



ZERO BEAT

HCRA's 75th Anniversary - 1948 - 2023!

Meeting Update!

The Holyoke Hospital has opened their meeting room to us once again. Beginning in 2022 in-person meetings are back!

Need directions?

www.hcra.org/meeting-location

Welcome New Members

Alexander Tollman - KC1IXJ

Howard Shpegel - AC1MN

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March 2023

From the editor,

It's hard to believe, but it'll be almost March by the time you read this! There's been some crazy weather this winter, with lows below zero and highs of 60 all in the same week. Pretty soon, we'll all be complaining that it's too hot!

The bands have been hopping, and I hope you were able to make the QSO with the rare DXpeditions like [3Y0J](#), [Bouvet](#), and [FT8WW](#), [Crozet](#). These are the #2 and #3 most wanted DXCC! Check out [page 16](#) for details on the "QSO of the Century."

This issue has many features, but the best might be Part III in the series by Bill, [W1FMX](#), bringing "Boat Anchors" back to life! Part III begins on [page 17](#) and will continue in another issue. This is a passion for some HCRA members!

The ARRL Commission form is in Zero Beat, which means when you join or renew your ARRL membership, your club gets \$15 for each new member and \$5 for renewals using the easily downloadable form on [page 28](#). Be sure to use it!

We have two variations on Winter Field Day. One from John, [N1JIE](#) on [page 20](#), and the other is the FCARC and HCRA at the Notch on Rte. 116. Details on [page 21](#).

You'll notice there isn't a "Share Your Shack" segment in this issue as no one stepped up to take part in this fun series! Can you take a couple of photos of your shack and write a few details about your radios, antennas, etc.? Contact me at kd1ku@arrl.net with questions or to send photos.

Remember we need a few volunteers to staff the booth at the MTARA Hamfest and don't forget to get your raffle tickets for a chance at winning that beautiful Geochron Atlas 4K on [page 14](#).

73, Ken - KD1KU

Friday March 3rd

Regular In-Person Club Meeting!

The guest speaker is Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, the New England Division Director with a special presentation on his "Adventures in Bora Bora" DX'ing from the South Pacific. Meeting begins at 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm.

Regular club meetings are held at the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center at 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA, 01040.

Need directions? Click <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

Upcoming Meetings and Guest Speakers

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

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE MEETINGS

STK Zoom Meeting Schedule for 2023

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

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

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

January 10th - 7pm	Everything About a DX Marathon	By Mark, WC3W	✗
January 17th - 7pm	All About Reverse Beacons & What They Do	By Peter Smith, N4ZR	✗
January 24th - 7pm	9 Band DXCC on a Small Lot with Wires	By Mark, KE1IU	✗
February 21st - 7pm	Basic Tools in the Shack New Radio Amateurs	By Bob, K1YO	✗
February 28th - 7pm	NanoVNA & Tiny SA - How to use them!	By Bob, K1YO	✓
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81172992428?pwd=emoxeko1QkVaVUloekNkMzhBeUhzZz09		
March 14th - 7pm	A Modern Guide to Radio Teletype (RTTY)	By Juergen, NV1Q	
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83967751507?pwd=dkhNd1piOEZjd1lxcDFZc1lyT0F0UT09		
March 28th - 7pm	The YLRL (Young Ladies Radio League)	Barbara, KC1KGS & Anne, WB1ARU	
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84212172078?pwd=REhrTHA3QkNYWVpDUUlvOTVsVzBkdz09		
April 11th - 7pm	All About the ARRL and You!	By Ray, AA1SE	
	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88265213992?pwd=N2piU1dCUndyZ0lBbFh6QjA0TjVnQT09		

1948 ~ 2023 75 Years as an ARRL Affiliated Club



January Share The Knowledge Video Link

All of the STK meetings have all been presented for the month of January. All three STK Zoom meetings were extremely interesting!

If you missed one or all s click the link below.

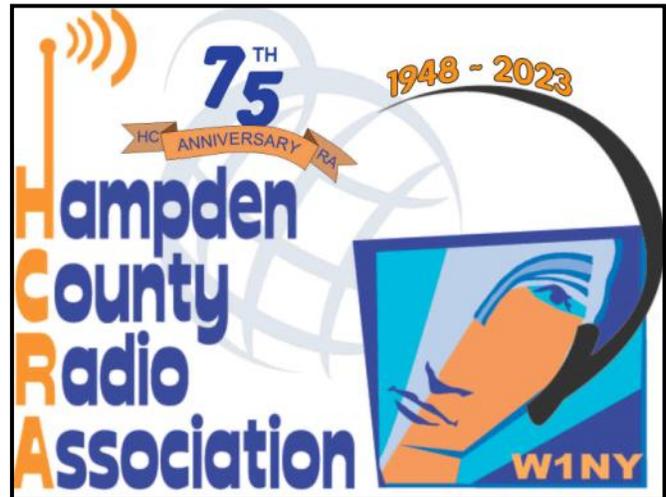
<https://www.youtube.com/@HampdenCountyRA/videos>





March 2023

Since this is the club's 75th year, we have revised the club logo ever so slightly.



I'd like to thank Juergen, NV1Q, and Ken, KD1KU, for the 75th anniversary enhancements. Between the two, it came out perfectly and will be used all year in any place we need the HCRA logo.

We hope to have HCRA patches available soon, and any HCRA apparel ordered this year will have the revised 75th anniversary logo.

Speaking of HCRA-wear, you can get a hat, polo shirt, button-down shirt, fleece vest, or a zipped hoody sweatshirt. Other than the hat, all will have the HCRA logo on the left chest side and your call and name on the right chest. You can also add a mini logo to the arm or back of any shirt. as shown on the left. We are doing dark/navy blue clothing these days instead of the light blue.



The club also sells name badges and we will have HCRA patches too.

I love going to a HCRA meeting and seeing the unity with everyone wearing their HCRA wear, as well as going to a Hamfest and seeing all of the HCRA logos on our members.

Prices have gone up like everything else these days, and the new clothing prices will be posted by the time you read this. You can see some samples and the latest pricing at: <http://www.hcra.org/hcra-wear>

Support the HCRA and help celebrate the club's 75th by wearing some HCRA wear.

I am sitting here in my radio shack watching radio-related videos on YouTube, listening to my scanner and the Icom IC-705 on reflector 69C (you can reach it on 449.175 on the W1KK repeater in Agawam) on D-Star through my hotspot, as well as ECARS on 7.255 SSB on my Kenwood HF rig.

I find I like D-Star a lot. While I have FM in the car and many radios, I find myself listening to D-star reflectors while I drive around and am nearly always listening to 146.52 too.

Continued on page 5

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

When my 20+ year old Yaesu FT-8800 VHF/UHF died last spring, I replaced it with an Icom ID-5100A, which is VHF/UHF and D-Star and is the best-priced radio in its class. It's got some slick features too, such as dimming as darkness approaches, built-in GPS, and tons of memories. I also installed a portable hot spot in the car so that I could leave my main and larger hot spots at home.

Recently, on a return trip from Portland, Maine, I tuned into the WB1GOF repeater, found some friends on there, and found out it was connected to Reflector 50c. As I lost the repeater due to range, I switched to my radio hotspot, which I connected to my phone hotspot. This allowed me to continue chatting with friends (some of whom I surprised when they heard me on the reflector) for many miles until they had to leave.

I have found that D-Star is much more friendly, much easier to program, and much easier to use than DMR. It's very welcoming, just like FM used to be back in the '80s and '90s. From my desk here at home or anywhere else, I can dial up Reflector 50c and chat with my friends back east. Or I can listen to reflector 69c and talk to my pioneer valley friends. As long as I have a phone signal for my radio hotspot to connect to, I can talk anywhere.

I was sitting in my easy chair while camping in the Northern Kingdom of Vermont last August and had a 20-minute conversation with a ham in South Korea. I was on an Icom ID-52a HT running 100mw into my hotspot. I then had a 90-minute conversation with a friend outside Dallas, Texas.

If you have D-Star, give me a call on 449.175 or reflector 69c some day.

Back in October, we did a questionnaire called HCRA Wants to Know, it was all about club stuff. We got 30 replies, which isn't bad, but I was hoping for much more. Here are some of the top 4-6 results for each question:

Why did you join the HCRA?

- Listen to expert presentations
- Discuss technical issues
- Learn more about ham radio
- Make new friends
- Swap stories and gear
- Volunteer in the community

If listening to expert presentations is number one, why aren't we getting more people to attend the in-person meetings? Or the "Share the Knowledge" meetings? Where are you folks?

Continued on page 6

The February Meeting is on the HCRA YouTube Channel

Last month's meeting featured guest speaker Tom Vinson, NY0V, presented all about finding Amelia Earhart's plane is now on the HCRA YouTube Channel. You can view it by clicking on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gbx4z2Bwcc>
Or you can watch the video on <http://www.hcra.org/category/videos/>

How many years have you been a ham?

- 50% said 20+ years
- 16.7% said 3+ years
- 16.7% also said 4 to 7 years
- 13.3% said 8 to 11 years

What class license do you hold?

- 50% Extra
- 30% General
- 10% Advanced
- 6.7% Technician
- 3.3% are not licensed

How long have you been an HCRA member?

- 1-2 and 3-4 years and 11+ were each 23.3%
- 8 to 10 years 16.7%
- 5 to 7 years 10%
- New member 3.3%

How do you receive the club news?

- ZeroBeat 90%
- Email Reflector 76.7%
- In-person 30%
- Facebook 3.3%

How do you attend club meetings?

- 65.5% in person
- 31% on Zoom
- 3.4% do not attend either

Why don't you attend club meetings?

- 33.3% do attend
- 16.7% say it's still not COVID safe
- 13.3% are working
- 10% do not have time

Continued on page 7

When club meetings were held on Zoom, did you attend every month?

- 75.9% said No
 - 24.1% said Yes
- with 7.1% saying they had scheduling conflicts or it was not convenient

What club activities do you attend?

- 83.3% said club meetings
- 60% said Field Day
- 43.3% said Share The Knowledge
- 16.7% said Fox Hunts

Are you willing to help teach a ham class?

- 73.3% said No
- 26.7% said Yes

This particular result baffles me. Why would you not want to give back to your hobby in the best way possible? By helping to teach a class to help others join our hobby.

How could the current board improve?

- Communicating with the members at a basic level
- More incentives to get members to participate in activities
- The board is doing an excellent job

How active are you on the air?

- 55.2% are on HF
- 13.8% are on VHF/UHF
- 3.4% are not on the air, HF & VHF/UHF, or similar

Do you use hcra.org?

- 75.9% said Yes
- 24.1% said No

Do you check into the 10 meter net?

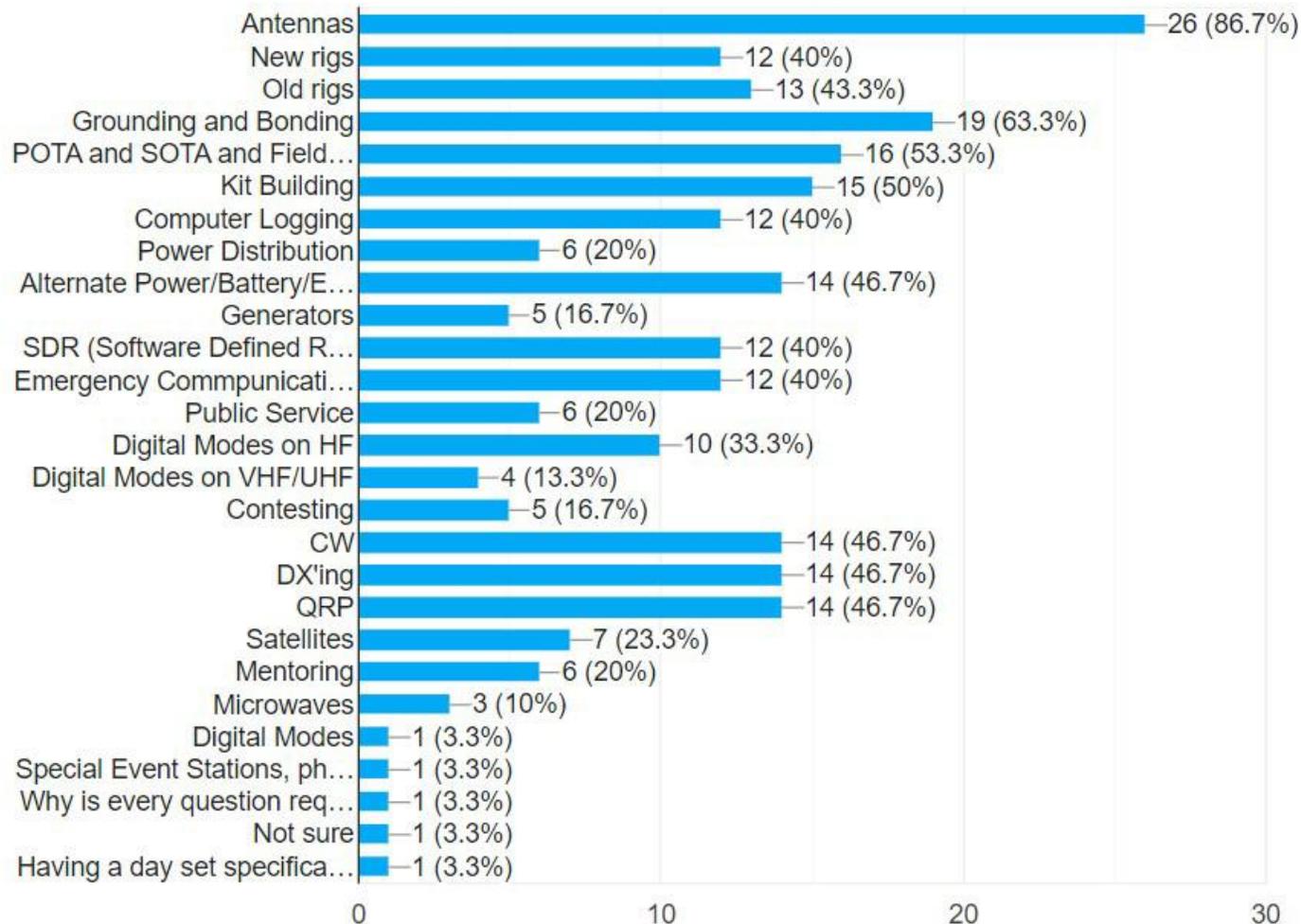
- 62.1% said No
- 37.9% said Yes

Continued on page 8

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

What meeting subjects are you interested in?

30 responses



Reasons why you don't check in to the 10m net:

- Geography – can't hear anyone
- Schedule conflicts
- No rig
- Too busy
- Not interested

Continued on page 9

How can the 10m net be improved?

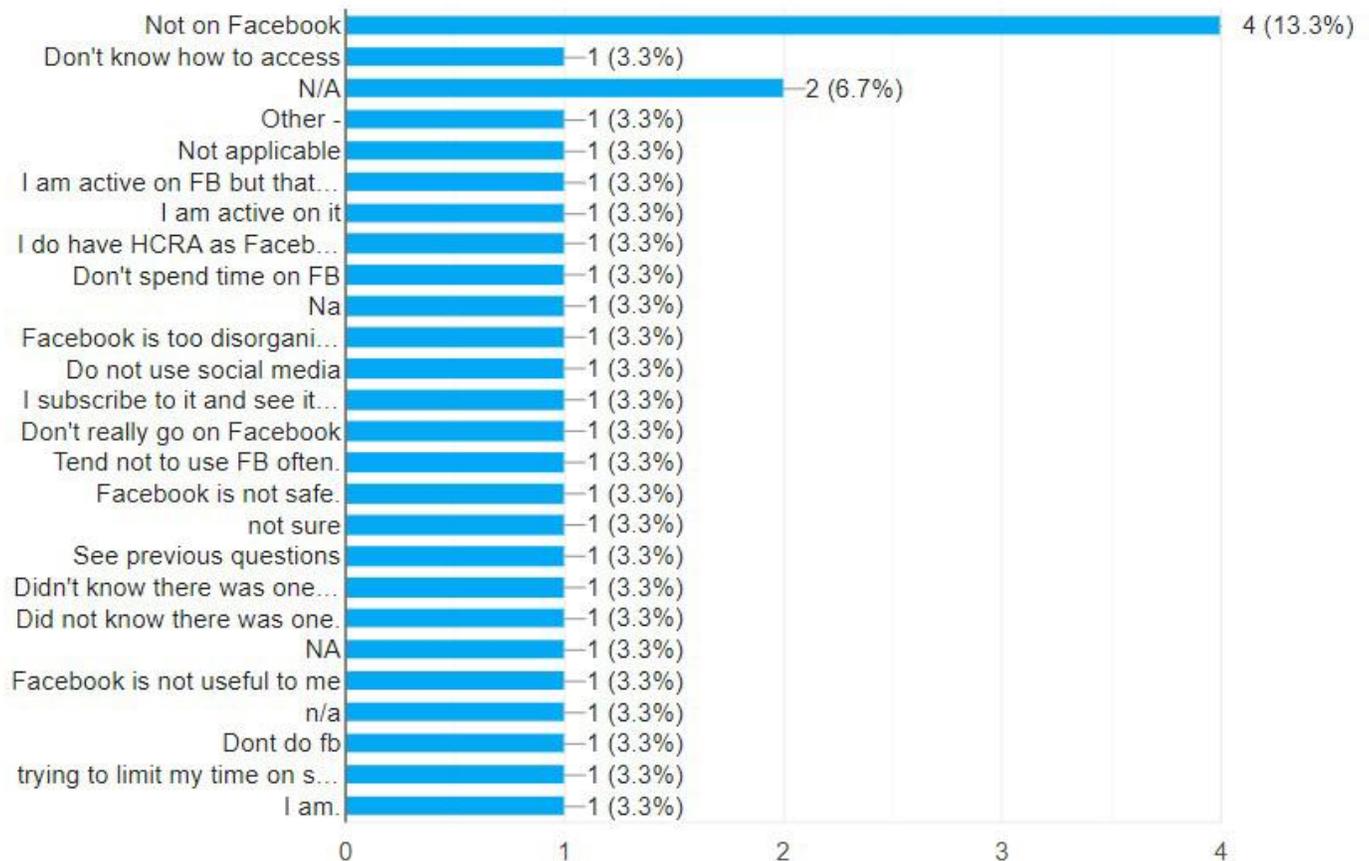
- Discussion of activities and upcoming events
- More members participating
- Have moderator stop recapping what was said and give their opinion; less reiteration by net control
- More discussions about radios, antennas, SWR, and grounding to help newcomers into the hobby
- Make it more appealing to members with better topics

Are you on Facebook?

- 60% said No
- 40% said Yes

If you are not active on the clubs Facebook page, why not?

30 responses



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What can the club do to get you more active?

- Timely communications
- More scheduled activities
- More social events: coffee and donuts; lunch at a local restaurant
- Do a VHF or UHF Net
- Portable operation with chat and food
- Group activities

What is the club doing right by you?

- Enjoy everything!
- In-person meetings
- Friendly meetings
- Excellent guest speakers
- Great Field Day
- Fantastic Newsletter
- Keeping us informed
- Promoting ham radio in the local area

Do you feel the current HCRA Board of Directors is doing a good job?

29 responses



I would like to thank those who participated. We will likely have a few additional questionnaires throughout the year as the board tries to come up with interesting activities for everyone.

The board is always looking for new ideas from members. If you have any ideas, no matter how small, please contact any member of the board and share your ideas.

Continued on page 11

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

Show and Tell will be held at the April meeting, where you can show off the kit or project you have been working on or something you've completed recently. This Show & Tell will be in person at the April meeting. Whether you have built an antenna or an amplifier, come show it off. Prizes will be provided. Last year, ALL who entered won a prize!

For the May meeting, we are doing something timely and interesting. With so much interest in portable operations, whether it be POTA or SOTA or just sitting somewhere and operating off a battery, this is the meeting for you. Everyone is invited to bring in their portable rigs, antennas, batteries, keys, mics, kits, or whatever and show them off to the group.

We will have at least one portable HF antenna setup with a battery that you can connect to. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce yourself and your equipment to those who are interested and to hold discussions about them. This is sure to be a fun meeting for all, so whatever you do... don't miss it!

The March meeting will have us all wanting to travel to Bora Bora as we learn about DXing from this exotic location from our ARRL New England Division Director, Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC. Please join us for this fun and interesting in-person meeting on Friday, March 7th. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

73 and Happy DX'ing,

Larry, W1AST

March Hybrid Meeting Information and Zoom Link

Join us for a very special guest speaker, Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, your ARRL New England Division Director, who will be giving a presentation about his "Adventures in Bora Bora" DX'ing from the South Pacific!

**Want to see the March in-person meeting but can't get to the meeting?
This meeting will be broadcast live on Zoom. Log on easily by clicking the link below.**

We are still looking for a member who can record and broadcast all meetings via Zoom to benefit those members who cannot get to the meetings. This can be simple to do with a laptop camera or a standalone camera and a laptop or PC. For more info, contact Larry, W1AST at w1ast@arrl.net

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88528442750?pwd=UUpvdXdtcXZuY0JzYjhYdVFNUY0QT09>

ARES NET UPDATE

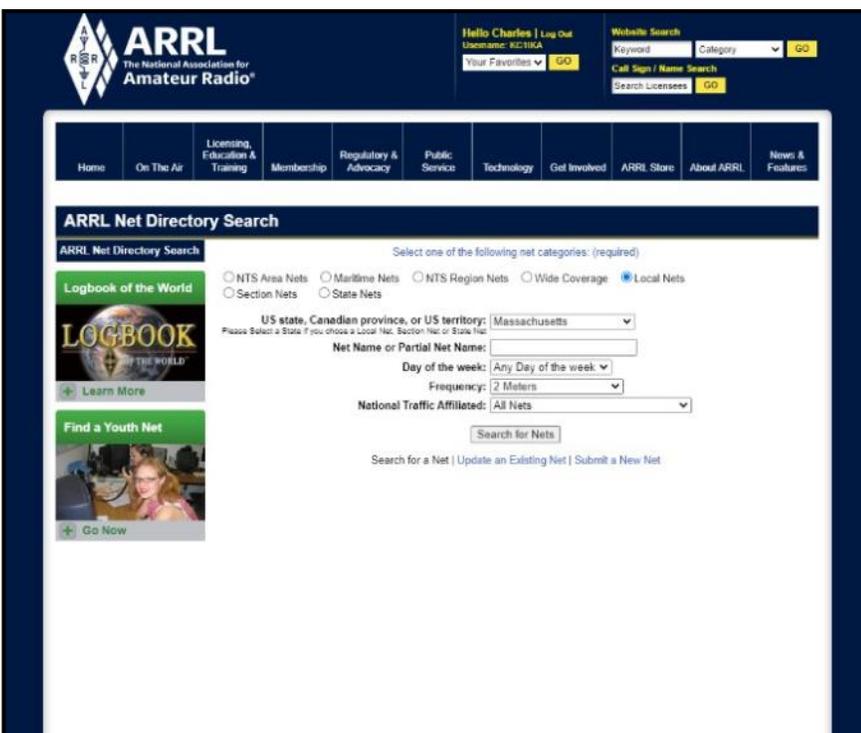
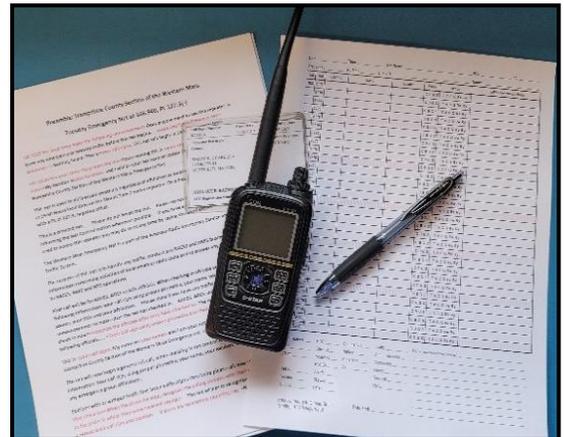
WMA ARES Nets & More by Smitty, KC1IKA ~ ASEC Net Manager

Greetings everyone. Well, last month I commented on the crazy January weather, so in February I said, "Hold my beer." How cold did it get in February? It was so cold, Smitty wore long pants! LOL, I'm good to -20 in shorts, but the forecast of -30 to -40 would be risking frostbite. Then, in the second half of the month, we hit 60 degrees. I can't wait to see what March brings.

Last month, I also started explaining how to get started in ARES. This month, I will provide more information so you can get started. If you are serious about EmComm, you should start listening in to some of the local nets so you can see how they are run. Feel free to sign in as soon as you are ready.

If you have any questions, the Net Controls are more than willing to help you out and answer any questions. Most counties have clubs, and most clubs have nets. Hampden and Hampshire counties have HCRA and MTARA. The ARES nets are held on the Mt. Tom repeater on 146.940 and 443.200. The PL tone is 127.3 (negative offset for VHF, positive for UHF). The two repeaters are linked, so if you connect to one, it comes out on both. This is very handy, as sometimes you can get on the UHF repeater but not so well with the VHF repeater. The nets are on Sunday mornings, VHF at 08:45 and UHF at 09:15, and on Tuesday evenings at 19:30 on VHF. Because the repeaters are linked, you can check in on either the UHF or VHF, no matter what the Net Control is on or what the net is called.

To find other nets go to [http://www.arrrl.org/arrrl-net-directory-search](http://www.arrl.org/arrrl-net-directory-search) and you can specify the type, i.e., LOCAL Nets, state as well as band and day. There are quite a few out there.



Once you find some nets to check out, you need to follow net etiquette. There is a good piece that Vanessa, W1IRL, wrote for how to check into nets.

You can find that at: <http://www.hcra.org/category/get-on-the-air/>

The most important thing is not to talk too fast. The net control station has to write down what you are saying, so slow down and use proper phonetics.

Speak at a speed you can write at. Before I volunteered for net control, I used to log all the information from the net.

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ARES NET UPDATE CONT'D

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

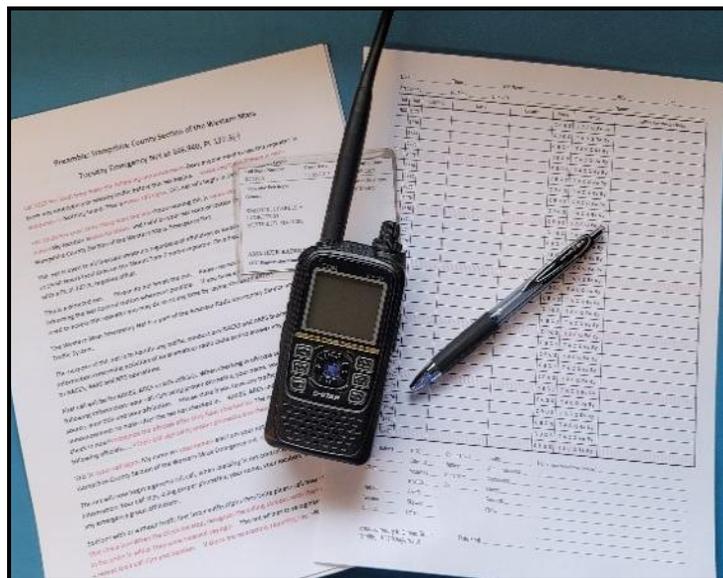
This gave me good practice before I became a net control, but it also taught me how important it was to slow down when talking on a net.

If you would like to do the same, you can download the log sheet here: <http://www.hcra.org/files/ARES%20Net%20log%20sheet.pdf>

It is the same as shown in the picture to the right in this article. You can download the scripts we use as well.

We call them "preambles." If you think you would like to try being a Net Control Station, email me at kc1ika@arrl.org for more information.

I was going to go over the ARES management structure and training suggestions, but I think I'll save those topics for next month. I hope to hear you on the ARES nets.



73,

Smitty, KC1IKA

ASEC, net manager, WMA ARES, Skywarn net coordinator

Click Image Below or Link for more Info: <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>

The 2023 QSO Today Virtual Expo - March 24th-26th

Presentations, Exhibitor, QSO Today Podcast & Much More!



Contact Us

The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo returns March 24-26th, 2023. We want to explore all of the real options, and there are many, for new ham radio licensees with little or no experience.

Click on this banner for more information

HCRA'S BIG RAFFLE

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

The HCRA big raffle is nearly over! Tickets will be available at the March meeting, from board members, on hcra.org using the donate button (add \$2 to cover postage & PayPal fees) or contact Larry, W1AST. Only 250 tickets will be sold! Drawing will be held at the MTARA Flea Market March 4th. Tickets are only \$10 each so buy several to increase your odds of winning!

- ◆ Tickets are \$10 each with a maximum of 250 to be sold
- ◆ Prize: Geochron Atlas 4k (Monitor not included) Plus a \$300 Gift Certificate to Best Buy
- ◆ Drawing is at the MTARA Hamfest on March 4th, you do not need to be present to win
- ◆ Cutoff date for online ticket sales is March 1st at Midnight
- ◆ Last chance to get tickets is at the March meeting, MTARA Hamfest, hcra.org, any HCRA board member or contact Larry, w1ast@arrl.net

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



Does not include monitor



Last chance to buy raffle tickets is at the March 3rd club meeting, at the MTARA Hamfest on March 4th at the HCRA booth. from Larry, W1AST at w1ast@arrl.net, or by contacting any of the HCRA Board Members.

If you're in the South Hadley/Chicopee area I have tickets at my QTH simply email myself at kd1ku@arrl.net to arrange a day and time to stop by and pickup a ticket or two.

**Don't Wait, Get Your Tickets Today!
The Drawing is March 4th at the MTARA Hamfest!**

NUTS AND VOLTS

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

Show & Tell is Back In-Person

April marks the return of the in-person Show & Tell! I hope everyone has their projects completed or will have them finished before the meeting. Presenters will compete for prizes! No matter if it's something you're building from a kit or something built from scratch, all are welcome at the April meeting.

If you're not building anything, then come and watch the fun and excitement at the meeting! Get your projects completed so you can take part in the April meeting. If you need directions to the meeting, simply click this link: <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

Can You Help Teach A Tech Class?

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

Help Ray and many others as well as all those new licensees! VE's & HCRA members are welcome.

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

Ray, AA1SE at ray.aa1se@gmail.com

HCRA Needs your Call Signs

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

Have you changed your call from your original FCC assigned call sign to what you have now?

Example: I used to be WB1DBY and I'm now W1AST. If you can help, please use the contact below.

Larry, W1AST at w1ast@arrl.net

Spring NEAR-Fest Date Change

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

The Deerfield Fair Association informed me that they booked two events, the NH Farm, Forest, and Garden Show and the NH Arabian Horse Ass'n Show, at the fairgrounds for May 5th and 6th, 2023.

We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause anyone.

Mike Crestohl, W1RC

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>

NUTS AND VOLTS CONT'D

ARRL & HCRA News and Miscellaneous News Worthy Items!

QSO of the Century!

On Saturday, 2/11, a QSO took place between Bouvet and Crozet in CW on 21.050 MHz! This contact between the number 2 and the number 3 of the most wanted DXCCs is an event that will remain unmatched for a long time! More on the QSO of the Century at: <http://crozet2022.r-e-f.org/news.html>

On Wednesday, 2/22, FT8WW was active on 10m SSB! This was Thierry's first foray using SSB from Crozet. Signals were generally not too strong, but certainly a new one/new mode for the many stations he worked. Best of luck making the Q, as it's bound to take lots of patience.

Wanted, Volunteers to Staff the HCRA Booth

The HCRA needs a few members to volunteer to help staff our booth at the 2023 MTARA Hamfest for an hour or two on March 4th, beginning at 7:30 am. There will be club donations and raffle tickets to sell before the big drawing sometime around noon or so.

You're probably already going to the Hamfest so why not volunteer for an hour or so and still have time to score some great bargains at the Hamfest! Contact Larry, W1AST at w1ast@arrl.net for info

Worked All HCRA Award

Larry, W1AST has been working on this since last year but decided to hold it back until 2023. Why? 2023 is the year the club becomes 75 years old, and it has been associated with the ARRL for 75 years. The goal is to work 10 different HCRA members on HF, any mode, any band. Submit your log to w1ast@arrl.net and earn a commemorative certificate celebrating our 75th anniversary!

This only runs through 2023, a little something special for our 75th year. Beginning January 1st and running until December 31st, this is just one of several special HCRA activities. Watch for other special club happenings throughout this year.

Western Mass VE Team Resumes Exams!

I am pleased to announce that the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET) has been granted the opportunity to resume VE sessions at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Room. Beginning January 27th and every 4th Friday of 2023 we have scheduled for 6 pm, 2 hours of use of the hall to perform VE exams.

I would ask that you pass this information along to anyone who can benefit or would like to volunteer to be an examiner on these dates. We will need to have at least 2 others to assist on these dates or I will have to cancel that session. You can e-mail me at w1fab@arrl.net or call / text to 413-575-2950 if you are able to assist. 73, David Cote -W1FAB-

“BOAT ANCHORS”

Getting a “Boat Anchor” Back On the Air - By Bill, W1FMX (Part III)

TOOL BENCH BASICS At this point, it seemed useful to discuss some of the tools that are necessary for restoring a Boat Anchor. Given that some readers may be new to working on radios, my approach will be very basic. Also, these are things that I have used, so I recommend asking the advice of others, too, as you collect the tools you will use.

First, let’s talk about hand tools. On the right in Photo 1, there are two types of wire cutters. The upper set is known as “Flush Cut” and is useful for cutting wires or leads in tight spaces or close to a circuit board after soldering them. The lower pair of cutters are “Diagonals” and can be used for heavier cutting. Next, is a pair of long nose pliers - the top pair is for heavier work and the lower pair is for more precise or delicate work. Next are forceps which are available in hardware stores. The advantage of using forceps is that they are very light, can be locked onto a wire or lead, and fit into tight spaces. I frequently use forceps to hold the lead or wire that I am unsoldering from a circuit so I can pull it free when the solder melts. Forceps can also be a handy tool for making loops for leads or wires. Finally, on the extreme right, is a set of wire strippers/cutters – this tool makes removing insulation from wire easy and can do that without damaging or nicking the conductors.



Photo 1

The next set of tools shown in Photo 2 below includes dental picks, which are available in hardware stores. The picks are handy tools to have when soldering. I use the point of a right-angled pick to open a space to add



Photo 2

a wire or lead to a lug on a terminal strip or printed circuit board. As the solder melts, I insert the point of the pick and move it around as the solder cools, making a new hole that I can use for a wire or lead that needs to be soldered into place. I also use the picks with alcohol pads when cleaning hard-to-reach places in the radio—more on that later. There are two types of tweezers that I use: the plastic type is for handling sensitive parts such as I.C. chips, while the metal ones are helpful in reaching into small spaces, for example, to retrieve a screw or nut that has fallen into a "pocket" or corner in the chassis. Finally, Phillips and slotted-tip screwdrivers are

necessary tools on the bench. Soldering guns are neat to use; they are great for soldering connectors to coax but not for most repair work on radios. It is better to use a pencil-tip soldering iron such as that shown on the next page in Photo 3.

Continued on page 18

“BOAT ANCHORS” CONT'D

Getting a “Boat Anchor” Back On the Air - By Bill, WIFMX (Part III)

It's a Lenk Model L-25 with a standard tip, rated at 25 watts. A soldering iron, such as the Lenk, is useful for working on printed circuit boards and terminal strips—basically, almost everything you'd need to do when repairing a radio; soldering guns, on the other hand, tend to damage the delicate foil of a printed circuit board. In the ball-shaped holder to the left of the soldering iron is a brass solder tip cleaner. Simply plunge the tip of the iron into the brass "sponge" to clean the tip. Also to the left of the soldering iron is a tube of 63/37 (that is, 63% tin, 37% lead) solder, which melts and flows easily, and it is recommended for those just learning to solder. To the right of the Lenk iron is a bottle of Kester liquid flux, which is applied with a very fine dropper to soldered joints. This will make it much easier to unsolder old soldered connections. In the circular container is paste flux, which is used to prepare the soldering iron tip (or a wire, for example) for a solder coating, and finally, a spool of de-soldering wick is shown. The de-soldering wick is placed against an existing point that was soldered, and then the tip of the soldering iron is pressed against the wick, which will soak up the solder, freeing up the lead or wire that was soldered before.

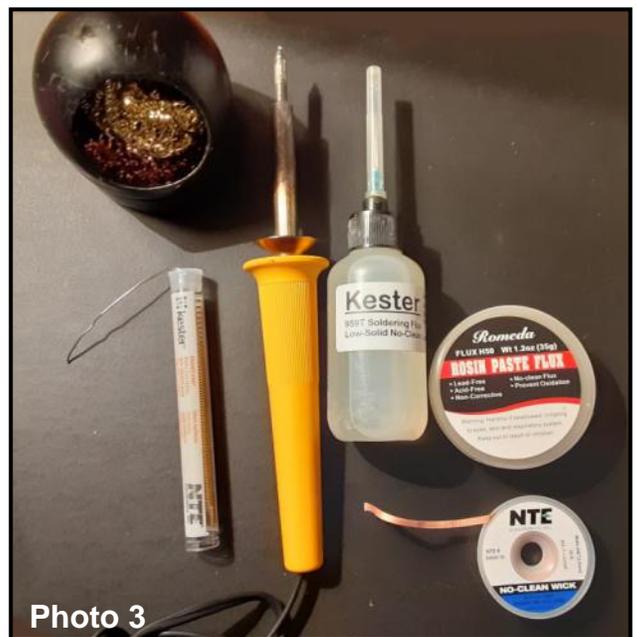


Photo 3

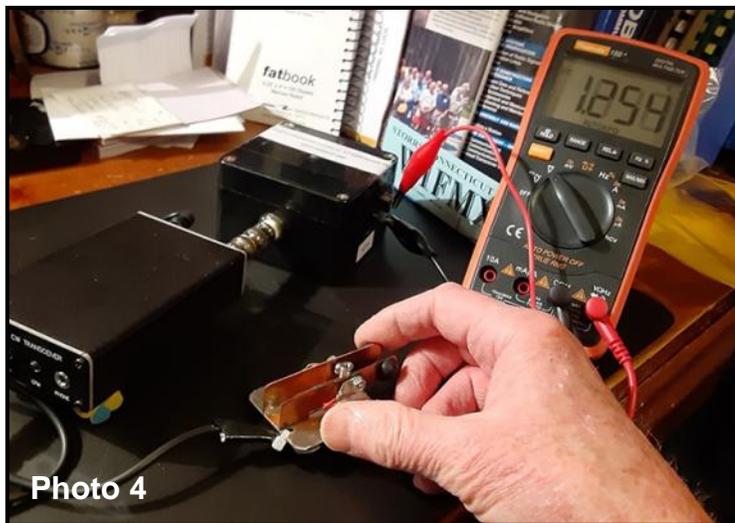


Photo 4

The first item in Photo 5, which is shown on the right, is an ESR meter (Equivalent Series Resistance) and can be used to test electrolytic capacitors; this is not something that you'll need to get started but should know about.

In the middle, the L/C meter will be very useful as you check the values of capacitors and inductors with it, and these meters are sold for less than \$50.

An essential item to have on your workbench will be a multimeter, or VOM, so you can check resistors, voltage levels, and current, and also check diodes and sometimes capacitors or transistors (depending on the meter). For more information on digital multimeters, see an excellent article published in QST magazine recently ("Digital Multimeters (VOMs): Fluke 106 Multimeter; Klein Tools MM600 Multimeter; Tekpower Mastech MS8268; UNI-T Multimeter UT61E." November 2022, page 40).



Photo 5

Continued on page 19

“BOAT ANCHORS” CONT'D

Getting a “Boat Anchor” Back On the Air - By Bill, W1FMX (Part III)

This meter is useful if you are replacing parts and need to make sure that the new part is okay. But a capacitor could appear to have the correct value on this meter and still be "leaky," thus causing a problem in a circuit. Then, on the right, is a set of alignment tools that are needed to adjust the cores of inductors and RF transformers so that the radio will work optimally.

This meter is useful if you are replacing parts and need to make sure that the new part is okay. But a capacitor could appear to have the correct value on this meter and still be "leaky," thus causing a problem in a circuit. Then, on the right, is a set of alignment tools that are needed to adjust the cores of inductors and RF transformers so that the radio will work optimally.



Photo 6

Working on old radios requires good lighting, as some parts have markings that have faded over the years. Also, when working on a printed circuit board, it makes locating components to be unsoldered much easier if the "top" side is illuminated to show from the "underside" where the circuits run and the various parts are located. I have found a penlight or a blue L.E.D. flashlight, both of which can focus an intense beam of light, very useful for this purpose. If both hands are needed (for example, when one hand is using forceps to pull on a lead to be unsoldered while the other hand is holding the soldering iron), a clip-on L.E.D. light is a necessity; each of these lights can be purchased for less than \$10.

Finally, there are a variety of items needed to clean up a Boat Anchor. The paintbrush, with soft bristles, is useful for removing heavier dust and dirt. For the cabinet (which I have removed from the chassis), I use water and dish soap, but sometimes Windex, too. For the front panel and knobs, I have used Windex sprayed on a cloth, but care must be taken to prevent wiping away the printing.

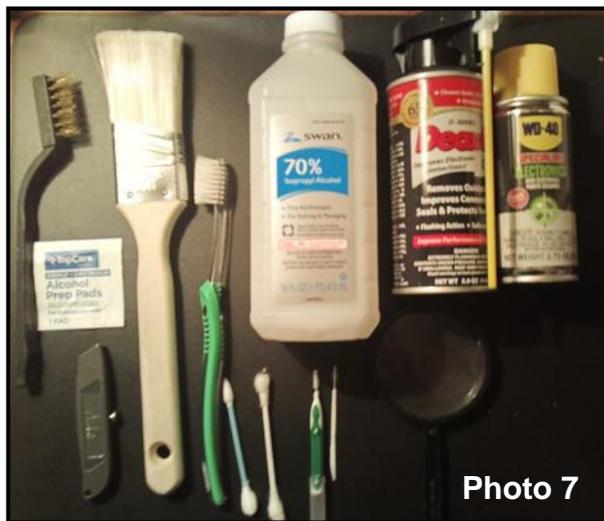


Photo 7

Isopropyl alcohol on a soft cloth or on a toothbrush can be used to clean the chassis; it has the advantage of not only being an effective cleaning agent but also evaporates quickly. For difficult-to-reach spots, I sometimes use alcohol pads, and, either a pair of tweezers or a dental pick; sometimes, a swab that has been immersed in alcohol is best for removing grime. Next to the swab is a makeup applicator; it is like a swab but stronger, so it can do tougher jobs and has the advantage of not shedding strands of cotton as swabs will

sometimes do. DeOxit contact cleaner can be used on potentiometers (spraying it into them) to improve functioning, but it does leave a residue, so when that is a concern, WD-40 Contact Cleaner is better as it is a "non-residue cleaner." I clean tube sockets, phono sockets, and coax connectors, when necessary, with the WD-40 contact cleaner and small dental brushes that appear below the bottle of isopropyl alcohol.

Next month, we'll talk about buying a Boat Anchor and getting started on repairs.

Editors Note:

The 4th part of this series will be featured in the April issue.

73,
Bill, W1FMX

WINTER FIELD DAY

Winter Field Day ~ A Radio Exercise, by John, N1JIE

According to the Winter Field Day Association, WFD is an exercise, not a contest. It is not affiliated with the ARRL, but it has some of the same rules that the ARRL has in its contests. Like Field Day, you can operate portable in the field, at home, or at another indoor location like an emergency response center. In a lot of ways, it really is a field day.

This year (2023) was my second WFD. The first one was in 2021, set up on the ice at Hampton Pond State Park. Funny thing – that first WFD also got me introduced to Parks on the Air (POTA). And this year, the WFD has added POTA location to the certificate. So, maybe everything ham is related – ARRL, WFD, and POTA are not affiliated but recognize that each brings something to the exercise.

So how do you "do" WFD? just about any way you want, just not with FT8 or FT4. You can do it at home, in your car, at the beach, in the woods, in a camper, or at the Red Cross; all you need to do is get on the radio during the exercise period. It's the last weekend in January each year. So make a plan for next year.

In 2021 Harold, N1FTP and I setup on the ice at state park K-2438. It was in the following Zero Beat with pictures. That was also my first POTA activation. WFD introduced me to POTA. I have WAS as a hunter, over 500 parks as a hunter, 22 unique activations over 8 states, and several other wallpaper certificates.

Last year, I had planned to have things set up at the same park and invite new hams to join in. But we had a winter storm warning going on, so I didn't get out at all. Happily, this year HCRA and FCARC joined to have a good field operation as a club site. I hope everything went well and that someone writes about it.

This year, I had another goal: I wanted to do a quick up and down – setup, make contacts, and bug out. time-on-site goal of <1 hr. Again, Hampton Ponds was a great location: open field next to the parking lot, picnic tables still in place, fair weather, and low wind. I set off with my POTA setup an FT-857D, YT-100 tuner, coax, AA-230 analyzer, a Bioenno battery, and the WRC antenna. 1 backpack, 1 antenna bag, and 1 analyzer box, I got there at 1850 UST, was set up in 15 minutes, made 10 contacts on 2 bands, packed up, and got back in the car at 2000 UST. Mission accomplished! I had bonus points for power, location, outdoor, and antenna, and I worked 2 bands. I had 10 contacts, so I had a successful park activation. And I got back home just after the start of the Daytona 24 race. BTW, had a ham working as a flagger and communicator at the bus stop chicane during the race, according to his post on the WFD Facebook page. And there were hams doing WFD at the Daytona track. So again, everything is ham-related...

There do not appear to be many hams in WMA who participate; on the WFD site, there are only 5 logs from WMA, and only two of them list HCRA. This is a fun exercise and good practice for out-of-the-ordinary conditions; more of us should participate!

Next year's plan: an even smaller setup, hopefully trying CW, QRP, or a wire antenna. Right now, my POTA kit weighs in at about 29 lbs. I want to cut that in half and make WFD a bit more remote. I'm hoping for a realistic post-apocalyptic communications station that's hidden, low-powered, and off the beaten path. Of course, I could change my mind between now and then. But I am pretty sure that next year will be my last in Massachusetts, as I am working on retiring to Pennsylvania.

73, John ~ N1JIE

HCRA & FCARC FOR WFD!

Winter Field Day: A Tale of Two Clubs at the Notch in Amherst, MA.

On Sunday, January 29th, FCARC and HCRA met for their first-ever joint Winter Field Day event at the Notch Visitors Center on Route 116 in Amherst, MA.

16 hams participated in this exercise: Steve, N1IBS, Roy, K1LKY, Bob, KA1HAH, Dick, N1RCM, Ted, K3FEC, and Brad, W1BCC, represented the FCARC.

HCRA members taking part were: John, K1YYM, Howard, AC1MN, Larry, W1AST, with Faye, Ron, AB1ZJ, Harold, N1FTP, and Larry, KD1RV.



Harold, N1FTP WFD Set-up is ready to Operate



Brad, W1BCC - Howard, AC1MN - Earl, KD1UU

It was cold early that morning, but by mid-day, the conditions were tolerable; at times, folks sat by a propane heater.

Antennas included tripod-mounted HF verticals, end-fed slopers, and a 6m Ringo Ranger that was bungeed to a fence post.



John, K1YYM, and Howard, AC1MN



Continued on page 22

HCRA & FCARC FOR WFD! CONT'D

Winter Field Day: A Tale of Two Clubs at the Notch in Amherst, MA.

Battery-powered stations were set up, and contacts were made on multiple bands. Antennas included tripod-mounted HF verticals, end-fed slopers, and a 6m Ringo Ranger that Roy brought and bungeed to a fence post.



John, K1YYM, Howard, AC1MN, Brad, W1BCC & Larry, KD1RV

Most participants stayed for several hours, enjoying a delightful but chilly combination of operating and camaraderie.

All participants were enthusiastic about doing WFD with FCARC and HCRA again in 2024!

Anyone from FCARC and HCRA who is interested in planning and participating in WFD 2024 are encouraged to contact Brad, W1BCC, at w1bcc@arrl.net



Brad, W1BCC's car features a neat mobile setup with a straight key at the ready when the urge hits to pound some brass!



Roy, K1LKY and Rich, N1RCM were both operating from the warmth of Brad's car!



ITEM'S FOR SALE & WANTED

HCRA Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

FOR SALE!

Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark V Package For Sale



Up for your consideration is this beautiful Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark V 160-10m 200 watt HF Rig. FP-29 30v Power Supply, Cord w/Molex Connectors. Yaesu MD-100 Desk Microphone

This rig belonged to Norm, W1BMK (SK)

Radio's in excellent condition and functioned great in several QSO's I made with it. All reports were excellent. Comes with manuals, receipts & documentation.

Just a few of the features of this radio are:

- 200 Watts PEP Transmitter Output
- Class-A Power Amplifier Operation
- IDBT: Interlocked Digital Bandwidth Tracking System
- Variable RF Front-End Filter (Pre-selector)
- Enhanced Ergonomics: Multi-Function Shuttle Jog Dial
- Powered by FP-29 30 Volt External P/S

Complete Details can be found at [FT-1000MK Mark V](#)

This HF Transceiver is in excellent condition both cosmetic and working. I made several QSO's to confirm it's working condition and everything is fine.

I received great signal reports and audio reports too. This is a highly sought after transceiver by Elite-Class DX and Contest operators.



Yaesu MD-100 Desk Mic is Included

PRICE REDUCED

\$950 or Best Reasonable Offer

If you have any questions or would like to arrange to see this rig contact Ken at: kd1ku@arrl.net

Continued on page 24

ITEM'S FOR SALE & WANTED

HCRA Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

FOR SALE!

ICOM IC-245 2-Meter Multi-Mode Transceiver with IC-3PA Power Supply



For Sale:

Comes with: Mic, Mounting Bracket, and PDF copy of owner's manual. Manual also available at: <https://www.icomjapan.com/support/manual/2750/>

I am listing this radio for a friend who is a former amateur. It was purchased by his father, and he would like it to go to someone who can use it.

The transceiver has been in storage since it was purchased new some years ago and is virtually unused. It has recently been tested on FM simplex and functions as it should. Output was measured at 15 watts.

The IC-245 is a 144–148 MHz FM transceiver, and with the attached SSB adapter, it provides FM, SSB, and CW operation over the entire 2-meter band. Complete specifications can be found in the owner's manual.

73,

George, KC1V ~ kc1v @ arrl dot net

Asking Price: \$100 plus shipping from Zip Code 03824. Local pickup is also available.

If interested, or have questions, please contact Peter at peterhal65@yahoo.com

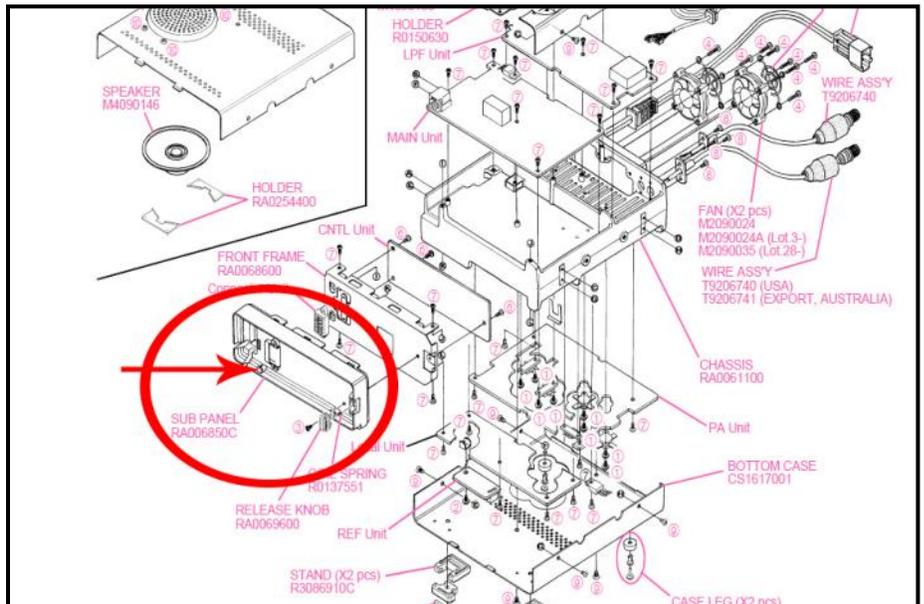
WANTED! Yaesu FT-100D Sub-Panel

I'm searching for a FT-100D or FT-100 sub-panel Yaesu part number RA006850C.

Recently, I had a mishap breaking the 4 tabs that hold the faceplate to the main radio body. This was going to be my mobile HF radio.

If you have a dead FT-100/FT-100D that you will part with cheaply or for free, or if you have the sub-panel, please email me at the following email address: kd1ku@arrl.net

73, Ken - KD1KU



VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR

ARRL's VOTA Operating Event Continues!

It's a way for the league to recognize volunteers and create an operating event too. It is a way to encourage volunteers to make contacts with ARRL members and other volunteers. By submitting your log to LOTW and then a score is automatically figured out based on who you are and whom you spoke with.

ARRL's yearlong operating event, Volunteers On the Air, or VOTA, began January 1, 2023. The event is organized as part of ARRL's 2023 theme, "Year of the Volunteers," which recognizes the contributions of ARRL member volunteers, and offers opportunities to become more active and involved in amateur radio and ARRL.

VOTA encourages participants to make contacts with ARRL members and volunteers, earning points for each contact. Point values have been assigned (see the Points Table at vota.arrl.org). All scoring is automatically calculated through ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW, <https://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>). If you are already a LoTW user, continue uploading your QSOs to participate. If you're a new LoTW user, visit Getting Started with LoTW.



As part of the event, there will be week-long activations by W1AW portable stations operating in all US states and territories. W1AW/# portable operations are worth 5 points for each contact, and they can be contacted on all bands and modes. There's also an opportunity to earn the W1AW Worked All States Award. There will be two week-long W1AW operations from each of the 50 states.

Later in the event, an online scoreboard, the VOTA Leaderboard, will be activated, allowing each participant to see how their score measures up with other participants throughout the year.

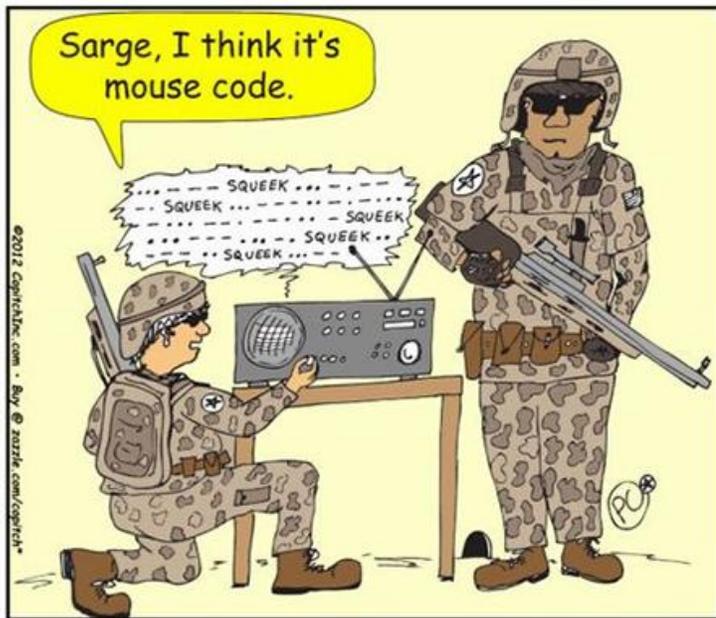
Only two-way contacts qualify for points (cross-band, cross-mode, and repeater contacts are not valid), using any mode (CW, phone, or digital) - including EME and satellite operations - on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, and 1.25 meters, as well as 70 centimeters, VHF/UHF/SHF, and microwave bands available to US amateurs above 2 meters (2190-, 630-, 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter band contacts are not counted for credit in this event).

Larry, W1AST is the Massachusetts state coordinator, you can earn points by contacting each state as they will be on twice a year. Massachusetts will be on this spring between April 12th and 18th. Every volunteer is given a point value as is every member. You can't add up your points if for example, Larry, a life ARRL member, field volunteer, affiliated club president. He will be assigned the highest point value for one of those and that's what working Larry is worth. Working Larry will give the maximum point value below.

Anyone who works Larry, W1AST will get 30 points as he is the WMA Affiliated Club Coordinator!

Would you like to be an activator for W1AW/1? If so, contact Larry, W1AST at w1ast@arrl.com to learn more. In the meantime, start working those other states. Each one is worth 5 points!

Learn more about VOTA at: <https://vota.arrl.org>



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 February 26th 2023



No Date Filter
 2023
 2022
 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	24	53	0	110	9	122	19	122	52	129	1	189	641	60 yrs
2	NF1G	0	4	0	3	36	73	41	64	59	59	0	174	339	39 yrs
3	KX1X	2	33	5	82	62	76	25	96	69	95	1	156	546	28 yrs
4	KK1W+1	14	4	0	44	8	39	20	40	25	50	0	140	244	47 yrs
5	K1NZ+1	5	23	11	5	64	64	39	43	62	80	0	128	396	12 yrs
6	W1PY+1	0	4	0	38	0	47	2	94	5	86	0	124	276	13 yrs
7	W1AST+1	1	10	0	2	13	11	19	29	38	13	0	82	136	14 yrs
8	WY1G	0	5	0	15	0	1	1	5	22	52	0	73	101	42 yrs
9	N1FTP	0	2	0	13	0	27	2	21	29	38	0	63	132	15 yrs
10	K1VOI	0	12	0	15	12	21	1	7	4	6	0	43	78	22 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	NV1Q+3	0	0	0	7	10	10	4	3	4	9	0	31	47	44 yrs
12	N1JIE	0	0	1	4	3	9	4	11	5	11	0	27	48	6 yrs
13	W1NU+2	1	0	0	9	1	3	1	0	0	2	0	14	17	8 yrs
14	N1TA+3	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	22 yrs
15	W1JA+1	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	54 yrs
16	WD1S	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	11 yrs

You can link to your club here: <https://clublog.org/league.php?club=189>

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

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

ARRL CLUB COMMISSION PROGRAM

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership & the HCRA Earns a Commission!

One benefit of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is your club earns a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and ARRL member renewals! Simply download the form, fill it out completely with payment info and mail it directly 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%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.																													
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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																													



Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

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

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

10 Meter Net

The HCRA 10 meter net is on the Winter schedule as of September 5th 2022, every Monday evening at 7 pm for the winter/spring months. Gary, KC1JZR is NCS. This is a great way for our newest HCRA members with a Tech or greater license to get some time on HF. Everyone is welcome to join in on 28.375 USB regardless of affiliation. Have any questions? Contact: kd1ku@arrl.net

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

Share the Knowledge Zoom Meetings

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings have begun for everyone's knowledge and enjoyment! January had three excellent STK meetings, while February features two meetings chock full of knowledge by Bob, K1YO. Check out the complete STK schedule in every issue of Zero Beat on page 3. Do you have an idea for a STK meeting, or would you like to give a STK presentation? If you would like more info please contact Larry, W1AST at w1ast@arrl.net

Memorial Page

All members now have the opportunity to honor club member SK's in the all new Memorial Page on hcra.org. This can be done by sending in the SK members name and callsign along with any text, stories and can also include photo's too. Send them to our webmaster, Vanessa, W1IRL at the following email address: webmaster@hcra.org

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

For Sale Items

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

Send item description and photo(s) to:
kd1ku@arrl.net

HCRA Social Media Links

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

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HampdenCountyRA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hampdencountyra>

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

HCRA Needs Your Memories!

Do you have any memories of past HCRA events, club activities, or simply club history? Anything is great, but the older the better! Your Board of Directors needs any info no matter how insignificant you may think it is. We would rather have too much info than not enough. This is part of our 75th anniversary!

If you have anything to submit contact your Vice President, Ez, W1AEZ, at ez.w1aez@gmail.com

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>

South America 10m Contest SSB/CW | March 11th - 12th | 28Mhz | Sat 1200z to Sun 1200z

For rules, exchange & more details go to: <http://sa10m.com.ar/wp/rules/>

International DX Contest - SSB | March 4th - 5th | 1.8 - 28Mhz | Sat 0000z to Sun 2359z

For rules, exchange and all contest details go to: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

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

National Vietnam War Veterans Day SES | March 29, 1800z - 2100z | N3TAL

For all SES details: n3tal.275@gmail.com or <https://www.qrz.com/db/n3tal>

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

or

Contact Paul, NFIG at nfig@arrl.net

Local Nets & Happenings

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

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

1st Monday:

RACES Drill, 18:45, 146.49 Simplex

Mondays: 19:00 7 pm (Local) **HCRA 10 Meter Net 28.375 usb**

New topic each week. Have an idea for a topic? kd1ku@arrl.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.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 with other members at 7pm followed by the regular meeting at 7:30pm sharp.
<http://www.hcra.org/>

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

Saturday before the FCARC meeting at 8am. Breakfast at Dennys Pantry in Greenfield

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

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/>

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w1ast@arrl.net

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

Treasurer - George Collins, KC1V
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webmaster@hcra.org

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



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

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

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