



ZERO BEAT

Our 76th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club

Meeting Update!

The Holyoke Hospital meeting room is opened to us once again. In-person meetings are back! Need directions? hcra.org/meeting-location

March 2024

From the editor's desk:

March is here, which means spring is right around the corner. Not only is spring-time coming, but something else is too. The April meeting features Show & Tell, which is one of the club's favorite events. Get those projects completed today!

Bill, W1FMX, is back this month with part two of a three-part series of articles about restoring a Heathkit SB-200 amplifier. Bill's expertise really shines with this wonderful series of articles he has penned. Check it out beginning on [page 8](#).

It's Hamfest time right here in Chicopee, MA at the 35th annual MTARA Amateur Radio & Electronics Hamfest on Memorial Drive; see [page 6](#) for details.

There are a lot of other interesting articles throughout this issue, including Ham Radio on the Moon and a Senate bill that's been introduced to stop HOAs from preventing ham radio operators from installing antennas on property they own.

I'm still hoping to find someone who would like to have their shack featured in the Share Your Shack segment. I was told a member would be in contact with me for this, but so far it hasn't happened. Would YOU like to see your shack here?

The Groups.io tutorial will remain in Zero Beat for the next issue or so. If you're interested, it's on [page 16](#) of this issue. One side note: any new groups.io member will be on moderated status until they make their first post.

If anyone has an article to contribute, I'd be more than happy to publish it. After all... Zero Beat is only as good as those who contribute and read it each month ;-)

73, Ken - KD1KU

Welcome New Members

Join HCRA Today

[Click Here](#) to Join

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March 1st Meeting

The March guest speaker is Max Kendall, W0MXX, who will be discussing his weather balloon projects, giving us guidance and inspiration so that the HCRA can launch one of our own in the future.

Doors open at 7 pm for some rag chew, coffee, and donuts, with the meeting beginning at 7:30 pm. See below if you need directions.

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

Upcoming Club Meetings and Guest Speakers



The January guest speaker is Marvin Turner, WOMET, who will be talking all about Winter Field Day. Marvin is the WFD president and also a brand new resident of the WMA section of Massachusetts.



Our February meeting's guest speaker is HCRA's very own Gary Thomas, AA1UE. Gary will be speaking about APRS, digital, and modern-day packet. This is sure to be an extremely interesting presentation with so much to offer; don't miss it!



The March guest speaker, Max Kendall, WOMXX will be discussing his recent weather balloon projects. He will be giving us guidance and inspiration so the HCRA can launch our own soon. This great presentation should not be missed!



The annual HCRA Show and Tell is back once again! Enter your projects, kits, or whatever you've built and win prizes! Last year's Show and Tell was a massive success. Get started building your kits or projects today.



In keeping with the portable operations from last May, our guest speaker for May is Mindy, KMINDY, in person! Mindy will be discussing everything all about her adventures in the POTA and SOTA worlds.



Field Day preparations and more. We need someone to volunteer to lead the Field Day team! 2024 Elections too, please consider running for a Board of Directors position. HCRA is a much better club when everyone's involved!



Guest Speaker to be Announced Soon!



The October meeting will feature HCRA member Jeff Bail, NT1K, as this month's guest speaker. Jeff will be talking about everything you always wanted to know about 3D printing and Ham Radio. This meeting is not to be missed.



HCRA's annual auction is back in person at the November meeting! Ham Radio Gear and Related Accessories Only! Absolutely NO computers, monitors, or PC parts! The 2023 auction was a huge hit; don't miss it this year!



The annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant on December 9th. Join us for a night of good food, good friends, and fun to be had by all who attend. Watch for more details on when you can sign up!



SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE MEETINGS

STK Zoom Meeting Schedule for 2024

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

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

<i>January 9th @ 7pm</i>	<i>All About Raspberry Pi</i>	<i>By Aaron, KF1G</i>
<i>January 23rd @ 7pm</i>	<i>D-Star, How it compares to DMR & Fusion</i>	<i>By Terry Stader, KA8SCP</i>
<i>January 30th @ 7pm</i>	<i>Everything about WRTC 2023 in Italy</i>	<i>By Dennis Egan, W1UE</i>
<i>February 8th @ 7pm</i>	<i>Everything about End Fed Antennas</i>	<i>By Greg WA1JXR</i>
<i>Feb 22nd @ 7pm</i>	<i>Linux and Ham Radio</i>	<i>By Andy, KB1OIQ</i>
	<i>More To Be Announced!</i>	

Our 76th Year as a ARRL Affiliated Club



Clublog Video How-to

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

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

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



March 2024

IMPORTANT: Attention everyone who attends meetings in person. It's that time of the year when there are a lot of germs around. Covid, the flu, and the common cold, just to name a few. *IF you have been sick just prior to a meeting, if you are not feeling well, or if you feel like something is coming on, please stay home.* If you are just recovering from something and are attending a meeting, please wear an N95 mask, keep a distance from everyone, and warn people that get near you.

I am saying this because someone came to the February meeting with a cold and got at least five of us sick, and probably more. Those that I know of, including myself, had very bad colds, were sick for at least a week, and have lingering coughs.

I am asking everyone personally to please think of others before attending a meeting. There are others with compromised immune systems, and your selfishness in bringing your germs to the meeting is hurting other people and the club itself. **This is VERY IMPORTANT!**

Starting with the February meeting, the monthly meetings are being broadcast simultaneously on Zoom and recorded for the HCRA video library. A big thanks to Marvin, W0MET, for taking on this task. The club has been looking for someone to take on this project for over 18 months, and we were just about ready to give up when Marvin stepped up and volunteered. Thank you, Marvin!

Here is the Zoom link for March for those unable to attend in person:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82577305570?pwd=Y1RtTzFyUWZ5OXQ0YS9manRPWDFiQT09>

Have you noticed the changes on HCRA.org? Vanessa, W1IRL, and Alan, AB1XW, have been hard at work updating the website, making changes and improvements. You should go look through the site. We think you will like it.

Did you know there is an online archive of Ham Radio magazines and newsletters? Last year, the HCRA was asked to be a part of it, and we accepted. It's called the Digital Library of Radio and Communications. The printed history of the HCRA is all online, along with many other clubs and past magazines such as 73, Ham Radio, and back issues of clubs from everywhere. Take a look; it's pretty interesting.

<https://archive.org/details/dlarc>



Continued on page 5

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST

Field Day is coming up fast. The new Field Day chairman is Ez, W1AEZ, and his first volunteer is Josue, KP4JLD. Two members of our current board. If you'd like to help Ez organize this year's Field Day effort, please let him know. Your help is appreciated. Help is needed with the following categories: food, antennas, towing, set-up and tear-down, band captain, and operating. You can help with any or all of these. Your help is needed; how can YOU contribute?

Now is the time for you to help your club. You do not have to be a board member to help the club. We're looking for volunteers to help staff the club table at the Mt. Tom flea market. Can you spend an hour that morning, Saturday, March 2nd, to help at the HCRA table?

How about donating something to the HCRA flea market table? Club donations are welcome, and we thank you for them. Every little bit helps the club.

April is coming, and that means Show and Tell. It is time for you to show off what you have built in the last 12 months. Get your project ready. April is coming up quickly.

I am hoping to get the fox boxes out and hidden. It's been a while since we've had local fox hunts and it's high time for some. I know there are interested hunters out there. I'm thinking around April, as the weather starts to break. Watch the WMAfoxhunters on groups.io for an announcement as well as on the club groups.io page.

Speaking of groups.io, as I write this, so far, 85 people have signed up to: <https://groups.io/g/hcra>. The club is making good use of the calendar and announcements. You, the club members, are welcome to post items for sale, questions, or anything else you think will be of interest. It's here for your use.

Have you been on the air? The bands are open, and it's fun chasing DX, answering CQ's, or having a rag-chew on HF. 10M has been in great shape, as have other bands. If you're not on HF, you are missing the fun. The bands are not just for contesting. While they are hot, get on and have some fun!

Come to the March 1st meeting and learn all about ballooning, chasing balloons, and more. Max, W0MXX, is a great presenter and is sure to amaze everyone with his knowledge and ideas. It's sure to be a fascinating meeting. You do not want to miss this meeting!

73,

Larry, W1AST

HCRA President



35th Annual



Amateur Radio & Electronics Hamfest

Saturday March 2, 2024

Located

Castle of Knights

1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA 01020

www.castleofknights.com

Directions

From North:

*Take I-91 South to the Mass Turnpike. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. Bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

From South:

*Take I-91 North to the Mass. Turnpike. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. Bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

From East:

*Travel on the Mass. Turnpike toward West. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. Bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

From West:

*Travel on Mass. Turnpike toward East. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. Bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

Castle is on the right for all of the above.

Mail- in Registration Form

Name _____

Call sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (cell preferred) _____

Email Address: _____

of Tables _____ x \$25.00 = _____

Is 120 VAC Needed? _____

Checks payable to: MTARA

Mail to: Brian Mullarney-N1FI, 20 Spring Street, Easthampton, MA 01027

*** The Details ***

Doors Open:

7:30 AM Vendors only: help available for loading and unloading

8:30 AM General Admission (8:00AM if Vendors ready!)

Admission:

Adults: \$10.00

Children: under age 12 are *FREE!*

No Tailgating

Handicapped Parking Available

Snack Bar – Coffee, soda, donuts and breakfast sandwiches

Raffle Prizes – six (6) tickets for \$5.00

VE Exam -10:30 AM FREE Exams* Provided by PVVET

Candidates must pre-register for the exam prior to the Hamfest. Visit <http://pvet.org> for registration and more information. *FCC application fees may apply
Contact: Jeff Bail (NT1K) 413-238-1992

Additional Information:

<http://www.mtara.org>

Talk-In on 146.94 (127.3 PL)

Table Registrations contact:

Brian Mullarney – N1FI
20 Spring Street
Easthampton, MA 01027
Tel. (860) 478-6790
N1FI@arrl.net

Download and Print a MTARA Hamfest Flyer with the link below
<https://mtara.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-MTARA-Flea-Market-Flyer.pdf>

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL NORTHEAST **HamXposition**

and ARRL New England Division Convention



AUGUST 23 TO 25, 2024
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IN THE EASTERN CORRIDOR



NEW & IMPROVED
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WWW.HAMXPOSITION.ORG



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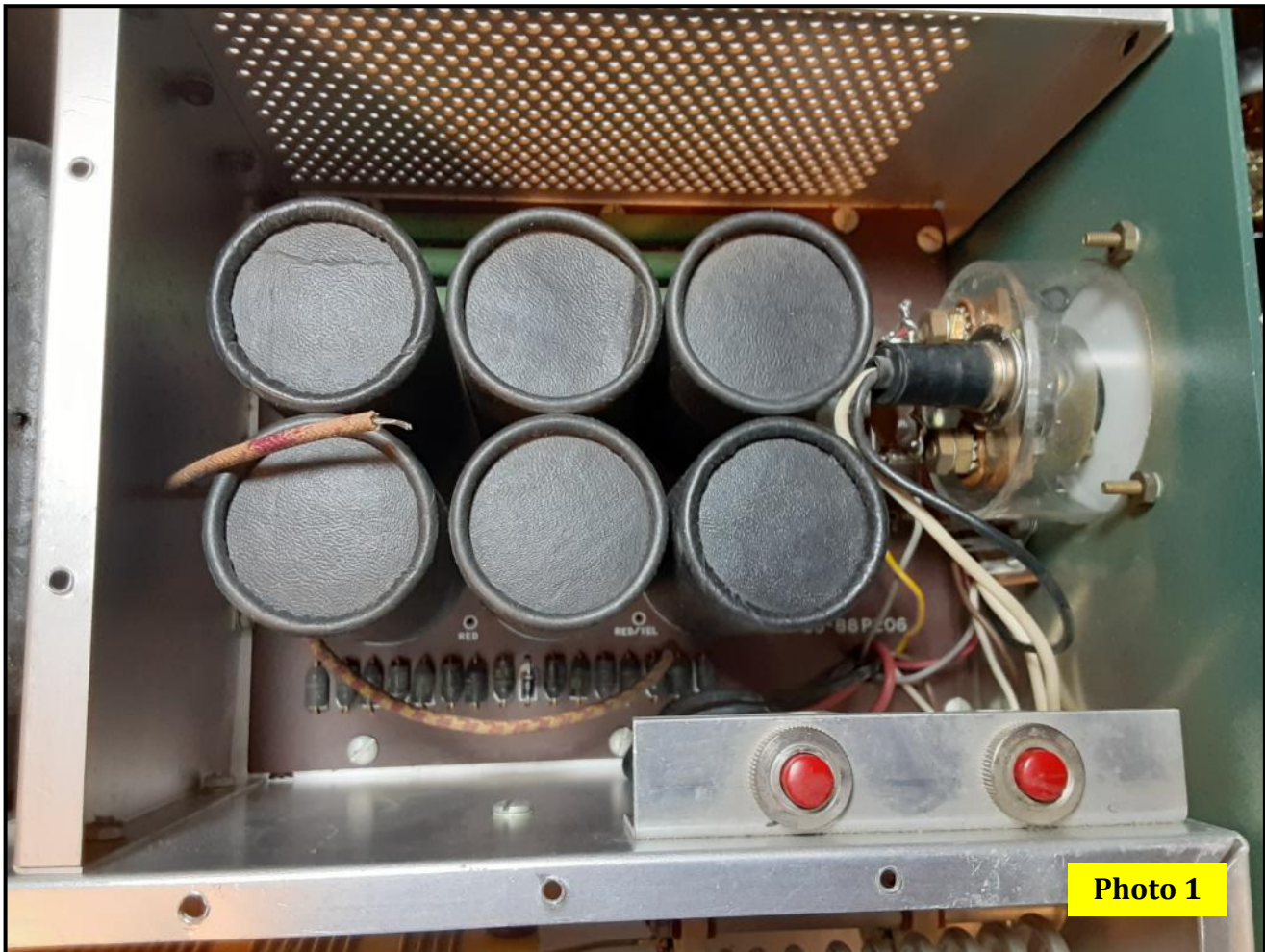
HEATHKIT SB-200 AMPLIFIER REDUX

Restoring a SB-200 Amp by Bill, W1FMX (part 2 of a 3 part series)



In the first article of this series, the planned restoration of a Heathkit SB-200 HF amplifier that first appeared more than 50 years ago was discussed. In this second article, we'll discuss assembling Harbach kits to replace the inbuilt power supply in the SB-200 as well as adding a "Soft Start" board (Current Inrush Limiter). These are available from Harbach Electronics at the following website:

<https://harbachelectronics.com>



Heathkit SB-200 With Original Power Supply Board. (Photo credit: B.Cook)

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HEATHKIT SB-200 AMPLIFIER REDUX CONT'D

Restoring a SB-200 Amp by Bill, W1FMX (part 2 of a 3 part series)

Photo 1, on the previous page and **photo 2**, (on the right) shows the top and underside of the original power supply board. It is completely original, except that one of the diodes was replaced sometime along the way. The red wire is loose because it was unsoldered as part of the restoration process. The two red buttons are part of the original circuit breakers.

A Harbach replacement kit for the power supply board ranges in price from \$25 to \$95 depending on whether the buyer decides to populate the new Harbach Printed Circuit Board (PCB) with components he or she has on hand. I decided to buy the PCB kit with all of the components supplied. **Photo 3** shows the power supply kit that Harbach sells. The “Soft Start” module kit sells for \$30 and is shown in **photo 4**. It limits in-rush current when the amplifier is switched on in order to protect the on/off switch, transformer, filter capacitors, and vacuum tubes (the tubes used in the SB-200 currently cost about \$150 per pair) from being damaged.

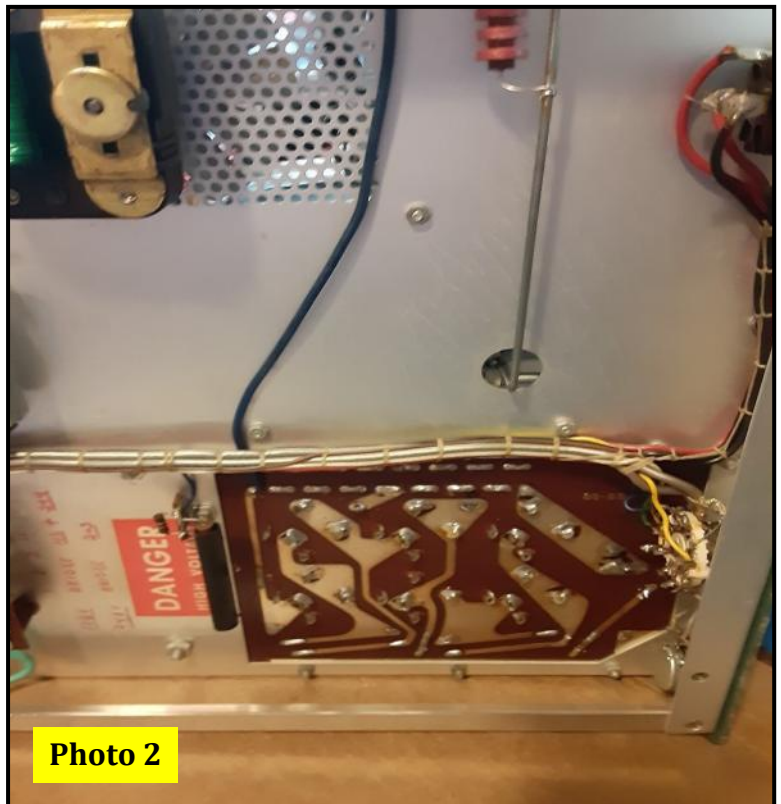


Photo 2

Underside of Original Power Supply Board (Credit: B.Cook)



Photo 3

Complete Harbach SB-200 Power Supply PCB Kit

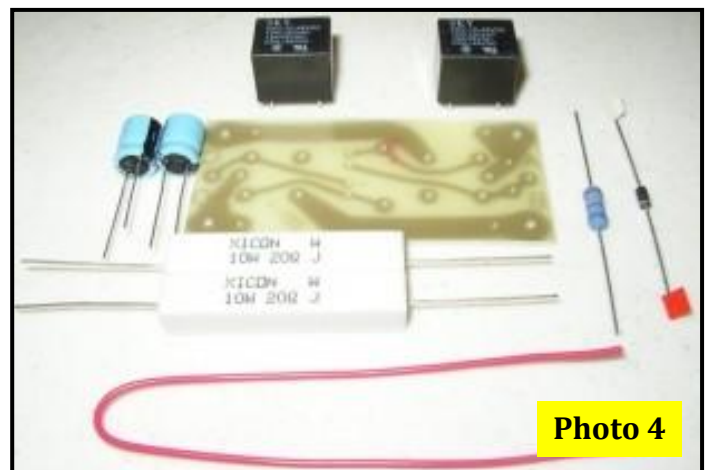


Photo 4

Harbach SB 200 “Soft Start” Module Kit (Harbach.com)

As can be seen in the photos, the kits do not require too many components and can be assembled in a relatively short period of time. The printed circuit boards and the components are all of excellent quality. Altogether, taking my time, I assembled the two kits in about an hour. But there is a significant difference in the type of directions supplied by Harbach as compared to the original directions that Heathkit provided.

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HEATHKIT SB-200 AMPLIFIER REDUX CONT'D

Restoring a SB-200 Amp by Bill, WIFMX (part 2 of a 3 part series)

Photo 5 on the right was taken from the original Heathkit assembly manual and is very detailed, including many pictorials, which made assembly straight forward.

The directions supplied by Harbach for assembling its replacement power supply board kit are not designed for the inexperienced builder since it basically lists just three steps: **1)** Read the instructions; **2)** Go through the list of parts; and **3)** Solder components to the top side of the printed circuit board.

There is also an image of the layout of the circuit board that is provided, which is helpful during the assembly of the kit (**photo 6** on the next page).

To my mind, Harbach's "minimalist" instruction sheet for the assembly of the PCB is not to be criticized as these amplifiers have dangerous, lethal voltage and should not be worked on by anyone who does not have the necessary experience and skills to identify the various components and to do the work safely.

The remaining Harbach instructions (that is, what to do after assembly of the kit has been completed) are much more detailed in describing technique for removal of the original power supply board and installation of the Harbach PCB. However, it is useful to have the original Heathkit Assembly and Operation Manual handy in order to become familiar with the original layout and labeling of parts in the Heathkit.

In addition to the two circuit boards that I purchased from Harbach, I also decided to replace the circuit breakers in the amplifier (these breakers are installed in series with the A.C. power feed line). There are two breakers needed at a cost of \$6.00 each. Since the original breakers are at least 50 years old, it seemed best to me to replace them as a safety measure which was actually fairly inexpensive and easy to do. **Photo 7** on the next page shows one of the new breakers.

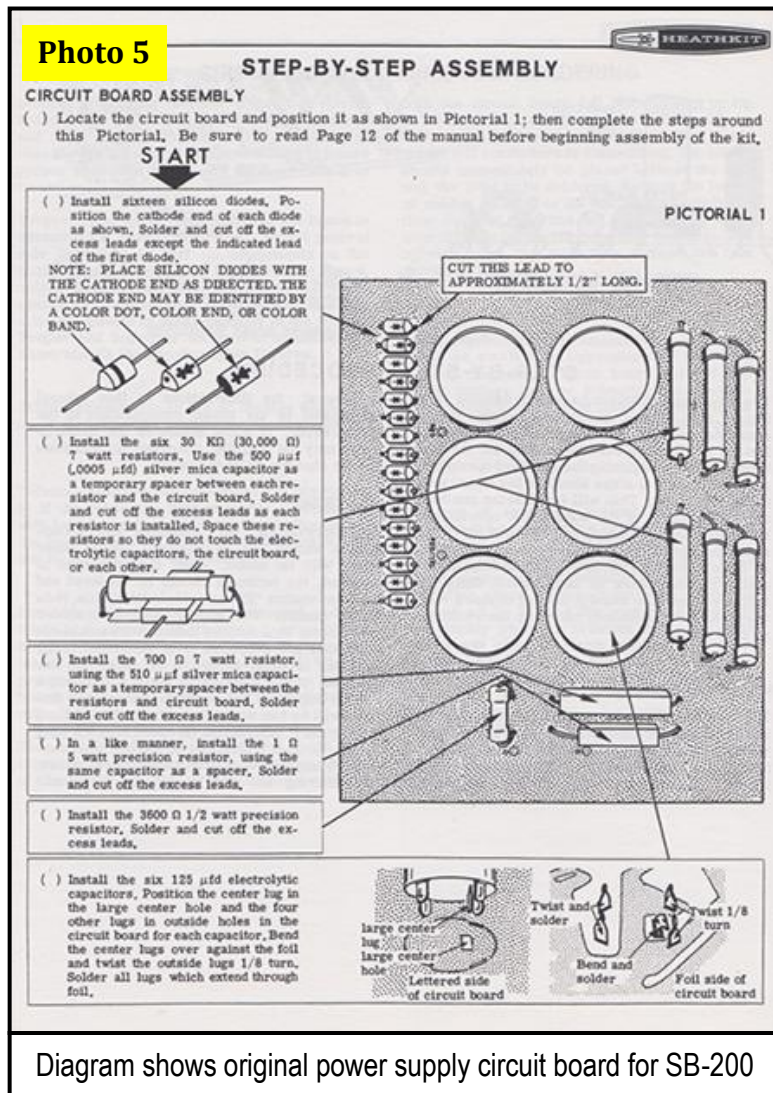


Diagram shows original power supply circuit board for SB-200

Continued on page 11

HEATHKIT SB-200 AMPLIFIER REDUX CONT'D

Restoring a SB-200 Amp by Bill, W1FMX (part 2 of a 3 part series)

This amplifier will be used with "Boat Anchors," either a Heathkit HW-100 or a Heathkit HW-101 transceiver, so I did not need to add the Harbach "Soft Key Interface" to the amplifier, which is a small PCB kit that lists for \$30.

However, if I were to use it with my modern ICOM transceiver, I would need to add the module, as, otherwise, keying the amplifier with the modern radio would likely result in serious damage to the keying circuit of the transceiver.

In the next installment in this series, the final restoration work on the SB-200 will be discussed.

Parts such as some resistors, diodes, as well as the power cord will be replaced, and the actual Harbach Board installation and testing will be discussed.

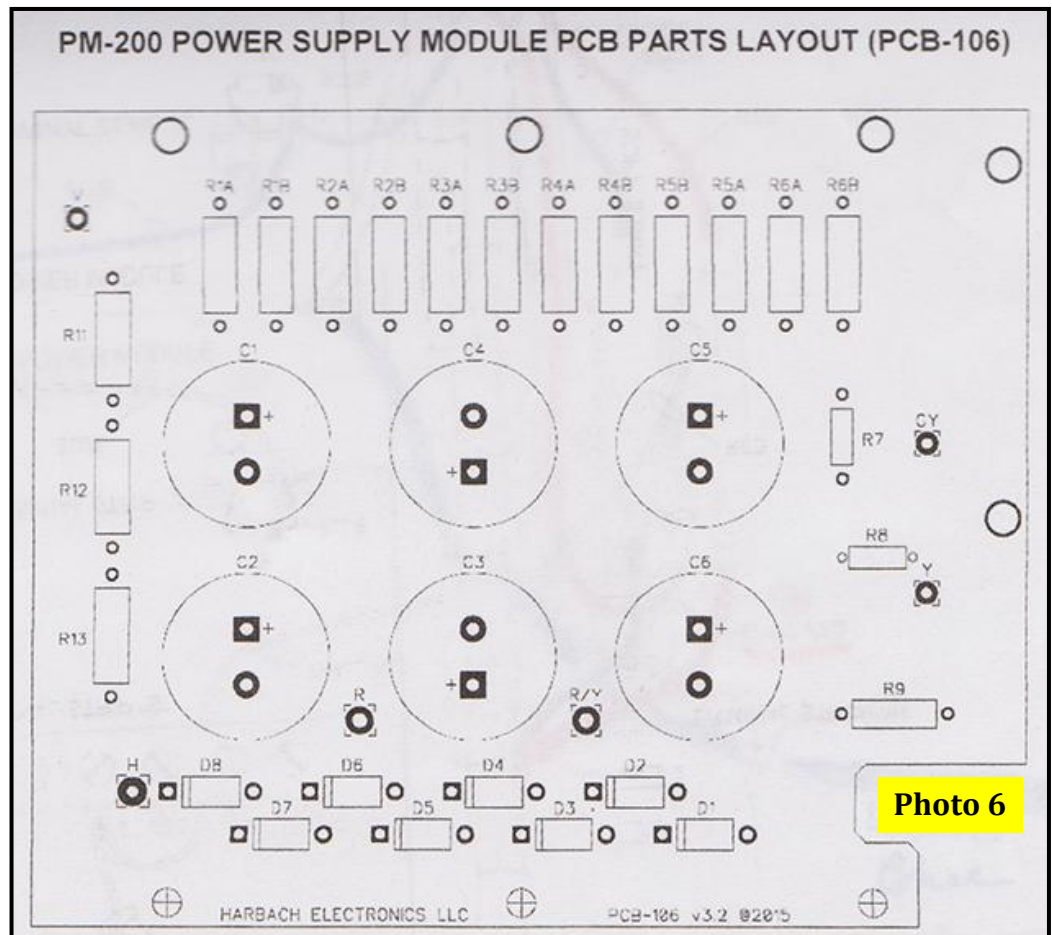
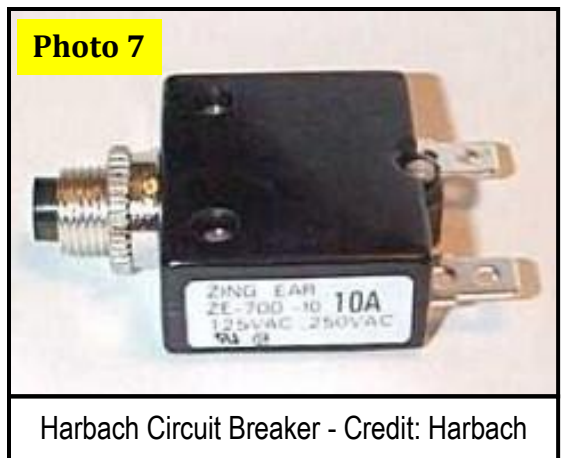


Photo 6

Harbach PCB Layout Included in Harbach Kit instruction sheets. Photo credit: B.Cook



Harbach Circuit Breaker - Credit: Harbach

73,
Bill, W1FMX

The final part of this series of articles will be completed in next month's issue. -{Editor}-

NEAR-FEST XXXV 2024 UPDATE

Please Disregard Any Prior Notices You Have Read!



Dear Friends of NEAR-Fest,

Please note this is an updated announcement. Please disregard any other notices you may have read.

Our spring 2024 Hamfest, **NEAR-Fest XXXV**, will be held on Thursday, April 25th, and Friday, April 26th, 2024. There will be no Hamfest activity on Saturday due to an unfortunate scheduling conflict with the Deerfield Fairgrounds. We had originally announced that the event would take place only on Friday, but due to popular demand and the cooperation of the Deerfield Fair Association, we are pleased to announce this new full two-day schedule.

Our 2024 Fall **NEAR-Fest XXXVI** is scheduled for **October 11th and 12th** and will be the same as always for the past eighteen years, on Friday and Saturday.

The gates will open on Thursday morning at 7:00 am for **PREPAID TICKET HOLDERS ONLY**, so you might want to buy your tickets online well in advance starting February 1st, 2024, on our website, <https://near-fest.com>, or in March at the Ham Radio Outlet store in Salem, NH, and at Ross Hochstrasser's Clock Shop in Whitman, MA, and get your favorite spot. **NEAR-Fest XXXV** will end at 3:00 PM on Friday.

Prepaid ticket holders will line up and enter via **Gate C**, as we did in the fall. They **MUST** have **ALL** of their needed tickets and inside parking passes, or they will be sent to **Gate F**. This includes all campers, RVs, and tents who **MUST** also have their overnight camping passes, as there will be **NO** tickets or passes sold at **Gate C**! Anyone needing to buy tickets or parking passes will go to Gate F and will be admitted starting at 8:00 am. Once the line has entered **Gate C**, it will close, and all others entering the grounds will proceed to **Gate F**.

For this event only, admission per person is **\$10.00**, whether you buy your ticket online, in advance, or at the gate. Overnight parking and tent passes are **\$15.00** regardless of whether you plug into an electric outlet or not. Campers, RVs, and overnight stayers will go directly into the Fairgrounds as we will not be using the campgrounds this time. *The cost of the pass for RVs, campers, motor homes, etc. is \$30.00.* All vehicles that remain on the fairgrounds overnight (after 9:00 pm) will require an overnight parking pass in addition to an inside parking pass for Friday.

Please visit our Web site, <https://near-fest.com>, or our Facebook page, NearFest NH, for any further updates. We apologize for any inconvenience that this modified version of NEAR-Fest may have caused, but it is only for this time. We appreciate your indulgence and understanding.

See you at Deerfield!
73,
MisterMike, W1RC

International Women's Day

YL POTA PARTY

Date: March 8th, 2024

Location: Any POTA park (or hunt POTA from home!)

Frequency: Any amateur radio frequency within your license class

Mode: Any! SSB, CW, SSTV...experiment and have fun!

How to participate:

Activate a park during the 24-hour event window

Submit your POTA activations to the POTA database.

Share your experiences and photos on social media using the hashtag

#YL_POTA_Party.

We encourage you to wear pink and/or decorate your station to show your support for International Women's Day!

Spread the word and invite your friends to join the party!

Why participate?

Connect with other YLs and build a supportive community.

Have fun and enjoy the POTA hobby.

Here are some resources that you may find helpful:

POTA website: <https://parksontheair.com/>

Young Ladies Radio League website <https://yrlr.net/>

ARRL website <https://www.arrl.org/>

Together, we can make this a memorable event for all YLs in ham radio!

We look forward to hearing you on the air!



FIRST HAM RADIO STATION ON THE MOON

JS1YMG, is Now Transmitting from the Lunar Globe!

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) successfully landed their Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) on January 19, 2024. Just before touchdown, SLIM released two small lunar surface probes, LEV-1 and LEV-2.

LEV-2 collects data while moving on the lunar surface, and LEV-1 receives the data.

The JAXA Ham Radio Club (JHRC), JQ1ZVI, secured amateur radio license JS1YMG for LEV-1, which has been transmitting Morse code on 437.41 MHz since January 19.

The probe uses a 1 W UHF antenna with circular polarization and is transmitting "matters related to amateur business."

Radio amateurs have been busy analyzing JS1YMG's signal, with Daniel Estévez's EA4GPZ blog introducing the method and extraction results for demodulating Morse code from the signal, as well as extracting the code string.

It's unclear how long signals will be heard. JAXA has said that SLIM was not designed to survive a lunar night, which lasts about 14 days and is due to return in a few days.

SLIM was launched on September 6, 2023, and landed on January 19, 2024, with the mission of analyzing the composition of rocks to aid research about the origin of the moon.

SLIM's landing made Japan the fifth country to achieve a soft touchdown on the moon. The landing was achieved with exceptional precision - within 180 feet of its targeted touchdown location.



A rendering of the Smart Lander for Investigating the Moon (SLIM) on the lunar surface. (Photo Credit: Japan Aerospace Exploration)

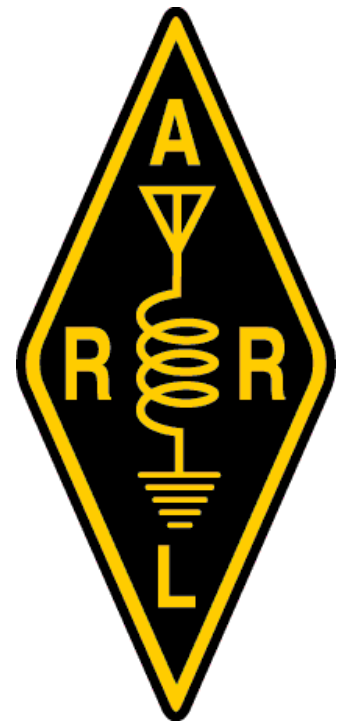
BILL TO STOP HAM RADIO LAND RESTRICTIONS

Senators Introduce Bill against Land Use Restrictions for Amateur Radio

On January 30, 2024, US Senators Roger Wicker (MS) and Richard Blumenthal (CT) introduced [S.3690](#), the Senate companion bill to H.R.4006, [introduced last June](#). Both bills reflect the Congressional campaign efforts by [ARRL](#) to eliminate homeowner association land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair the ability of an Amateur Radio Operator to install and operate amateur station antennas on residential properties they own.

Amateur Radio Operators are repeatedly relied upon to provide essential communications when disaster strikes, but their ability to do so is being impaired by the exponential growth of residential and private land use restrictions that hinder their ability to establish stations in their homes with which to train and provide emergency communications when called upon.

In announcing the introduction of S.3690, Senator Wicker said: "Because communication during natural disasters is often hindered, we should be making every attempt to give folks more options. Reliable access can make the difference between life and death in an emergency. Our legislation removes roadblocks for amateur radio operators looking to help their friends, families, and neighbors."



US Senators Richard Blumenthal (CT) [left] and Roger Wicker (MS) [right]

In a similar announcement, Senator Blumenthal stated, "Our measure will help clarify the rules so ham radio enthusiasts can successfully continue their communications.

In the face of an emergency or crisis, they help provide vital, life-saving information that allows listeners to properly and safely respond, but prohibitive home association rules and confusing approval processes for installing antennas have been an unnecessary impediment.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act resolves these bottlenecks and ensures that radio operators can function successfully."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, Chair of the ARRL's Government Affairs Committee, both extended on behalf of ARRL, its Members, and the Amateur Radio community their thanks and appreciation for the leadership of Senator Wicker and Senator Blumenthal in their continuing efforts to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

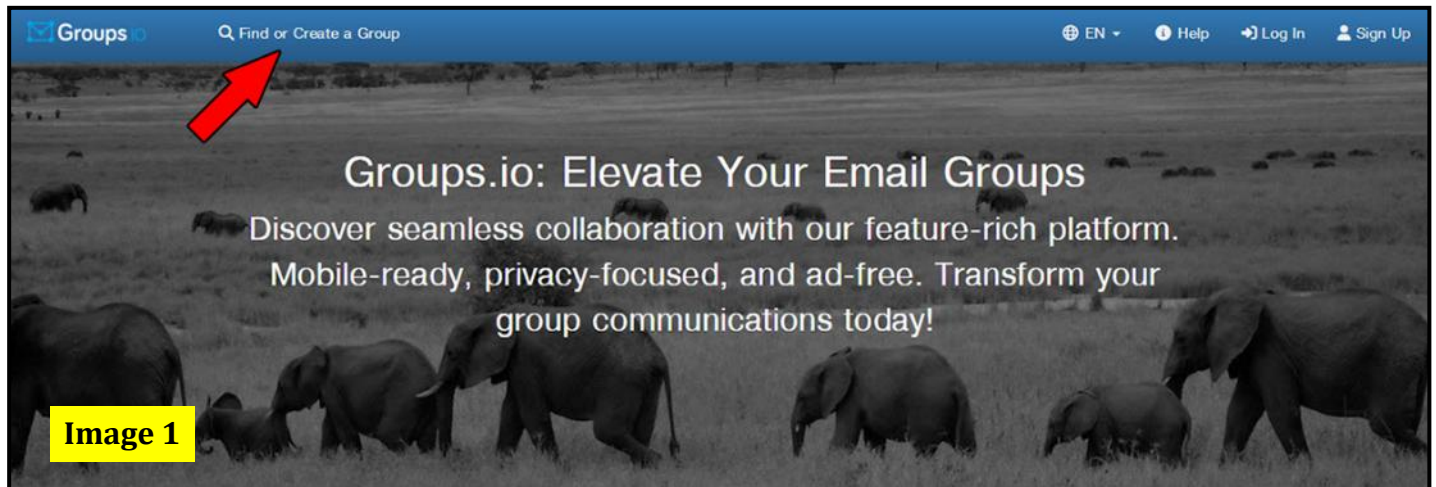
[Read more on ARRL News](#)

GROUPS.IO TUTORIAL

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

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

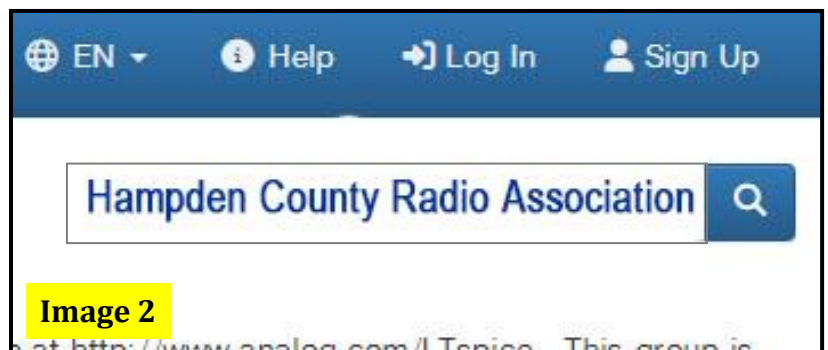
Click the tab that says “**Find or Create a Group**” (red arrow, image 1) on the groups.io page.



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

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

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



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

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

Continued on page 17

GROUPS.IO TUTORIAL CONT'D

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

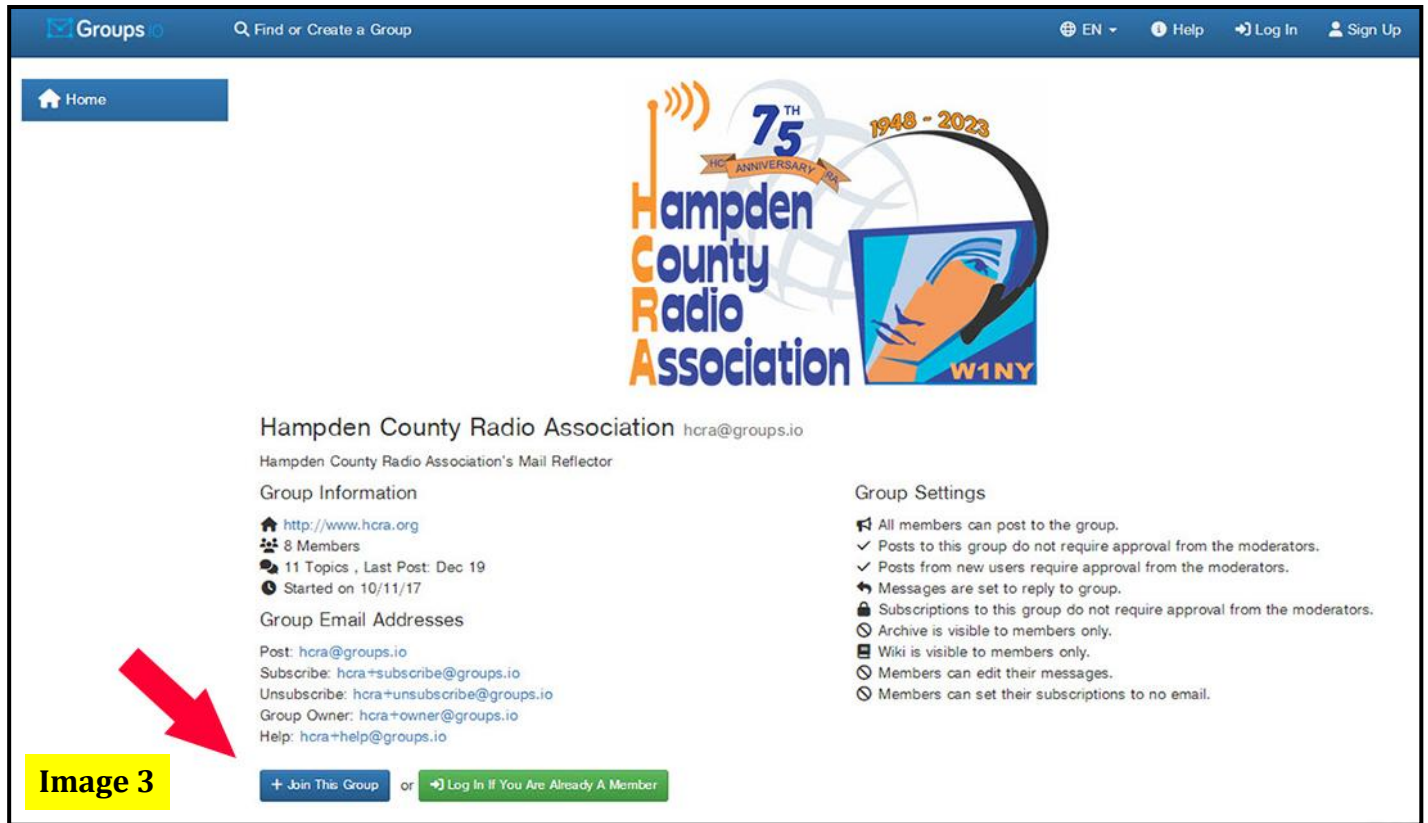
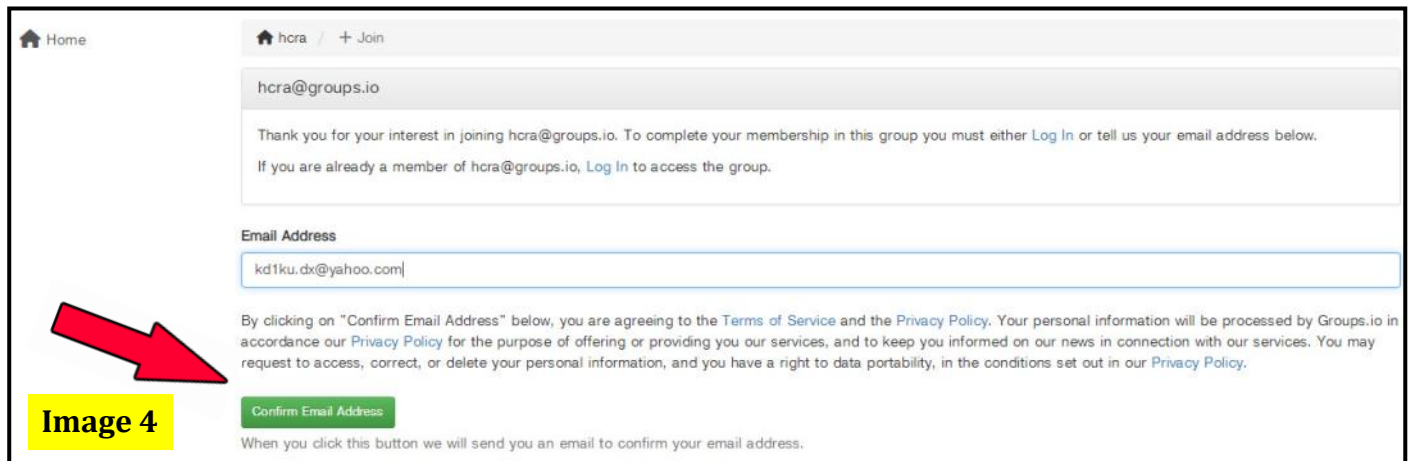


Image 4 will show the email you used to join. If blank, simply enter your email address, the same one used to join, then click on the **green button** with the **red arrow** pointing towards it, as shown below.

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



Continued on page 18

GROUPS.IO TUTORIAL CONT'D

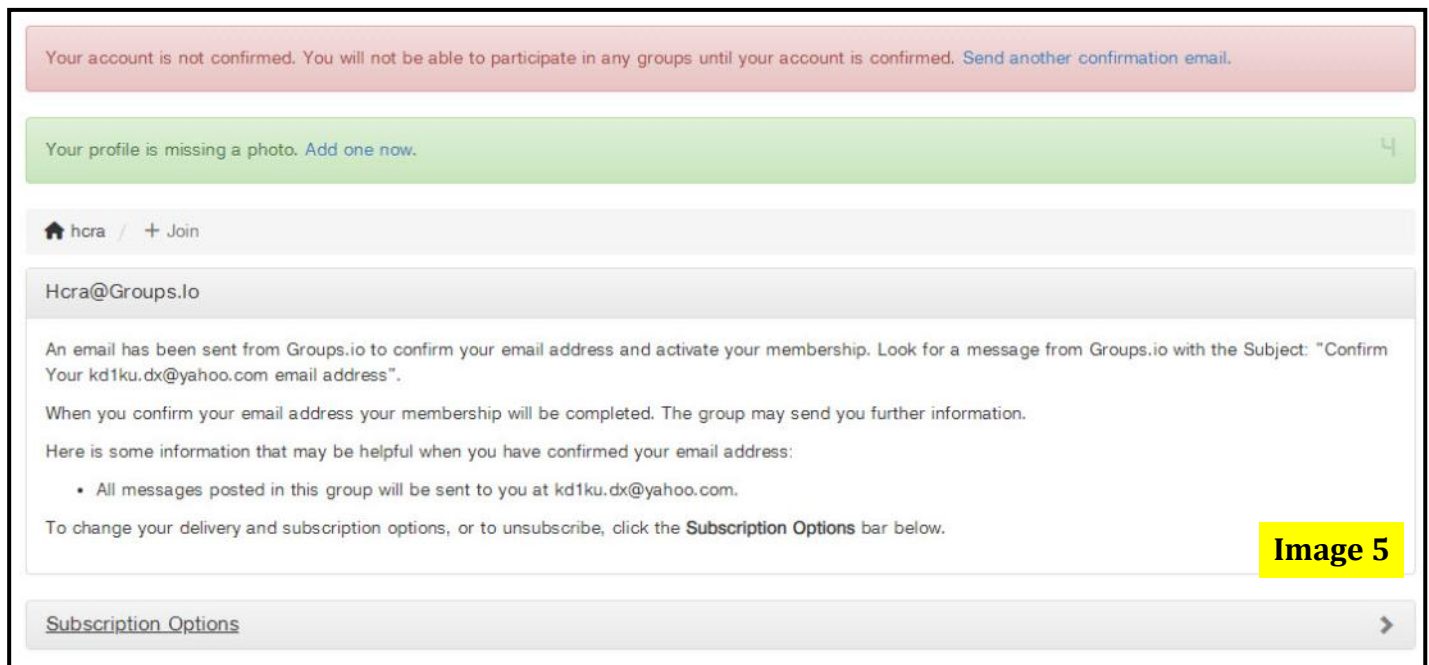
How to Sign up, Create an Account, & Get Started on Groups.io

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

73, Ken - KD1KU

NOTE: All members who join groups.io will be in moderated status until you make a post or reply to one. Then you will be fully cleared to use groups.io to its fullest potential. This was done as a way to keep spammers out of the HCRA groups.io account. -[Editor]-

NUTS AND VOLTS

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

Wanted Volunteers for Field Day 2024

It's time to start thinking about volunteering to help with Field Day 2024. It's still a ways off in the future but it'll be here before we know it! It takes many members to make this happen each year.

Ez, W1AEZ, has stepped up to be the Field Day chairman but will need several members to help with everything from planning, set-up/tear down, food, publicity and so much more. For information and complete details contact Ez at ez.w1aez@gmail.com

ARRL Podcasts - The Joys of Being a General

The January/February 2024 issue of On the Air featured a story from Brian McSpadden Gardener, KE8JVX, about "The First-Year Experiences of a General-Class Ham," in which Brian details how he got his feet wet as a General, and how he put together his first station for HF.

Brian joins this episode of the podcast to tell us a little more about his first year as a General, as well as what he's done since then. Read or listen to this and more by visiting the link below.

ARRL's On The Air magazine and podcast at <https://www.arrl.org/On-the-Air-Magazine>

See What QST Has to Offer!

QST is the monthly membership journal of ARRL. Each issue is your source for equipment reviews, technical tips, projects, news, and so much more! Even if you don't receive QST, you can enjoy a sneak peek at what ARRL's membership journal has to offer. Click on an issue month to see the cover, the Table of Contents, and the "Second Century" editorial. You can also download and view a free feature article. Join the ARRL today to receive your monthly issue of QST in print and digitally!

To learn more, visit the QST page at: <http://www.arrl.org/qst>

QRZ Jumpstart program

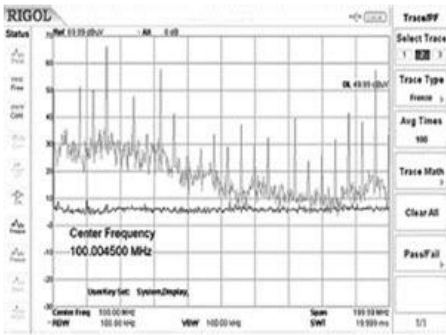
After giving away thousands of free handheld radios to new hams, the QRZ Jumpstart program is back with an exciting new deal! QRZ, RT Systems and GigaParts are teaming up to offer a more sustainable program that will run at least through the end of this year and will be expanded to include hams who have been licensed for 6 months or less. The new program offers a coupon code to the new ham that gives them a QRZ-1 radio, programming cable, RT Systems programming software, New Ham Welcome Kit, and a QRZ membership for only **\$21.99**. To sign up, new hams should complete the application process at www.qrz.com/jumpstart as the program ends March 31, 2024

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>



Need Help With RF Interference Issues ?

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

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

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

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

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

Vy 73,

Your WMA RFI Team

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

ICOM IC-LC192 For Sale From KC1IKA, Smitty

Includes:

**IC-LC192 Backpack
Comet RS-730 Antenna Mount
LP BNC-29-DGN BNC to BNC**

Current items cost new:

Backpack \$174.95

Mount \$32.99

BNC to BNC \$6.95

Total of \$214.89 plus shipping



Excellent condition

Your cost \$100.00

If interested, contact Smitty at

KC1IKA@arrl.net

Or see me at a meeting.



FOR SALE!

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

Icom IC-7300 For Sale by Larry, KD1RV

Icom IC-7300 HF Transceiver
160m - 6m
\$700

PRICE REDUCED

Includes:

Original box, manual, microphone, and accessories.

Used very little, like new condition, Looks & Works Great!

Contact Larry, KD1RV at: larrydziobek@gmail.com or (413) 592-5994

HF Rigs For Sale by Dave, WM1B, in East Longmeadow, MA.

- **Kenwood HF/MHZ TS-590 All Mode 100 w Transceiver - \$500**
- **ICOM IC-208 VHF/UHF FM Transceiver - \$150**
- **Realistic 10-meter SSB/CW Transceiver Model HTX-100 - \$75**

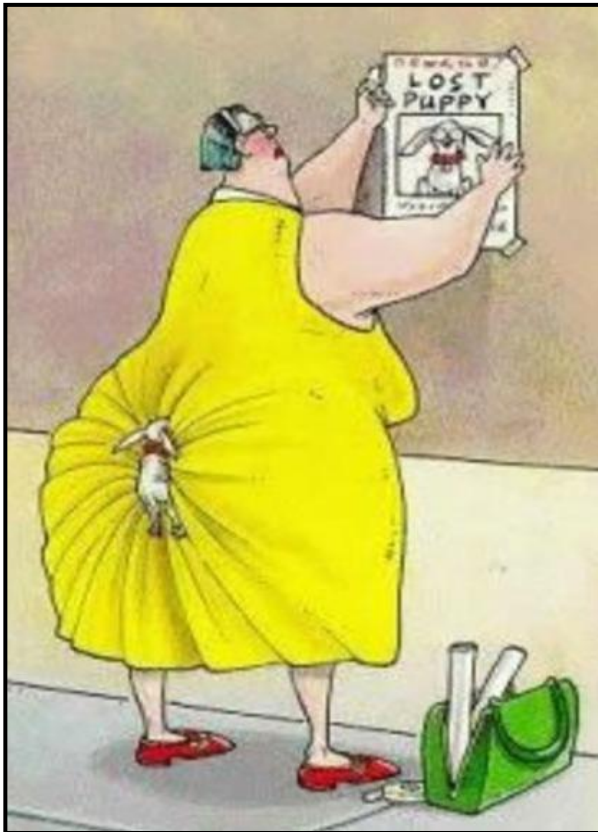
Interested? Questions? Contact: Dave Fant, WM1B at info below

Email - dfant19508@aol.com

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

Hamtoons

RF humor (Really Funny)



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 22nd 2024



<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"/> 2024	<input type="radio"/> 2023	<input type="radio"/> Last 12 months

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	3	35	0	110	21	122	19	128	29	135	0	195	602	61 yrs
2	KX1X	3	53	0	76	78	85	41	101	90	107	0	164	634	27 yrs
3	NF1G	9	6	0	16	13	60	18	84	54	93	0	158	353	40 yrs
4	W1PY+1	0	34	0	75	0	103	0	111	0	110	0	129	433	14 yrs
5	KK1W+1	5	48	0	63	6	60	13	50	10	67	0	119	322	48 yrs
6	K1NZ+2 ★	3	8	10	9	66	31	46	52	52	58	0	105	335	13 yrs
7	W1AST+1	0	3	0	22	0	44	23	26	7	23	0	84	148	15 yrs
8	NT1K+2	0	3	0	5	3	32	1	12	0	9	0	46	65	14 yrs
9	K1VOI	5	8	0	19	17	7	0	3	9	5	0	43	73	23 yrs
10	NE1C	4	3	0	10	0	11	0	12	0	14	0	19	54	22 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	W1JA+1 ★	0	5	0	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	17	55 yrs
12	WD1S	0	0	0	6	0	6	0	7	0	4	0	14	23	12 yrs
13	WY1G	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	4	8	0	13	20	43 yrs
14	KD1KU	0	0	0	4	0	5	1	2	0	2	0	12	14	6 yrs
15	N1JIE	1	1	0	3	1	4	1	2	1	2	1	8	17	7 yrs

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 through the HCRA!

The HCRA now earns a **\$20 commission** for each **NEW** ARRL member we recruit and **\$5** for each **renewing member**. Download the form, fill it out completely including payment, and mail it to **Hampden County Radio Association, P.O. Box 562, Agawam, MA. 01001**

Be sure to send it to the HCRA P.O. Box above and **NOT** directly to the ARRL

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Membership/Club%20Commission/ARRL%20Membership%20Application%20CLUB%20rev%20Jan%202024.pdf>



ARRL
The National Association for
Amateur Radio®

Membership Application

New Renew Previous Member Unlicensed

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (\$12 per member)

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Please note my new address I do not want my name and address made available for non-ARRL related mailings

Your Annual Membership Dues*

Circle Your Choice (rates effective Jan. 1, 2024)

	1 Year	3 Years
Standard membership	\$59	\$174
Family (same membership exp. date and address)	\$12	\$36
Student (must be under age 26)	\$30	\$36
Blind (requires one-time statement of legal blindness)	\$12	\$36

Add-on ARRL Subscriptions

QST, ARRL's membership journal for active radio amateurs.
 1 Year \$25* 3 Years \$75*

On the Air, For beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs.
 1 Year \$25* 3 Years \$75*

Member Benefits

Your membership supports benefits, services, and programs that keep you active and on the air.

Membership Includes:

- Access to four digital magazines and archives (*QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, & *NCJ*)
- Unlimited courses through the ARRL Learning Center (learn.arrl.org)
- Logbook of The World®, contests, and award programs

...and more!

*A print subscription for *QST* and/or *On the Air* requires an ARRL membership. Dues and subscription rates are subject to change without notice and are non-refundable

Payment Information

\$ _____ Total Charge to: Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover Check Enclosed

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Card Holder's Signature _____

Toll Free (US) 1-888-277-5289 or 860-594-0200 • ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1400
membership@arrl.org • www.arrl.org/join

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

Groups.io Update

The new HCRA Groups.io email list and calendar have been active. With over 87 members and counting, it's been an easy switch from the old email blast to this far superior, useful group where every member can make their own posts, such as items 4-sale or anything else of interest to the Ham community.

One item to note, all members are moderated until they make their first post. That's all there is to it!

Show & Tell is Almost Here!

One of the most popular club meetings is held every April at the regular club meeting! If you haven't gotten your project completed yet, time is running out quickly. With prizes up for grabs, every member wants a big piece of this. If you haven't even started yet, there is still time, but you better get building.

So many members get involved that it's no surprise how popular this has become. Whether or not you're building a kit or something from scratch, you need to get it finished in time for the April 5th meeting!

Contests and Special Event Stations

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

International DX Contest - SSB | 160m - 10m | March 2nd @ 0000z - 3rd @ 2359z

For all rules and complete information go to: <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/DX-Rules.pdf>

Idaho QSO Party | CW, SSB, Digital | 160m - 10m | March 9th @ 1900z - March 10th @ 1900z

For all rules and complete information visit: <https://www.idahoqsoparty.org/>

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

Celebrating 50 Years as a Club | March 23rd @ 1700z - 24th - 0100z | 14.263MHz

For complete information and all rules visit: <https://gbarc.ca/>

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 Jan 15th, 2024

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

or

Contact Paul, NFIG at paulkelliher@comcast.net

Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

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

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

10 Meter Net Guest Net Control Station

The 10 meter net 2024 Winter schedule is off and running with Gary, W1JZR as NCS. Every 4th Monday of each month we hope to have a guest Net Control Station. Have you ever thought of trying your hand at being a NCS? Now is your chance to make that dream come true! Run the net however you'd like and have fun!

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

Share the Knowledge Meetings Continue

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings have been a hit over the last few years. This winter we've already had several excellent meetings with more to come. You can watch all STK videos by clicking <https://hcra.org/videos/> where they are listed in alphabetical order. Don't miss any of the new STK.

The 2024 STK meetings begin in February at 7 pm! See the complete schedule on page 3

Membership Memorial Page

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

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

For Sale Items

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

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

HCRA Social Media Links

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

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

Local Nets & Happenings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, Following Info Net

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

Wednesdays: 9 am, FCARC Experimental Net, 28.354 MHz

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

Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



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

Club Meetings and VE Sessions

1st Friday of the month at 7:30 pm HCRA Meeting. In-Person meetings began in Sept. 2022. Meetings start with a meet & greet at 7 pm followed by the regular meeting at 7:30pm sharp. <http://www.hcra.org/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G
paukelliher@comcast.net

Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE
aa1ue@amsat.org

Membership - Steve Rodowicz, N1SR
n1sr413@gmail.com

Technical - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN
wa1ojn@jeffway.com

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

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

Website - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org

W1NY trustee, Paul, NF1G
paukelliher@comcast.net

WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org



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

Our 76th Year as an ARRL Affiliated Club

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