

BREAKING NEWS! SEE PAGE #2

Special points of interest:

- HCRA Annual Show and Tell
March 6th
- MTARA Swap Meet
March 7th
- Visit the HCRA [facebook page](#).
- Don't forget to check out
hcra.org
- Visit Summits on the Air
<http://www.sota.org.uk>
- 2015 New England ARRL
Convention Aug 21-23
<http://www.boxboro.org>

Don't forget the MTRA HamFest!

The Moose Family Center
244 Fuller Rd, Chicopee, Ma

Saturday March 7th, Doors
open at 8:30 am

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March Meeting

**Join us Friday March 6th at 7:30, in the Holyoke Medical Center
Auxiliary Conference Center**

Join us for our annual Show N' Tell meeting.
Come see what our fellow members are building!



[For directions to The Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center:](#)

This is the last meeting to get your tickets for this years raffle!

HCRA's raffle is for a Elecraft KX3!



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

This is an very popular and excellent HF portable radio that has an excellent receiver, low power consumption, can run on external power or 8AA batteries internally, it can transmit up to 12W and has plenty of options like an 100W amplifier, 2M mod-

ule, pan adapter, ATU, Roofing filters, internal battery charger, custom CW paddle and others that can be added later.

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

Raffle is just for the Elecraft KX3 Transceiver only. Microphone and paddles not included.

FROM THE SHACK



EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT! KB1NWH RESIGNS AS PRESIDENT!

Candidates needed to fill position.

As Jerry Garcia of “The Grateful Dead” once said, “What a long strange trip it has been!”

Coming upon my 10th year in amateur radio, it has been real exciting. From my first meeting my neighbor Bill KB1OPV with a broken Kenwood we used as a receiver and thought that was the cats %&*. Then seeing Jeff W1NUD erecting some home made antennas as he became another neighbor. I started to get interested in HAM radio.

Got on 2 meters, started checking into the nets, got Skywarn trained, and so started my EMCOMM interest. Started talking to Steve N1SR who at the time was the radio officer for MEMA region 3 in Agawam. He invited me over one night. I was in all my glory looking at the radios of a multi operator radio station. Steve got me into RACES and he pointed me to Tom N1MUV who is the DEC for Hamden county which got me into ARES.

Still had a couple hours in my life that wasn't being used, so I thought about public service. Boy, let me tell you, that was an experience. Being at the world renowned Boston Marathon, and seeing 26,000 runners.

FCC drops code for general. Here is my chance to get on HF. With a little bit of studying and some Elmering from many, I had made general.

So, now that we have HF, what's next? Well, first there was digital. PSK31, RTTY, decoding software, radio interfacing with computers. Boy, look at the mess of wires. What about this contesting thing I have heard so much about. NEQP, ARRL 10 Meter, and so many more. What about WAS, got on some HF nets and another check mark in the bucket list.

Life is grand, got asked to serve as the EC for MTARA. That was a good 4 year stretch.

Co-Chair one of the best events in my radio career, Field Day. That is a blast. Set up, operate, takedown, leave no trace.

Got my Extra. Was asked to be the trustee for the HCRA club call, W1NY.

Took over presidency of HCRA to save the club from faltering.

So you ask why are you leaving? This is the longest that I have been in a hobby. I am starting to lose interest. I do not want to loose interest completely, so I thought if I became just a regular HAM, I might regain some interest.

I really appreciate the fellow HAMS I have met along the way. The help through out the entire process was outstanding. It has been an experience. I will still be here to help out as much as possible.

Sincerely

Ed KB1NWH

KB1VWQ's "Q-A-DAY" 2014 CHALLENGE RESULTS

DAN VIerno KB1VWQ

KB1VWQ-A-DAY 2014

Results			
Call	QSO's	%	Award
KB1VWQ	365	100.00	Platinum
KK1W	301	82.47	Gold
WD1S	257	70.41	Silver
W1MSW	251	68.77	Silver
WN1E	201	55.07	Silver
KB1VKY	126	34.52	Bronze
K1MCB	112	30.68	Bronze
AA1UE	111	30.41	Bronze
K1MAZ	102	27.95	Bronze
KB1NWH	95	26.03	Bronze
W1MOR	84	<25%	Zinc
N1PMB	9	<25%	Zinc
N1MFL	1	<25%	Zinc

*** Thanks to H.C.R.A. for letting me promote this.
Special Thanks To WD1S For The Award Design.**

Just a quick thank you and congrats to the 12 stations, excluding myself who participated in this past years' radio challenge for 2014. The "KB1VWQ-A-DAY". Much happened in the past year during this year long challenge, including a change of HCRA board members including our Club President. So thanks to members of both boards during the transition for allowing me to experiment with this. It was both fun, and painful all at the same time. (as some of you can agree). I will have the remaining awards to hand out at our next meeting in March. So if you'd like your QADAY award. Please consider showing up to the next meeting. If you're on the list shown, I have a nice participation award for you designed by James, WD1S.. Remember to always challenge yourself in this hobby, 73

If you have not received your award. Please come to Fridays meeting to pick up your award!

HCRA CLUBLOG RESULTS FOR FEBRUARY 2014

With just a couple months into the new year, You can see the amazing amount of contacts made by most of the HCRA members that are on Clublog.org. Juergen (NV1Q) is doing an impressive job with over 193 unique DXCC contact in the first couple months of the year. Jim Mullen (KK1W) is trying really hard to get ahead in both uniques and DXCC per band. Don't let these numbers scare you as the year is still young. Jeff (AB1WT) is doing an impressive job with having wire antennas. It's great to see what local hams are doing on the air. It creates a little friendly competition as well encouraging you to be active on the air.

You can see the current standings anytime by visiting the HCRA ClubLog page.

Rank	Calllog	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	NV1Q+3	1	24	0	50	19	137	64	132	87	129	1	193	644	36 yrs
2	KK1W+1	0	67	0	112	31	111	31	118	54	106	0	170	630	39 yrs
3	W1MSW	6	62	0	93	8	112	8	113	14	109	0	143	525	5 yrs
4	W1MJB	0	10	0	3	6	39	25	33	60	47	0	121	223	12 yrs
5	WN1E+1	0	16	0	50	1	63	7	52	7	52	0	101	248	24 yrs
6	AB1WT	0	9	0	2	1	21	22	39	19	24	1	87	138	1 yrs
7	WD1S+2	9	16	0	46	3	60	5	53	5	42	1	86	240	3 yrs
8	KX1X	2	3	0	31	2	22	3	55	6	52	0	85	176	18 yrs
9	K1VOI	4	13	0	17	10	29	11	27	10	28	1	79	150	14 yrs
10	NT1K+2	0	7	0	12	1	21	0	16	4	32	0	60	93	5 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	KC1ABV	0	0	0	9	0	12	12	21	9	3	0	48	66	1 yrs
12	N1FTP ★	0	0	0	2	0	16	0	19	7	26	0	45	70	7 yrs
13	N3IMU	0	4	0	19	2	11	0	16	0	17	0	37	69	3 yrs
14	KB1VWQ	0	3	0	5	0	6	6	3	4	13	1	25	41	4 yrs
15	N1FJ	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	1	11	0	19	22	2 yrs
16	W1MOR	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	6	0	1	0	8	11	2 yrs
17	KC1BTA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	4	1 yrs
18	N1MFL	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	3 yrs
19	K1MAZ	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4 yrs

ARRL WARNS MITRE CORPORATION TO AVOID INTERFERENCE TO HF HAM FREQUENCIES



For those of us living in the western part of Massachusetts, the next 2 years could be a noisy one. The FCC last fall granted MITRE Corporation of Bedford, Massachusetts, a 2-year Part 5 Experimental License, WH2XCI, to operate 21 transmitters at 10 fixed New York and Massachusetts sites. MITRE plans to test wideband HF communication techniques on a variety of bands between 2.5 MHz and 16 MHz. This encompasses 80 to 20 meter bands

The ARRL has asked a Massachusetts company that plans to conduct experimental transmissions over wide portions of the HF spectrum either to avoid Amateur Radio allocations or to announce the times and frequencies of their transmissions in advance.

"It will not be possible for MITRE to operate these transmitters within the Amateur Radio Service allocations...without causing harmful interference to a large number of Amateur Radio operators on an ongoing basis," ARRL said in a February 12 letter to MITRE.

ARRL said that if "MITRE does not agree to avoid ham radio bands or to announce times and frequencies of transmissions ahead of time, it will ask the FCC to rescind the company's Experimental License or to impose a prior notification requirement 'in real time for each and every use of the transmitters authorized at each site.'"

The WH2XCI Experimental License authorizes maximum bandwidths of 5 kHz, 500 kHz, and 1 MHz at effective radiated power levels of 6 W, 24 W, or 122 W. MITRE has indicated that most bandwidths would be between 100 and 300 kHz.

"At these power levels with the operating parameters proposed, it will be impossible to conduct tests at any time within the Amateur Radio allocations and, at the same time, avoid harmful interference," The ARRL has already noted that MITRE has conceded this point in a technical exhibit submitted to the FCC with respect to its 1 MHz bandwidth mode.

When interference from MITRE's wide-bandwidth transmitters "inevitably occurs in the narrow-bandwidth, sensitive receivers" hams use, amateur licensees will have no way to determine the source of the interference or know to whom they might complain. "Thus, your assurance of operation on a 'non-interference basis' is meaningless under the circumstances, and yet that is both a special condition of operation" of the WH2XCI license and under regulations.

"It is ARRL's intention to ensure that this experimental authorization, improvidently granted to the extent that it includes heavily used Amateur Radio allocations, is not permitted to cause interference to ongoing Amateur Radio HF communications."

MITRE obtained the Experimental License to investigate high data rate wideband HF communication systems.

This article is a combination of information from a couple of different sources.

Local happenings

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

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

Mondays: 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

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

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

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

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

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

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

Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



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

Club meetings & VE sessions

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

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

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

Third Monday of the month 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Room S301, Greenfield Community College (no meetings held in July or August)
<http://www.fcarc.org/>

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

HCRA contact list

President, Ed LaCombe KB1NWH
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Vice-President, Eric LaCombe W1MOR
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Secretary, Dave Fant WM1B
wm1b@arrl.net
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nt1k@nt1k.com
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k1yo@comcast.net
Skywarn Liaison, Eric Tuller N1QKO
et-n1qko@juno.com
VE Session Liaison, Dave Cote W1FAB
w1fab@arrl.net

DOTS & DASHES:

Things I can't think where to put, but are interesting.

NO ONE IN THE SHACK AS STATION LOGS 4200+ CONTACTS IN ARRL DX CW CONTEST

The group of six operators operating as K3TN in the recent [ARRL International DX Contest](#) (CW) may have made Amateur Radio history by mounting the first completely remote-controlled multioperator contest effort..... Read the rest of the QST article [here](#).

TICKETS FOR THE 2015 NEW ENGLAND ARRL CONVENTION NOW ON SALE

Tickets for the 2015 Boxboro convention are now on sale. This year the event will be held August 21, 22, & 23rd, at the Holiday Inn, Boxboro, Ma.

As you may have noticed, we are breaking are usual "every other year" schedule having a convention this year, so help us spread the word to your friends and acquaintances that there IS a convention this year.

The committee is lining up speakers, forums and exhibitors, so many details are still to be announced. However, Gordon West WB6NOA is confirmed as the keynote speaker at our Saturday banquet.

And finally.. be the first on your block to get tickets.

<http://www.boxboro.org>

INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITES:

I found another interesting article on [eHam.net](#). This one is a little long to reprint here. The opening paragraph sums it up better than I can: "First off this is not a book about ham radio although it will be touched on here and there. It is mainly about the fascinating world of radio receivers old and new that tune the range from 30 MHZ and up. I chose this range to discuss as the radio spectrum is as vast below these frequencies as to overwhelm at times. Also at 30 MHZ and beyond lies the bands most locally heard such as FM radio, Aircraft, Police and Fire, and hundreds of other signals including cell phones, satellites, and so on. "

<http://www.eham.net/articles/33695>

CONTESTING:

MARCH 2015 CONTESTS

Mar 7	ARRL Inter. Phone DX Contest	www.arrl.com/contests	Phone
	Straight Key Weekend Sprint	www.skccgroup.com	CW
Mar 14	Louisiana QSO Party	www.laqp.org	PH, CW, Dig
	Tesla Memorial HF Contest	www.radiosport.org.rs/HFT/teslamemorial	CW
	Idaho QSO Party	www.idahoarrl.info/qsoperty	PH, CW, Dig
	QCWA ARC Spring QSO Party	www.qcwa.org/qsoparty.htm	PH, CW, Dig
Mar 15	North American RTTY Sprint	www.ncjweb.com	Dig
	Wisconsin QSO Party	www.warac.org	PH, CW, Dig
Mar 21	Oklahoma QSO Party	www.k5cm.com/okqp.htm	PH, CW, Dig
	Virginia QSO Party	www.qsl.net/sterling	PH, CW, Dig
	Worldwide EME Contest	www.clubus.org	PH, CW



FOR SALE:

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



FOR SALE:

A Kenwood TS-430S. It has had the WARC modification done, so now it transmits on all bands. It includes both a CW & SSB filters installed. It has a solid transmitter with 100 watts out on CW, with an excellent receiver sensitivity

It also includes a Kenwood MC-60 Desk Microphone, along with the original hand microphone, manual, and box.

Asking \$500

Contact Ron McBride K1MCB at k1mcb@arrl.net

Missed out on the last time we had badges available for order? Well have no worries because they're back! Break the ice and let others know who you are with a stylish new badge. Sorry, the old style badges are no longer available.

They are just \$12

To order go to hcra.org or see Larry W1AST



FOR SALE:

A classic Hallicrafters SX-99 Mk 1D receiver & R46b speaker. Includes original factory manual. \$160.

Contact: Gent Lam WA1CQF, shortwrench@comcast.net



AREA SWAPFESTS:

MARCH 2015

Mar 7 Mt Tom Amateur Radio Association Ham Fest
Mar 14 Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio
Mar 15 Southington Amateur Radio Association
Mar 22 Contoocook Valley Radio Club & Flea Market
Mar 27 Maine State ARRL Convention
Apr 17 VHF-UHF-MW Conference
Apr 18 Portland Amateur Wireless Association
May 30 So. Berkshire ARC 24th Annual Ham Fest
Aug 21 ARRL New England Convention

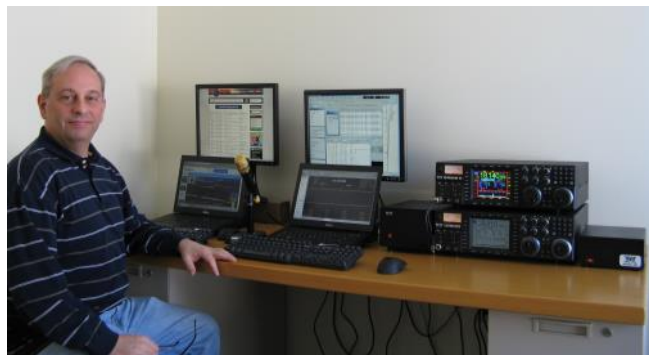
Chicopee, Ma
Dayville, Ct
Southington, Ct
Henniker, NH
Lewiston, Me
Manchester, Ct
Portland, Me
Goshen, Ct
Boxboro, Ma

www.mtara.org
www.qsl.net/k1muj/hamfest/hamflea3.pdf
www.chetbacon.com/flea2015.pdf
www.k1bke.org/2015flea.pdf
www.w1npp.org/pages/MEConvention2015.html
www.newsvhf.com/vhfconf.html
http://qsl.net/pawa/
www.w1baa.org/
www.boxboro.org

HCRA MEMBER PROFILE FOR MARCH 2015

In an effort to get to know about each other better, we're bringing back "HCRA Member Profile".

- **Name:** Kurt Dahdah
- **Town:** Agawam, Massachusetts
- **Callsign:** KU1RT
- **Previous Callsigns:** KA1KXJ as a Novice, N1CYH as a Technician and as a General, and KC1TH as an Advanced.
- **License Class:** Amateur Extra.
- **Main station equipment:** Ten-Tec Orion, Ten-Tec Orion 2, Heil Gold Elite, Ham Radio Deluxe, Two Windows 7 Dell laptops with dual monitors, ZS6BKW designed G5RV variant made by W8AMZ.
- **Favorite Band(s):** 17 meters.
- **Favorite Mode(s):** Single Side Band.
- **Year you were first licensed and license class:** In 1983 as a Novice.
- **How did you become interested in amateur radio?** When my friend, and later my Elmer, John Balboni [AC1T], showed me the auto-patch feature on the 146.40/147.00 repeater while using his brand new Drake TR-33C 2 meter FM portable transceiver.
- **What are some of your favorite aspects of the hobby?** I enjoy contesting, DXing, and being a Volunteer Examiner.
- **What is your most memorable experience in the hobby?** Hearing Owen Garriott [W5LFL] in 1983 on 2 meters. W5LFL operated the world's first amateur radio station from space while orbiting earth onboard the Space Shuttle Columbia.



VOLUNTEER'S NEEDED AT THE BOSTON MARATHON

From AB1RL (VIA Reddit.Com/r/amateurradio)

For years, the Boston Marathon has relied on a big group of ham volunteers to provide communications support for the race. For 2015, they've even put together a Communications Committee to review event plans and make sure we're as useful as possible to the race. I'm one of seven hams on that committee.

We need almost 300 volunteers to keep all the communications running smoothly. If you can make it, I hope you'll sign up to join us. I've worked at the Marathon for a few years now. You really get put to work, and the energy of the race and the community around it makes it really rewarding.

Race day is April 20, and there are assignments available all along the course. The Boston Athletic Association has more information about volunteering on their site. That's also where you sign up to volunteer. The registration deadline is February 10, so don't put it off. If you have any questions, feel free to send me a message.

Thanks, and I hope I'll hear you there!



Ham Humor, Part 1

Across

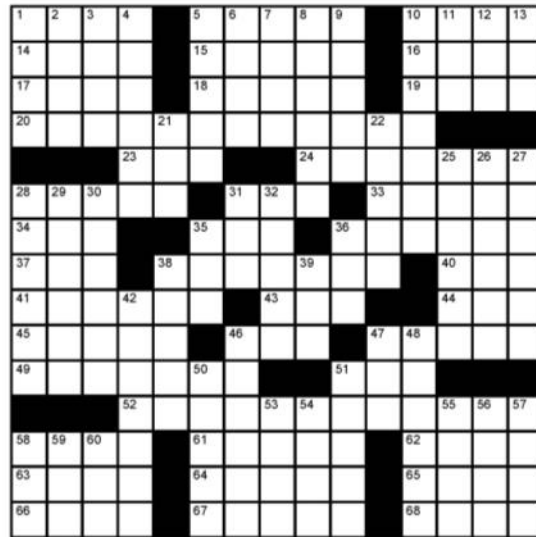
1. Four after A
 5. High frequency prefix
 10. Two is one
 14. Dubai designator
 15. Best condition for contesting, or tower climbing, say
 16. ZS neighbor's prefix
 17. AI language
 18. Diminish
 19. FET type
 20. With 41 and 52 across, society highlighted in 36 across and founded by 31 down
 23. VE2 way
 24. They make some displays play
 28. Skedaddles
 31. Buzzer (non-RF)
 33. 5N dough
 34. Mint alt., on eBay, e.g.
 35. "Excuse me", low in the band
 36. QST department
 37. React, plus res.
 38. Hams love them
 40. Bird word
 41. See 20 across
 43. Owns
 44. Coffee maker
 45. "Sesame Street" regular
 46. Cut 100
 47. Salad green
 49. Kane's word
 51. "QRZ?"
 52. See 20 across
 58. N.Y.C. part
 61. 4W, was CR8 during the time of 31 down writing 36 across
 62. Tuvalu
 63. Houston university
 64. 31 down's prefix
 65. She sheep

66. Rotating rings for towers
 67. "Yes, Sen. Kennedy", familiarly
 68. Zero

Down

1. Unadorned
 2. Nassau prefix
 3. EME antenna
 4. IC-7800, say, in JA
 5. Grammar topic
 6. Radiation pattern feature
 7. Ski lift
 8. Respond again, on RTTY, say
 9. "He's ____ nowhere man"
 10. Tool for reducing spectrum width?
 11. 20's dispenser
 12. JA transceiver maker middle
 13. Don'ts partner
 21. Famous DXpeditioner, when 31 down wrote 36 across, familiarly
 22. Trillions of zeptos
 25. Goof
 26. Passions
 27. 5th century G-land settlers
 28. Last second on-line bidder
 29. D6 place
 30. Poplars, in W0, say
 31. Callsign suffix of one time 36 across writer and creator of 20 across
 32. Zero zulu in two-land June
 35. Articulate
 36. Very popular examples of 38 across
 38. Early radio maker
 39. Fast no more
 42. Decorates 60's-style
 46. "...like taking ____

- from a fire hose." (information overload)
 47. Half a Latin dance
 48. T.O.M.'s series of articles
 50. Where the DX might be listening
 51. Kit alternative
 53. Radiate
 54. UHF antenna type, with dis-
 55. Prefix in Lombard
 56. First astronaut ham, familiarly
 57. Well known DXer KH6JJ when 31 down ran 36 across
 58. Disp. device before LCD, LED
 59. Early first century year
 60. Inter-area NTS org



ARE YOU READY?

With all the snow we've gotten in the past 6 weeks. One concern was for people who might over stress themselves while shoveling snow.

DO YOU KNOW THE SIGNS OF AN HEART ATTACK?

- Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of your chest. It lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back.
- Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort.
- Other signs such as breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is [chest pain](#) or discomfort. But women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms, particularly shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting and back or jaw pain.

If you have any of these signs, don't wait more than five minutes before calling:

Call 9-1-1

February's Puzzle





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

**Only 1 meeting left to by
you KX3 raffle tickets!**

**Visit the HCRA table At the
MTARA HamFEST.
March 7th.**

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