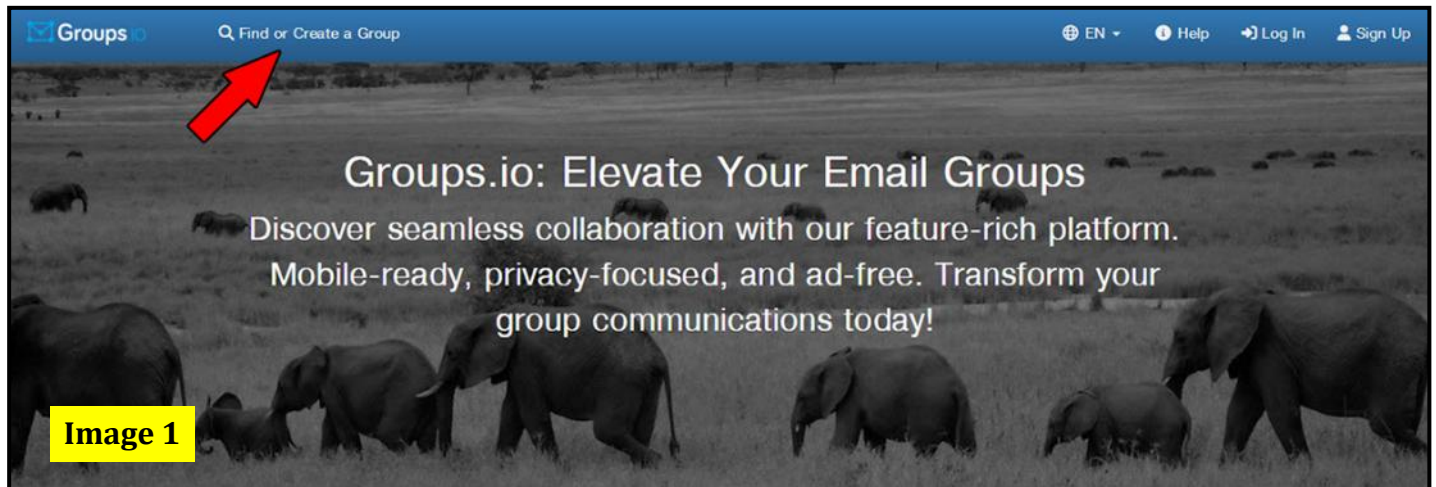
CLICK IMAGE to ENTER

GROUPS.IO TUTORIAL

How to Sign up, Create an Account, & Get Started on Groups.io

The following is a condensed “How To” pictorial guide to help you get started with groups.io. Begin by pointing your browser or mobile device to <https://groups.io/>. **Image 1** shows the very first page you will see after clicking on the web link above.

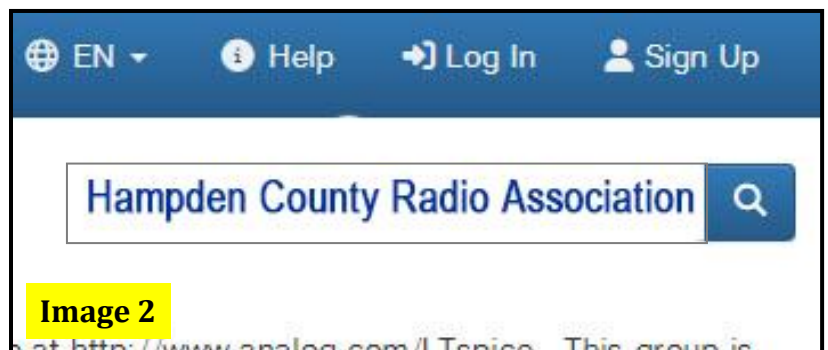
Click the tab that says “**Find or Create a Group**” (red arrow, image 1) on the groups.io page.



After clicking on the above tab, you will see a search box in the upper-right corner of the next page. In that search box, type **Hampden County Radio Association**. **Image 2** shows this already typed into the search box.

Once you have this typed into the search box, click on the search glass icon to begin the search.

You will see other groups listed in the search results, but **ONLY** click on the **Hampden County Radio Association's Mail Reflector**.



After clicking on the above link, you will be taken to the page where you will actually **JOIN** the HCRA Mail Reflector. See **image 3** on the next page for details on what you will see. The **red arrow** points to the **blue button** that states, Click “**to join the group.**”

Once you’ve clicked on join, you will be taken to the next page, as shown in **image 4**.

Continued on page 13

GROUPS.IO TUTORIAL CONT'D

How to Sign up, Create an Account, & Get Started on Groups.io

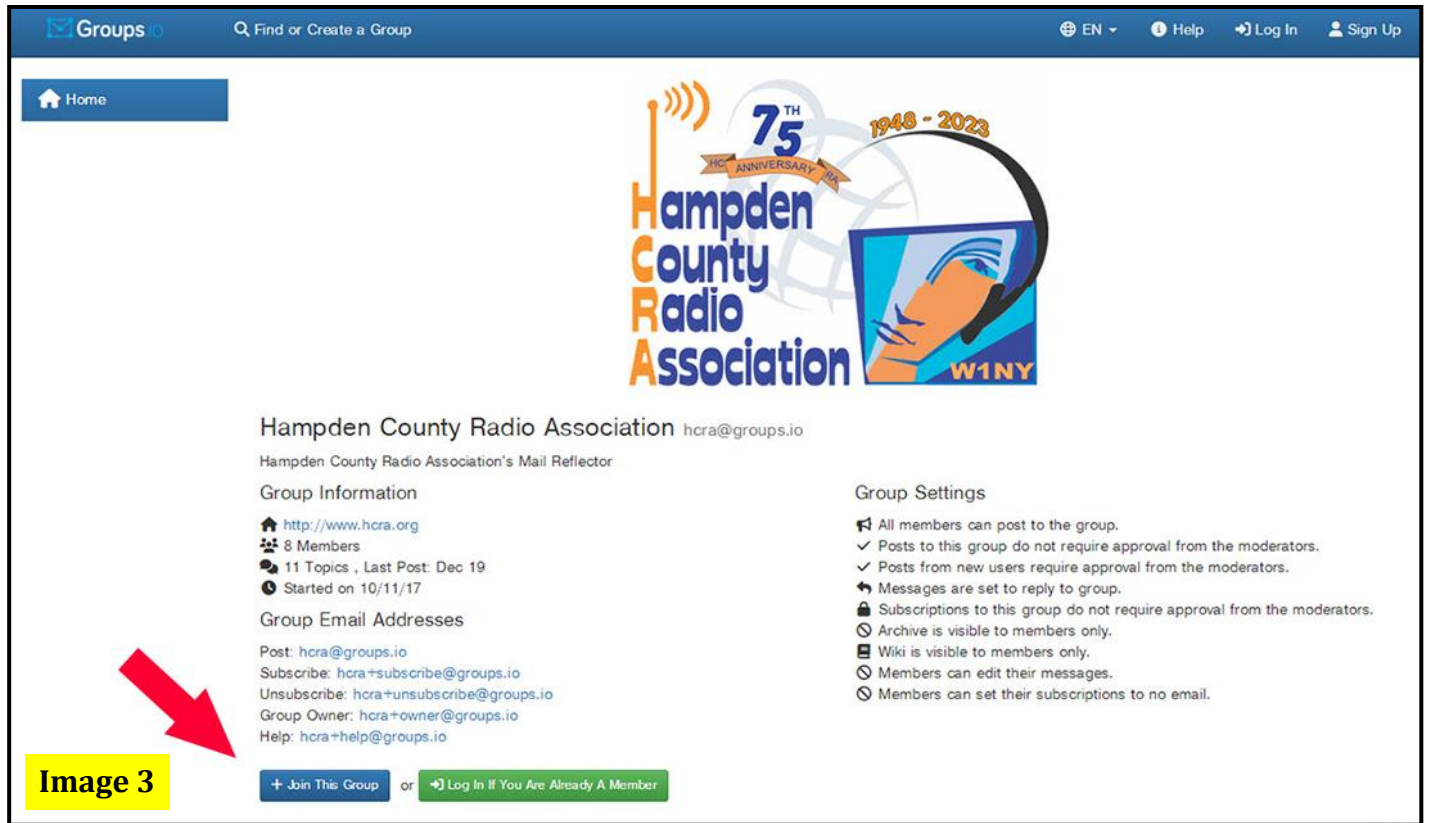


Image 3

Image 4 will show the email used to join. If blank, simply enter your email address, the same one used to join, then click on the **green button** with the **red arrow** pointing towards it, as shown below.

Your email now needs to be confirmed. To do this, first, make sure your email is correct and that it is the email you used to join. Then you will be taken to the next page, as shown in **image 5** on the following page.

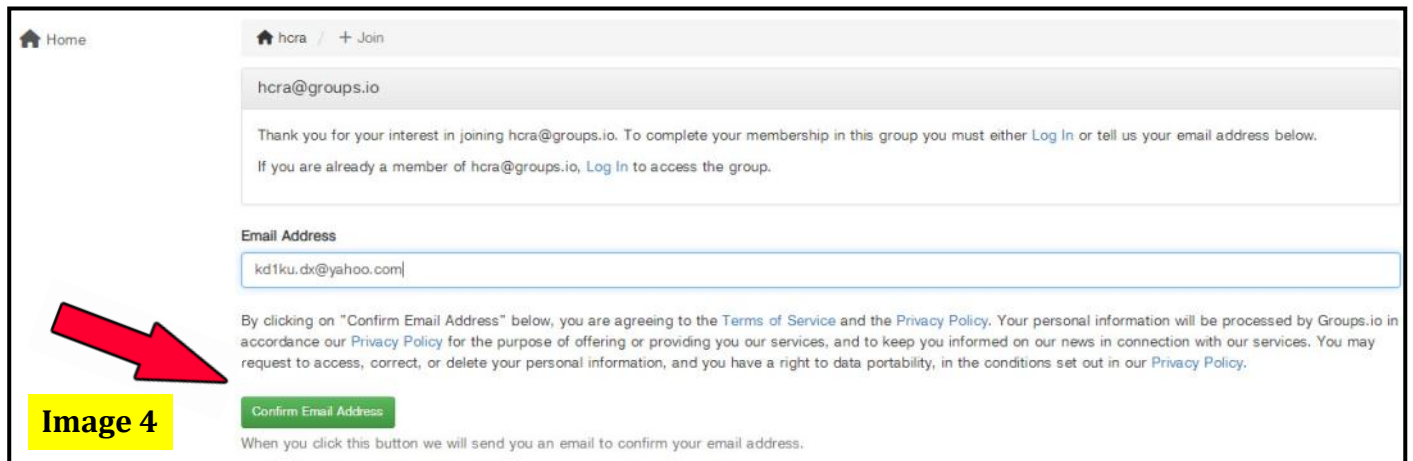


Image 4

Continued on page 14

GROUPS.IO TUTORIAL CONT'D

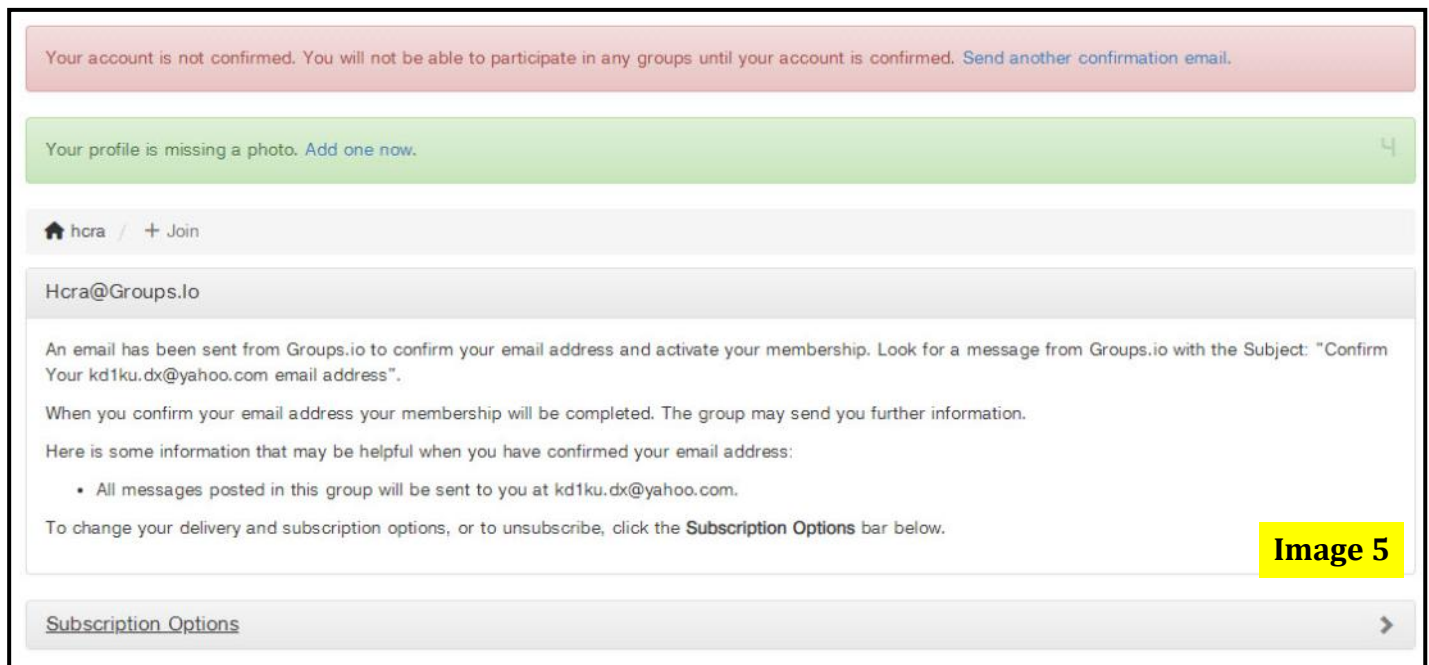
How to Sign up, Create an Account, & Get Started on Groups.io

The page shown below in **image 5**, which you will see until you have confirmed your email address.

To confirm your email, simply check your email account that was used to join groups.io. Follow the instructions in the email to decide which options are best for you. There are two ways to confirm your email address: They are both explained in the confirmation email you will receive from groups.io.

Next, you can select your subscription options and how you would like to receive emails when something is posted for the general membership. I personally like to receive an email every time something is posted; this is called “**Individual Messages.**”

You can change this to receiving a “**daily digest,**” where you will receive up to 12 messages per day in one email instead of individual emails. Or you can choose to receive a **Daily Summary**, where you will receive one email every morning that contains a list of the topics posted to the group on the previous day.



Whichever you choose, don't forget to click on the **save button**, or your new settings will be lost. There are many settings, ranging from appearance to how you will receive notices, but at least now you should know the basics of groups.io.

So now you can experiment with it or simply wait for the club announcements to come rolling in!

Just remember, if you choose “**Reply to All**” in an email, your reply will be sent to **everybody** on the list! Ask me how I know hi hi.

Enjoy Groups.io!

73,
Ken ~ KD1KU

75TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY PHOTO'S

Enjoy a few of the party photos from the 75th celebration



Continued on page 16

75TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY PHOTO'S CONT'D

Enjoy a few of the party photos from the 75th celebration



To enjoy many additional photos from the 2023 Holiday / 75th Anniversary Celebration at the Steaming Tender Restaurant. **Click Link Below!**

<https://hcra.org/2023/12/18/photos-from-the-hcra-75th-anniversary-party/>

Continued on page 17

75TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY PHOTO'S CONT'D

Enjoy a few of the party photos from the 75th celebration

Below is the content of the plaques presented to the HCRA at the 75th Anniversary / Holiday Celebration. Both were presented by Fred, AB1OC, Division Director, and Phil, K9HI, Vice Director.



WHEREAS, the Hampden County Amateur Radio Association (HCRA) in the ARRL Western Massachusetts section has long supported the American Radio Relay League, Inc., being an Affiliated Club since October 4, 1948;

WHEREAS, the HCRA was the first amateur radio club in the Springfield area of the Connecticut River Valley;

WHEREAS, the HCRA conducted its first Field Day in June, 1950;

WHEREAS, the HCRA held its first hidden transmitter/fox hunt in the Springfield area in August 1950;

WHEREAS, the HCRA has offered mentoring to newer amateurs and others for more than forty years;

WHEREAS, the HCRA offered the first VE exams in the area in October, 1984;


WHEREAS, the HCRA started a loaner program 12 years ago to loan new and needy hams HF radios, antennas, and the accessories for six months to get on the air;

WHEREAS, the HCRA started an idea-specific, hour-long meeting known as "Share The Knowledge" in 2015 to teach and inform interested individuals about amateur radio-related topics, and record them for future viewing on the HCRA.org web site;

WHEREAS, the HCRA organized a booth highlighting the amateur radio hobby at The Big E—the largest agricultural event on the eastern seaboard and the sixth-largest fair in the nation;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the ARRL Board of Directors hereby congratulates and recognizes the Hampden County Radio Association for its contributions to Amateur Radio on its 75 years of ARRL affiliation.


Below is Carolyn from Elm Real Estate Photography. She photographed all of the beautiful photos from the 75th anniversary party. If you are ever in need of a professional photographer, consider her for the job.



1-618-410-7350

carolyn@elmrealestatephotography.com

<https://www.elmrealestatephotography.com>



Scan to view digital business card

Carolyn Ferros
Owner/Photographer
ELM Real Estate
Photography

NUTS AND VOLTS

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

STK Zoom Meetings Begin in January

Share The Knowledge Zoom meetings are back for 2024! These have been a big hit over the past few years. Each meeting is recorded and added to the HCRA YouTube archive on hcra.org where you can find all past meetings on a range of topics.

If you or anyone you know has a topic to suggest, or if you would like to give your own presentation, simply contact Larry, W1AST, at funhamradio@gmail.com. Check the Share The Knowledge that will be coming in the very near future.

QSL Cards to be sent to the Bureau

The HCRA provides “pooling” of outgoing QSL cards as a benefit to members, who are also members of the ARRL, and who wish to send their DX cards through the ARRL’s Outgoing QSL Service.

The submission form and instructions are in the link below and QSL cards can be dropped off at our regular meetings or to Paul, N1FG whose contact info is on the form link below.

To download the form go to: <https://hcra.org/files/DX%20QSL%20Submission%20Form.pdf>

2024 Boston Marathon Volunteers

Volunteer registration for the 2024 Boston Marathon is now open. Returning volunteers have received an email from the BAA that included registration instructions. In order to make registration as smooth as possible, we are providing specific instructions for our Amateur Radio Operator volunteers.

If you haven’t previously volunteered, or you know someone who hasn’t, [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the Volunteer Registration page and follow the on screen instructions for new volunteers.

Wanted Member to Lead Field Day 2024

It’s time to begin planning for the next Field Day 2024. In order for Field Day to happen again next June at the School Street Park in Agawam, Massachusetts.

This is the perfect opportunity for one of our new members to step up and take the reins of FD 24. Maybe two volunteers can team up making this task even easier. Are you up to the challenge? Any interested members should contact club V.P. Ez, W1AEZ at ez.w1aez@gmail.com for more info. Larry, W1AST will be away for a wedding this year so someone to volunteer is crucial.

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>

75TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY PRIZE'S

Three lucky HCRA winners took home three fantastic prizes!

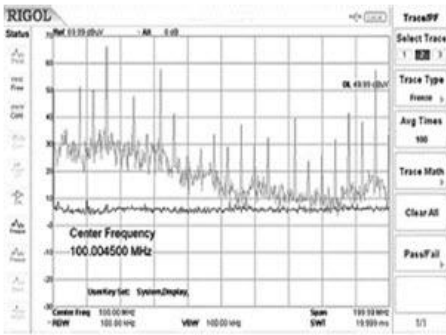


Josué KP4JLD, was the winner of the Xiegu X6100 QRP HF Transceiver and I'm sure he has already put it to good use in his shack! **Image 1**

Jeff, NT1K, won the Butternut HF 40m / 80m Vertical Antenna which can not still be in the box ;-)
Image 2

Frandy, N1FJ, Took home his brand new in the box Morserino and is still reading the directions!
Image 3





Need Help With RF Interference Issues ?

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

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

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

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

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

Vy 73,

Your WMA RFI Team

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

ZERO BEAT CLASSIFIEDS

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

FOR SALE!

Brand New D-104 Silver Eagle For Sale



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

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



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

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

- Elecraft K3 100watt Rig - \$1100
- KPA- 500, 500watt Linear Amp - \$2000
- KAT-500 Antenna Tuner - \$500
Includes manuals and original boxes

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

Also:

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

Contact Larry, KD1RV at larrydziobek@gmail.com

Continued on page 22

ZERO BEAT CLASSIFIEDS

CONT'D

FOR SALE!

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

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

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

If you have questions about item descriptions contact Dave at the contact info below

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

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

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

Email - dfant19508@aol.com

Phone - 484-529-0090 (cell) or 413-525-3022

1948 ~ 2023 75 Years as an ARRL Affiliated Club



Share The Knowledge Video Library

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

<https://www.youtube.com/@HampdenCountyRA/videos>







Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Marlborough, MA



AMATEUR
RADIO

FLEA MARKET

Saturday, February 17, 2024



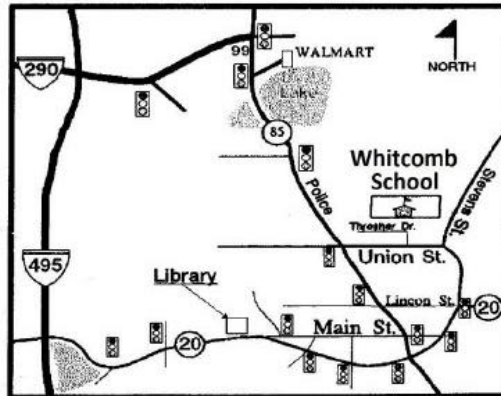
Marlborough 1Lt Charles W. Whitcomb School
(formerly Intermediate/Middle School)
25 Union St. or
off Bolton St. (Rt. 85)
Marlborough, Massachusetts

6 ft. Tables (round and rectangular)
Tables are \$15.00 each if purchased by February 9, 2024 (\$20.00 each accepted at the door if space is available)
Tables include vendor admission for one person.

Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
General Admission: \$5.00
VEC Exams: 9:00 AM

SETUP TIME: 6:30 AM
For more information email:
fleamarket@n1em.org

Talk In: N1EM/R 446.675 - (pl 88.5)
Updates will be on our web at:
<http://n1em.org>



Send This Form For Table Reservations with Check Payable to:
AARC, PO Box 258, Marlborough, MA 01752 (\$15.00 each table due by February 9)
Name: _____ Call: _____
Address: _____ No. Tables: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: (____) _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ .00
Email: _____

Algonquin Amateur Radio Club Flea Market

Click on image or link to download flyer (pdf)
<https://www.qsl.net/n1em/2024flyer.pdf>

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

This is the latest HCRA Clublog for 2023 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy this year!
HCRA Clublog Information Updated on December 30th 2023



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	29	67	0	141	75	180	66	187	85	191	7	266	1028	60 yrs
2	KK1W+1	25	44	0	88	104	116	117	136	143	143	10	262	926	47 yrs
3	NF1G	14	30	0	21	76	134	111	167	114	130	0	241	797	39 yrs
4	KX1X	7	81	35	126	126	151	115	170	154	167	4	220	1136	26 yrs
5	K1NZ+1 ★	20	26	26	32	108	101	77	128	136	120	5	209	779	12 yrs
6	WY1G	0	22	0	52	0	82	54	91	104	135	7	204	547	42 yrs
7	W1AST+1	3	27	0	42	18	78	59	89	87	110	4	170	517	14 yrs
8	N1FTP ★	0	2	0	32	9	74	32	52	43	112	2	147	358	15 yrs
9	NV1Q+3	0	35	0	69	11	103	7	99	12	95	0	129	431	44 yrs
10	K1VOI	2	22	0	45	37	79	28	72	18	63	1	129	367	22 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	W1PY+1	0	4	0	38	0	48	2	97	5	87	0	127	281	13 yrs
12	NE1C	23	53	0	76	0	100	0	110	0	96	0	123	458	21 yrs
13	N1TA+3	4	28	0	30	10	43	8	52	5	58	1	108	239	22 yrs
14	W1JA+1	0	3	5	19	31	2	48	1	49	1	2	104	161	54 yrs
15	NT1K+2	0	0	0	18	0	36	0	14	0	36	0	62	104	13 yrs
16	N1JIE	1	2	1	9	21	26	15	29	10	30	1	61	145	6 yrs
17	WD1S	1	3	0	5	0	24	0	17	0	11	1	33	62	11 yrs
18	W1NU+2	1	0	0	9	1	3	1	0	0	2	0	14	17	8 yrs
19	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	11 yrs

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

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


ARRL CLUB COMMISSION PROGRAM

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership through the HCRA!

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

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

[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/2022 Affiliated Club Membership Application.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/2022%20Affiliated%20Club%20Membership%20Application.pdf)

 ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®	ARRL Affiliated Club Membership Application		
	<input type="checkbox"/> I am a brand-new member, or my membership lapsed for 2 or more years. My club will receive a \$15 commission. <input type="checkbox"/> I am renewing (includes lapsed members of less than 2 years). My club will receive a \$5.00 commission.		
Name _____ Call Sign _____			
Address _____			
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____			
Email _____ Phone _____			
Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____			
<input type="checkbox"/> My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (Annually \$10 per member)			
Name _____			
Name _____			
Your Annual Membership Dues - Circle Your Choice			
	3 Years	2 Years	1 Year
US Membership	\$140	\$95	\$49
International (Digital Only)	\$140	\$95	\$49
International (with mailed QST)	\$217	\$147	\$76
Blind	\$30	\$20	\$10
Family	\$30	\$20	\$10
Student			\$25
TOTAL \$ <input type="text"/>			
Choose your print magazine - Check One			
<input type="checkbox"/> QST , ARRL's membership journal for active radio amateurs (12 monthly issues)			
<input type="checkbox"/> On the Air , Beginner-to-intermediate-level help and advice (6 bimonthly issues)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Digital Only (All members can access the digital versions of both magazines)			
Payment Enclosed is my: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Charge Request			
Charge to my: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Amex <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____			
Card Holders Signature _____			
Toll Free (US) 1-888-277-5289 or 860-594-0200 • ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1400 membership@arrl.org • www.arrl.org/join			

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

Wanted Volunteer to Lead Field Day

WANTED! Volunteer to head up the 2024 Field Day next June. It may be early but with Larry being away that weekend the time to start is NOW!

This is the perfect opportunity for one of our new members to step up and take the reins of FD 24. Maybe two volunteers can team up making this task even easier. Are you up to the challenge? Any interested members should contact club V.P. Ez, WIAEZ, at ez.wlaez@gmail.com for more info.

The Ham Bands are on Fire!

Solar Cycle 25 is already beginning to show its influence on long distance radio propagation...and ARRL members get a front row seat! Enjoy exclusive ARRL Cycle 25 content and resources throughout the pages of our membership magazines, website, and opportunities to discover and learn. Let ARRL help you get ready and on the air. **Cycle 25 is here!**

For more info like this check out On The Air online Magazine: <http://arrl.org/on-the-air>

Contests and Special Event Stations

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

Marconi Club CW QSO Party | 3.5Mhz - 14Mhz | Jan 6th - 0700z - Jan 7th - 2100z

For rules and complete info go to: <http://www.ariloano.it/marconiclub/>

Winter Field Day | 1.8 - 28 MHz No WARC | Jan 27th 1900z - 28th 1900z | SSB, CW, Dig

For rules and additional info go to: <https://winterfieldday.org/>

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

Discovery of Gold in California | Jan 27- 29th, 1700z - 0100z | 7.248Mhz - 28.348Mhz

For complete information and rules on this SES: <https://edcarc.net>

HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

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

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

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

or

Contact Paul, NFIG at paulkelliher@comcast.net

Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

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

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

10 Meter Net Guest Net Control Station

The 10 meter net 2024 Fall/Winter schedule has begun. Every 4th Monday of each month there will be a guest Net Control Station for one net. Have you ever thought of trying your hand at being a Net Control Station? Now is your chance to make that dream come true! Run the net however you'd like and have some fun.

Try your hand at being a guest Net Control Station for one Monday Net?
For more details about this fun net contact Ken, KD1KU at kd1ku@yahoo.com

Share the Knowledge Meetings are Back!

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings have been a big hit over the last few years. Last winter we had several excellent meetings! Watch all STK videos by clicking <https://hcra.org/videos/> where they are listed in alphabetical order.

The 2024 STK meetings begin January 9th at 7 pm! See the complete schedule on **page 3** of this issue.

Membership Memorial Page

All members have the opportunity to honor club members SK's on the new memorial page on hcra.org. This can be done easily by sending the SK member's name and callsign along with any text, stories, an-photos. Send them to our webmasters, Vanessa, W1IRL, or Alan, AB1XW at the email address's below:
Vanessa, W1IRL, at webmaster@hcra.org or **Alan, AB1XW**, at alan.dove@gmail.com

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

For Sale Items

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

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

HCRA Social Media Links

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

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

Local Nets & Happenings

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

Sundays: 9:15 am Western MA. UHF Emergency Net on 443.200, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

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

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

Mondays: 7 pm, HCRA 10 Meter Net on 28.375, New topic every week. Have a topic to suggest? Contact kd1ku@yahoo.com

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

Tuesdays: 8 pm, ARES Emergency Net, on 146.985, PL 136.5

Wednesdays: 7:30 pm, MTARA Info Net on 146.94, PL 127.3

Wednesdays: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, Following Info Net

Wednesdays: N1RLX Simplex Net, Check-In's on 146.94 then QSY to 146.42 Simplex immediately following the swap net

Wednesdays: 9 am, FCARC Experimental Net, 28.354 MHz

Thursdays: 8 pm, FCARC Information Net, 146.985 - 136.5

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.arrl.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 at 7 pm followed by the regular meeting at 7:30pm sharp. <http://www.hcra.org/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
paukelliher@comcast.net

Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE
aa1ue@amsat.org

Membership - Steve Rodowicz, N1SR
n1sr413@gmail.com

Technical - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN
wa1ojn@jeffway.com

At Large - Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD
tipoacrata@gmail.com

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

Website - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org

W1NY trustee, Paul, NF1G
paukelliher@comcast.net

WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org



**Here is your fabulous next
issue of Zero Beat!**

Our 76th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club

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