



ZERO BEAT

HCRA's 75th Anniversary - 1948 - 2023!

Meeting Update!

The Holyoke Hospital has opened its meeting room to us once again. Beginning in 2022, in-person meetings are back! Need directions? hcra.org/meeting-location

Welcome New Members

Stephen Kulewicz - N1PVX
Sean Callahan - KC1SPU
Les Prentice - K1DNX

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May 2023

From the editor,

Last month at the April meeting, I thought I was in the middle of a belated April Fools joke, and as you read this issue, you'll discover why!

Show and Tell was awesome; all participants received or will soon receive their gift cards for Home Depot. [Page 10](#) has photos of this fun event.

A big HCRA welcome goes out to our newest members, Steve, N1PVX, Sean, KC1SPU, and Les Prentice has returned to the HCRA after a long absence. When you see them at our next meeting, say hello and welcome them to our club!

Bill, W1FMX, has penned another wonderful article all about the "Magic of CW" and how Morse Code is far from a dying art! Check it out on [page 8](#).

It's hard to believe but it's time to begin Field Day planning. See [page 21](#) for the details including a link to an online sign-up sheet. Please fill it out with what you can help with. We need all positions filled if we're hosting Field Day this year!

Show Your Shack has a repeat shack this month. Smitty, KC1IKA, made so many changes to his shack that he asked to be featured in another Show Your Shack. It's been about a year since his last submission. See [page 13](#) for details.

Take a few photos of your shack and write down a some details about your radios, antennas, etc.? Contact me at kd1ku@arrl.net with any questions or to submit photos. It's up to you if you would like to see this series continue. It doesn't matter if you only have one radio in your shack or dozens, we all would love to see what you have in your shack!

73, Ken - KD1KU

Friday May 5th

Portable Operations Meeting!

May features all portable ops including POTA, SOTA and everything in between. Bring and demonstrate your portable rigs and antennas to the members. All attendees will receive a FREE raffle ticket for a chance to win 3Ah LiPo battery & charger, plus storage cases to be raffled! Must be in attendance to win! 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, NYOV 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 cool prizes! This is always one of the most popular & interesting meetings. The Raffle drawing for the Geochron will be held at this meeting.
 MAY 2023		Bring and demonstrate your POTA, SOTA, & QRP rigs to the May meeting. Win a 3Ah LiPo battery & charger, storage cases will be raffled too. Perfect for portable use! Attendees get a free entry, Must be in attendance to win!
 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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST



May 2023

There are many things going on with the club as we move towards Field Day and a summer break for the club.

We have a different kind of Show and Tell coming in May. With portable operations of all sorts being super popular, we invite you to bring your portable setup and share it with the members. Bring your rigs, power, antennas, logging, paddles, keys, whatever, and set it up and show it off.

We're going to have a little FREE raffle for anyone who wants to participate. You MUST be in attendance. We have a brand new Bioenno LiPo 3Ah battery and charger, which would be perfect for anyone to use with a portable rig. We also have a few bags/packs that would also be a perfect way to store and protect your portable rig and "stuff". All items have been donated to the club and will be raffled at the May meeting.

It doesn't matter that someone else has the same rig; they are not using it as you are. Many people want to get into portable operations. Let's show them how we do it!

The HCRA board is in need of one good person for the board. We are losing our long-term membership person. John, K1VOI, is stepping down after 8 years in his position. We can't thank him enough for his dedicated work for the club. We now need to find a new membership person.

Please think about joining the Board of Directors. Our board meetings are on Zoom, monthly meetings are in person and you would need to be there for both.

We cannot do this all by ourselves!!!

Volunteers make the club, and we need your help on the Board of Directors.

Please Volunteer Today!

Continued on page 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST

Ken, KD1KU, was the winner of the HCRA raffle in April. Ken won the Geochron Atlas 4K and a \$300 Best Buy gift card. Ken was shocked at first and thought we were playing a late April Fools' Day joke on him as he never wins anything. Now that his losing streak has been broken, he is a winner of something very cool. Hopefully, he'll post some photos of the Geochron in action as he experiments more and more with it. Congratulations Ken!

The club is going to do a Field Day picnic this year. All members, their spouses, and family are invited. But you MUST RSVP so we have enough food. Plus, we are asking that you bring something tasty for a potluck-style meal.

We are also looking for volunteers on all levels of Field Day. If you plan to attend Field Day in any capacity and/or plan to attend the HCRA Summer Picnic at Field Day, please click the following link and answer a few questions:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfq_KwZ5lFSfzJp33Fuvup2l0R9GkjsNzFtD7Ydmnc8lRmrPw/viewform

Everyone is talking about AI, or Artificial Intelligence. There are AI sites on the Web to experiment with. I decided to test two of them. Following this are 2 responses to the same comment.

The comment is:

"May is portable operations month. Write me a ham radio club president's message with portable operation as the theme."

I asked Google Bard and Chat GPT to provide me with some text. It's pretty amazing what they can write. What do you think of the results? (see below)

So, you have a few things to think about as the May meeting approaches. The main one is, How can you help your club?

Questions? Contact me at W1AST@arrl.net

73 and I hope to see you at the meeting.
Larry, W1AST

Google Bard's AI Results to my question:

Dear fellow hams,

Happy Portable Operations Month!

This month, we celebrate the joy of operating our radios from remote locations. Whether it's a park, a mountaintop, or even your backyard, there's nothing like the thrill of making contacts from a new location.

Portable operations can be a great way to learn more about your radio, your operating skills, and the world around you. It's also a great way to meet new people and make new friends.

If you've never tried portable operations before, I encourage you to give it a try this month. All you need is a radio, a power source, and a willingness to get outside and explore.

Continued on page 5

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK CONT'D

Here are a few tips for getting started with portable operations:

- Choose a location that has a clear view of the sky. This will help you make more contacts.
- Be aware of the local regulations. Some parks and other areas have restrictions on radio use.
- Pack light. You don't want to be weighed down by a lot of gear when you're out in the field.
- Have fun! Portable operations is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and connect with other hams.

I hope to see you on the air this month!

Sincerely,

Your club president

Chat GPT's Response: *Greetings fellow ham radio enthusiasts,*

As we embrace the arrival of May, I am thrilled to declare it "Portable Operations Month" for our esteemed ham radio club! With the warmer weather upon us, it's the perfect time to take our radios out into the great outdoors and embark on exciting portable operations adventures.

Portable operations are a hallmark of ham radio culture, offering unique opportunities to explore new locations, test our skills, and connect with fellow hams in different parts of the world. Whether you're a seasoned operator or new to portable operations, this month is dedicated to encouraging and promoting this thrilling aspect of amateur radio.

As the President of our club, I encourage each and every one of you to get involved in portable operations this May. Pack up your gear, venture into the wilderness, set up your antenna on a mountain peak, or simply head to a local park. There are endless possibilities for portable operations, and the thrill of making contacts in new locations is unparalleled.

Portable operations also provide an excellent opportunity to showcase the versatility and adaptability of amateur radio. As we set up temporary stations and operate in non-traditional settings, we demonstrate the capabilities of our equipment and the resilience of our community. It's a chance to show others what makes ham radio truly special. In addition to the fun and excitement, portable operations also serve as a valuable training opportunity. They allow us to hone our emergency communication skills, practice efficient equipment deployment, and refine our operating techniques in varying conditions. It's an invaluable experience that can contribute to our growth as ham radio operators.

Let's make this Portable Operations Month a memorable one for our club. Share your stories, pictures, and experiences on our club's online platforms, and let's inspire each other to push the boundaries of what's possible with portable operations. I encourage you to organize club outings, plan joint activities, and collaborate on portable operations projects. Let's work together to make May an unforgettable month for our club and for the world of amateur radio.

I look forward to seeing all the creative and exciting ways our club members will engage in portable operations this month. Let's embrace the spirit of adventure, camaraderie, and learning that comes with portable operations and make the most of this special month.

73, [Your Name] [Club Name] President

ARES NET UPDATE

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

EmComm Self-Activation

One of the first things we are taught when we join a group, such as ARES, RACES, or CERT, is to never self-activate. The only exception to this is Skywarn. We had a weather event on April 1st that caused us to do just that.

There was a line of severe thunderstorms heading this way from Pennsylvania and New York. Albany, NY's National Weather Service (NWS) issued a warning for the Berkshires, but there was nothing from the Boston NWS except an advisory.

The senior members of Skywarn were in discussions all day looking at worst-case scenarios for our area, which ranged from just a thunderstorm to possible large hail and tornadoes.

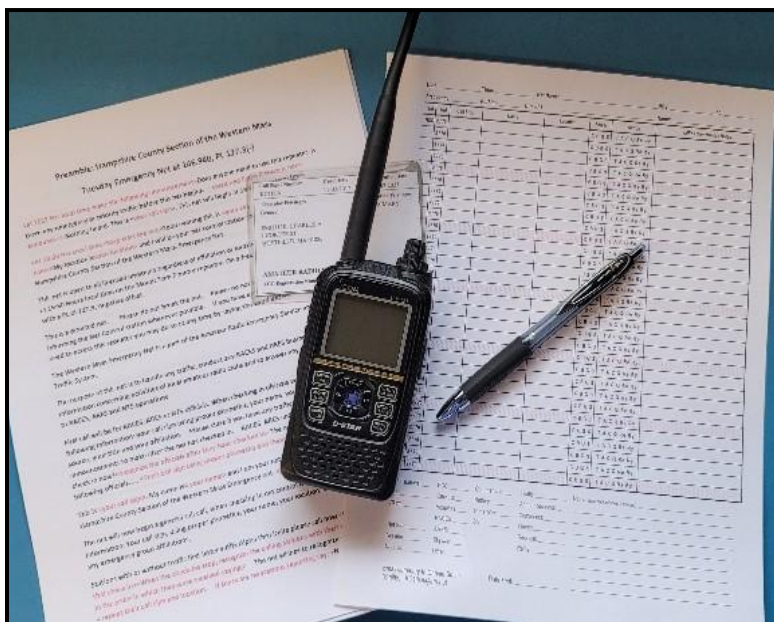
The biggest factor was when the cold front would come through our area, before or after the sun started to go down and the heating that would fuel the worst weather would fade. When the storms came through, we had widespread and almost continuous lightning, with hail up to about a half inch. This was not enough for a severe weather warning, but it was enough for Skywarn in this area to activate and start collecting data from the field. The field being ham radio operators all around this area.

We did get enough information to determine the storms were relatively intense, and we did have hail, but it didn't progress to severe criteria. In the past, the NWS has been caught by surprise intensifications of storms, and the only additional data they had was from our Skywarn Spotters. The NWS has issued severe warnings due to information that only we can provide by observing and reporting local conditions.

The trick is knowing when to self-activate and when to just monitor the repeaters. When there is the possibility of severe weather in this area, I am in constant contact with the leaders of Skywarn, Rob Macedo, KD1CY, being at the top of the list. Being a Skywarn Net Coordinator, I follow an invitation-only Skywarn chat group that discusses the possibilities and probabilities of what is in store for us.

They interface with the NWS and other agencies that Skywarn serves to get additional information and early discussions of impending watches or warnings. Sometimes they determine we should self-activate to provide that extra level of information to the NWS.

If it is a longer event or at a time when I am working, I contact Bob, K1YO, and Rich, KC1AEO, for availability and set up a schedule for the three of us. Bob and Charlie, K1II, were also standing by that night in case the storms got too severe and I needed extra assistance on the radios.



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ARES NET UPDATE CONT'D

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

The one thing that is most important is to stay safe. If there is lightning close by and you have an outside antenna, shut down your station and disconnect your antenna feed. I am fortunate to have antennas in my attic due to rental restrictions and can stay on the air through just about anything. Also, you and your family come first, no matter which group you are a member of.

There have already been a high number of tornadoes this season. We occasionally have them here. If there is severe weather with high wind damage or tornadic activity, your number one job is to make sure you and your family are safe. After that, the safe collection and forwarding of information are a big help. If the repeaters are down, you can always use the email information on the back of your Skywarn member card to post information.

Lastly, thank you to all the amateur radio operators who have signed up for EmComm membership. It doesn't matter if you are CERT, MRC, Skywarn, ARES, RACES, NTS, or whatever; thank you.

73,

Smitty, KC1IKA

ASEC, Net Manager, WMA ARES, Skywarn Net Coordinator

SKYWARN Weather Spotter Classes 2023

Spot	Date	Time	Location
1	Tuesday April 18 th	6:30 PM	Sandwich, MA – Sandwich Police Department
2	Wednesday April 19 th	6:30 PM	Spencer, MA – Town Hall
3	Thursday April 20 th	6:00 PM	Lowell, MA – UMASS Lowell
4	Wednesday May 3 rd	6:30 PM	Framingham, MA – The Learning Center for the Deaf
5	Thursday May 4 th	5:00 PM	Providence, RI – Providence Emergency Management Agency
6	Saturday May 6 th	9:30 AM	Whitman, MA – Whitman Police Department
7	Tuesday May 9 th	6:00 PM	Springfield, MA – Springfield Public Safety Complex
8	Tuesday May 16 th	5:00 PM	Oak Bluffs, MA – Oak Bluffs Public Library
9	Tuesday May 30 th	6:00 PM	West Hartford, CT – Elmwood Community Center
	TBD		New Bedford, MA – TBD
	TBD		Gardner, MA – TBD
	TBD		Walpole, MA – TBD
	Saturday May 13, 2023	9:30 AM	Virtual – Your Computer

Legend
● SKYWARN Class
● Deaf & Hard of Hearing SKYWARN Class
● Virtual SKYWARN Class

Register at weather.gov/box/skywarn

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
BOSTON/NORTON, MA

THE MAGIC OF CW

CW Operation is Far From a Dying Art!

CW operation, which not long ago seemed to be a dying art, has been resurging, and learning the Morse Code is getting a fair amount of attention. Articles on learning Morse code appeared recently in **QST** and **CQ Magazine**, and a new book, **The CW Way of Life**, about it has also been released. More on these later.

Learning the code can be difficult for most people who wish to master it. It took me about 3 years before I learned enough to pass the basic 5-minute code test that used to be required for a Novice license. In retrospect, I see now that part of the challenge for me was to keep up my motivation, but I have rarely seen much said about why learning the code is still valuable. So, I believe it is important to help those learning code to understand the "magic" of using CW so they'll be motivated to persist.

What do I mean by the "magic" of using CW? Of course, I realize that anyone who has operated a CW station will readily have examples. In my own case, two events stand out in my memory. Not long ago, I was operating QRP on 20m at 5 watts and answered the call of a European station; we had a short but enjoyable QSO. What was remarkable about this QSO (and others like it that I have had) was that I was sitting in my shack, which is in the basement of our house, using a portable Mag Loop antenna that was on a tripod next to my chair.

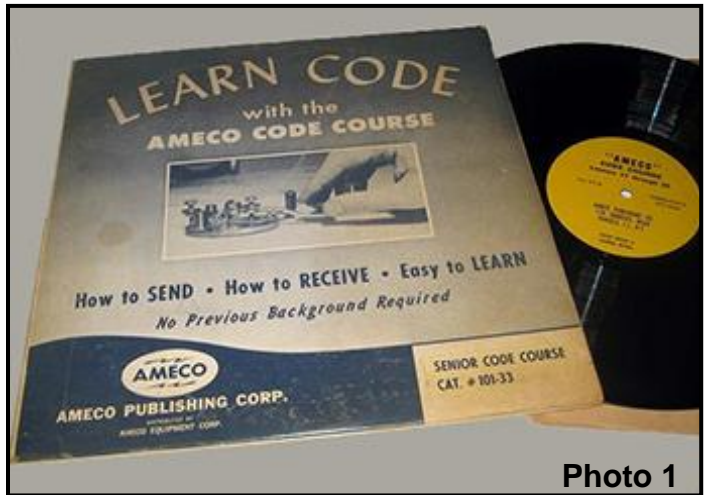


Photo 1

A couple of years ago, I attended the replication of the first Amateur Radio transatlantic transmission conducted by the Antique Wireless Association and the Vintage Radio and Communication Museum of Connecticut. That night of the event, a transmitter made of 100-year-old parts was used to send a message in CW on 160M to England. The commemoration showed just what operating a ham station was like 100 years ago and how important CW was at that time. Later that evening, I decided to fire up my own modern rig (i.e., an ICOM 7300) and see what was happening on 160m, as I had never used that band before—I used an end-fed long wire that was really meant to be used on 80-10M. Well, I did get a QSO with W1AW, which was also on the air commemorating the event. The ARRL is a distance of 25 miles, so I was happy to have tried a new band and was about to shut down when I called CQ just to see if anyone else would answer. Well, just above the noise, I heard a reply from a station on the east coast of Africa. Here, I had been thrilled that I was able to get a signal out to W1AW, which was only 25 miles away, only to speak unexpectedly later with a station thousands of miles away.

Another reason I have found for using CW is that I have met some fascinating, friendly, and helpful people during CW QSO's. Though it is hard to imagine, there are times when a conversation conducted in Morse Code might go on for 45 minutes to an hour or longer. Another interesting thing is to hear the variety of "fists—or styles of sending. Finally, there are QRP CW transceivers that are no larger than a pack of cigarettes, yet can put out an effective signal—this is a benefit if you want to take along a radio on a hike, for example.

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THE MAGIC OF CW CONT'D

CW Operation is Far From a Dying Art!

The article on learning Morse Code that appeared in the April issue of QST, "Morse Code Rhythm Patterns from A to Z," by William Cody (K3CDY), discusses a "musical" approach to learning the code, a method that could facilitate learning for musicians. In the March issue of CQ, Tom Weaver (W0FN) wrote an article entitled "Learning Morse Code Instant Character Recognition (ICR)," which describes techniques for learning to copy "whole words" rather than just individual letters. The author also suggests some excellent online resources for learning code.

The CW Way of Life is a newly published book by Chris Rutkowski (NW6V). The author immediately grabs the reader's attention with an interesting story about how CW saved the lives of some downed airmen. Rutkowski provides interesting information about the history and many other aspects of telegraphy and operating CW; for example, he explains the development of telegraph keys and mentions interesting facts such as why older straight keys first had round flat guards under the "button" (it was for safety using high voltages). Drawing on his professional experience in information technology (IT), the author explores strategies for learning code.

He utilizes an understanding of harmonics to show the reader how to master sending by practicing proper technique, which will also avoid problems like "the glass arm" caused by some methods. He gives advice on what he has found to be the best type of keys to use and, for someone just getting started, how to use "Q codes" and conduct a QSO using CW. This book would be of interest to both the new Morse Code student and the experienced CW operator.

So, if you have not operated CW in a while or have never tried it, why not join the many who are keeping this central tradition and magical part of our hobby alive?

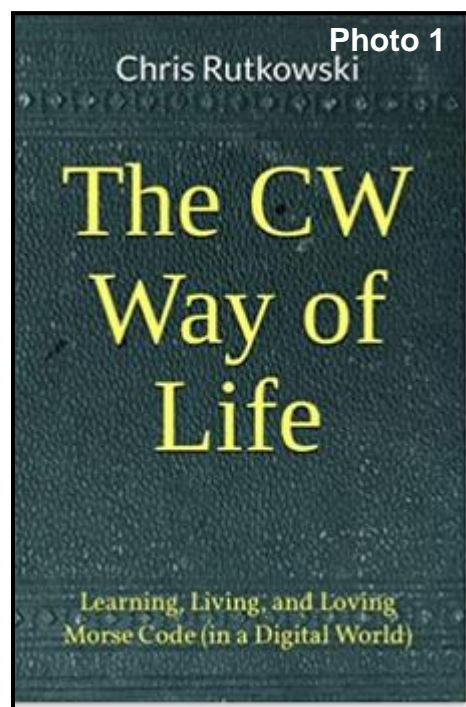


Photo 1

Photo 1: Advertisement for a Morse Code Tutor that came in the form of an LP album

Photo 2: Cover of the book, "The CW Way of Life"

73,
Bill, W1FMX

SHOW AND TELL

The First In-Person Show and Tell was a Hit!

The April 7th regular meeting featured the first in-person Show and Tell since the Covid pandemic was a huge hit with everyone in attendance. Enjoy the photos of all participants and their projects. All participants received a \$25 gift card to Home Depot. I'm sure they will all put them to good use!



Smitty, KC1IKA was the first up sharing his universal charging port to a LiFePO4 Battery



Roger, AA1LY was the next presenter showing his Audio Sequencer

Continued on page 11

SHOW AND TELL CONT'D

The First In-Person Show and Tell was a Hit!



Jeff, NT1K was third up as he described his remote switch box. Jeff even built the enclosure!



Jim, KK1W & his Spark Gap Fly Swatter. He said it hurts if touched then added don't ask how he knew!



Peter, W1BR was up last with his Home Brew 80/160m QRP Rig he built some 50 years ago!

Christmas Gifts

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

BUY NOW—
PAY NEXT YEAR!

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MODEL
185XX

By every former standard, a radio of this quality in features, performance and cabinet was in the \$110 class. Eight tubes. Built-in Super Aerial System. Push-button tuning. Foreign and American reception. Police calls. Ship and amateur.

PHILCO 185XX.

\$89.50

\$1.00 Deposit

Will Hold Any Set
Until Christmas!



Model
180X

Finest console ever offered at this price . . . built-in super aerial system with twin loop aerials gives finer American and foreign reception. The last word in modern Philco radio construction. Wired for television reception sound.

Built to Receive
Television Sound!

NEW 1940 STREAMLINE

PHILCO

R-A-D-I-O!



MORE BEAUTY, CONVENIENCE AND PERFORMANCE . . .
Than Ever Before in PHILCO'S 10 Years of LEADERSHIP!

BUILT TO RECEIVE TELEVISION SOUND!

A Small Down Payment Delivers Your Radio — Balance on Monthly Payments!

EQUIPPED WITH BUILT-IN SUPER AERIAL SYSTEM

PHILCO TRANSITONE



\$11⁹⁵

TABLE MODEL
\$1.00 Down
BALANCE

45c
EACH
WEEK

Buy
Now—
Pay
Next
Year!



PHILCO MODEL 120C
Carry from room to room, plug in and play. Built in super-aerial system.

EASY TERMS **\$24.50**



PHILCO MODEL 130T

Here's "quality" plus . . . 6 super efficient Philco tubes and built-in aerial system. Just plug in and there's your station.

EASY TERMS **\$32.50**



PHILCO MODEL 130T
It costs so little more to have the added joys of "big" radio performance! American and Foreign reception. Seven tubes. Push-button tuning. Variable tone control. Walnut cabinet with inclined control panel.

EASY TERMS **\$49.95**



PHILCO MODEL 63
"LITTLE PAL"

A really portable radio! Nearly half the size with full performance and the longest battery life of any compact portable. Plays anywhere without plug-in. No aerial or ground. PHILCO PT 42.

EASY TERMS **\$19.95**

EXTRA EASY TERMS ON ALL RADIOS
IN THIS SALE!

Regular Value . . \$59.95
\$10 Allowance . \$10.00

YOU PAY ONLY \$49.95



MODEL 185-F

49⁹⁵

TERMS
95c Week

YOU DON'T HAVE TO "INSTALL" THE 1940 PHILCO

Just plug in anywhere and play! No installation — no wires of any kind on your roof or around your room! Just place it wherever it looks best and is most convenient in your room . . . and plug it in like an electric lamp! That's all there is to it! No aerial! No ground!

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205 TURNER'S WEST 4th ST

DRIVE IN
1219 SOUTH
MAIN STREET
Phone 3709

SHOW YOUR SHACK!

This Month's Featured Shack is that of Smitty, KC1IKA

A year ago, I did a "Show Your Shack" article at the request of Ken, KD1KU. It's amazing how much my shack has changed since then. As I have grown in ARES and EmComm, my shack has also grown and evolved. At my home shack, I have added an administration area and cleaned up my radio operation area as well as my building area. I still have some work to do, but it has improved over the last year. At my camping area, I have added a shack desk and drilled a hole in the back of the brand-new trailer so I don't have to run the coax in through the door. This is much more usable and keeps open access to the door while I am operating. The portable shack in my car is about the same as it was.

As the ASEC, Net Manager (Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator) for Western Mass, and a net control station for Skywarn, I need to stay on the air in an emergency. As such, I have built quite a few Go boxes, which most of the time operate under simulated grid-down conditions. So, I have my main shack at my home location, my portable setup at a campground in Southwick, and I also operate portable out of my car at work during lunch. All three locations are my collective "shack" and run on a combination of solar and battery. If I need a fast charge for my larger batteries, I can charge via commercial power if it is available.

First up is my home shack. This is where I am mostly on VHF and UHF. My primary radio in my home shack is an Icom ID-5100 in a go box. When I operate from home, I use the battery bank in the shack. I also have an Icom IC-7300 and an Icom IC-9700. I like the ID-5100 because of its lower power draw, ½ Amp while listening. During the March snowstorm it was powered up from 0530 to 2230 and participated in 18 nets using 20 Amps from my main 50-amp hour battery. I have about 200-amp hours total battery power available in my shack. These are charged from a 40w solar panel outside the window. I can deploy an additional 310 watts of solar panels if needed.

Along with the radios, I have a weather station, D-Star hot spot, micro-laptop computer, and monitors, plus a DTV receiver. The computer equipment is run from a DC power supply through an automatic switch to a battery bank if the power goes out. The batteries are charged via the DC power supply as well as solar power. The monitors run off 12-volt DC through a Buck module that converts the 12v to the 19v required. I don't even notice when the power goes out, even if I am using everything at the time. The DTV receiver is for situational awareness if the power does go out and the local TV stations are still broadcasting.



New vs. Old



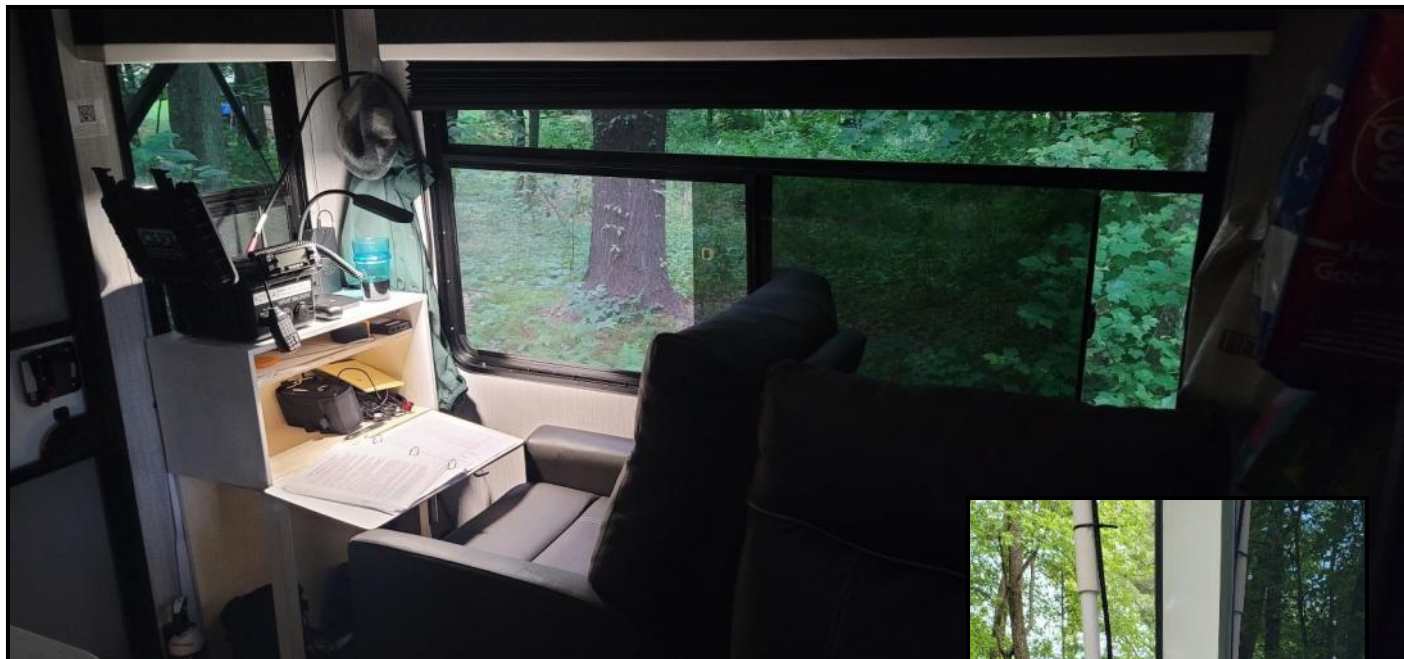
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SHOW YOUR SHACK! CONT'D

This Month's Featured Shack is that of Smitty, KC1IKA

The next shack is my camping trailer. I do most of the Sunday morning ARES nets from there from May through October. I use the Icom IC-2730 on internal battery power and have a vertical antenna on the bumper of my trailer. It has no problem reaching Mt Tom from Southwick on 15w on VHF and 5w on UHF.

As I mentioned, I added a through-fitting for the antenna and a desk for the radio. A huge improvement from what I had. This year I hope to add HF using my IC-705 or Lab599. The weatherproof box I have my antenna connected to has a duplexer, so I can run HF and VHF/UHF through one hole in the wall.

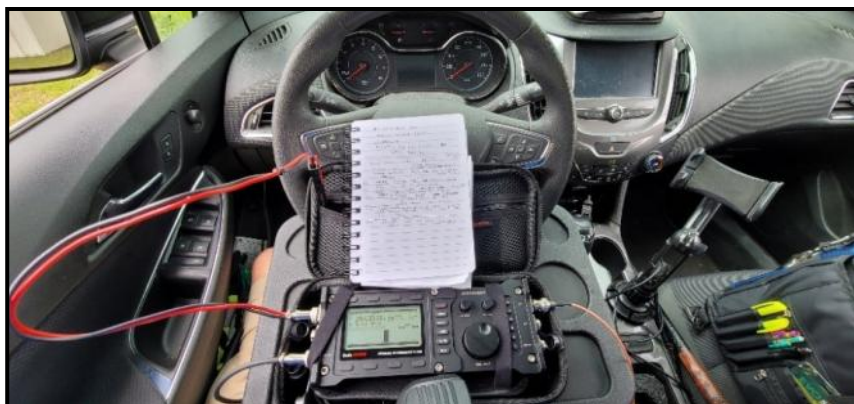


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SHOW YOUR SHACK! CONT'D

This Month's Featured Shack is that of Smitty, KC1IKA

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



screw that antenna to the trunk mount. To change bands or modes, it only takes me a couple of minutes to swap antennas. With the conditions the way they are, I was able to talk to a station 2,000 miles away in Dominica on 10 meters with 10w and received a 5/9 signal report. I regularly talk to Florida and Michigan with 10 watts to check into various nets at lunch. For Winlink, I use 40 and 20 meters and usually go through stations about 350 to 400 miles from me. All on just 10 watts!



Continued on page 16

SHOW YOUR SHACK! CONT'D

This Month's Featured Shack is that of Smitty, KC1IKA

I also have an Icom ID-4100 mounted in the car for everyday use. When it's not being used, I have the head unit and mic stowed in the console between the front seats. The main unit is mounted under the rear deck, in the trunk. There is a speaker mounted on the floor in the rear seating area. When I don't have the head unit in the phone holder on the stalk, you cannot tell I have any radio equipment in the car. It takes me less than a minute to put the head unit in the phone holder and connect the cable to the main unit and the mic. I can even do it by feel when driving.

So those three locations are my "shack". Each has its own purpose, which is some version of EmComm. The home shack is usable in any weather, with or without commercial power. The other two are self-contained, with one fixed as an alternate shack and the other mobile as an alternate shack. I also always have an ID-52 on my hip as a daily carry.

73,

Smitty, KC1IKA

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

Want to see your shack in Zero Beat? Simply take a few photo's of your shack, antennas and whatever else you'd like to show your HCRA friends. It doesn't matter whether you have one radio or a dozen please share them with everyone else. To submit your shack email: kd1ku@arrrl.net

Announcing the Winner of the Big Raffle

After a delay in the big raffle drawing at the MTARA Hamfest, the drawing was held at the April Show & Tell meeting, and a guest at the meeting pulled the winning ticket from the very well-shaken bag. I was ready to get a photo of the winner when I heard Larry say the winner's name, I nearly dropped my camera!

The Winner of the Geochron was Ken, KD1KU



I've been busy experimenting with the Geochron's many settings to get it just right, but to say the least, it's the very coolest thing I've ever won... not that I've won many things in my life.

I'm sure glad I supported the HCRA!



CLUB RECOGNITION

Hampden County Amateur Radio Association ~ 75 Years!

This excerpt was taken from the ARRL Executive Committee March Meeting

On the motion of Director Kemmerer, seconded by Director Williams it was VOTED UNANIMOUSLY (with applause) that:

WHEREAS, the ;

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

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

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

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

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

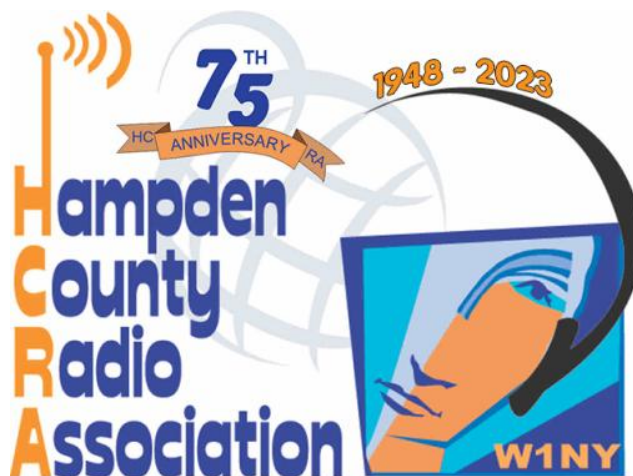
WHEREAS, the HCRA offered the first VE exams in the area in October, 1984;

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

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

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

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



THE 2023 NEW ENGLAND QSO PARTY

20 hours, 67 counties, the chase is on!

New England QSO Party

May 6-7, 2023

2000Z Saturday until 0500Z Sunday

(4pm EDT Saturday until 1am EDT Sunday)

1300Z Sunday until 2400Z Sunday

(9am EDT Sunday until 8pm EDT Sunday)

For complete NEQP details visit: <https://neqp.org/>



Rules

Object: To contact as many New England stations (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont) in as many New England counties as possible on 80-40-20-15-10m. (New England stations work anyone)

Date: First full weekend of May (May 7-8, 2022, May 6-7, 2023)

Contest Period: 2000Z Saturday until 0500Z Sunday (4pm EDT Saturday until 1am EDT Sunday) and 1300Z Sunday until 2400Z Sunday (9am EDT Sunday until 8pm EDT Sunday)

Categories: Single-operator high power, low power(150w or less) and QRP(5w or less) categories, plus multi-operator, single transmitter. Same four categories for mobiles in New England. Use of spotting assistance is permitted in all categories. But self-spotting is not permitted

Contest Exchange: Send signal report and state/province (DX stations send signal report and "DX"). New England stations send signal report, county and state

Valid Contact: Work New England stations once per band/mode. New England stations work anyone (and must copy the county for New England stations worked). CW contacts must not be made in the phone band segments. Mobiles that change counties are considered to be new stations, and can be worked for both multiplier and QSO Point credit. County line QSOs should be logged as two separate QSOs. Crossmode, crossband, and repeater QSOs are not permitted

Continued on page 19

THE 2023 NEW ENGLAND QSO PARTY CONT'D

20 hours, 67 counties, the chase is on!

QSO Points: Count one point per phone QSO, two points per CW (includes digital modes) QSO

Multiplier: Stations outside of New England use counties as multipliers for a total of 67 (CT/8 MA/14 ME/16 NH/10 RI/5 VT/14). New England stations use states(50)(Count DC as MD), Canadian provinces (14) and DXCC countries as multipliers

Scoring: Total score is QSO points times the multiplier. Mobiles count QSO points per county and multipliers from all counties (counted once)

Suggested frequencies: CW – 3.540 7.035 14.040 21.040 28.040, SSB – 3.850 7.180 7.280 14.280 21.380 28.380

Reporting: Logs should indicate times in UTC, bands, modes, calls and required contest exchange. All stations include your club's name in the log header or summary. Entries must be submitted within 30 days. We prefer that logs be uploaded via <https://neqp.contesting.com> or email to logs@neqp.org (Cabrillo format preferred), and we do accept logs on paper sent to NEQP, P.O. Box J, West Suffield CT 06093

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to the top scorers (25 QSO minimum) in each New England county, U.S. state, Canadian province and DXCC country. A number of special plaques will also be awarded to top scorers (check the Web site for a current list)

More information: The New England QSO Party Web site is at <https://www.neqp.org>. Check there for information on planned fixed-station and mobile activity from New England counties, contest software information, county abbreviations, plaques to be awarded and information on New England state county awards. NEQP results will be posted on the web site when they are complete. Questions can be addressed to info@neqp.org



Resources

[Planned Mobile and Home Station Activity for 2023](#) – a list of planned activity for all New England counties

[New England QSO Party County Abbreviations](#) – list of the preferred county abbreviations

[Map of New England Counties](#) – a map for locating those hard to find New England counties

[Software for NE QSO Party](#) – logging software applications that support the New England QSO Party

[Other New England Awards](#) – awards you can achieve for working New England counties

[Generating Cabrillo Format Log Files](#) – info on the Cabrillo format for electronic log submission to NEQP

[The Birth of the New England QSO Party](#) – Bob Hess, W1RH, tells the origin story

NUTS AND VOLTS

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

Wanted! Helpers for Website & YouTube

Like all other support functions of the club, the website is kept up-to-date by volunteer work. Your membership dues are used in part to pay for keeping the hcra.com domain registered and to pay the company that hosts the site. The hosting company does not update any content on the site.

Since about 2018, Vanessa, W1IRL, has been volunteering to update the site. W1IRL also established the club's YouTube channel and edits and uploads all videos to the site.

We are looking for 1 or 2 additional volunteers to ensure more than one person can update the site. That is part of any basic continuity of operations plan. W1IRL will teach the volunteers how to update the site and the YouTube channel. The immediate need is for at least a second person to learn how to keep the website up-to-date. Interested members should contact Vanessa at: webmaster@hcra.org

Notice: Webmaster will be away in May

Attention HCRA members. Our webmaster, Vanessa, W1IRL, will be away for the month of May for a very well-deserved vacation. If you submit any posts, comments, or videos, they will not be uploaded to hcra.org until her return. This is another reason Vanessa needs someone to help her with website updates and YouTube video editing and publishing! Enjoy your vacation, Vanessa!

Membership Drive Save \$15

In honor of our 75th Anniversary we are offering several perks to give HCRA members a little something special. In September and October you can renew your membership for 5 years for the price of 4!

That's right... SAVE \$15 and pay only \$60 for 5 years of HCRA membership.

Watch for future announcements and remember this offer is **ONLY** valid during September & October!

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

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!

Ham Bootcamp May 13th

The Nashua Area Radio Society will be holding an online Ham Bootcamp on Saturday, May 13th, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Eastern Time. Ham Bootcamp is a program to help new, inactive, and prospective hams gain the skills and information that they need to Get on The Air. It is open to any interested Ham or Prospective Ham in the US and Canada, and there is NO charge to attendees.

Registration is now open for the May 13th session. You can get more information about Ham Bootcamp, including a link to register at <https://www.n1fd.org/ham-bootcamp>

If you have any questions, you can contact us at bootcamp@n1fd.org. Registration is required to receive the link to the web conference.

HCRA Field Day Sign-ups

It's that time again, time to start preparations for the 2023 Field Day. Volunteers are needed for ALL positions including someone to lead the entire event!

If you plan to attend Field Day in any capacity and/or plan to attend the HCRA Summer Picnic at Field Day, please click the following link and answer a few easy questions:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfq_KwZ5IFSfzJp33Fuvup2l0R9GkjsNzFtD7Ydmnc8lRmrPw/viewform

Worked All HCRA Award

Larry, W1AST has been working on this for some time now but he believed 2023 was a better fit. Why? 2023 is the year the club becomes 75 years old! HCRA has been associated with the ARRL for 75 years. The goal is to work 10 different HCRA members on HF in any mode and on any band. Submit your log to w1ast@arrl.net and earn a commemorative certificate celebrating our 75th anniversary!

This only runs through 2023, and is a little something special for our 75th year! January 1st through December 31st 2023, this is one of many special HCRA activities!

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 in 2023, we have scheduled 6 pm, and two 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 or text 413-575-2950 if you are able to assist. 73, David Cote -W1FAB-



WHY SETTLE FOR HALF?

**GET THE ENTIRE BAND—BOTH CW AND
PHONE WITH ONE TUNING ADJUSTMENT!**

10-15-20-40 METERS

Only from HUSTLER will you receive the mechanical and electrical performance you want in a 4 Band Trap Vertical. Make the comparison and see for yourself.

Look what you get with Hustler!

- Individually and precisely tuned traps!
 - Lowest SWR and Widest Band width!
 - Outstanding mechanical construction!
 - Heavy gauge heat treated aluminum!
 - Stainless and cadmium plated steel parts!
 - Base impedance nominal 52 ohms!
 - WHOLE BAND OPERATION WITHOUT READJUSTMENT!
- FOR 75-80 METER OPERATION ADD HUSTLER MOBILE RM 75 OR RM 75S RESONATOR ON TOP OF 4BTV. BAND WIDTH 60 TO 100 KC... UNDER 2 TO 1 SWR

MODEL 4BTV

FIXED STATION TRAP VERTICAL ANTENNAS

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write for
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Brook Park, Ohio 44142
Phone (216) 267-3150

W1AW/1 MASSACHUSETTS VOTA UPDATE

Massachusetts Volunteers On The Air a Great Success! by Phil Temples



- AB1UT
- AF1R
- AG1C
- K1NZ
- K1UR
- KJØD (*operating remotely thru K1TTT*)
- KX1X
- WA3SWJ
- N1FTP
- N1MGO
- N1SOH
- W1AST
- W1FJ
- W1FM
- WA1OEZ

There were plenty of pileups in all the modes including FTx, CW and SSB right up to the last minute of operation.

W1AW/1 Massachusetts VOTA will activate again the first week of November. If your transmitter [arrls](http://www.arrl.org) in MA and you would like to join the team, contact Larry, W1AST at w1ast@.net

THE FOX'S DEN

What is a Fox Hunt?

Every weekend, in cities and towns all across the country, ham radio operators gather on hilltops for a very special kind of contest—the Fox Hunt. A small, low-power transmitter is hidden, and the rest of the crew tries to find it. Sound simple? It can be very challenging and a whole lot of fun. The direction-finding skills learned in this activity can be very valuable in locating a repeater jammer or a lost hiker.

"Fox hunting" has spread through many ham radio clubs around the world as a very exciting and fun aspect of the hobby. Fox hunting can take many forms of transmitter hunting, from a person hiding within a few blocks of the starting point with his handheld and periodically making a transmission while others try to find him on foot using directional antennas; to a competition with multiple unmanned automatic transmitters scattered over a course that can be several hundred kilometers long—the entrants being required to find each transmitter in proper order with a minimum number of kilometers driven. Another variation includes jogging or running from one low-power fox transmitter to another while carrying RDF equipment.



What makes fox hunting so popular?

- The social aspect of getting together with others with similar interests
- Anyone can take part – you don't need a ham license since only a receiver is required
- The satisfaction of building your own equipment such as an antenna for use in RDF'ing
- The fun and competitiveness of the hunt, which also can involve both physical and mental exercise (walking while searching, and the calculations and map plotting required to determine where the fox may be located)
- The outdoor aspect of the sport (sunshine and fresh air)

The “fox” has several basic requirements:

- Be able to move to a location unobserved by those who plan on taking part in the hunt
- Be able to hide well enough at the location he has chosen so he will not be accidentally spotted. The hunters should have to almost stumble over him in order to find him
- Be equipped with enough handheld battery capacity, water, lunch etc. for the expected duration of the hunt – it could be one or two hours or more in length, depending on the distance the fox is from the starting point and how well he is able to confuse the hunters as to his probable location

Special Thanks to Author, Paul Nienaber

THE FOX'S DEN CONT'D

Basic Fox Hunting Equipment

To become a fox hunter, you only require a directional antenna, a handheld receiver or transceiver, and a method of attenuating the fox's radio signal when you are very close to the transmitter's location to allow that critical last few feet of direction-finding ability.

The following links provide information about building or buying these fox hunting components:

<http://www.homingin.com/>

<http://www.byonics.com/piccon/index.html>

<http://www.arrowantennas.com/main/4ofha.html>

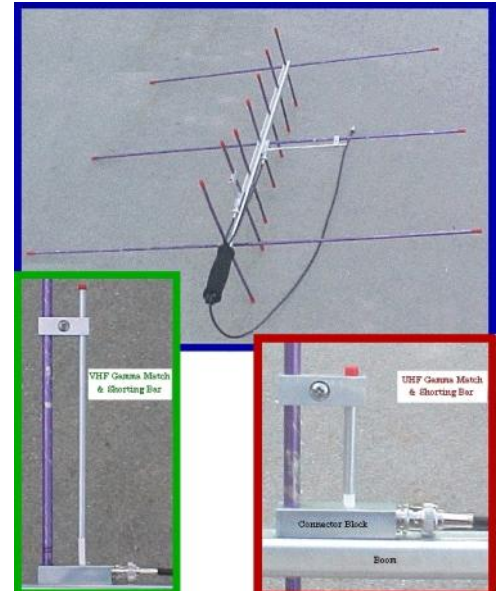
<http://www.homingin.com/boxes.html>

<https://kc9on.com/ham-radio/fox-hunting/>

<https://www.jpole-antenna.com/2017/02/07/build-it-2-meter-tape-measure-yagi-beam-antenna/>

<https://kc9on.com/product/fox-hunt-offset-attenuator/>

Special Thanks to Author, Paul Nienaber



HCRA Fox Hunting this Spring

The 2023 fox hunting season is just about to get underway. Larry, W1AST, has been working on both club fox boxes, getting them ready for the upcoming fox hunt season, which will begin any time now.

If you have hunted in the past you can get all upcoming fox hunting information in MA and CT by going to <https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters/> and <https://groups.io/g/ctfoxhunter/> for all the details.

If you have never done any fox hunting but would like to learn what it's all about, simply sign-up (free) and join everybody on https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters for upcoming hunt info, or you can contact Larry, W1AST, at the following email address: w1ast@arrl.net

ITEM'S FOR SALE & WANTED

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

FOR SALE!

Kenwood TM-281A 2 Meter FM 65 Watt Mobile



Stock Photo

I have a Kenwood 2m FM mobile for sale. A TM-281A, 65 watts, the front firing speaker makes it a good desk rig too.

Original Box, power cable with power poles, manual, nifty accessories mini manual, mounting bracket, excellent condition. Barely used as a desktop shack 2m rig. Very easy to use.

Price: \$90

If interested, or have questions, contact Larry at w1ast@arrl.net

1948 ~ 2023 75 Years as an ARRL Affiliated Club

Share The Knowledge Video Library

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

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



VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR UPDATE!

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. **If you didn't work W1AW/1 between April 12th and 18th don't worry as there is another week of Massachusetts operation in the Fall.** 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 points 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!

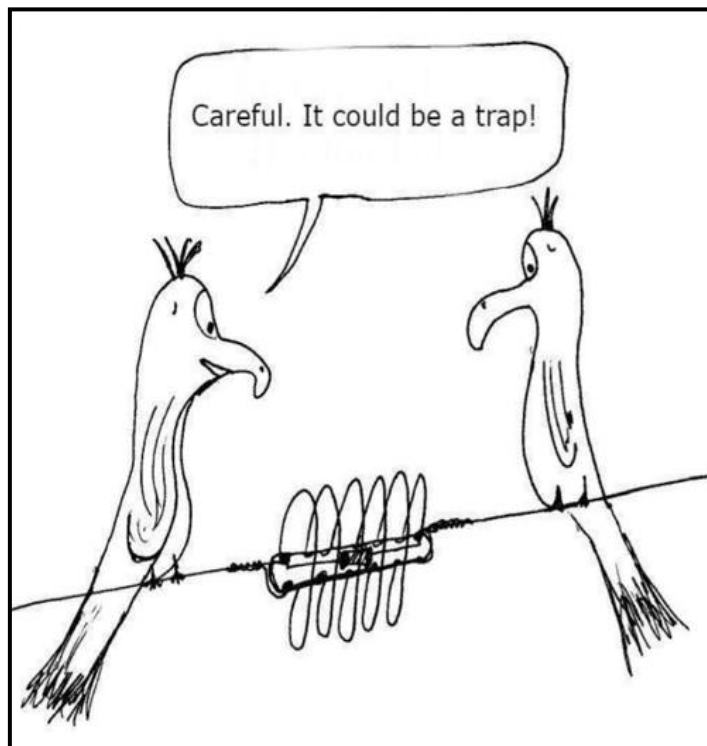
- Dad, you must get home now!
- I can't, son. I'm in the hospital!
- Mom is trying to sell your radio!



SONGS FOR AGING ROCKERS LED ZEPPELIN



STAIRLIFT TO HEAVEN



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 April 28th 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	25	54	0	114	11	140	27	144	68	157	1	230	741	60 yrs
2	NF1G	0	8	0	19	44	88	57	93	78	89	0	200	476	39 yrs
3	KK1W+1	21	5	0	45	12	43	34	46	49	55	0	173	310	47 yrs
4	KX1X	2	37	5	85	63	91	37	113	73	116	1	170	623	26 yrs
5	K1NZ+1 ★	19	25	12	20	67	83	65	70	95	92	0	156	548	12 yrs
6	W1AST+1	2	10	0	14	14	51	31	51	69	45	0	132	287	14 yrs
7	W1PY+1	0	4	0	38	0	47	2	94	5	86	0	124	276	13 yrs
8	WY1G	0	7	0	18	0	7	3	12	58	69	1	110	175	42 yrs
9	K1VOI	0	18	0	37	25	57	20	59	10	48	0	101	274	22 yrs
10	N1FTP	0	2	0	17	0	47	3	23	31	80	0	100	203	15 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	N1JIE	1	2	1	5	13	15	10	17	9	20	1	46	94	6 yrs
12	N1TA+3	2	22	0	2	5	3	4	7	4	5	0	42	54	22 yrs
13	NV1Q+3	0	0	0	7	10	10	4	3	4	9	0	31	47	44 yrs
14	NE1C	2	7	0	9	0	14	0	13	0	13	0	17	58	21 yrs
15	W1NU+2	1	0	0	9	1	3	1	0	0	2	0	14	17	8 yrs
16	W1JA+1	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	54 yrs
17	WD1S	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	11 yrs

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

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

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


ARRL CLUB COMMISSION PROGRAM

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership through the HCRA!

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

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

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

 ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®	ARRL Affiliated Club Membership Application																												
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a brand-new member, or my membership lapsed for 2 or more years. My club will receive a \$15 commission. <input type="checkbox"/> I am renewing (includes lapsed members of less than 2 years). My club will receive a \$5.00 commission.																													
Name _____ Call Sign _____																													
Address _____																													
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____																													
Email _____ Phone _____																													
Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____																													
<input type="checkbox"/> My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (Annually \$10 per member)																													
Name _____																													
Name _____																													
Your Annual Membership Dues - Circle Your Choice	Choose your print magazine - Check One																												
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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																													

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 HCRA's 75th anniversary!

If you have anything to submit contact your Vice President, Ez, W1AEZ, at ez.w1aez@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 following contact. Larry, W1AST, at w1ast@arrl.net

Contests and Special Event Stations

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

YOTA Contest SSB - CW | 3.5Mhz - 28Mhz | May 22nd, 0800z to May 22nd, 1959z

For rules and additional information go to: <https://www.ham-yota.com/contest/>

10-10 International Spring Contest, CW | 0001z, May 6 to 2359z, May 7 | 28Mhz

For rules and additional information go to: <https://www.ten-ten.org/>

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

Vietnam Veterans Memorial SES | May 26 - May 27 | 2200z-2200z | K9V

For complete Vietnam SES details: wc9ar@arrl.net

HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

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

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

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

or

Contact Paul, NF1G at nf1g@arrl.net



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 Update

The 10 meter net is been going strong with new participants joining weekly. Every Monday evening at 7 pm local. Gary, KC1JZR is NCS of this fun net! This is a great way for our newest HCRA members with a Tech or greater license to get some valuable 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 style of net every Monday at 7pm on 28.375 usb

Share the Knowledge Meetings are Finished for 2023

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings are finished for 2023. This past winter and spring have seen many excellent STK meetings! If you missed any or would like to rewatch them check out all STK videos on hcra.org and YouTube by clicking <http://www.hcra.org/category/videos/>.

If you have an idea for a STK meeting or maybe you'd like to give a presentation in 2024, for details contact Larry, W1AST, at w1ast@arrl.net

Membership Memorial Page

All members now have the opportunity to honor club member SK's on the new Memorial page on hcra.org. This can be done by sending in the SK member's name and callsign along with any text, stories, and can include photos. 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 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@arrl.net

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@arrl.net

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/>

President - Larry Krainson, W1AST

w1ast@arrl.net

Vice-President - Ez Morales, W1AEZ

ez.w1aez@gmail.com

Treasurer - George Collins, KC1V

hcra.kc1v@gmail.com

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G

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Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE

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W1NY trustee, John, N1JIE

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WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL

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**