



# 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](http://hcra.org/meeting-location)

## Welcome New Members

**No New Members in Oct.**

## Whats Inside

<a href="#">Regular Meeting Schedule</a>	2
<a href="#">From the Presidents Shack</a>	3-4
<a href="#">ARES Update</a>	5
<a href="#">75th Anniversary Picnic</a>	6
<a href="#">HCRA Fall Kit Build</a>	7
<a href="#">Membership Dues Renewal</a>	8
<a href="#">Forter Tower Fire of 1954</a>	9-14
<a href="#">Holiday Party Blowout</a>	15
<a href="#">Member to hide Fox Box</a>	16
<a href="#">Hex Beam Magic</a>	17-20
<a href="#">Nuts and Volts</a>	21
<a href="#">VOTA Fall Update</a>	23
<a href="#">For Sale &amp; Wanted</a>	24-25
<a href="#">HamToons - RF Humor</a>	26
<a href="#">Clublog Update</a>	27
<a href="#">ARRL Commissions</a>	28
<a href="#">Dots &amp; Dashes</a>	29
<a href="#">HCRA Stuff</a>	30
<a href="#">Local Nets &amp; Happenings</a>	31

October 2023

From the editor:

*Time sure is flying by, as we're already just about into the beginning of October. Even though we are nearly into the month of October, your club has been busy coming up with some fun-filled things for you to enjoy doing.*

*One thing is the 75th anniversary picnic happening on October 7th, which is the day after our club meeting. Details on the picnic are on [page 6](#). The October 6th meeting features WWLP's meteorologist Adam Strzempko, W1AJS, in person.*

*Seeing that we're into October, everyone's club dues should be paid, as yearly members must renew every September 1st. Even better is the special renewal deal for 5 years of membership while only paying for 4. What a deal! One caveat is this deal is only good until October 31st! More about it on [page 8](#).*

*Dave, KN4LEL, has an inexpensive way of mounting his new hex beam with a homebrew tilt-over mast and all. This is part one of a two-part series that will continue next month. Check it out on [page 17](#).*

*The 75th Anniversary Holiday Party is in December. With over \$1000 in prizes plus the normal door prizes, don't miss it. Check it out on [page 15](#) for more details!*

*Between picnics, parties, and a whole lot more, there's plenty going on in the HCRA with the club's 75th anniversary. It's not everyday that a club—any club—makes it to their 75th, so it's an honor to take part in everything your Board of Directors has been planning for all members to take part in.*

73, Ken - KD1KU

## In-Person Club Meeting October 6th

### Adam Strzempko, W1AJS

The monthly club meeting features a special guest speaker, WWLP TV-22's meteorologist Adam Strzempko, W1AJS. Adam will be speaking on several aspects of weather, including Skywarn severe weather events.

*This in-person guest speaker meeting is not to be missed!*

**Meeting begins at 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm**

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 Meetings and Guest Speakers

 <p>September 2023</p>	<p>In-person guest speakers are Bob Glorioso, W1IS, and Bob Rose, KC1DSQ, will be speaking on all types of wire antennas. Both Bobs have had articles published in QST and CQ magazines. This meeting is NOT to be missed!</p>
 <p>OCTOBER 2023</p>	<p>This in-person meeting features a very special guest speaker. WWLP Channel 22's meteorologist, Adam Strzempko, W1AJS Yes, Adam is one of us! I'm sure he will be a super fascinating in guest speaker.</p>
 <p>November 2023</p>	<p>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 2022 auction was a huge hit; don't miss it this year!</p>
 <p>DECEMBER 2023</p>	<p>The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant Dec 5th. Join us for a Night of Food and Fun as we celebrate HCRA's 75th Anniversary of being an ARRL Affiliated Club with some very special guests.</p>
 <p>JANUARY 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>FEBRUARY 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>MARCH 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>April 2024</p>	<p>The annual HCRA Show and Tell is back once again! Enter your projects, kits or whatever and win prizes! Last year's Show and Tell was a huge success, get started on your projects today.</p>
 <p>MAY 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>June 2024</p>	<p>Elections, Field Day prep, and more. Please consider running for a Board of Directors position. HCRA is a much better club when everyone's involved!</p>

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST

## October 2023

**As the Big E** has just started in the middle of September, I'm writing this for October. I'm amazed that ten clubs from all the New England states have volunteered to work a 6-hour session in the Big E booth. Plus, over 80 individuals from all the New England states have also volunteered.

If you think about it, that is a huge collection of people. Some are coming from as far away as 5 hours to help out. How many HCRA members volunteered, you may wonder? 15 of our members stepped up to help.

There were six of us that did the initial setup. I was camping outside of Manchester, NH, and made the trip back (135 miles) and brought my friend JJ, KC2FEV. Others came from Lunenburg, Natick, Wallingford, and Portland, CT. Not a single local person volunteered to help set up. This was disappointing. We had a few issues, and some 5 hours later, the booth was ready for opening day.



We have restructured the booth to show more how ham radio is part of STEM learning, for one thing. We hope to get kids interested in CW, and then they can build their own CW key right there in the booth. Hopefully, this will give parents something to do with their kids while generating new hams across New England. Then we hope these new hams will seek out clubs to participate in and expand their interest in ham radio.

We are, of course, talking to adults as well and working to get anyone interested. There are sign-up sheets for those looking to learn about classes as well as visiting hams to sign up and show they were there too.

**Did you attend** the Northeast HamXposition this year? If you didn't, you missed the best collection of forums at any Hamvention in this country. You also missed a good flea market, banquets, and visits with friends. I was there the whole weekend, and it was great fun. The story time Saturday night had us in stitches.

Continued on page 4



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST

The HamXpo is the largest hamvention north of DC in the northeast corridor. Put August 23-25th in your calendar for 2024 to attend. Next year will be even bigger and better and an event you will not want to miss!

**Speaking of not wanting to miss**, I hope to see you at the HCRA Anniversary picnic on Saturday, October 7th, at the School Street Park pavilion. There will be free hamburgers and hotdogs for club members and their spouses or guests, plus other foods. Bring your potluck tasty treat to share with others. Also, bring your portable rig setups to set up in the field, showcase them in working order, and make some contacts. You **MUST** RSVP so we have enough food for everyone.

**Mark your calendar** for Monday night, December 4th, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm for the 75th anniversary holiday banquet at the Steaming Tender restaurant in Palmer, MA.

It will be a night of great food, conversation with friends, and fun. There will be some very special guests attending, and there will be over \$1000 worth of special door prizes in addition to the regular door prizes that you can only win as a club member, and you must be in attendance to win! The free tickets will be handed out to those attending as you arrive at the venue.

The food options will be announced in the November ZeroBeat. I hope you will attend and join in the fun as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the club in grand style.

**Start collecting your unused radio gear** now to bring to the annual HCRA November auction. Last year, all those who attended had great fun, and we will do so again this year. Only ham gear; absolutely **NO** computers or computer related accessories!

You want an idea of what you might want to get for it. Tape your call and a wanted price to each piece of gear. When it sells, the club gets 10%, and you get the rest. Bring some money too, as you might want to add something to your collection too.

**Every year, starting in September**, the HCRA reaches out to everyone to pay their dues. This occurs just once a year and is just \$15 per year. One year goes by so quickly; why not pay for multiple years at once?

I've always paid for two or three years at a time. I do this for all my organizations. Only this year, in honor of the club's 75th anniversary, you can buy 5 years of membership, a \$75 value for \$60. That's the price of four years. Buy four, get one free.

It's a really great deal, and if you purchase it like I did, then you don't have to worry about paying your membership dues until 2028!

*This very special 75th anniversary offer is valid for September and October ONLY. Don't wait and miss out!*

*I hope to see you at the October meeting!*

73,

Larry; W1AST  
[hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com)  
HCRA President

# ARES NET UPDATE

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

## Skywarn Net Practice

Hurricane season is in full swing, with a near miss to the east in September. Summer severe weather isn't done with us, as evidenced by 7 tornadoes so far. Winter's heavy snows aren't all that far away. As such, this is a great time to start quarterly Skywarn Net training for Western Mass (WMA).

I am not sure if the lack of reporting stations on Skywarn nets is due to operators not being available, stations not having Skywarn criteria at their stations, a lack of interest to check in during Skywarn activations, or a lack of training for Skywarn members on how to check into Skywarn nets and when. I can't do much about most of those reasons, but I can do something about the lack of training.

By the time you have read this, I will have contacted Rob Macedo, the head of Skywarn, about setting up quarterly training sessions for Skywarn in WMA. I plan on setting up scenarios appropriate for the upcoming season, publishing them in this newsletter and other club newsletters, announcing them on the ARES nets, and then having practice nets after the ARES nets. These will consist of formal and informal net structures, how to check into the nets, what to report and what not to report, as well as immediate feedback on how you did with your check-in. I am hoping this will encourage more stations to check in when we have Skywarn nets.

For the practice and the real weather nets, you do not need to be a Skywarn member. You just have to be aware of what the Skywarn criteria is and understand what we will be looking for. I would prefer trained Skywarn spotters, but it won't be required.

**Here are some links to Skywarn Nets and what is considered "reportable criteria":**

<https://wx1box.org/skywarn-reporting-criteria/>

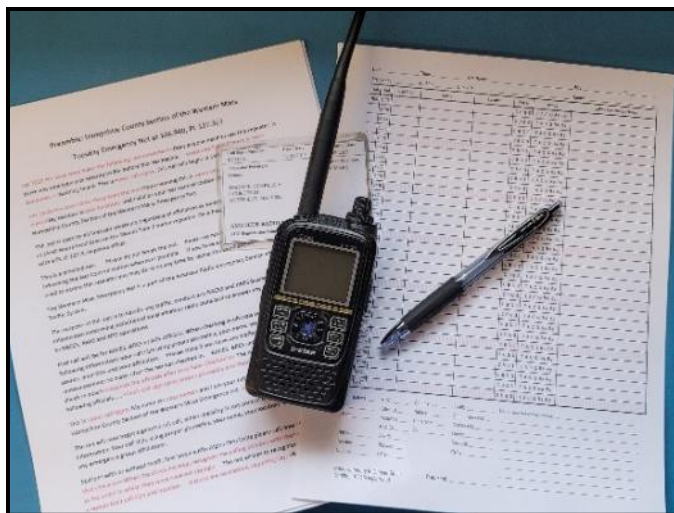
<https://wx1box.org/southern-new-england-skywarn-frequency-list/>

For the next Zero Beat, I will list what we are normally looking for in different types of Skywarn Nets, depending on the season. I will also be posting on the HCRA.org website, the preambles, tracking forms, and references for Skywarn Nets and ARES Nets so you can see what is involved. There will also be links to training for Skywarn and ARES member sign-ups.

As we all know, the weather forecasters don't always get the forecast right. Skywarn nets and reports to the National Weather Service can make the difference in warning the public about the actual severe weather as it is occurring. We can make a difference, and we can help keep the public safer. We just need to get involved.

73, Smitty, KC1IKA

ASEC, net manager, WMA ARES, Skywarn net coordinator



# HCRA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC CELEBRATION

***Our Celebration Picnic & Portable Operation is open to all licensed Hams!***

Come and help us celebrate on October 7, 2023, and be part of the **HCRA's 75th Anniversary Picnic Celebration** at the School St. Park Pavilion, Corey St. entrance, in Agawam, MA, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

This is an open invitation to club members and amateur radio operators to come and join the HCRA Special Event QRP fun; all licensed hams are encouraged to take part regardless of club affiliation! Bring your radios, antennas, and power source to "**Tune in the World**" as we get together to share and learn all while having fun.

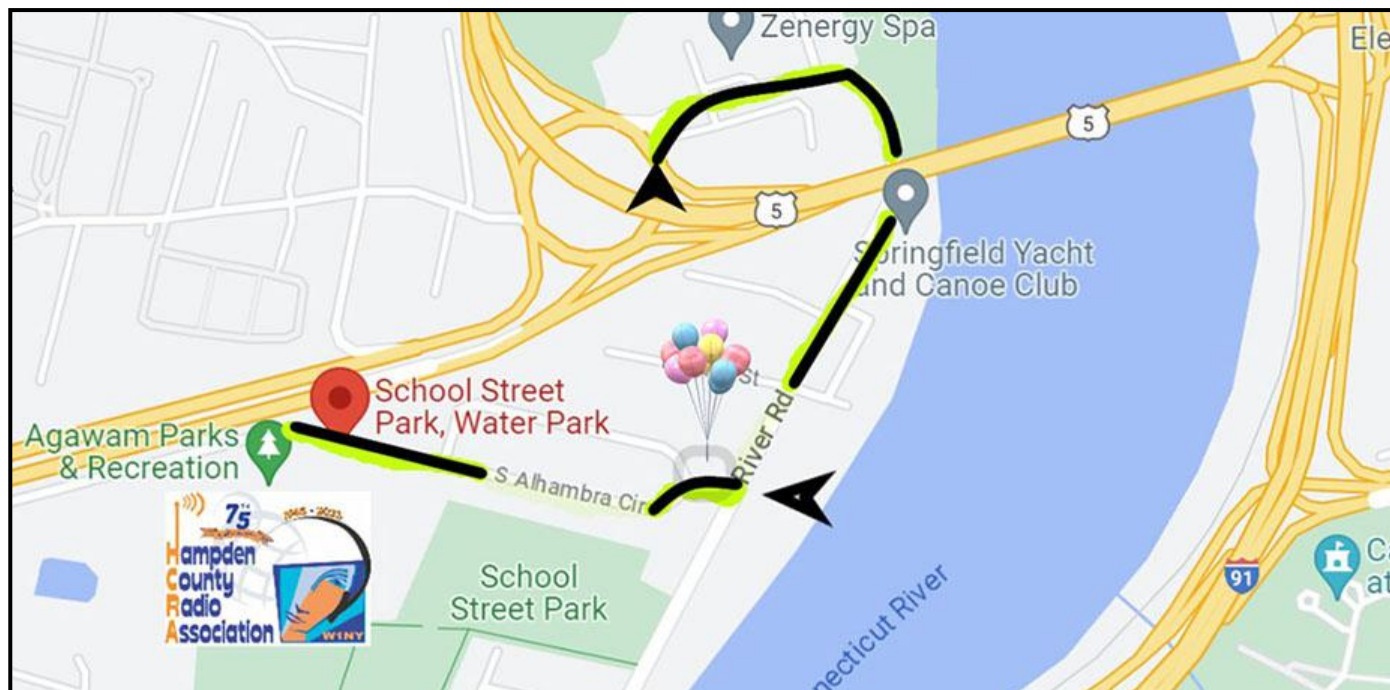
Included in the fun is the HCRA Celebration Picnic, which starts at 12:00 p.m. If you would like, bring a favorite food dish (potluck) to share with the hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages. HCRA wants YOU to be a part of it! HCRA requests everyone "Check-In" to the [hcra.org](http://hcra.org) website and fill out the Picnic Day Celebration questionnaire so we can get an accurate headcount to be sure there is enough food for everyone and to capture anyone's interest in taking part as an amateur radio operator, especially if you are a technician level wanting to learn HF operations.

On **GPS/WAZE**: Enter School Street Park, 436 Corey Street, Agawam, MA.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** The entrance to School St. Park Pavilion can be accessed from Corey St. The recommended direction from the Rte. 5 and Rte. 57 rotary is to go south on River Road along the Connecticut River till you see the **HCRA signs with balloons** and take a right turn on **N. Alhambra Circle** and then a quick left to **S. Alhambra Circle**. Continue on **S. Alhambra Circle**, which will turn into **Corey St.** The entrance to the **Agawam Parks & Recreation Pavilion** will be on your left after the road turns and the homes end. HCRA Signs with balloons will mark the path.

This site is handicap accessible, with plenty of parking and restrooms with flush toilets and running water.

For more information, go to [www.hcra.org](http://www.hcra.org) and look for the Picnic Day Celebration. **You must RSVP!**



# HCRA FALL KIT BUILD

**Deadline to Order is Friday, October 6th at the HCRA Meeting**

## QRP Labs Clock Kit

This clock kit is based on the same hardware as the [Ultimate3/3S QRSS/WSPR](#) kit and a special firmware version. A GPS receiver module such as the [QLG1](#) can optionally be connected for precision time-keeping. The display format is customizable; as well as time and date, you can also choose to display GPS data (e.g., location, number of received satellites, etc.).

This is a shack clock and sidereal clock kit that can optionally also be connected to a GPS receiver module such as the [QLG1](#) to provide precise time. Alternatively, it can be used standalone or with a different 1 pulse per second (pps) signal source.

### **This clock's features include:**

- GPS date, time, and other parameters, using a GPS module such as the QRP Labs QLG1
- Location (latitude, longitude, and altitude) and Maidenhead grid square
- Display of UT date, time, and weekday
- Display of local date, time, and weekday
- Display of Greenwich and Local Sidereal Time
- Configurable time zone offset, with a display of local date and local time
- 10 alarms, which can be configured to switch on and off 6 different external relays or output signals
- Flexible configuration of the display contents
- Multiple messages can be set up to display sequentially on the display lines, for a configurable duration
- Support for 4-line displays
- Two Analogue temperature sensors can optionally be connected to the kit to display temperature measurements (for example, indoor and outdoor temperature)

### **Sample Clock:**



1. **The basic cost of the clock without the GPS module and without a case is \$22**
2. **The GPS module add \$25**
3. **The enclosure kit adds \$40**

This will be a group build on a Saturday morning at the Holyoke Hospital meeting room. This is a perfect kit for any ham shack and for a beginner or experienced kit builder. Join us and have some fun and make your shack look good too!

***Go here to sign up online:***

<https://hcra.org/2023/08/15/fall-2023-tech-project-clock-for-the-hamshack/>



# MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL

**Renew you're membership for 5 years and SAVE! (FINAL MONTH)**

Every year, some of the newer HCRA members think their dues go by when they join the club, including myself at first. One thing that every member must not forget is that no matter when you joined, you must renew your membership on or before September 1st.

If you're unsure when your membership is up for renewal, go to <https://www.hcra.org/current-members/> and look at the right-hand side where your expiration date is listed. If you don't see your name and call on this list, then your membership has lapsed, and you need to renew your membership ASAP!

This applies to any level of membership if your dues are up for renewal in 2023. If you want to save the hassle of doing this yearly, your Board of Directors has a very special deal in honor of our 75th anniversary where you can select and pay for a five-year renewal for the price of four years!

This year, we are doing a special deal for any member that pays their dues before October 31st, 2023. To take advantage of this limited-time offer, you must select a 5-year membership renewal, which normally costs \$75, but if you pay before October 31st, 2023, you only pay the price of 4 years for only \$60, saving \$15 getting one year FREE!

**To get this Special Deal You MUST Renew Before October 31st!**

To take advantage of this deal, visit <https://hcra.org/files/HCRAApplicationForm2013.pdf>, where you can fill out the online form and pay via PayPal. Or you can use the old-fashioned way by downloading the renewal form using the above link and mail it to the club's PO Box below.

**To pay your dues at this special price, go to <https://hcra.org/> on page #1 and pay there using the Yellow DONATE button near the bottom of the page.**

**Then email club treasurer, George, KC1V at [hcra.kc1v@gmail.com](mailto:hcra.kc1v@gmail.com) stating you've just paid your dues, how many years, the amount paid including your name & email.**

You can also renew your membership at any club meeting at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room, where you can pay with cash or check. Bring the correct change and see HCRA Treasurer George, KC1V.

**Each single year dues is \$15 while the special 5 years deal cost \$60 *that's normally* \$75**

***Even if you don't take advantage of this deal you MUST renew by September 1st if you pay yearly!***

*If paying with a check:*

**Make checks payable to HCRA  
and mail renewal form to:**

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

**Anniversary Special Deal  
Get 5 years for the price of 4!  
SAVE \$15  
The best part is you won't have  
to pay again for 5 years!**



# FORTERI TOWER FIELD DAY FIRE

## The Following is a Recollection of the 1954 HCRA Field Day Tower

*The following pages are a recollection of the great 1954 Field Day tower fire. As told by Jack Schuster, W1WEF, whom I met by chance on QRZ along with several other hams from that era!*

*There is a timeline how everything happened and where everybody was in those hectic minutes at the Forteri Tower on Ridge Rd. in Wilbraham, MA.*

*There is a list of personal and ham gear that was lost during the fire. You will read a familiar name from last months Zero Beat article about HCRA's Best Mentor, Art Zavarella, W1KK.*

-Editor-

Statement of the Hampden County Radio Club of Springfield, Massachusetts, relating to a fire that occurred at approximately 12:25 p.m. E.D.T. on June 19, 1954, in the premises known as the Forteri Tower located on Ridge Road in Wilbraham, Massachusetts.

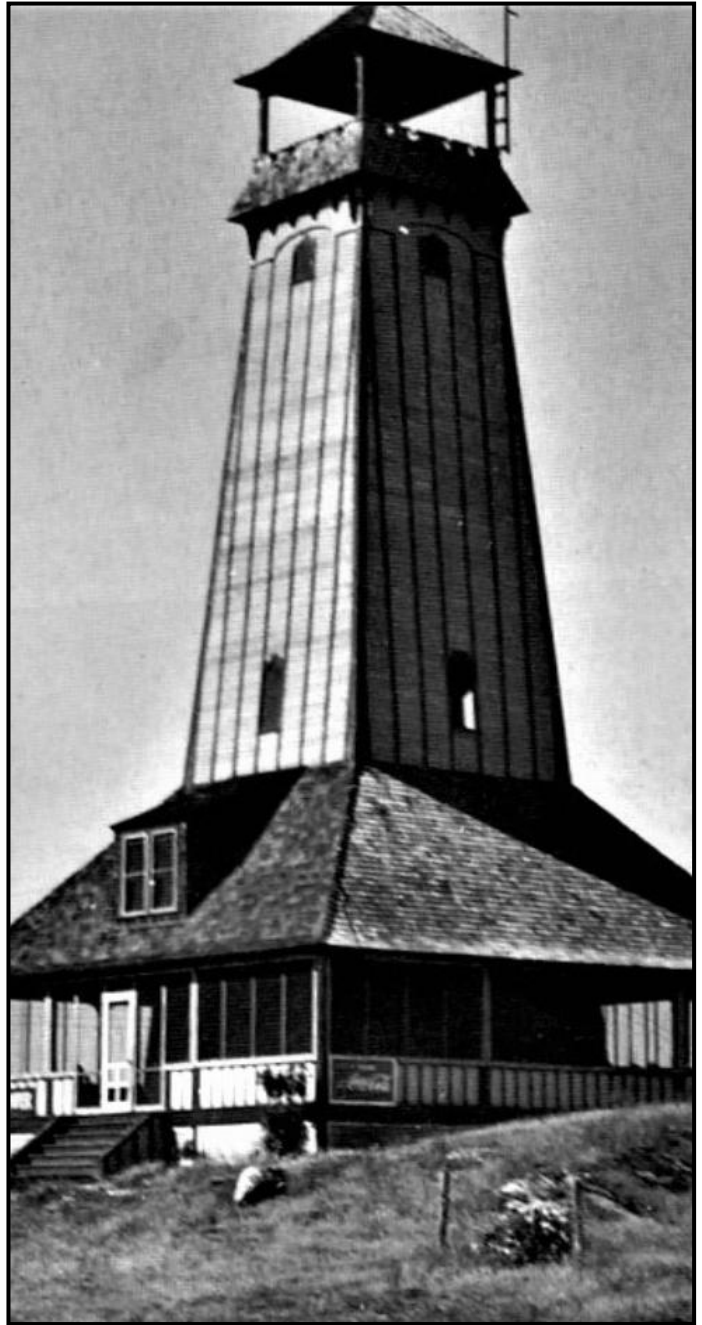
### Preamble

The American Radio Relay League of West Hartford, Connecticut, a national organization of radio amateurs, has for many years sponsored an annual "Radio Amateur Field Day", held this year on June 19 and 20, 1954.

The purpose of this activity is to test the amateurs' ability to provide communications services in times of public emergency when normal communications channels are out of service. In recent years, such amateur activities have been coordinated to a greater or lesser degree with local Civil Defense work.

The Hampden County Radio Club, a local organization of radio amateurs affiliated with the American Radio Relay League, undertook to participate in the "Field Day" activities and, to this end, rented the Forteri Tower as a site for operations.

At the time of the fire herein described, sixteen members or friends of the club were in or about the tower setting up radio transmitting and receiving equipment. Official operations were to have begun at 5 pm on June 19, 1954.



Continued on page 10

# FORTERI TOWER FIELD DAY FIRE CONT'D

## The Following is a Recollection of the 1954 HCRA Field Day Tower

### Witness's Statement's

At about 12:20 pm on June 19, 1954, Leo Broeder, who was in the yard outside the tower, reported that smoke was escaping from the vicinity above the second-floor window on the east side of the tower.

Almost simultaneously, William Rosner, Jack Schuster, and Alfred Sturr Jr. were in the upper part of the tower, observed smoke rising through the interior of the tower from below. He descended the stairs forthwith.

No one was on the second floor at the time the fire was discovered. At the first sign of smoke, Arthur Zanarella went to the nearest occupied house to telephone the Wilbraham Fire Department.

Jack Schuster and Alfred Sturr Jr., descending from above, observed that the smoke was escaping from holes between the outer tower sheathing and the interior partition of the second-floor room, at the level of the roof of the second floor. The smoke was escaping all along the length of the east and west walls but not at the north and south.



By this time, others had arrived with two 10-pound carbon dioxide fire extinguishers that had been previously placed in the first and second floor rooms. Schuster and Sturr Jr. completely discharged these extinguishers into the holes from which smoke was escaping, but there was no apparent reduction of the smoke.

A third similar extinguisher that had been placed at the top of the tower could not be safely reached because of the dense smoke.

When it became apparent that the fire could not be controlled with the available facilities, all persons present removed radio equipment from the first and second floors to automobiles that were parked outside the entrance. Because of the strong updraft through the tower, these rooms were free of smoke long enough to permit the removal of all equipment from these floors.

The automobiles were then moved to the north exit of the area. They were delayed during the removal of large boulders from the street entrance. These boulders had been so placed, presumably by the owners, to prevent unauthorized entry.

The south entrance, which had previously been cleared of boulders by club members, could not be used because prevailing winds were carrying heat and smoke from the fire over the south roadway. However, two cars that were parked in the southern roadway were removed by this route.

Continued on page 11

# FORTERI TOWER FIELD DAY FIRE CONT'D

## The Following is a Recollection of the 1954 HCRA Field Day Tower

A truck owned by the U.S. Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts, was parked in the field about 80 feet north of the tower, and on the truck was an Armory owned portable electric generator, which was to provide power for radio operations. Since the licensed armory driver had left earlier, taking the truck keys with him, the truck was pushed by many people to a remote part of the field.

When the Fire Department arrived, the building was enveloped in flames, and it was obviously futile to fight it. They therefore confined their immediate efforts to watching for and extinguishing secondary fires in the surrounding area.

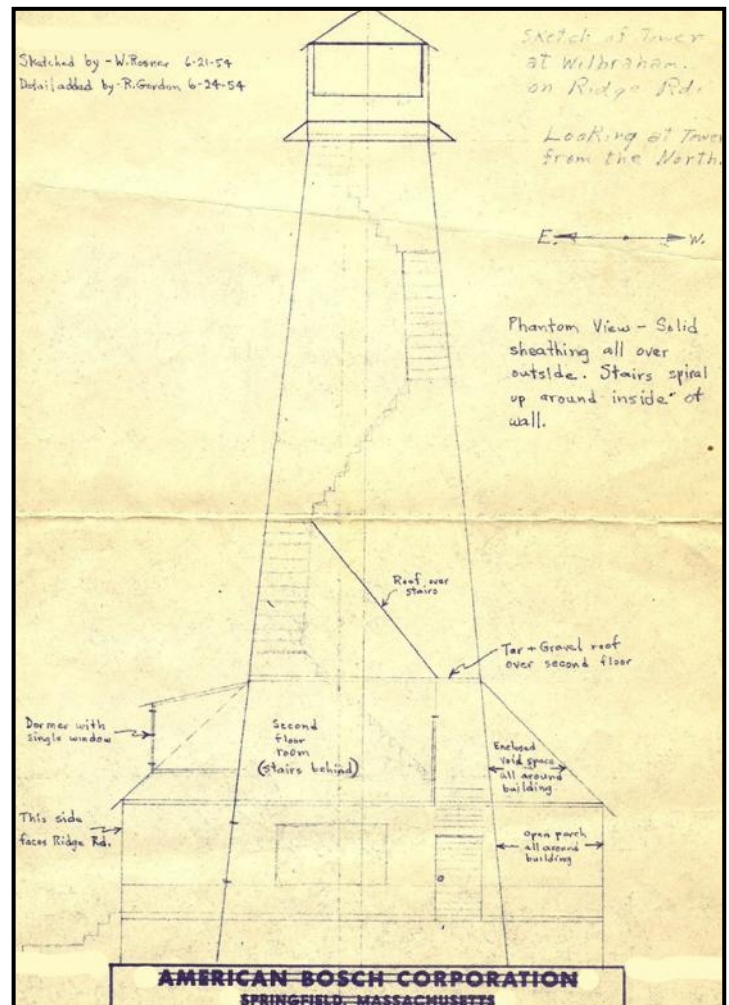
There was and had previously been no electric power of any kind in the building. Commercial power was shut off, and the service entrance switch box was sealed by the power company. No connections had been made to the service entrance box from the portable generator, and the entrance cable had not at any time been energized.

**The fire grew rapidly after it was first discovered. Elapsed times after smoke was first seen are estimated as follows:**

1. Dispatch of man to sound alarm – Immediate
2. Fighting fire – about two minutes
3. Evacuation of property and personnel – about five minutes
4. First visible flame – about three minutes
5. Complete consumption of upper tower siding – about ten minutes
6. Arrival of first town Fire Department Apparatus – About 10 minutes
7. Complete consumption of lower parts of building – About twenty minutes
8. Collapse of the wooden main structural assembly – About twenty minutes

Since the main frame stood for a relatively long time, most of the flaming char fell almost straight down. The main frame fell in a southeasterly direction. (Ridge Road is assumed to be running due north and south)

Grass around the building was burned, and tree leaves were scorched at distances in excess of one hundred feet on the lee side of the building.



Continued on page 12

# FORTERI TOWER FIELD DAY FIRE CONT'D

## The Following is a Recollection of the 1954 HCRA Field Day Tower

### Conditions and Activities Previous to Time of Fire

The first contingent of club personnel, who were Thomas Barrett, Robert Gordon, and Eunice Gordan, arrived at the tower about 9:30 am. Others arrived at various later times, so that at the time of the fire, sixteen people were present in or near the building. These people are listed elsewhere in this statement.

These persons were variously engaged in setting up radio transmitting and receiving equipment and erecting antennas for the event.

During this period, all those then present were assembled and instructed by R.S. Gordan in the use of the carbon dioxide fire extinguishers, which were thereafter set in readily accessible places, one each on the first floor, second floor, and top room.

The second-floor room was found to be very dirty and littered with broken window glass, bottles, and stones. The floor of the room was swept, and the accumulation was removed from the building. The cleaners then retired while the thick dust cloud settled, after which they returned and worked setting up radio equipment. They then departed to other parts of the building or yard. The elapsed time between their departure and the discovery of fire is not known.

Work on the electrical wiring that was to have supplied power to the radio equipment had been started by Thomas McBride, a licensed electrician (Massachusetts Registration No. E-11229). However, at the time of the fire, the work was incomplete, and no connections had been made to the generator entrance cable.

### Discussions Subsequent to Fire

**At about 2:00 pm on the same day, all sixteen persons who had been present at the time of the fire assembled elsewhere for the following purposes:**

- 1) *To submit statements as to any relevant information they processed*
- 2) *To re-distribute personally owned radio equipment and other property which had been loaded into any handy automobile during the hasty evacuation*
- 3) *To list property losses*

All of these purposes were accomplished.

During these discussions, all were questioned as to personal smoking on and above the second-floor level, where "No Smoking" signs were posted. Each stated that he had not smoked in this area, nor had he observed anyone else doing so.

Each further stated that he had seen no one in the building during the period immediately before the fire other than those herein named.

Continued on page 13



# FORTERI TOWER FIELD DAY FIRE CONT'D

## The Following is a Recollection of the 1954 HCRA Field Day Tower

Earlier in the morning, one small boy, who identified himself as Sawtell or some similar sounding name, and one or more construction workers from an adjacent house building project were present. Also, an armory truck driver and two or three associates had come and departed again.

It is possible that other unknown persons might have some and gone during the morning but no one present recalls any such.

### Personnel and Losses

The following is a list of the sixteen persons present and the property loss reported by each:

- Leo Broeder, W1VNE, Ludlow – Slightly scorched auto paint
- Thomas Barrett, Springfield – No Loss
- “Ed” Burnell, Agawam – No Loss
- Alfred Sturr Sr, Chicopee Falls – 1 National Model NC-200 radio receiver with speaker
- Alfred Sturr Jr. Chicopee Falls- No Loss
- Donald Lefebvre, Springfield – No loss
- “Ken” DeCelle, Springfield – No Loss
- Jack Schuster, W1WEF, Springfield – No loss
- Arthur Zavarella, W1KK, Agawam – 1 sledge hammer, 2 hatchets
- Robert Gordan, Springfield – No loss
- Eunice Gordan, Springfield – No loss
- Thomas McBride, West Springfield – 1 Induction type volt-ammeter
- Robert Adolphson, W1NLE, Springfield – No loss
- “Art” Lawrence, Springfield = No loss
- Maurice Boulris, Springfield – No loss
- William Rosner, Wilbraham:
  - 1 - RME Co. Type VHF-152 radio receiver
  - 1 - Home built power supply rated 500 volts at 250 Ma. And 300 volts at 200 Ma
  - 1 - Home built speech amplifier and 60-watt modulator
  - 1 - Shure crystal microphone
  - 1 - Set of headphones
  - 1 - 36” approximately open steel relay rack
  - 5 - 3 Inch meters
  - 1 - Home built 50 Ma. and 420 Mc radio transmitter (separate units mounted on common chassis)
  - 2 - Folding chairs
  - 1 - Box of miscellaneous tools
  - 1 - Thermos jug, one gallon capacity
- The following equipment which had been borrowed was also lost, and it’s listed with the name of the respective absentee owners:
  - Henry Baier, W1NY, Wilbraham – 1 RME Co. Type VHF-152 radio receiver
  - Monsanto Chemical Company, Indian Orchard – 3 Carbon Dioxide fire extinguishers, 10 lb. size
  - Many of those present also lost wire, small tools, and other articles of small value which they voluntarily elected not to list as losses

Continued on page 14

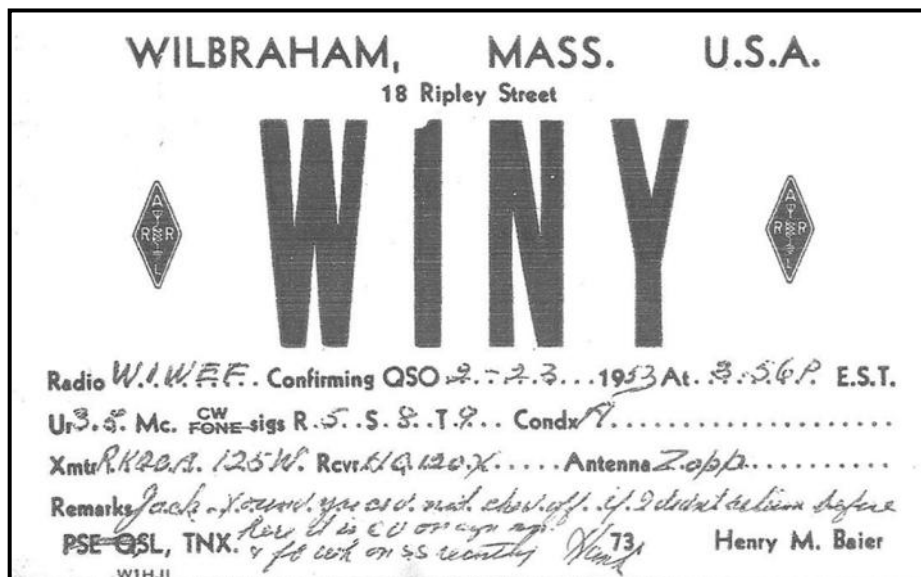
# FORTERI TOWER FIELD DAY FIRE CONT'D

## And Now for the Rest of the Story... by Jack Schuster, W1WEF

I received the following from Jack Schuster, W1WEF, from Springfield, MA. Jack was present at the time of the 1954 tower fire plus he knew Hank Baier, W1NY, of Wilbraham, MA. Both Jack, W1WEF and Hank, W1NY were early members of HCRA that were a big part of getting HCRA off the ground as a ham radio ARRL affiliated club since 1948! Be sure to read "The rest of the story" below.

I found Jack, W1WEF, on QRZ and we started emailing back and forth where Jack offered to help with his recollection of that day in 1954. He also supplied the QSL card he received from Hank, W1NY from years ago. Jack is a wonderful ham as he was more than happy to help when I mentioned HCRA's 75th Anniversary was coming up. Checkout the postage stamp on the envelope.

A Big Thank You goes out to:  
Jack Schuster, W1WEF



W1NY (left) receives a plaque from K1JU, president of the Hampden County Radio Association, honoring him for his many contributions to amateur radio

### Let me tell you "The Rest of the Story",

At a Contest Dinner in Dayton a few years ago, it was decided to survey the 400 attending the dinner to see who in the room was contesting the longest. I was licensed in 1952 and figured I probably made a few contacts sometime in my first year, so I won as holding the longest time in contesting based on my guess. Sometime after getting home, I ran across the attached QSL from W1NY mentioning our SS QSO which would have been in 1952.

I met Hank, W1NY, at a Field Day in 1952 with HCRA. That would have been my first FD, but it was at FD in 1954 when the tower structure on Wilbraham Mountain caught fire as we were setting up, and I was on top of the tower when someone yelled FIRE!

I was the last person ever to be on top of the tower after carrying some of W1RFU's VHF/UHF equipment up to his operating position.

I tried two fire extinguishers that were on the staircase on the way down, but neither worked. It was all over in half an hour—burned to the ground. The fire was deemed to have started from spontaneous combustion. It was closed for a long time and very dusty when we opened it up. 73, Jack - W1WEF



# HOLIDAY PARTY

## The HCRA Holiday Party at the Steaming Tender Restaurant

- ◆ **When:** December 4th, 2023
- ◆ **Where:** The Steaming Tender Restaurant
- ◆ **Location:** 28 Depot Street Palmer, MA. 01069
- ◆ **Time:** 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- ◆ **Cost:** \$30 per person
- ◆ **Deadline to purchase tickets:** Nov 20th



Come celebrate the HCRA's 75th Anniversary Holiday Party with friends & family. Great food and people, with over \$1000 in prizes plus the regular door prizes! Prizes include a Xiegu X6100 HF Transceiver, a Butternut 40m/80m Vertical, and a Morserino! 3 extremely lucky winners. To be eligible for this, you **MUST** be present to win and your HCRA dues **MUST** be paid in full!

### Menu

**Pot Roast Dinner:** Braised pot roast, mashed potatoes, rich beef gravy, vegetable of the day

**New England Turkey Dinner:** White turkey breast, cranberry herb stuffing, mashed potatoes, rich turkey gravy, vegetable of day, cranberry sauce

**Baked Haddock Dinner:** Cooked in white wine topped with buttered bread-crumbs, mashed potatoes, vegetable of the day

*All entrees come with an appetizer salad, dessert, and water to drink plus the bar will be open for drink purchases to suit everyone's choice.*

**Make checks payable to HCRA  
and mail reservations to:**

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





# WANTED! SOMEONE TO HIDE FOX BOX'S

## Volunteer Wanted to Hide HCRA Fox Boxes!

**Wanted:** Someone to hide, retrieve, recharge and re-hide the HCRA's two fox boxes approximately every week or two. One person can easily hide both fox boxes, but two people can each take a fox box too.

The volunteer position involves making sure the fox boxes are charged, then they need to be re-hidden in a public place that has access 24 -7 so hunters can hunt at their leisure.

Depending on the amount of use either Fox Box sees will determine how long the FB charge will last. Generally, the batteries last 7 to 12 days before a recharge is required.

Once a recharge is needed, the Fox Box must be retrieved, as each box is locked to a tree or a solid object. A full charge usually takes overnight. The box will then need to be hidden once again in a new hiding spot.



Once the fox box is hidden, an announcement must be made on the HCRA Facebook group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HampdenCountyRA> and on <https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters>. They can also be posted on the CT. Fox Hunting Group at: <https://groups.io/g/ctfoxhunter>

This is a fun position that I did for a few years, but I had to give it up as I have too much going on now. The challenge of hiding a fox box is finding a suitable public location that is easy enough for our newest hunters but challenging enough for even the most experienced hunters, plus it's great fun to mess with the more experienced hunters by testing their skills with progressively harder and harder!

For more information about this, please contact Larry, W1AST, at [hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com), or you can contact myself, Ken, KD1KU, at [kd1ku@yahoo.com](mailto:kd1ku@yahoo.com) for details.

## HCRA's 75th Anniversary Picnic Celebration

Rain or Shine

School St. Park Pavilion, Corey St. Agawam, MA,

October 7, 2023, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

**Special Event  
Station-W1NY**



**Pota-like  
QRP Ops**

**Come and help us celebrate and be part of this Special Events Station –W1NY**

Open invitation to club members and amateur radio operators to come and join the HCRA Special Event QRP fun. All licensed hams are encouraged to take part regardless of club affiliation! Bring your radios, antennas, and power source to "Tune in the World" as we get together to share and learn all while having fun.

HCRA requests everyone "RSVP" to the [hcra.org](http://hcra.org) website or <https://bit.ly/45Znlak> and fill out the Picnic Day Celebration questionnaire so we can get an accurate headcount for picnic lunch and activities.

RSVP





# HEX BEAM MAGIC

## Part One of Two - By Dave, KN4LEL

In 2018, I finally got back into ham radio after being QRT for 44 years. As funny as it might sound, my first order of business was getting my Drake 2NT transmitter and my Drake R4-B receiver back in operating condition. I had boxed both units up back in 1974, and I felt they worked well enough back then, so why not now? I had no idea the quantum leap of improvements that had been made with ham radio gear in 44 years. I sent both Drake units out for repair, including new caps, and while waiting, I purchased online a couple of quarter-wave dipole antennas. I got both antennas in the air, got both Drake sets back after a couple of weeks, and was back on the air working a little CW. I was having the time of my life working all those state-side stations. It was kind of like being a teenage Novice all over again. Late one night, in the wee hours of the morning, working 40 meters CW and calling CQ, I got a reply from a station in Sweden. I never worked 40 meters DX back in the 70's. This kind of pushed me into operating on 20 meters and trying for some more DX contacts. I have to say that catching DX on 20 meters back in 2018–2019 was tough with a quarter-wave dipole antenna. I did have some success, including working a New Zealand station one night on 20 meters when the band seemed to be dead. Still, my DX contacts were far and few between.

By now, I really had the "DX Bug" and realized I needed some sort of skyhook to catch those DX stations. Back in 1969, I had a Hygain Tri-Band beam that worked well for making DX contacts. It happened like this: another teenage Ham in my neighborhood told me he had a friend who was selling a second-hand Tri Band beam antenna and rotator with three sections of steel tower for 50 bucks. Wow, the deal of the century! I purchased the Tri-Bander setup almost immediately. I planted 5 feet of one tower section in the ground as a base and got the tower and beam antenna up. I had no idea that the antenna had to be matched to my rig by adjusting the elements. I extended the elements by matching the corrosion marks left on the elements from years of being outside. Well, as luck would have it, my SWR was good! The reading on my SWR bridge showed a 1.3 to 1. I worked over 60 countries with that antenna setup on 15 meters. So, now that I was back on the air, I started to think that the purchase of another Tri-Band beam was in my future.

During the first couple of weeks having my new Ham license in 2018, I met on air what would turn out to be my best Ham friend, Bill Cook, N1LJQ (now W1FMX). It has been 5 years now, and I have never met Bill in person. We talk from time to time on the air, exchange emails all the time, and chat over the phone. I often think about the power of Ham Radio and the friendship we have made. Bill is one of those kinds of Hams who is really into old and new Ham gear. I thought I needed to talk with Bill about my intended antenna purchase.

Bill told me a Tri-Band Beam antenna would be a good choice, but then he explained how to adjust the new beam to work well with my rigs. Bill asked me if I owned an antenna analyzer. I did not own one, so Bill started to tell me other methods I could use to match the new antenna to my gear. This thing kind of threw me. Not being very technical, I shelved the idea for a few months.

It was not long before COVID-19 reared its ugly head, and we were all basically stuck at home. In February of 2020, I was sure glad to have Ham Radio as my hobby and got to thinking that I should figure out how I was going to get a Tri Band Beam. I received my latest Ham Radio Outlet catalog in the mail and was looking at the section it had on beam antennas. I also noticed a couple of different antennas called Hex Beams.

Continued on page 18

# HEX BEAM MAGIC CONT'D

## Part One of Two - By Dave, KN4LEL

What caught my eye was the write-up on these antennas that stated they were "plug and play" and no matching or tuning was required. The user just had to put the Hex Beam antenna together, set it in the air, and have fun. The Hex Beam model I was interested in boasted a 5 db gain, and it only weighed 30 pounds. Best of all, it had elements that would cover the 6 through 40-meter bands. Due to its lightweight construction, you could set it up on a mast rather than a tower, and you could turn the antenna with a light-duty rotator. The hex beam antenna model I was considering was called the Sentinel, which was manufactured by Radio Wavz. It sold for \$975.00, and I thought this was a pretty good price for all the bands this antenna covered. I looked at some online reviews for this antenna and found them to be very good. I gave Bill a call and talked with him about what I had found. He had also done some research on the hex beam antenna, which was unknown to me prior to my phone call. Bill thought the hex beam antenna was an excellent choice. I ordered my antenna the same day from Ham Radio Outlet, along with a Yaesu 450 rotator.

While waiting for the hex beam antenna to arrive, I decided to come up with some sort of mast to set it on. I did some YouTube research and came up with a tilt mast made out of a 21-foot section of 2" galvanized water pipe. My neighbor, who was a retired plumbing contractor, got in contact with one of his former suppliers and was able to get me this section of water pipe for \$100.00. I purchased some 3" structural steel angle iron to make a tilt base for the mast and some wall brackets to secure the mast to my Ham Shack. It took a couple of days before I had the wall brackets and the mast tilt base made. The homebrew mast cost me about \$160.00, including bolts and welding rods. I thought, all things considered, that was not too expensive. Next, I dug a hole and bedded the tilt base in concrete in that hole. After that, I installed the wall brackets on the outside wall of my shack. When the concrete base cured after a couple of days, I set the mast in the air. The pivot worked perfectly, and I was able to secure the mast with a couple of 2" U bolts to the wall brackets. The installation really looked pretty good.

With some additional research, I soon realized that the pivot base would not do me much good when it came to getting my hex beam antenna into the air. The hex beam antenna was 30 feet in diameter; it would be way too difficult to set a hex beam antenna, which is made with fiberglass spreaders, on its side. If you are careful and have some extra help, it is possible to set a regular beam antenna on its side, mount it to the rotator, and raise it with a tilt mast up in the air. After some thought, I solved this erection problem with a rented trailer-type basket lift. The cost of the rental would be \$155.00 for a half day. I expected that would give me more than enough time to get the hex beam in the air.

After a few days, my hex beam antenna arrived with the rotator. I looked at all the wire elements, spreaders, and hardware for the antenna and thought, "This will be a tough antenna to build." Fortunately, the manufacturer, Radio Wavz, made a YouTube video on how to put together this antenna. The video made the antenna assembly a breeze. I assembled the antenna in an afternoon, and it was actually fun to do. First, I built the hex beam antenna using a temporary wooden base on the ground. I decided that I should ground-test the antenna before setting it in the air to make sure it worked well. Using it for the first time on the air, I made contact with a Minnesota station on 20 meters and got a 5/9 SSB signal report while running 100 watts. The antenna was only 3 feet above ground level! I thought, "No bad, Florida to Minnesota with a 5/9 signal report." When I told the other operator what I was doing, he said, "If this is what your hex beam can do 3 feet above ground level, it will be something to see what you can do with it at 22 feet in the air."

Continued on page 19

# HEX BEAM MAGIC CONT'D

## Part One of Two - By Dave, KN4LEL

The one downside with this antenna was that I could not get a good match on all bands without using my antenna tuner. After that, I mounted the rotator on the mast, ran the control cable to the rotator box in my shack, and was ready to set my new hex beam in the air.

The very next day, I mounted the hex beam to the mast. I pre-installed a tail piece on the hex beam. After raising the hex beam with the basket lift, I dropped the tail piece into the rotator. I then bolted everything down and was ready for some "on-air" testing of my new antenna. One thing I should mention that relates to this story is that Bill Cook provided me with the antenna mast material for the tail piece. He sent me two sections of mast material, one that would sleeve inside the other for strength. This will be something to follow in part 2 of this story.

The results of testing the antenna exceeded my wildest expectations over the weeks and months following. The biggest surprise while using this antenna was that I was able to work 40-meter DX at night into Europe, including during early evening hours running only 100 watts—that is, "barefoot." Radio Wavz claims they have the only 40-meter reflective element

on the market on their hex beam, while their competitors hang a 40-meter dipole antenna on theirs. The reflective element on the Radio Wavz Hex Beam antenna really looks like something out of Frankenstein's workshop with multiple parallel wire elements and a trap, but it really works well. Signal reports using the antenna and 100 watts maximum for both SSB and CW modes I break through DX pileups with ease (again, using only 100 watts) and get compliments and questions from stations everywhere, asking what kind of antenna I am running.



**Photo 1: Dave's Shack and Hexbeam** (photo credit: Dannette Herrmann)

Continued on page 20

# HEX BEAM MAGIC CONT'D

## Part One of Two - By Dave, KN4LEL

The real test of this hex beam antenna came when I purchased my Xeigu G-90 QRP rig. I found that I could consistently make contacts into Europe on 20 meters, running between 3 and 4 watts on SSB. Some say, "You can't do that running only 3 or 4 watts in SSB mode", but I do it all the time. My longest distant QRP contacts (running 5 watts SSB) on 10 meters have been Australia and New Zealand. Those two operators were so impressed with my 5-watt signal that they sent me QSL cards for both contacts when requested.



**Photo 2:** Close-up of mast with tilting base and supports (Photo: Dannette Herrmann)

Everything was going great with my new antenna for the first 2 years it was in the air. I hate to say it, but things with the new antenna changed drastically in the fall of 2022. I will tell you what comes next in the second part of my hex beam story.

73 - Dave, KN4LEL

Note:

*This is part 1 of a 2 part series that will finish up next month. This hex beam didn't survive the high winds of one of our local hurricanes or tropical storms so a new hex will be installed and tested.*

-Editor-



# NUTS AND VOLTS

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

### HCRA Technician License Classes

The HCRA will be holding technician license classes in the near future for those interested in getting their ham radio license. With a combination of these classes and some at-home studying, it's possible to get your first ham license, and quite easily too! Learn from experienced instructors who are active within the amateur radio community and are willing to help you along the way.

If you or anyone you know would like to join us in this fun-filled, exciting hobby, we are now taking signups. Simply contact Larry, W1AST, at [funhamradio@gmail.com](mailto:funhamradio@gmail.com) for all the latest info or to signup for the tech class. Also, watch for more announcements that will be coming soon.

### HCRA Annual Auction is Back!

The annual HCRA November Auction is back after a very successful showing in 2022! If you didn't attend last year's auction, be there this year! The auction is held in place of the club meeting on November 3rd. Doors open at 7 pm, auction begins at 7:30 pm and is open to all licensed hams. All ham radio gear and related accessories are welcome. NO computer parts of any kind are allowed! HCRA will take 10% of the final selling price (\$1 minimum). Starting price and reserve price can be set by the selling party. For info about the auction, contact Larry, W1AST, at [hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com)

### Callbooks from 1906 to 1997

A database full of old Amateur Radio Call Books that run from 1906–1997. Most are searchable, depending on the quality of OCR. OCR can often confuse an 8 for a B, a 0 for an O, an i for an L or 1 and other similarities. If your search is unsuccessful, try substituting one lookalike for the other. A search for partial calls can also be successful. Viewing works best by downloading the file and viewing it in a PDF reader like Adobe Reader. Check it out at: <https://leehite.org/callbooks/>

### Worked all HCRA Award

This award is something Larry, W1AST, has worked on for months to give members another activity to do throughout 2023. The goal of this year-long event is to work 10 different HCRA members on HF in any mode and on any band!

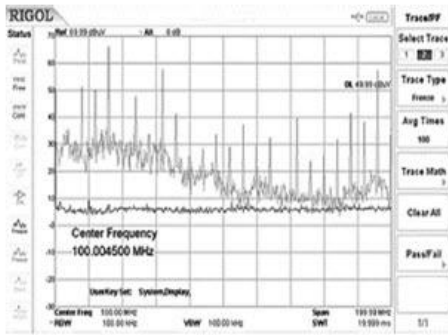
Submit your logs to [hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com) and earn a commemorative certificate celebrating our 75th anniversary! This only runs through 2023 and is a little something special for our 75th year! January 1st through December 31st, 2023, this is one of many special HCRA activities!

**Western 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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

# VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR FALL UPDATE!

## ARRL's VOTA Operating Event Continues!

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](https://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.

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).

**If you didn't work W1AW/1 last spring don't worry as there is another week of Massachusetts operations in the Fall. November 1st through the 7th is the Fall VOTA ops!**

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 gives the maximum points.

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

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

Search the VOTA Leaderboard, can be searched at: <https://vota.arrl.org/leaderboard.php>

See the Points Table at [vota.arrl.org](https://vota.arrl.org) for the full list of points.

**The Fall VOTA dates are as follows: November 1st through November 7th 2023**

Would you like to be an activator for W1AW/1 this Fall? Contact Larry, W1AST, at [hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com) to learn more. In the meantime, start working those other states. Each one is worth at least 5 points!



# ITEM'S FOR SALE & WANTED

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

**FOR SALE!**

## Brand New D-104 Silver Eagle For Sale



FOR SALE - Brand New T-UP9-D104 Astatic Silver Eagle Mic. Classic looks with all the modern electronics for today's radios.

D-104 was removed from box and back of head was engraved with the owners callsign. Comes with original box and paperwork. **\$225 or Best Offer**



Contact [kenathas@gmail.com](mailto:kenathas@gmail.com) or call 413-531-4744

## Elecraft Station and IC-7300 For Sale by Larry, KD1RV

- **Elecraft K3 100watt Rig - \$1100**
- **KPA- 500, 500watt Linear Amp - \$2000**
- **KAT-500 Antenna Tuner - \$500**  
*Includes manuals and original boxes*

*Above prices are for items listed separately  
or  
\$3,600.00 as a complete Elecraft station!*

Also:

- **Icom IC-7300 Transceiver - \$800**  
*Includes manuals and original box*

Contact Larry, KD1RV at [larrydziobek@gmail.com](mailto:larrydziobek@gmail.com)



# ITEM'S FOR SALE & WANTED

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

**FOR SALE!**

Items For Sale are from Dave, WM1B, in East Longmeadow, MA

- Antenna Tower Tuner 300 CN 300 Watt Tuner - \$50
- Kenwood HF/MHZ TS-590 All Mode Transceiver - \$500
- Kenwood MC-60 Desk Microphone - \$50
- Yaesu G459A Rotator Controller - \$50
- Rotator on 30' Tower - \$100
- Tower Antenna - \$150
- Rotatable Band - \$200
- FM Band - \$50
- ICOM IC-208 VHF/UHF FM Transceiver - \$150
- Wooxom FM Dual Sanoer KG-UVOOP - \$25
- Realistic 10-meter SSB/CW Transceiver Model HTX-100 - \$75
- Vertical 5 Frequency Antenna Mast - \$50
- Astron Power Supply Dual Meters - \$40
- PK-88 Packet Controller with Cables & Manuals - \$40

Questions? Email Dave at [dfant19508@aol.com](mailto:dfant19508@aol.com) or call 484-529-0090 or 413-525-3022

*If you have questions regarding items, use the contact info below*

If interested, or have questions, contact Dave Fant, WM1B at [dfant19508@aol.com](mailto:dfant19508@aol.com)

Email - [dfant19508@aol.com](mailto:dfant19508@aol.com)

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

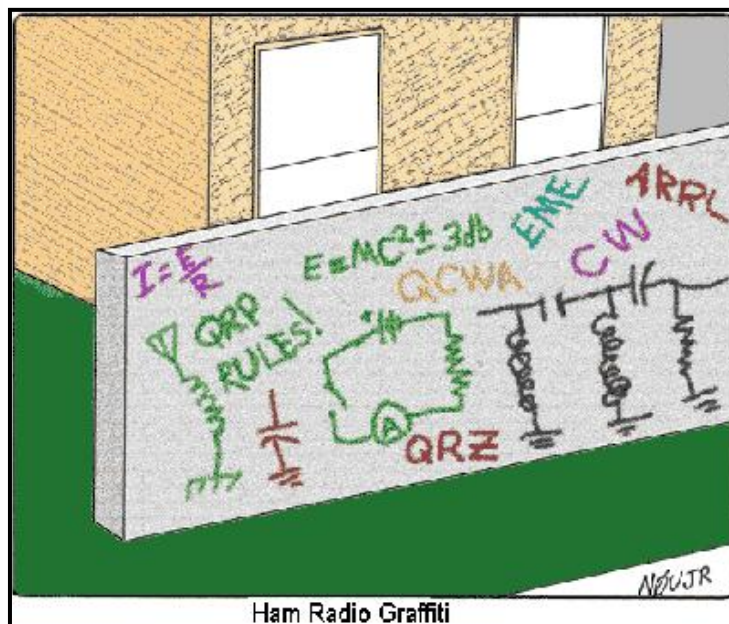
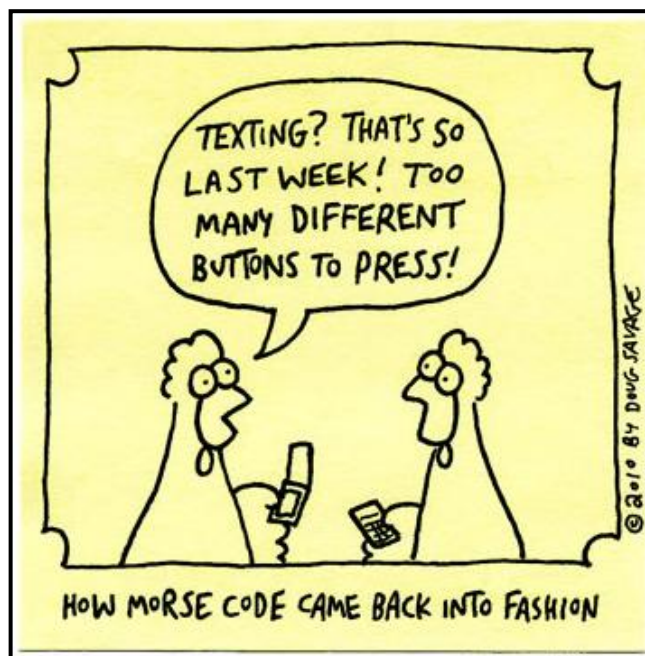
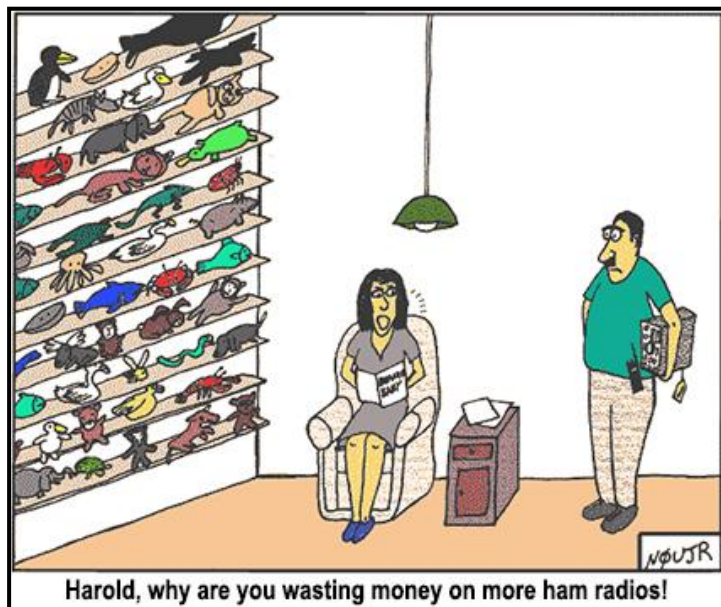
*1948 ~ 2023 75 Years as an ARRL Affiliated Club*

## **Share The Knowledge Video Library**

All STK meetings have been uploaded to [hcra.org](http://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>





**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 October 30th 2023*



☐ No Date Filter
 ☒ 2023
 ☐ 2022
 ☐ Last 12 months

Filter by club/continent:
 

HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

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	26	56	0	117	13	151	49	160	77	162	7	245	818	60 yrs
2	KK1W+1	22	34	0	73	84	101	102	123	118	109	9	232	775	47 yrs
3	NF1G	0	13	0	21	59	113	97	156	101	100	0	228	660	39 yrs
4	KX1X	2	41	5	101	95	113	96	141	111	134	4	188	843	26 yrs
5	K1NZ+1 ★	20	25	22	25	82	91	72	109	104	96	5	179	651	12 yrs
6	WY1G	0	11	0	27	0	55	36	73	75	92	7	158	376	42 yrs
7	W1AST+1	2	10	0	14	14	64	35	64	79	65	4	146	351	14 yrs
8	W1PY+1	0	4	0	38	0	48	2	96	5	87	0	126	280	13 yrs
9	NE1C	23	53	0	76	0	100	0	110	0	96	0	123	458	21 yrs
10	N1FTP ★	0	2	0	25	4	59	27	47	36	83	2	118	285	15 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	K1VOI	2	21	0	41	31	71	26	69	16	56	1	117	334	22 yrs
12	W1JA+1	0	2	4	16	25	2	34	0	38	0	2	83	123	54 yrs
13	N1JIE	1	2	1	8	21	22	15	26	9	25	1	59	131	6 yrs
14	N1TA+3	2	22	0	6	5	16	4	17	4	6	0	53	82	22 yrs
15	WD1S	1	3	0	5	0	24	0	17	0	11	1	33	62	11 yrs
16	NV1Q+3	0	0	0	7	10	16	4	7	6	11	0	33	61	44 yrs
17	W1NU+2	1	0	0	9	1	3	1	0	0	2	0	14	17	8 yrs
18	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	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](http://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 including 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 _____			
<b>Your Annual Membership Dues -</b> Circle Your Choice			
	3 Years	2 Years	1 Year
US Membership	\$140	\$95	\$49
International (Digital Only)	\$140	\$95	\$49
International (with mailed QST)	\$217	\$147	\$76
Blind	\$30	\$20	\$10
Family	\$30	\$20	\$10
Student			\$25
TOTAL \$		<input type="text"/>	
<b>Choose your print magazine -</b> Check One			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>QST</b> , ARRL's membership journal for active radio amateurs (12 monthly issues)			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>On the Air</b> , Beginner-to-intermediate-level help and advice (6 bimonthly issues)			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Digital Only</b> (All members can access the digital versions of both magazines)			
<b>Payment</b> Enclosed is my: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Charge Request			
Charge to my: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Amex <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card Number _____		Expiration Date _____	
Card Holders 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!

## HCRA Needs Your Memories!

Do you have any memories of past HCRA events, club activities, or cool club history? Anything is great, but the older the better! Your Board of Directors needs any information, no matter how insignificant you may think it is. We would rather have too much information 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](mailto:ez.w1aez@gmail.com)

## HCRA Needs Your Callsigns

HCRA President Larry, W1AST, has come up with something very cool, but he needs your help, provided you have multiple callsigns, 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 [hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com)

## Contests and Special Event Stations

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

**Collegiate QSO Party | 160m & up | Oct 7 & 8th, 0000z to 2359z CW / SSB / Digital**  
For rules and info go to: <https://1drv.ms/b/s!A1MLRRGZH7b1pOQgeFCIQuVwn97D-g?e=BpM1wY>

**Oceania DX Contest, SSB | Oct 7th at 600z to 8th at 600z, | 1.8 - 14mhz**  
For rules and additional info go to: <http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com>

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

**HCRA 75th ANNIVERSARY SES | Oct 7th 1400z - 1800z W1NY | 40m - 10m SSB & CW**  
For more info and complete details on this SES: <https://hcra.org>

## HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

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

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

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

or

Contact Paul, NFIG at [paulkelliher@comcast.net](mailto: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 12:00 pm (noon), located at 13 Center St. Chicopee, MA, across from City Hall, or simply click the link above.

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

## 10 Meter Net Guest Net Control Station

The 10 meter net Fall/Winter schedule has begun. Every Monday evening at 7 pm local. Gary, W1JZR is NCS of this fun filled net! **On the 4th Monday of each month there will be a guest Net Control Station.**

**Would you like to be a guest NCS on a weekly basis?** Contact Ken, KD1KU at [kd1ku@yahoo.com](mailto:kd1ku@yahoo.com)

Everyone is welcome to join in on 28.375 regardless of affiliation. Questions? Contact:

## Share the Knowledge Meetings are Coming Back for 2024

Share the Knowledge Zoom meetings have been a huge hit. Last winter we had many excellent STK Zoom meetings! If you missed any or would like to rewatch them check out all STK videos on [hcr.org](http://hcr.org) and on YouTube by clicking <http://www.hcra.org/category/videos/>. STK begins next January 2024

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 [hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com)

## Membership Memorial Page

All members have the opportunity to honor club members SK's on the new memorial page on [hcr.org](http://hcr.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 webmaster, Vanessa, W1IRL, at the email address below:  
[webmaster@hcr.org](mailto:webmaster@hcr.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@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:wa1dc@yahoo.com). Call or text 413-575-2950. Need directions? <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

**President** - Larry Krainson, W1AST

[hamop.w1ast@gmail.com](mailto:hamop.w1ast@gmail.com)

**Vice-President** - Ez Morales, W1AEZ

[ez.w1aez@gmail.com](mailto:ez.w1aez@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** - George Collins, KC1V

[hcra.kc1v@gmail.com](mailto:hcra.kc1v@gmail.com)

**Secretary** - Paul Kelliher, NF1G

[paulkelliher@comcast.net](mailto:paulkelliher@comcast.net)

**Programs** - Gary Thomas, AA1UE

[aa1ue@amsat.org](mailto:aa1ue@amsat.org)

**Membership** - Steve Rodowicz, N1SR

[n1sr413@gmail.com](mailto:n1sr413@gmail.com)

**Technical** - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN

[wa1ojn@jeffway.com](mailto:wa1ojn@jeffway.com)

**At Large** - Josué Lugo Delgado, KP4JLD

[tipoacrata@gmail.com](mailto:tipoacrata@gmail.com)

**Zero Beat Newsletter** - Ken Dion, KD1KU

[kd1ku@yahoo.com](mailto:kd1ku@yahoo.com)

**Website** - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL

[webmaster@hcra.org](mailto:webmaster@hcra.org)

**W1NY trustee**, John, N1JIE

[n1jie@arrl.net](mailto:n1jie@arrl.net)

**WB1Z trustee**, Vanessa, W1IRL

[webmaster@hcra.org](mailto:webmaster@hcra.org)

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



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

**Lots to Read in Our 75th  
Anniversary Edition**

---

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