



ZERO BEAT

FIELD DAY EDITION

Meeting Notice

The meeting room at the Holyoke Hospital is still on hold at this time. Until this changes, meetings will continue to be held on Zoom. Meeting links are in each month's "From the Presidents Shack"

Welcome New Members

Marc Goldstein - K8LSB

Joanna Cummings - N2QFT

James Cummings - KD2DXQ

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Our 74th Year as a Club!

June 2022

From the editor,

It seems like only yesterday, when it was cold and we couldn't wait for warmer weather. Well it's here and so is Field Day and so much more.

Field Day is on our doorstep, Project Big E is only a few months away, the most important thing you can do as members is to volunteer for one or both events!

This is the Field Day Edition of Zero Beat, loaded with everything you ever wanted to know about Field Day, but were afraid to ask. One thing you can do is volunteer! To volunteer for both events, please contact Larry, at w1last@arrl.net.

Lots of reading in this issue beginning with "The QRO King" by Bill, W1FMX. Next up is an update on ARES Nets and "Show Your Shack" by Smitty, KC1IKA. More about the need for operators for Field Day, Project Big E, 13 Colonies and more.

Many issues and topics are covered in this issue, so read carefully as things like the 10 meter net summer schedule is listed as is the details about Project Big E and the huge need for HCRA members to volunteer!

June 15th is the next tentative date for Paul, NF1G and the Outgoing QSL Service.

If you have an article or idea for ZB email myself at kd1ku@arrl.net. Be sure to take part in club activities such as the 10 meter net while we're on the summer schedule. I hope to see everyone at the June Zoom meeting.

73, Ken - KD1KU

June 3rd Zoom Meeting

Elections, Field Day, and More!

June is another important club meeting featuring elections, and everything Field Day! Meeting opens at 7pm with a social rag chew 1/2 hour. Then the regular club meeting will begin at 7:30 pm sharp on Friday, 6/3.

See page 3 for a breakdown of everything about our elections. Consider running for a position on the board, HCRA is far better when YOU are involved!

Another item to be discussed, Project Big E, and how you can become a part of this massive event just by volunteering to work a few shifts staffing the booth, more about this on page 17th and 18th.

Upcoming Zoom Meetings and Guest Speakers

 <p>September 2021</p>	<p>Everything you need to know to work satellites with equipment you already own by Gary, AA1UE</p>
 <p>OCTOBER 2021</p>	<p>Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC will speak on his plans to be the next NE Director. After his presentation he'll be taking questions from you. This is your chance to ask him your questions... one on one.</p>
 <p>November 2021</p>	<p>November 5th 2021 How you can create and maintain your very own You Tube channel. Plus, How you can start your own POTA Activation by Rob, N1NUG</p>
 <p>DECEMBER 2021</p>	<p>The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant December 6th, 6:30 to 9:30pm A Night of Food and Fun! (subject to change due to Covid variant)</p>
 <p>JANUARY 2022</p>	<p>All About EMCOMM or Emergency Communications including Go-Boxes and several ways to power off grid operations by Charlie, KC1IKA</p>
 <p>FEBRUARY 2022</p>	<p>Ken Caruso, W01N ~ President of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club will be giving a special presentation about the YCCC and what its all about!</p>
 <p>MARCH 2022</p>	<p>All About The New England Forest Rally by Paul, W1SEX</p>
 <p>April 2022</p>	<p>Show and Tell is back... Enter your projects and win prizes! This has always been one of the very best and most interesting meetings</p>
 <p>MAY 2022</p>	<p>Everything you always wanted to know about Antenna Modeling Software and how it can benefit you! ~ by Greg, WA1JXR</p>
 <p>JUNE 2022</p>	<p>Elections, Field Day prep and more. Please consider running for a board position, HCRA is better with you involved!</p>

Big things are happening during the month of June with Field Day coming in as the biggest but there is one other major thing that happens in the same month... It's HCRA Election time!

Most of your Board of Directors will be returning next year with two exceptions, Marcel, AA1WH has made the difficult decision to step down from the VP position for personal reasons, more about this on page 12. Also, our current club Treasurer, Duane, KC1FQV will also be stepping down.

Bill, W5JAZ, who is one of our newer members has stepped up to become the next Vice President if you so choose. We still need someone to put their name in to be the next HCRA Treasurer. Not only can you put your name in for these two positions, but also for any of the Board of Directors positions, we welcome the competition!

If you're interested in running for either of the open positions or to challenge a current position you must contact Larry, W1AST BEFORE the June 3rd meeting! Contact him at w1last@arrl.net

Just because they are staying on for another year as board members doesn't mean that they cannot be challenged for that position. The final say is up to you, the members of the HCRA!

Current Board Positions and the Members Serving

- President - Larry Krainson, W1AST
- Vice-President - Bill Holden Jr, W5JAZ
- Treasurer - Duane Pray, KC1FQV (*stepping down*)
- Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
- Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE
- Membership - John Plaster, K1VOI
- Technical - Najm Choueiry, AB1ZA
- At Large - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN
- Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU



Online Election at the June Zoom Meeting!

It's your club, do your part by voting!



June 2022 - From the Presidents Shack

In January of 2021, I presented an idea to the January ARRL New England Division cabinet meeting. I told everyone that I wanted to do a booth at the Big E. But a different booth than what had been done back 15-18 years ago. Something MUCH better and MUCH more modern.

The then New England Division Director told me it would never work, that the ARRL would never send someone up unless we paid his daily wages, etc. But he was the only negative and the vice director and many others said "Let's do it, it's time".

So, I proceeded with plans with 19 months in front of us to plan the entire event.

The first thing was to get permission from the Big E. They graciously gave us a 300 square foot booth in the Better Living Center (BLC) which is worth nearly \$4000. That alone was amazing. Then I started planning with much help from others.

Fast forward to January of 2022 and a new New England Director takes office and he loves the idea! As I present the idea to more and more meetings, some of the ARRL staff like the idea and the possibilities it will bring. Nine months to the 2022 Big E.

February arrives and Director AB1OC suggested we try to get an ARISS contact for the Big E. We started working with New England Sci-Tech in Natick. Bob, K5TEC, the director was in and we did an application. A few weeks later, this groundbreaking application was approved. We had FIVE months to plan. I contacted the Big E and they are thrilled at the prospect to do something so educational and unique at the fair.

One thing we needed was a way to live stream the event to the internet. I approached someone from one of my small business networking groups and met with them. We now have a professional business in **Black Helicopter Creative** that will do the video, live streaming, professional creative video. They are donating their time and are very excited at the prospect. They use media art and technology to create engaging content. Some of their clients are **ESPN, Fenway Park, The Red Sox Hall of Fame**, and many others. We are so lucky to have them on our team!

The other day, I was speaking with Icom and they will be lending us some equipment for the booth. To use for the Special Event Station – N1E and to show the public what modern ham radio can do. We will have HF antennas up as well as possibly VHF too and a hotspot to run D-star, DMR, and Fusion. I spent an hour talking with Icom on the phone. They are now excited about our Big E Project and introducing modern ham radio to the public.

Slowly, pieces are coming into place. We have only 3 months until the fair, and with still so much to do!

To make all of this happen we NEED everyone's help. Volunteer now by emailing Larry at W1AST@arrl.net

Continued on page 5

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

Right now, I am looking for local people that live within 45 minutes of the Big E Fairgrounds to act as host families for hams traveling long distances to participate. Do you have a spare bedroom? A futon? A cot or space for a few to sleep? How many people can you accommodate? Faye and I have room for 3 to 4.

We need your help too though. Can you be a host family? For a place to sleep? Please let me know ASAP as we are building a host families list. Email me at W1AST@arrl.net

There is now a sign-up link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9_iH1ZucHuCFCNwreEuVPWnmLOT5D_s92vHPuEUASS78Tew/viewform

Volunteer for a certain day and time slot(s). Also at the bottom is the Host Family sign-up too.

Watch here for the latest news: <https://nediv.arrl.org/project-big-e/>

We need your help. Join the group to hear about the latest news and discussions.

To make this a success, we need local participation. Please volunteer!

June brings everyone's favorite operating event – Field Day Weekend.

Field Day is both a practice emergency operating event and a contest. The operating event portion is where; the HCRA as a club; goes to the School Street Park in Agawam; sets up temporary shelters, portable towers, and antennas, operates off generators and makes as many contacts as possible between 2:00 pm on Saturday and 2:00 pm on Sunday.

To make this a success for the club, we need volunteers for the following:

- Tow the trailer to the Field Day location Friday around noon/12:30 pm (small truck with a 2-inch tow bar works fine).
- Friday Setup starting at 1 pm (help erecting the towers, assembling the antennas)
- Join us Friday night as we stay over and do some pre-Field Day operating
- Saturday setup – complete antenna/tower set up, put up shelters & stations in shelters
- **NEED: OPERATORS FOR:**
 - ⇒ PHONE
 - ⇒ CW
 - ⇒ GOTA (if we have enough volunteers)
- Need ops for 24 hours of operating – Sign up for a certain time for YOU to operate!
- Camp with us Saturday night
- Sunday tear down
- Sunday tow the trailer back to Southwick

We NEED someone to be the food chairperson. Said person will do the following:

- purchase hamburgers and hot dogs and some other food supplies
- Cook burger dinner Saturday night
- Cook burger lunch Sunday
- Purchase foods for Sunday morning breakfast

Continued on page 6

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

We need Volunteers to make this work.

We need 2 to 3 HF rigs for operators to use. So far, we have just one rig volunteered. So far just one person has volunteered to operate and sign-up for certain time slots for the CW station.

We hope to run 20m SSB, 40m CW and 40m SSB.

What would you like to operate? Band, time, and mode? Let me know.

We Need Your Sign Ups Now!

How can you help this year's HCRA Field Day effort?

Lastly, please join us for dinner Saturday at 6:00 pm. This is as close as the club gets to a picnic.

If you're going to attend, what can you bring?

You do need to RSVP so we have enough food for everyone.

Now is the time to help your club, volunteer, operate and have some great fun, and make long-lasting memories. Field Day cannot succeed without your help!

At the June meeting on Friday, the 3rd at 7:30 pm. You will be voting for the officers of the HCRA. As I mentioned last month, we will have a new Vice President in Bill, W5JAZ. We are also looking for a new Treasurer. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Larry; W1AST at W1AST@arrl.net

We'll also be discussing Field Day a bit too. This is also a Zoom meeting.

Here is the June meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86399496660?pwd=VFh1bVdiMnorQW5CSnR4WWtDZzVRZz09>

I hope to see you at the meeting and Field Day in person this year.

Best 73,

Larry, W1AST
W1AST@arrl.net

THE QRO KING

NEED AN AMP OR TUNER REPAIRED? CONTACT THE QRO KING IN CONNECTICUT!



One evening some time ago, I decided to check into a 10 meter net, and because other folks were having trouble hearing my signal, I decided to switch on my Ameritron Al-811 amplifier for a “boost.” Previously, I had only used the amplifier on 20m and 40m, and it worked well. Not having my glasses nearby, I set the amplifier band switch to what I assumed was the 10m (marked “AUX”) position. Well, it turned out that I could not load up the amplifier; when I got my glasses on, I could see I had actually turned the knob to the 15m position.

So, then I wondered if I had done any damage – so I changed my transceiver’s setting to 15m and tried loading up the amplifier on 15m, but it did not work. But, 20m and 40m still worked fine on the Al-811.

So, I called the technical services department at Ameritron and asked their advice. I was told that I had probably “fried” the capacitors for 15m on the Al-811’s tuning board. Well, I got a copy of the schematic, found the values for the two possibly damaged capacitors, and got them and a replacement coil for 15m as well. The tech at Ameritron warned me that accessing the tuning board would involve removing a shaft for the band switch that could be hard to re-set and could easily break if I got it wrong.

Well, I have restored a couple of Heathkit Single Banders (HW12A and HW-32A), a DX-60, an HW-16, and an SB-101, as well as some power supplies, so I figured I would just replace the tuning board capacitors and the coil, and it would not be a big deal. As I began the project, I realized that I did not want to mess with the band switch that was said to be so much of a problem on the tuning board.

Now, what could I do? I did not want to mail the Al-811 to Ameritron, so I knew I had to find someone who might repair the amplifier. As luck would have it, I happened to mention the problem to another Ham who said he had found a great amplifier repair guy located in Western Connecticut, but he could not remember his name. So, I searched online and found the website for the QRO King, Lou Parascondola (W1QJ), and realized that this was the fellow I had heard about. I sent Lou an e-mail describing the problem and he set up an appointment for me to bring the amplifier to his shop which is located in Danbury.

When I got there, I was impressed with Lou’s manner. He listened to my story and explanation of what I thought was wrong with the Al-811, but I could tell that he did not think that was quite right, but he was very respectful and said, “Let’s check it!” When he had, he determined that the cause of the problem was not what the tech from Ameritron had suggested, and he remarked: “What’s wrong with your amplifier is the same thing that’s wrong with that other one (also, an AL811) that I have been fixing.

It’s a problem with the shaft connecting the band switch knob to the rotary switch on the tuning board.” Lou quickly saw that a coupling holding the shaft had one loose set screw, but to an untrained eye, it looked absolutely fine!



Lou, W1QJ donating an amplifier to ARRL. He is the one standing on the far left in the QRO King Sweatshirt.

Continued on page 8

THE QRO KING Cont'd

NEED AN AMP OR TUNER REPAIRED? CONTACT THE QRO KING IN CONNECTICUT!

Soon, Lou replaced the two setscrews in the coupling (which were Allen screws) with slotted head screws as he explained that they held better. He then showed me how to change the wiring (i.e., remove a jumper) to activate the 10M setting for the amplifier and then took care of it. After, that, he carefully tested the amplifier on each band to make sure it was functioning correctly. He also explained to me that running the amplifier at 220 Volts was much better. I was impressed that Lou is very considerate of his customer: he did his best to get the amplifier fixed and checked during that visit so that I would not have to drive back again.

So, if you have a tuner or amplifier that needs to be fixed, or want to convert an amplifier for 6 Meters, I would strongly recommend that you bring it to Lou as he is a very knowledgeable, competent technician who is very fair in his pricing.

Over the years, I have dealt with many technicians and craftsmen (I did electrical work and installed and repaired alarms, telephone, and CCTV when I was young), so I can assure you that I have met few people like Lou and know that you will be glad that you brought your repairs to him, too.

If you have an antenna tuner or amplifier that needs repairs the QRO King is where you should be heading, right in CT. too!

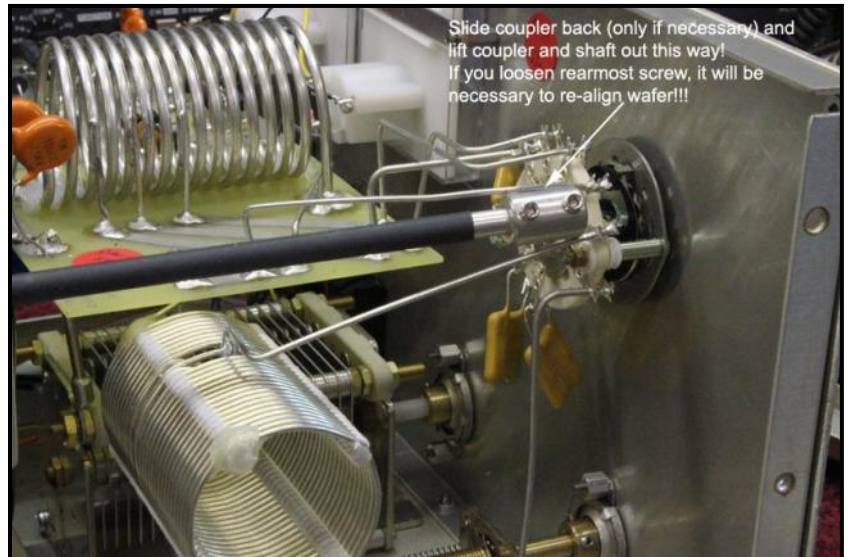


Photo of Similar Coupling with Setscrews in AL-811. (Photo by W8JI)



Example Photo of an Ameritron AL-811 Amplifier

Below is a link for Lou's website:

<http://qroking.com>

By Bill Cook ~ W1FMX

SHOW YOUR SHACK!

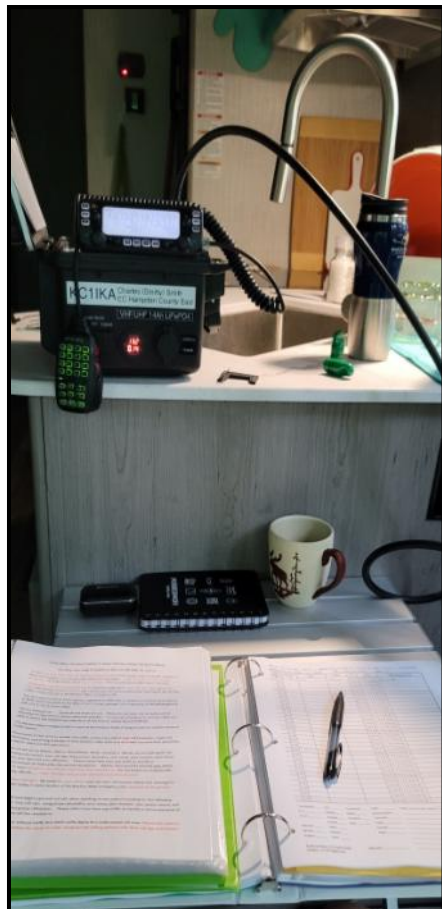
THIS MONTH'S FEATURED SHACK IS THAT OF SMITTY, KC1IKA

When Ken, KD1KU asked if I could do a "Show Your Shack" article I agreed, then I thought, which one?

As most of you know I am really interested in Emergency Communications and operating under grid-down situations. As such I have built quite a few Go Boxes and most of the time operate under simulated grid-down conditions. So, I have my main shack in my home location, my portable setup at a campground in Southwick and I also operate portable out of my car at work during lunch. All three locations are my collective "shack".

First up is my home shack. This is where I spend about half my time on mostly VHF and UHF. My primary radio is an Icom IC-2730 in a go box. When I operate from home, I use the battery bank in the shack. I also have an Icom IC-7300 and an Icom IC-9700. I like the IC-2730 because of its lower power draw.

Along with the radios, I have a weather station, D-Star hot spot, RaspberryPi computer, and monitors plus a DTV receiver. The computer equipment is run from a DC power supply through an automatic switch to a battery bank if the power goes out. and the local TV stations are still broadcasting.



The next shack is my camping trailer. I have been doing most of the Sunday morning ARES nets from there for the last month. I use the Icom IC-2730 on internal battery power and have a vertical antenna on the bumper of my trailer. It has no problem reaching Mt. Tom from Southwick on 15w for VHF and 5w on UHF. *(image on the left and on the next page)*

My third Shack is portable in my car. I use the Lab599 HF radio with a 7' vertical whip antenna on the trunk of the car. The radio and all the cables fit in a Nintendo Switch case along with a battery that will run it for days. I use a Samsung tablet to do the digital modes through a Digirig Mobile. I have 80, 40, 20, and 10-meter antennas. The Lab599 is a 10w QRP rig so I want the most efficient antenna without having to resort to a tuner. I do both SSB voice and Winlink digital modes. This means I must choose between tuning the antenna at the top of the band for voice or the bottom of the band for digital modes. I got around that by purchasing extra tuning whips for the 80, 40, and 20-meter bands.

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SHOW YOUR SHACK! Cont'd

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED SHACK IS THAT OF SMITTY, KC1IKA

My third Shack is portable in my car. I use the Lab599 HF radio with a 7' vertical whip antenna on the trunk of the car. The radio and all the cables fit in a Nintendo Switch case along with a battery that will run it for days. I use a Samsung tablet to do the digital modes through a Digirig Mobile. I have 80, 40, 20, and 10-meter antennas. The Lab599 is a 10w QRP rig so I want the most efficient antenna without having to resort to a tuner. I do both SSB voice and Winlink digital modes. This means I have to choose between tuning the antenna at the top of the band for voice or the bottom of the band for digital modes.



The 10-meter antenna is flat across the whole band so I can use just the one. With the multiple antennas, I just pick the band and mode and screw that antenna to the trunk mount. To change bands or modes it only takes me a couple of minutes to swap antennas. With the conditions, the way they are I was able to talk to a station 2,000 miles away in Dominica on 10 meters with 10w and received a 5x9 signal report. I regularly talk to Florida and Michigan with 10 watts to check into various nets at lunch. For Winlink, I use 40 and 20 meters and usually go through stations about 350 to 400 miles from me. All on just 10w. So those three locations are my "shack". Each has its own purpose which is some version of EmComm. The home shack is usable in any weather and with or without commercial power. The other two are self-contained with one fixed as an alternate shack and the other mobile as an alternate shack.

73, Smitty, KC1IKA

ASEC WMA ARES, Net Manager, Skywarn NCS,
and Westfield CERT Radio Operator

ARES Nets and More!

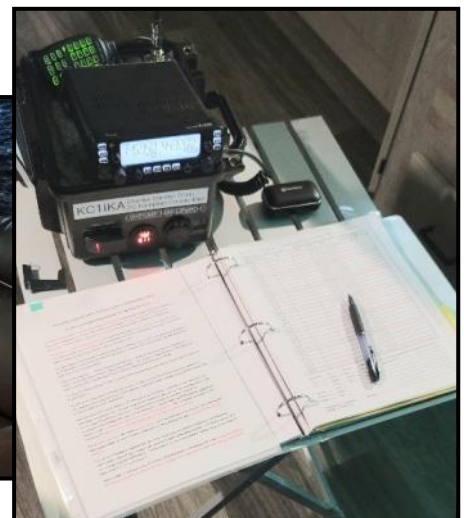
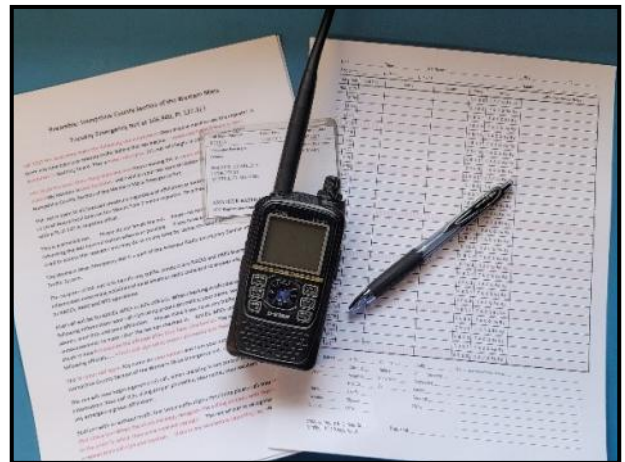
WMA ARES UPDATE BY SMITTY, KC1IKA ~ ASEC NET MANAGER

Greetings everyone!

A couple of items of interest this month. The weather is improving so I will be operating portable for most of the nets this summer. I have been NCS for the last two Sunday mornings and have done the nets from a campsite in Southwick.

I am using one of my portable VHF/UHF go boxes, the same one I do most of the nets from at home. Being part of Amateur Radio Emergency Services, I firmly believe we should frequently practice portable or off-grid operations.

We are also now looking for four stations to sign up for NCS positions for the ARES nets. We will provide free training and you will only work one shift a month.



We have two Tuesday evening half-hour shifts, and two Sunday morning one-hour shifts available. This will give you great practice listening to call signs and will help if you enjoy contesting.

One of our Net Control Stations is moving on to concentrate on the HF nets he is involved with. Gary, KC1JZR, did a great job taking on all the Tuesday nets at the end of last year when we were down to just him and me. Now that we have two other net controls on Tuesdays, he decided it was time to move on. He has my respect and appreciation for a job well done, thank you, Gary!

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for training, please contact Smitty, KC1IKA at KC1IKA@ARRL.net. Smitty is the Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator and Net Manager for Western Mass ARES.



73,

Smitty, KC1IKA
ASEC, Net Manager, WMA ARES

LETTER FROM MARCEL

WHY MARCEL, AA1WH, STEPPED DOWN FROM THE VP POSITION.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain my absence from the air, club activities and my resignation from the Board of Directors in recent months.

Many of you are aware that my father has been quite ill recently. In April 2021 he fell at our home, breaking his right hip. Due to underlying medical issues, he could not be anesthetized for surgery to repair the fracture. He was sedated and a minimal repair was made by placing 3 pins with a small incision of about .75 inches through the femur neck. That notwithstanding, he suffered severe complications from the sedation and spent 3 months in rehab. He returned home in July 2021 unable to provide any self-care. He is able to walk about 10 feet with a walker and someone supporting him, otherwise he is in a wheelchair.

Ann and I have lived with him for 4 years as the house was too much for him to maintain. Needless to say, after the fall, we took over all of the home responsibilities and the lead of our amazing care team. At first, we managed and were able to carry out our normal activities, but as the demands grew, I found less and less time to participate in the club and ham radio in general. Every time I have intended to join in a meeting or Board of Directors meeting, something has come up and prohibited me from doing so. After missing the April meeting, I submitted my resignation letter to Larry and the Board. My reason was quite simple. The members of HCRA deserve all Board members to be knowledgeable of club issues, initiatives and engaged in club activities, especially the clubs vice president. Clearly, that was not me. I felt it was only proper to resign and allow someone else to step up.

Unfortunately, I have not been on the radio in months. Between helping with my dad and babysitting our 4 grandchildren, (that is NOT work, that is pure joy!) Ann and I are exhausted. However, we are happy that we have this opportunity to help my dad realize his wish to end his days in his own home where he has lived for the last 55 year. Where family and close friends can stop for a short visit and where he can sit outside while I do chores in the garage woodshop.

I have felt such support from Larry and the Board members. I look forward to the time when I will have more time to rejoin club activities and who knows, maybe rejoin the Board. I have truly enjoyed getting to know so many of you over the last few years and I love HCRA.

In closing, I have one request. Anyone who prays, please say a prayer that dad does not suffer. He has lived a wonderful life. He is 92 and a real fighter. Parkinson's disease, severe heart disease and dementia have ravaged his body but his spirit is strong and he is full of love. We are blessed that his personality is still as gentle and kind as it ever was. God bless all of you!

73,

Marcel Lapierre, AA1WH

Marcel Lapierre, AA1WH

The May Meeting is Now on the HCRA You Tube Channel ~ Don't forget to click subscribe!

Did you miss last months club meeting? Maybe you want to re-watch all or part of any past meeting?

Use the following link to the last regular meeting or search You Tube for HCRA past meetings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Utkeojc8BEY&t=4s>

THANK YOU MARCEL!

A BIG THANK YOU TO MARCEL, AA1WH FOR SERVING ON THE BOD

I believe I speak for all of the Hampden County Radio Association Board Of Directors and the entire club membership when I say, Thank You to Marcel, AA1WH for his commitment to making our club far better in his capacity as Vice President.

Marcel was already Vice President when I re-joined HCRA but I quickly got to know him even prior to myself becoming a part of the HCRA Board Of Directors.

Marcel quickly became an active club member and an even better Board of Directors member! He was a valued club member long before he became VP.

Every project he took on had a whole new level of perfection whether it was when he became NCS for our long running 10-meter net or his great balloon project in 2021.

Marcel planed to do another launch after the first was overcome by the winds aloft bringing it down in the Atlantic Ocean.

The next time you see Marcel ask him about the balloon that escaped his garage workshop ;-)

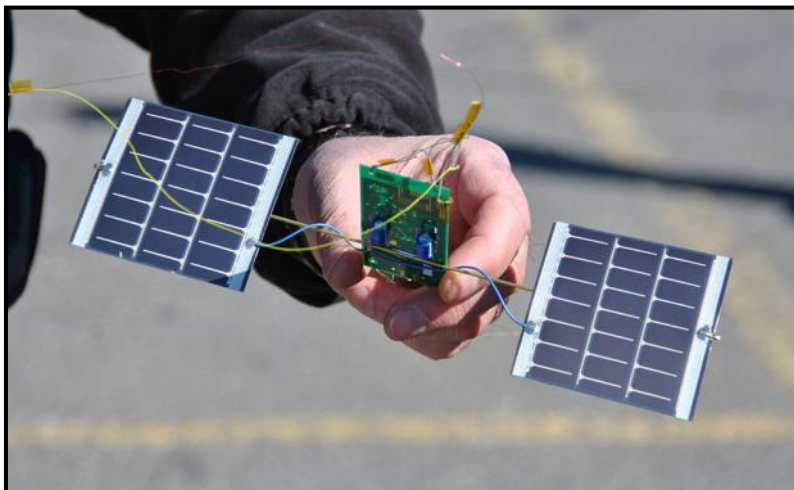
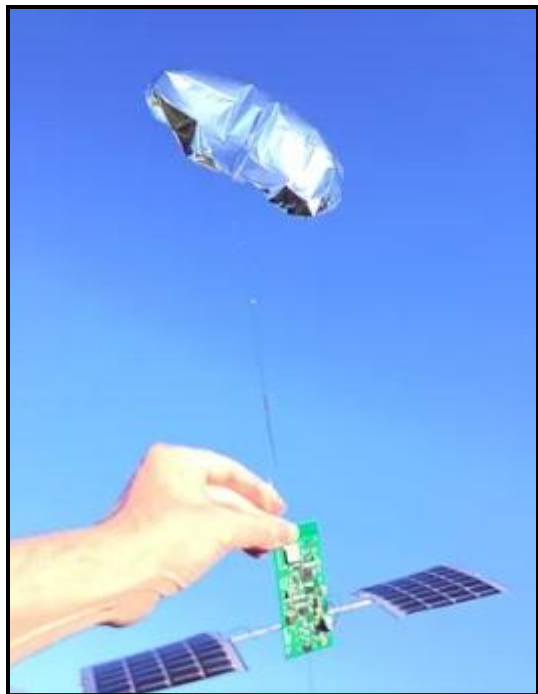
He is always the first to speak up with new ideas for the HCRA members. Whether it's a simple idea or undertaking a brand new project he see's it through to the very end! He is also very active with EmComm, ARES, SKYWARN, and more. Marcel is well versed in so many ways he can take on another project without even batting an eye!

The next time you see Marcel please say Thank You for his service to our club! Personally, I cannot wait for him to get involved in club activities once again!



The board wishes Marcel good health & happiness in his future.

73, Ken - KD1KU



Field Day 2022

New to Field Day? Get Started by Reading This!

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

HCRA Field Day is no different than so many other clubs that look forward to Field Day all year long. We begin with a complete trailer inventory that was performed on May 21st to make sure everything necessary for Field Day is in the trailer.

HCRA Field Day is held at the School Street Park, School Street, Agawam MA, 01001.

Your club needs **YOU** to volunteer! This event does not run itself, volunteers are needed for the following:

Friday, June 24th:

- Tow the trailer from Southwick to the Field Day site in the park.
- Setup begins at 1 pm at the park.
- Erect portable towers, assembling the antennas.
- If you have a camper, tent, or motorhome join us Friday night!

Saturday, June 25th:

- Complete tower & antenna set up, assemble station shelters & HF stations.
- Operators are needed for: SSB, CW, GOTA Station (get on the air) Need operators for 24 hours of operating, Sign-up when you want to operate by contacting Larry at W1AST@arrl.net
- Field Day runs for 24hrs beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday through 2059 UTC Sunday.
- Join in for the hamburger dinner. (see below) What will you be bringing? Side dish? Dessert?
- Camp in the park on Saturday night & do some late night operating.
- *Volunteer for a minimum of 3 consecutive hours and be entered into the Field Day Raffle!*

Sunday, June 26th:

- Cook Sunday morning breakfast & lunch.
- Once operating concludes teardown begins & park must be left cleaner than when we arrived!

WE MUST HAVE SOMEONE AS THE FOOD CHAIRPERSON! Duties include:

- Purchase hamburgers, hot dogs, & related food & serving supplies
- Cook hamburger dinner on Saturday night
- Cook and/or serve breakfast on Sunday morning
- Cook hamburger lunch on Sunday at noon

To volunteer to help, operate, ask questions or anything else, contact Larry at w1ast@arrl.net



Field Day Raffle

The 2022 Raffle for Workers at Field Day

Unless you've been living under a rock I'm sure you've heard that Field Day is right around the corner! What makes HCRA Field Day the best... YOU the HCRA members who volunteer to make this happen!

As in past years a Field Day workers raffle will be held once again. All you need to do is to work at least 3 consecutive hours during Field Day, this includes those who already volunteered for the trailer inventory.

The prizes are all great but the best by far is the Heil Pro Set 3 professional quality headphone. Who wouldn't want these in their shack!



The Heil Pro Set 3 is a professional-quality headphone set that provides excellent audio clarity, frequency response, and balance. The Pro Set 3 features a phase reversal switch that runs the speakers out of phase when engaged. This unique feature reduces listener fatigue during long sessions and helps live sound engineers accurately monitor signals in loud and noisy environments.

Terminates in a 1/8" plug and comes with a 1/8" to 1/4" adapter

Type: Closed-back dynamic

Driver Diameter: 40 mm

Magnet: Neodymium

Frequency Response: 10 Hz – 22 KHz

Maximum Input: 1,000 mW

Sensitivity: 102 dB

Impedance: 32 ohms

Weight: 198 g (7 oz)

If this beautiful set of headphones doesn't get any ham excited then it's time to collect stamps ;-)

Simply volunteer by contacting club President Larry, W1AST and make it known that you want to work during Field Day to be automatically entered in the raffle. There is also a soldering station and one other prize for the FD workers.

Remember, you **MUST** work 3 consecutive hours during Field Day set up, tear down or during Field Day itself. Walking around taking photos, talking or eating doesn't count as work.

Many hands make for light work!

To volunteer to help, operate, ask questions or anything else, contact Larry at w1ast@arrl.net

13 Colonies Special Event Week 2022

Be a Part of the 14th Annual Special Event Station July 1st - 7th


2022 Event Dates / July 1 (9am Eastern) to July 7 (Midnight Eastern)
(July 1st, 2022 - 1300z to July 8th, 2021-0400z)

All HF bands, including WARC bands, with the exception of 60 meters. Simplex on 2m and 6m is encouraged. Modes of operation represented: SSB, CW, RTTY, Digital: The mode of operation is up to the individual colony state operator.

All HF bands, including WARC bands, with the exception of 60 meters. Simplex on 2 meters and 6 meters is encouraged. All modes of operation may be represented - SSB, CW, RTTY, Digital, Etc.

The exchange for this event is: CALLSIGN RS / RST / RSQ / STATE / PROVINCE or COUNTRY. Certificates (seen below) can be had by working all or part of the stations shown below except for the two bonus stations.

For complete details on how you can take part can be found by visiting: <http://www.13colonies.us>



The Annual 13 Colonies Special Event

GB13COL		TM13COL	WM3PEN
		NJ - K2A	
VA - K2B	DE - K2E	MA - K2H	NH - K2K
RJ - K2C	MD - K2F	NJ - K2I	SC - K2L
CT - K2D	GA - K2G	NC - K2J	PA - K2M

13th Annual 13 Colonies Special Event

Independence Week Celebration July 1 - 7, 2021

COLONIAL TALL SAILING SHIPS



K2A ☆



K2B ☆



K2C ☆



K2D ☆



K2E ☆



K2F ☆



K2G ☆



USS CONSTELLATION



K2H ☆



K2I ☆



K2J ☆



K2K ☆



K2L ☆



K2M ☆

This Is To Certify That ARS: KD1KU Has
Participated In This On-Air Independence Week
Event, Celebrating The Birth Of Our Nation.



CONTACTS

13

CLEAN SWEEP



WM3PEN

PHILADELPHIA

73'



GB13COL

JULY 2021

Project Big E

The Biggest Event for HCRA in Years and YOU can be a part of it!

Project Big E is a 17-day amateur radio exhibit to be held at the 2022 Big E from September 16-October 3, 2022 in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Western Massachusetts ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator and Hampden County Radio Association president Larry Krainson, W1AST, is the Project Big E General Chairman.

The Big E, billed as “New England’s Great State fair” is the largest agricultural event on the eastern seaboard and the sixth-largest fair in the nation. In 2021, the Big E had 1.5 million visitors pass through the gates.

Planning for Project Big E began in 2021 by Larry Krainson, W1AST; members of the Hampden County Radio Association; and other interested individuals.

They envisioned a ham radio booth that would demonstrate the many aspects of modern ham radio, and provide an avenue for people to sign up for information and courses in their local area. Larry, W1AST said “If just one-tenth of one percent of attendees sign up for ham classes, that would be 1,600 names to distribute to all New England clubs. We would all benefit and grow ham radio”.

Some of the Project’s ideas include:

- An EmComm display
- DMR and/or other digital mobile mode demo
- Digital HF modes on a big screen
- A special event station (N1E) with unique QSL cards
- SSB, CW and digital modes
- Demonstrations of portable stations for field operation such as, POTA, SOTA
- A live ARISS contact

Special Event Station N1E

Project Big E and the HCRA has requisitioned the 1×1 special event callsign “N1E” for use during the 17-day event. This is something everyone can do besides volunteering to staff the Project Big E booth.

Live ARISS Contact

On April 24, Project Big E received some exciting news, an application from [New England Sci-Tech](https://nescitech.org/) in Natick, MA. with President Bob Phinney, K5TEC, to conduct an ARISS project with home-schooled youth throughout New England and host a live ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) contact at the Big E was officially approved by ARISS. Check out New England Sci-Tech at <https://nescitech.org/>

Keep Informed with Groups.io

Stay Informed on Groups.io to get all of the latest information. It’s free and easy! A simple mouse click on <https://groups.io/g/ProjectBigE> and enter your email. Once your email address is confirmed you’re in! It doesn’t get any easier than that and now you can keep informed!



Continued on page 18

Project Big E Cont'd

The Biggest Event for HCRA in Years and YOU can be a part of it!

How Can I Help?

Such an undertaking can only succeed **IF** there is a sufficient number of volunteers and radio clubs who agree to participate in the event! A special Groups.io mailing list group has been established to promote exchange of dialogue and ideas for the event. A webpage has been created at <https://nediv.arrl.org/ProjectBigE>

The best way for you to help is to volunteer! This is a wonderful opportunity for HCRA as we are the home club for this massive event. This can only happen if the HCRA members VOLUNTEER!

To volunteer for specific days/hours, go to the special **Google form signup sheet** (below) and register today! Click or copy this link and volunteer today! <https://tinyurl.com/2p8hh29y>

Besides the Big E state theme days the following are special days that need you to volunteer for.

- Friday, Sept. 16 Military Appreciation Day • Be A Kid For A Day
- Sunday, Sept. 18 Storowton Day
- Monday, Sept. 19 Salute to West Springfield
- Tuesday, Sept. 20 Rhode Island Day • Salute to Holyoke
- Sunday, Sept. 25 Grange Day • Chocolate Milk Day
- Monday, Sept. 26 Salute to Springfield
- Tuesday, Sept. 27 Salute to Chicopee
- Wednesday, Sept. 28 Salute to Agawam
- Thursday, Sept. 29 Salute to Westfield
- Friday, Sept. 30 Harvest New England Day
- Saturday, Oct. 1 October Fun Day
- Sunday, Oct. 2 Salute to Special Olympics



Use the QR Code to volunteer today!

BE A PART OF IT!

Amateur Radio Exhibit @ The Big E – N1E
West Springfield, Massachusetts
September 16 – October 2 2022

"Project Big E" is looking for radio club members and individuals throughout New England to staff a large amateur radio display. You'll help explain amateur radio to thousands of people during the 16-day event.

In the past, 1.5 million people have attended The Big E—billed as the fifth largest fair in the nation! The interested public from across New England will be directed to clubs in their respective hometowns for classes, mentoring, etc.

Planning is underway for this exciting ham radio project. Please promote Project Big E to your radio clubs and club members.



Go to <https://groups.io/g/ProjectBigE> or scan the QR code for more information and to get involved.



Conn. Building at the BIG E

- [Live ARISS space station contact](#)
- Emergency communications display
- SSB, CW, DMR, other digital mobile modes
- Highlight youth involvement
- Showcase today's modern amateur radio activities: Parks/Summits On The Air, QRP, kit building and more!



Select one or several days from the above list and volunteer today! <https://tinyurl.com/2p8hh29y>

Trailer Inventory

Field Day Trailer Inventory & the Volunteers that did it

Every May there's one thing to be done prior to Field Day to ensure everything in the trailer is ready to go and nothing is missing from the previous year. Below are a few photos of the hams that did the work!



Chris, W1TEK in his usual pose with one exception... he's not on top of a tower ;-)



- Chris, W1TRK
- Najm, AB1ZA
- John, K1YYM
- Ian, W1IKW
- Bob, K1YO
- Lauren, KE1DW
- Steve, N1SR
- Paul, KC1QVM
- Bill, W5JAZ
- Larry, KD1RV



Time to put my new mobile in my car!



ARRL STUFF

By John, N1JIE

Things are happening in the world of Amateur Radio. ARRL is our advocate for Government, education, and organization. I hope everyone that is a member of HCRA is also a member of ARRL. To learn more about ARRL membership, and how it can benefit you, visit: <http://www.arrl.org/membership>

Well summer is upon us, and there are a few radio events to look forward to. As we all drift away from the shack during the good weather (my weakness is 2 wheels), remember that the ARRL is keeping an eye on things for frequency access, government regulation, contests and emergency planning and communication.

FD2022

This is the big event for amateur radio. As will be covered elsewhere in ZB, HCRA will be operating as they usually do. There are some rule changes for this year—operation is limited to 100w for all stations. Full rules are available at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules>

But what are you going to do? The purpose of Field Day is to contact as many stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. This can be done individually, with a friend or two, or with a club at a large location. Over the last couple of years, many of us operated singly, and setup a portable battery station. That is still an option (one I have enjoyed, and will continue with) for many of us. You can still operate from your home QTH, and be part of the contest. I encourage all hams to participate in the spirit of Field Day and find a way to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. That EFHW antenna kit that the ARRL put out is perfect for the individual remote station. Keep it simple, or go whole hog, but get on the air. Be friendly with the public, share the hobby. Remember to mention the Ham Radio booth at the upcoming Big E that Larry W1AST is leading the way with. Curiosity at a park for Field Day will bring a return visitor at the Big E.

The Big E

This is a big HUGE endeavor that will be the biggest public display of amateur radio in our region... ever. Larry W1AST has really put together a plan, and is in coordination with various ARRL officials and clubs to get all of New England involved. There will be an ARISS contact, that will be recorded to show during the rest of the event. Various clubs will be operating, especially on the "State Days". ARRL will also be providing help, PR and some promotional material. To keep up with the plans, sign up to the groups.io at <https://groups.io/g/ProjectBigE>. Also keep up with the NE Div page at <https://nediv.arrl.org/Project-Big-E/>.

Operators will be required for all hours, people to talk to the public, demonstrations of equipment, training needed, etc. I won't know my availability until closer to the event, but I'm hoping to take a week of vacation to help out. Weekdays will be the hardest to staff. This will also be a great opportunity to meet hams from all over the region. Maybe we can host a session of some of the regional nets (Maine Potato Net would be good).

Imagine the opportunity to get new people into the hobby that never knew about it!

73, John, N1JIE

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>



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

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

HCRA Clublog Information Updated on May 28th 2022



DXCC Leagues

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

<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Mode Filter	<input type="radio"/> CW	<input type="radio"/> Phone	<input type="radio"/> Data
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rank by DXCCs	<input type="radio"/> Rank by slots	Rank by band: Totals ▼	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 160M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 80M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6M			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Current entities	<input type="radio"/> Current and deleted	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Worked	<input type="radio"/> Confirmed
<input type="radio"/> No Date Filter	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2022	<input type="radio"/> 2021	<input type="radio"/> Last 12 months
Filter by club/continent:		HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association ▼	

Generate DXCC League

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	33	63	0	134	15	147	27	156	14	107	1	214	697	50 yrs
2	NF1G	0	10	0	24	41	76	50	111	97	78	2	185	489	38 yrs
3	KK1W+1	38	52	0	68	8	99	10	103	11	45	0	159	434	46 yrs
4	KX1X	16	57	18	87	74	102	60	114	55	70	0	147	653	25 yrs
5	NE1C	4	59	0	82	0	95	0	101	0	53	0	126	394	20 yrs
6	W1AST+1	2	8	0	39	15	56	25	61	58	34	1	113	299	13 yrs
7	K1VOI	1	24	0	32	24	61	6	53	10	31	0	93	242	21 yrs
8	W1NU+2	0	4	4	10	19	40	24	26	19	49	1	93	196	7 yrs
9	N1TA+3	1	25	0	19	8	26	8	24	2	29	0	77	142	21 yrs
10	N1JIE	1	3	5	12	15	21	28	26	15	12	1	63	139	5 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	K1NZ+1	10	0	10	0	45	1	0	23	24	2	0	57	115	11 yrs
12	W1PY+1	0	0	0	1	0	26	0	14	0	1	0	42	42	12 yrs
13	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	2	0	27	0	16	0	6	0	39	51	10 yrs
14	WD1S	2	2	0	19	0	16	0	9	0	1	0	31	49	10 yrs
15	W1JA+1	1	5	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	5	2	14	19	53 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=qi2IKcQRNbE&t=1s>



HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



13 Colonies Special Event

In this issue of Zero Beat pretty much everything is about Field Day 2022 and rightly so as it's the first FD since we've been coming out of the Pandemic! But it's not the only thing happening this summer as the 13 Colonies Special Event Station runs from. This is something that you can take part in during this week long event. There is more info and links to help you to know when and what time this is happening. More info & links can be found on page 16 of this issue.

To be a part of this exciting and fun event contact Larry, W1AST at: w1ast@arrrl.com

10 Meter Net Summer Schedule

The HCRA 10 meter net summer schedule will be held on the following dates: 6/13, 7/11 & 8/15 returning to every Monday evening at 7pm in September. Gary, KC1JZR is NCS. Everyone is welcome to join us on 28.375 regardless of affiliation or location. Have any questions? Contact kd1ku@arrrl.net

Until the 6/13 net the normal weekly net schedule will remain in place for the remainder of May!

Brown Baggers are Back!

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

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

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@arrrl.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!

The Big E Project Update

By now I'm sure most of you have heard about the Big E Project. Larry, W1AST is working closely with [New England Sci-Tech](#), Bob, K5TEC, and our New England Division Director Fred, AB1OC to make this happen! There is still plenty to do and please do your part by volunteering to help with the booth.

The 2022 Big E Booth's application for a ARISS contact has been APPROVED!

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>

ARRL Digital Contest | June 4th ~ 5th @ 1800z Saturday, ends 2359z Sunday

For additional details and rules visit: <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/Digital-Rules.pdf>

June VHF Contest | June 11-13 Begins 1800z Saturday, ends 0259z Monday

For additional details visit: <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/JanJunSep-VHF-Rules.pdf>

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

May 29-Jun 11 | 0000z-2359z | Red Skelton Museum Festival 2022

For additional details visit <https://www.qrz.com/db/k9r>

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

See hcra.org for complete information

or

Contact Paul, NFIG at NFIG@arrl.net



Local Nets & Happenings

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

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

1st Monday:

RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



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

Club Meetings and VE Sessions

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

1st Friday of the month at 7:30pm HCRA Meeting.
Virtual meetings are held via Zoom. Meetings start with a rag chew session at 7pm followed by the regular Zoom meeting at 7:30pm. <http://www.hcra.org/>

2nd Monday of the month 7:00pm, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting. Virtual 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

Please Note: As things are beginning to open up after Covid you should contact any meeting or VE session you are planning to attend to be sure they are back on schedule.

HCRA Contact List

President - Larry Krainson, W1AST
w1ast@arrrl.net

Vice-President - Bill Holden Jr, W5JAZ
behold888@gmail.com

Treasurer - Duane Pray, KC1FQV
kc1fqv@arrrl.net

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
nf1g@arrrl.net

Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE
aa1ue@amsat.org

Membership - John Plaster, K1VOI
k1voi_jp@charter.net

Technical - Najm Choueiry, AB1ZA
njc2@cox.net

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

Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU
kd1ku@arrrl.net

Website - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org

W1NY trustee, John, N1JIE
n1jie@arrrl.net

WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL



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

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