

ZERO BEAT

Special Notice

The meeting room at the Holyoke Hospital is still on hold at this time. Until this changes meetings will continue to be held on Zoom. Get your meeting link in this issues "From the Presidents Shack".

Welcome New Members!

Adam Greeff KC1GVR
William Fisher W1FSH
Joseph Santaniello KC1PNX

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Our 73rd Year as a Club!

September 2021

From the editor,

It's hard to believe, but here we are into the month of September already. I hope everyone's antennas survived the crazy weather of this hot and very wet season! This month there is lots of interesting articles that should interest everybody.

As always Larry, W1AST has plenty of info in "From the Shack" and it's worth reading twice! **Don't forget, HCRA annual membership dues expired on August 31st**. Renewing is easy and secure using PayPal, or even old fashioned paper can be done as well. Either way can be done be clicking on this link www.hcra.org which takes you to the renewal page.

The best, in my opinion, is the WBZ Special Event and the HamXposition at its new location. Also read what Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC who is working hard to become the next ARRL New England Division Director has to say about his plans.

Now 5% of every purchase on AmazonSmile will be donated to the HCRA. More info on how you can help with this is on pages 8 & 9.

Bill who is now W1FMX, has contributed another great article about his journey to extra class. Vanessa, W1IRL has also submitted a very informative article geared for our younger hams, but we can all benefit from what she wrote!

Much more reading so I hope your thirst for club info will soon be quenched!

Have an idea or submission? Drop me an email at kd1ku@arrl.net. I hope everyone has an enjoyable, safe Fall, see you all next month.

73, Ken - KD1KU

September's Meeting

Friday, September 10th at 7:30pm - Rag Chew Time Begins at 7pm!

Everything You Need to Work Satellites!

Everyone was hoping we would be meeting in person by September but this pandemic refuses to quit! September and future meetings will be held on Zoom until further notice. For Septembers meeting link, see "Larry's From The Shack".

Don't miss Gary, AA1UE's "Everything You Need to Know to Work Satellites with equipment you already own" at this meeting. HCRA's very own Gary Thomas will be the guest speaker with a subject that is sure to interest all of us!

I hope to see everybody on Friday, September 10th for this meeting!

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK

LARRY KRAINSON, WIAST



September 2021 - From the Presidents Shack

We had a great time at Field Day, in case you missed it. We had three towers up with two 40m beams and the other a tri-bander set mainly to work 20m SSB. Three tents to house the stations of which two were SSB (40m and 20m) and one was CW (40m).

Overall, we made 2500+ contacts which was pretty good. We managed to get some new hams on the air for both cw and ssb. Plus some late night visiting hams took on night operations.

A good time was had by all and hopefully, with some good luck, we can have a normal sized Field Day in 2022. Mark your calendar now for the 4th full weekend in June. That's the 24-26th. It's already in my calendar!

Every three years, if you are an ARRL member, you have the opportunity to vote for a New England Division Director. This year, it is a three way race between

Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC "the new guy" and Fred Hoppengarten, K1VR and Tom Frenaye, K1KI. Not an ARRL member? Join today so you can vote too! <u>Join ARRL Here Today</u>

Three years ago, K1KI barely lost to K1VR. I feel that K1VR has not done much of anything for New England hams and clubs. Up until the pre-election, you never heard anything about K1VR and New England. I'm not interested in supporting someone who just comes out at election time. K1KI is running, but I think it's time for someone newer, with more of a feel for New England hams and clubs.

AB1OC is the ham's ham. He's active in so many aspects of ham radio himself as well as being president of the Nashua Amateur Radio Society (https://www.n1fd.org/). He brought that club back from near extinction. He's also a ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) mentor helping schools prepare to talk to the International Space Station. You could strike up a conversation with him and not realize who he is. He's not a poser, he's one of us and if voted in, will bring good things to New England hams and clubs.

Visit his website: https://abloc-4-director.org and decide for yourself. I'm voting for AB1OC for New England Division Director. I hope you will too.

What happens on the weekend of September 10th through 12th?

The 2021 HamXposition starts at 12 noon (https://hamxposition.org)
This event used to be called Boxboro!

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FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

Then at 7:30 pm Friday night, the first HCRA meeting of the 2021-2022 season occurs. Unfortunately, due to the increase in Covid infections, the Holyoke Hospital room we use for meetings is not yet available to us. Therefore we will continue meeting on Zoom. If something changes, we will let you know.

Make sure to join us for the first meeting of the year (topic discussed elsewhere in ZeroBeat). I look forward to seeing everyone!

I hope to see everyone at the September meeting. Here is your Zoom link for Fri access:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnmtgIv6pMg

Then on Saturday the 11th of September, I will be heading to the HamXposition in Marlboro. There are some excellent forums happening and I plan on attending many of them. Here is the list: https://hamxposition.org/forums-and-classes

Plus, there is the flea market so bring your backpack, some spare \$ and comfy walking shoes and prepare for some fun. Two years ago, the HamXpo had nearly 2000 attending. This year, many more are expected. Bring your masks too, just to be on the safe side. I will be there all day on Saturday. You can find me with the light blue HCRA club hat and shirt and the orange backpack. Make sure you find me and say hi in person!

WBZ, What do those radio station call letters mean to you? There is a Special Event Station celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the first transmission of WBZ/A radio happening on September 17-19th. The HCRA is working with the BARS (Billerica Amateur Radio Society) to make this happen. Billerica originated the idea and started the project. I was then brought in to help with scheduling (modifying the K2H 13 Colonies Massachusetts schedule) for WBZ. When I told BARS that the HCRA owns the WB1Z call sign and would bring it to the special event station as the 4th call sign, they knew the stars had aligned!

There will be four call signs used. They are **WB1Z**, **W1W**, **W1B** and **W1Z**. There will be hams operating under those calls all over New England with most in MA. They'll be operating all bands and all modes all times of the day and night. It begins at 9:00 AM on Friday and ends at 11:59 PM on Sunday.

I'd like to issue a challenge to the HCRA members. Try working all 4 call signs! Can you do it?

You can then send your QSL card in and an S.A.S.E. and get a very special event QSL card in return. Information on where to send your QSL request is on the WB1Z and others QRZ.com pages.

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FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

It's been a wild summer with too much rain, too much excessive heat and humidity and not enough "just comfortable" summer weather. You know, comfortable enough to sit out back and relax. One of the things that has suffered from this weather is the HCRA fox hunting. The fox boxes have been on vacation!

That is about to change. We're going to try to get both fox boxes hidden and announced for the Labor Day weekend. This will give those staying home in the area, two fox boxes to find. I'm hoping we can get everyone out hunting again and re-interested twice a month. Maybe we will gather enough interest to continue this, even in the cold weather, in anticipation of getting a good representation of HCRA hunters at the annual New Years Day fox hunt in Connecticut.

You can hear about the hidden fox boxes on the WMA Foxhunters group (https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters) and on the HCRA Facebook site and email list.

Lastly, we have plans to do a holiday party in December by returning to the Steaming Tender. However, the board is watching the Delta variant of Covid very carefully. An update will be posted if changes are to be made.

73 and I hope to hear you on the air!

Larry, W1AST HCRA President w1ast@arrl.net

Attention HCRA Members ~ Annual Memberships Expire!

REMINDER All annual HCRA memberships expired on August, 31 2021 Please renew your annual membership as soon as possible. Remember it's your dues that help your club to grow and maintain all of the activities!

The easiest way to renew is via PayPal but paper is also an option. Either can be done at hcra.org



Last Meeting You Tube Link

The June meeting was all about Field Day, Elections and more. If you missed it here is the link to the HCRA You Tube Channel.

Don't forget to click on subscribe before leaving!



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Anmtglv6pMg



WBZ RADIO ~ SPECIAL EVENT STATION

100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY SINCE WBZ WENT ON THE AIR!

September 15, 1921:

WBZ was the first station licensed as a "commercial" radio station. It operated from the former Westinghouse plant on Page Boulevard in Springfield, Massachusetts for about 10 years before moving to Boston.

WBZ is rich with firsts in history beginning with the very early days to its current format today!

To celebrate this milestone anniversary a Special Event Station will be in operation September 17th thru the 19th. During this event, four stations will be in operation with the call signs: WB1Z, W1W, W1B and W1Z.



This special event station marking the 100th year anniversary of WBZ radio will begin at 1300z/9:00am EDT, Friday September 17th and ends at 0359z/11:59pm on Sunday the 19th.

Larry, W1AST and HCRA are working with the Billerica Amateur Radio Society (BARS) to make this happen. The four call signs listed above include our own WB1Z. Plan now to be part of this event!

I hope everyone will participate in this event, go to QRZ.com and lookup the call signs that will be used during this incredible event. More info on WBZ's anniversary and this event at https://nediv.arrl.org/wbz100/.

A Challenge has Been Issued to all HCRA Members!

Get on the air and work all four of the WBZ -100 special event stations over the 17th -19th in September! The fun begins at 1300z/9:00am on Friday, and ends at 0359z/11:59pm on Sunday the 19th.

This is a co-club project initiated and supported by BARS and HCRA members. We need your support! Get on the air and work one or four over the three day event!

Look for the following call signs: W1W, W1B, W1Z and WB1Z. Can you work one? Can you work all four? Look for notices when, where and what mode on DXsummit.fi.

Work one or work them all. Send in a QSL and a self sealing S.A.S.E. for a very special 100th anniversary QSL card. We are also accepting donations in any amount to help offset QSL card costs.

There will be 27 ops across New England activating the above calls on CW, SSB, Digital, Satellite and nearly any mode you can think of!

Go to <u>QRZ.com</u> lookup any of the calls for directions on how you can get a special QSL card. More on this event can be found at https://nediv.arrl.org/wbz100/



FRED KEMMERER, ABIOC

I Hope to become your next ARRL New England Division Director

I am Fred Kemmerer, ABIOC and I am working hard to become your ARRL New England Division Director. I have a long history of helping people to become licensed, learn new skills, and become active in the Amateur Radio Service.

I have served as the President of the Nashua Area Radio Society, a club that has provided many hams licensing and development programs over the past six years.

I love Ham Radio and all that it enables. As your Director, I will work hard to protect our hobby and to create and promote activities and programs which will maximize our ability to participate in and enjoy Amateur Radio.



Amateur Radio changes people's lives for the better. It certainly has had a huge positive impact on my life and I want to become Director so that I may work with clubs and individual Hams across New England to help them to bring positive life experiences through Amateur Radio to more people in our division and across the ARRL.



I believe that Amateur Radio clubs play an essential role in bringing new hams into the Amateur Radio Service and in helping hams to develop new skills. He serves as an ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) Mentor and Ground Station, helping schools around the world participate in STEM learning based upon Amateur Radio.

I will help groups and individuals in New England to create projects and programs to bring Amateur Radio to young people across the division.

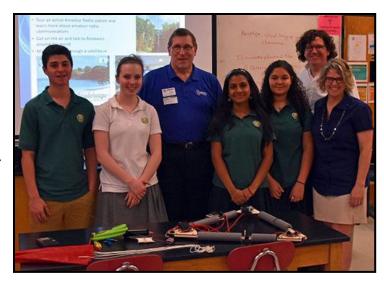
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FRED KEMMERER, AB10C CONT'D

Amateur Radio provides a tremendous opportunity for young people to learn about technical topics and to develop valuable skills that they can use throughout their lives. Fred continues to spend time in local schools teaching classes and providing activities that bring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning opportunities to students through Amateur Radio.

In addition to inspiring young people to pursue STEM careers by becoming Hams, this work also serves to improve the public's understanding of the importance and value that Amateur Radio provides.



WHAT I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH AS NEW ENGLAND DIRECTOR

- Bring new people into Amateur Radio by working collaboratively with clubs across New England and the ARRL
- Create opportunities for STEM learning in schools and colleges through Amateur Radio
- Create positive public and agency awareness and support for Amateur Radio to protect our spectrum and our rights
- Ensure effective, open, 2-way communications between the ARRL and its members
- Establish the New England Division as a leader in providing world-class Amateur Radio programs

See the details of my plans at elect.abloc.org/first-100-days



I NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

There are currently three candidates for the position of ARRL New England Director. Ballots for the election will be mailed to all New England ARRL Members on October 1st

I am asking you for your help and your vote in making our plans a reality to benefit Amateur Radio folks across New England and the ARRL

If you are not already an ARRL Member, please consider joining the ARRL and participating in the upcoming New England Director election. You can become an ARRL member by <u>Clicking Here</u>

Your vote for Fred Kemmerer, ABIOC means a great deal to the future of Amateur Radio!

Were you unable to attend the first AB10C Elect Town Hall Meeting? Click the link below to watch it https://abloc-4-director.org/first-town-hall/



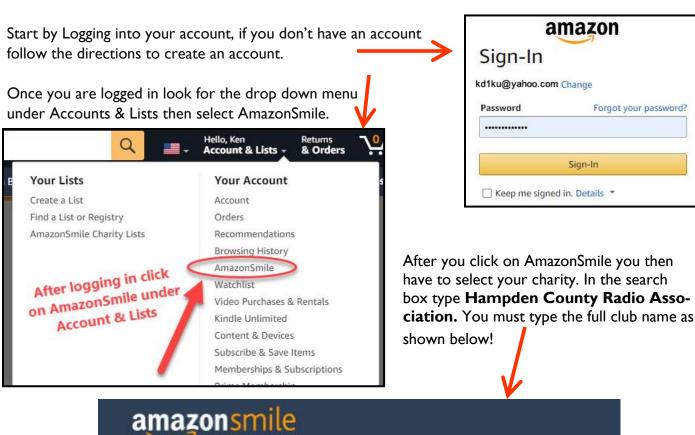
HOW YOU CAN DONATE .5% OF YOUR PURCHASE TO HCRA EVERY TIME YOU SHOP!



Let's face it, almost everybody shops on Amazon one way or another these days! What's even better is the fact that HCRA can receive .5% of every purchase you make on eligible items. It's easy, so follow along as I show just how you can designate your club as your selected charity on AmazonSmile.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of all your eligible purchases to HCRA.





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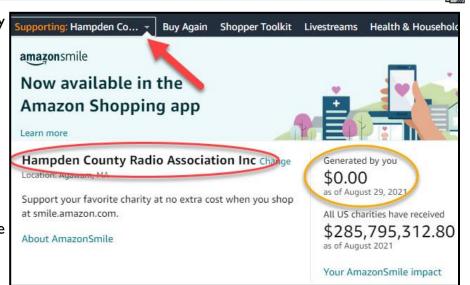




HOW YOU CAN DONATE .5% OF YOUR PURCHASE TO HCRA EVERY TIME YOU SHOP!

Once you have Hampden County Radio Association saved as your charity it will look like the image shown on the right. The Red circle shows the charity of your choice while the Yellow circle shows the total of your contributions.

When you're logged into your account it will show HCRA as your charity in the upper menu bar to the left of the search bar, as shown in the right image. (Red arrow)



It may seem like a lot but it only took me a couple minutes to complete the entire process.

Now let the fun begin as it's time to shop! While looking for items you wish to purchase watch for the following below the price when you view an item. Anything that says "Eligible for AmazonSmile Donation" qualifies for the .5% donation by Amazon to the Hampden County Radio Association, now that's cool!

The image below shows exactly what this looks like in case you've never noticed this before. You can still shop on Amazon as always but our club will benefit from the purchases you make!

All items eligible for AmazonSmile donations will be marked as below (circled in Red)



The Fox's Den

HCRA FOX HUNTING IS BACK! NOW LETS FIND THOSE FOXBOX'S

Fox Hunt's Have Resumed!

This summer was one of the wettest and hottest in recent memory! I guess one thing is for sure, the only hiding the Foxbox's have been doing since Field Day is in Larry's garage!

It's time for both of them to get a well deserved workout to say the very least and over the long Labor Day Weekend and into the Fall!

If some of you are not doing anything or going away over the long holiday weekend then why not take part in some fox hunting?

The plans are to hide both Fox Box-1 and Fox Box-2 somewhere in the greater Springfield / Northampton area in a public place that's close to safe parking and on flat ground that's easy on the feet. No climbing up or down big hills or getting your car stuck!

Both Fox Box's transmit and receive on 147.550 simplex but to activate either you need the proper sequence and the correct PL tones which are listed below!

Foxbox-1's PL tone is 100.0

Foxbox-2's PL tone is 151.3

How to Activate Either Foxbox

To activate either Foxbox go to the 2-meter simplex frequency of 147.550 (with the PL tone for that Foxbox), key your transmitter, identify yourself with your call sign and while keyed then press the DTMF "1". If the Fox can hear you (and you can hear it) you will hear its very distinctive sound. (Both Fox Box's play different melody's) It will transmit for 30 seconds, ID and then repeat 2 more times before going back to sleep. You can make it transmit as often as necessary to locate it. Sometimes it takes several try's to get a heading on a Foxbox.

To get all the fox hunting info go to https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters, if you don't have an account sign-up it's free, safe and secure! Also watch the HCRA Facebook group page and the Reflector email blast for complete details and to post the pic you took after finding the FB.

Good luck finding both Foxbox's as they can be tricky little rascals!

I hope to hear several hunters trying their luck at finding one or both Foxbox's over the weekend or this Fall when temperatures are more enjoyable and foxhunts will be held twice per month. There is a very good chance of having a old school "live" Foxhunt!

73, Ken - KD1KU



HamXposition 2021

NEW DATE NEW VENUE ~ FORMERLY BOXBORO!



What happens on the second weekend of September?

Only one thing comes to mind, that's the 2021 HamXposition! (formerly Boxboro)

NEW DATE, NEW VENUE! The HamXposition will be held at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road, Marlborough, MA. September 10, 11 & 12, 2021.

The Northeast HamXposition attracts hobbyists, makers, science and STEM enthusiasts, school and scout groups, and amateur radio operators from all over New England. Tickets are just \$18, good for all three days, and special free admission for full-time students with student ID (including college students).

General Admission

• Friday: 12 PM to 5 PM

• Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM

• Sunday: 9 AM to 1 PM

Why move to Marlborough? The Royal Plaza has:

- More parking, plenty of flea market space. It's a large, modern venue.
- Adjacent Trade Center complex. that has enough expansion space to host a national convention in the future.
- Adjacent hotels, numerous restaurants and shops far more than the old Boxboro location.

There will be plenty of vendors, seminars, forums and just about everything else you can think of. For all of the details on this event go to https://hamxposition.org/forums-and-classes.

2019 HamXposition Highlights





First Time Ham

EMCOMM, ARES®, SKYWARN & MORE

June was the start of hurricane season in the USA. Although in Western MA we do not see many hurricanes, other severe weather conditions can affect us during the summer like: tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, micro-bursts, heavy flooding, etc. Just this past August12 we had brief but powerful thunderstorms in our Western MA area. Several trees fell down and several structures were damaged around the region.

In winter we can have snow and ice emergencies. Besides being prepared at a personal and family level, I ask you to consider becoming involved in your community's emergency volunteer services. As a licensed radio operator, you can help by becoming an Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES®) member. You do not have to be a member of the ARRL to be part of ARES®. You will have to take some online courses to become knowledgeable in the common language, and procedures used by the agencies involved in emergencies and emergency communications (EMCOMM). Any level of ham license is useful, of course you will operate within your license privileges.

Voice communications are used on VHF/UHF nets. Some nets are held via repeaters and some via simplex frequencies. Simplex can always be the fall-back way when repeaters are down. Operators with General or Extra licenses can also communicate over HF frequencies where they can have privileges.

Voice, also known as phone, is only one way to communicate. There is also CW, known as Morse Code by most of the non-hams. Why learn CW? CW takes less bandwidth than voice. In emergencies, a fast CW Net can handle more traffic per hour than a voice net. Also, often where some weak voice transmissions cannot be picked up, CW ones can. Other communications modes that are used in emergencies include: PSK31. Winlink allows for email communications via radio. Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) is becoming, or maybe already is, one of the widely accepted standards for emergency communications for amateur volunteers.

There may be several local organizations that accept volunteers for emergencies and some public events. Volunteering for public events are a good way to keep our skills well honed. The key is you need to establish the relationship with the organization before an emergency incident occurs. That way you will become knowledgeable of their procedures which ensures order in the chaos that can ensue during emergencies. For more information and if you want to give back to your community, please consider joining ARES®. You can check the Western MA ARES® website at: https://wma.arrl.org. We need more volunteers especially in Hampshire County.

For a video about DMR see our video: https://youtu.be/WYhb6Bh_9k0

The above is a very broad overview that barely scratches the surface, there is so much more about EMCOMM that you could learn.

Vanessa, W1IRL

PS, Please consider subscribing to our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/HampdenCountyRA

General to Extra – The Long Course

ONE HAM'S JOURNEY TO EXTRA CLASS



Sample of an Extra Class Certificate (no longer issued)

Have you considered upgrading to an Amateur Extra Class? I did, too – it only took me 50 years, but it was worth it. Here's my story.

In the late 1960's, I was a high school student who had wanted to become a Ham for some time. My interest started a few years earlier, when my mother needed to get an emergency message to an uncle who was in the military and based in Okinawa, so she and I went to the home of a woman who was a MARS (Military Amateur Radio Service Operator). The station was impressive even to a non-Ham: it had all Collins gear, a rotor control, phone patch, and outside were a couple of beams on a high mast. When I saw it, I knew I had to find a way into the hobby.

One day, a friend and I were talking about how great it would be to become a Ham, but we both had run into the same wall: the difficulty in mastering the Morse code. Our science teacher became aware of what we were discussing, and he, who was a Ham, decided to "help" us. I will always be grateful for his pushing us. In a couple of months, he arranged for another Ham who held a General Class license to give us the novice exam which required a 5 Words Per Minute (WPM) code test and brief (20 question) written exam. Both passing the exam, the other student and I were on our way as new operators.

Within a year, my code speed was up to about 15 WPM, and I had been studying for the General Class exam, so I applied to the F.C.C. for an appointment to take the test at the regional field office which was located in Manhattan. Soon, a notice arrived in the mail with an appointment. The testing at the field office was much more intimidating than taking the Novice exam with a volunteer examiner. First, you were directed into a room that had a group of desks and old-fashioned earphones and straight keys where you were seated. The code test was 13 WPM sent by a tape machine (a paper tape that looked like a "ticker tape" controlled the sending of the code – kind of like a player piano). The test taker had to use pencil and paper and write down what was sent; the "copied" code was then inspected by an F.C.C. examiner, and if you copied at least one minute without any mistakes, he would then direct you to send at 13 WPM using text from a pre-printed test card. Then, if you passed the sending part, the test taker was allowed to take the written test. All in all, it was a challenge to get the license.

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General to Extra – The Long Course CONT'D

ONE HAM'S JOURNEY TO EXTRA CLASS



At that time, F.C.C. regulations were changing. It had been that a General class license gave an operator all of the privilege's allowed to Amateurs. The Extra Class was really just a "prestige" ticket – a special certificate that you could hang on a wall certifying that a person had mastered the Morse Code at 20WPM, knew advanced theory and had been a general class Ham for at least two years. Needless to say, most Hams remained General Class operators. But, the F.C.C., in an effort to encourage advancement among Hams, changed the distribution of privileges by re-instituting the Advanced Class license and taking away some of the better sections of the bands and assigning them exclusively to Advanced and Extra licensees.

Like many Hams from that era, I decided that I was content with my General Class license and annoyed that some of its privileges had been taken away. I did think that, at some point, I would go for an Extra Class, but there was no hurry. Well, life intervened, and soon I found that I had been a Ham for decades and was still a General Class licensee.

Noticing that there would be a new Extra licensure test in 2020, I started studying in 2019, figuring that I would study for a few months and the take the exam. Well, the last time I had taken an exam, there were still vacuum tube circuits included as topics. Satellites, digital modes, SDR and other aspects of Amateur radio were familiar to me, but I really did not understand much about them. So, getting ready for the exam took longer than I expected as there was so much that was new to learn. Needless to say, I missed the 2020 exam goal. Then, Covid hit and taking an exam became problematic as test dates were postponed or cancelled. Finally, in June of this year, I saw that the ARRL had posted an examination session taking place in Connecticut, so I went there and took the exam.

When I first started to prepare for the exam, I used Gordon West's 2016-2020 Extra Class question and answer study guide. West looks at each question and gives a short explanation. It's a good book. But, the problem I found in using this book, which I do recommend, is that there was so much background that I did not have, that I needed to add more in order to understand the material. West does offer a more complete online study course if someone wants to do that.

Because I prefer to work from a hardcopy book, I found that the ARRL 's Extra Class License Manual was very thorough and helpful as it explains the theory for the examination questions in detail. It also, provides the set of questions and answers that makes up the pool used for the actual exam. This book, by itself, would be all that anyone needs to prepare for the exam.

But, as an older student who was clearly "rusty", I wanted to use every resource I could find. In addition to West's and the ARRL's books, I also found one by Craig Buck's Pass Your Amateur Radio Extra Class Test: the Easy Way: All Ham and No Spam. This book focuses just 0n the correct answers and gives a short explanation of reach one – the strategy is that, if you know all the answers, you'll easily identify them when taking the exam.

Finally, to check on my progress, I used the online questions available on the QRZ.com and the ARRL's website.

So, if you, like me, just have not gotten around to upgrading your license, why not start preparing now? It is a great feeling of satisfaction to get the higher ticket. it might take a little bit of time to master the material than it did for a lower class license, but you'll find that you already know much of the material from your experience as an operating Ham and the rest will open new horizons for you.

73, Bill W1FMX

Item's For Sale



HCRA MEMBER ITEMS FOR SALE, TRADE OR WANTED

Ham Radio Equipment from the Estate of W6IS

Interested in any of the following gear? Please contact Larry, WIAST at wlast@arrl.net

Side Note, I purchased the FT-1000D and SP-5 and the condition is absolutely pristine! Ken, KD1KU

- I. Superior Instrument Tube Tester Model TW-II **\$80**
- 2. Collins 75S-I \$800
- 3. Yaesu FT-1000D HF Transceiver SOLD!
- 4. Kenwood SSB Transceiver Model TS520 \$150
- 5. Kenwood Model TS940S \$650
- 6. Collins Type 5164 2 S/N 10378
- 7. Alpha Power Model 87-A S/N 87799451191 **\$2500**
- 8. Kenwood Model TL 922A
- 9. Collins 32S I \$800
- 10. Sprague Tube Tester Model MAKE OFFER
- II. SOLD!
- 12. Kenwood Model TS440S \$400
- 13. **SOLD!**
- 14. Eico Model 625 Tube Tester \$80
- 15. HeathKit High Power Antenna Tuner SA 2060A \$350
- 16. Kenwood PS-50 \$50
- 17. Yaesu SP-5 External Speaker \$125 SOLD!
- 18. Kenwood SP430 Speaker \$25
- 19. Samlex America SEC1212 Switching PS \$40
- 20. Yaesu FT727R Dual Band HT 2 Meters \$30
- 21. ICOM IC21OOH w/mobile Mic \$80

- 22. **SOLD!**
- 23. Heath Kit Model IG 102 RF Signal Generator \$30
- 24. Yaesu FT-109RH Handheld \$20
- 25. Yaesu FT-209RH Handheld B \$20
- 26. Collins Station Control Model 312B 4 \$150
- 27. **SOLD!**
- 28. **SOLD!**
- 29. William Nye Co. RF Power Meter (w/coupler?) \$350
- 30. Butternut HF2V 80 & 40m Vertical Antenna Brand New in Box (HRO LIST \$450) \$300
- 31. Astron PS 12A \$35
- 32. Kenwood TM221A 2m Mobile \$50
- 33. MFJ Deluxe Electronic Keyer MFJ-407B \$35
- 34. HY-GAIN Tail Twister Direction Control T2X \$75
- 35. Kenwood SP930 Speaker \$50
- 36. Kenwood TL922A \$800
- 37. RCP Radio City Products Model 664 \$30
- 38. Yaesu SP-55 Speaker **\$20**
- 39. Precision 120 Meter MAKE OFFER
- 40. Vibroplex lambic Chrome w/plastic Cover \$150
- 41. Yaesu ATAS-100 Screwdriver Antennas \$125

If your interested in any of the gear listed above contact Larry, WIAST at wlast@arrl.net

Note: Any club members that have items to sell, items they want or items to trade or swap simply contact myself at the email at the end of this note. Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue being released.

Email item(s) and images to kdlku@yahoo.com

Picnic and Radios - Mount Sugarloaf

A CO-CLUB EVENT HOSTED BY THE HCRA AND OUR FRIENDS AT THE FCARC



Brad Councilman, W1BCC

When:

Sunday, September 19th, 2021 10:30am to 2:30pm (EDT)

Where:

Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation (see map below)

Organizer:

Brad Councilman, W1BCC & Larry Krainson, W1AST

Description:

At 652', South Sugarloaf Mountain is one of the most accessible and popular scenic outlooks in the region. Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation

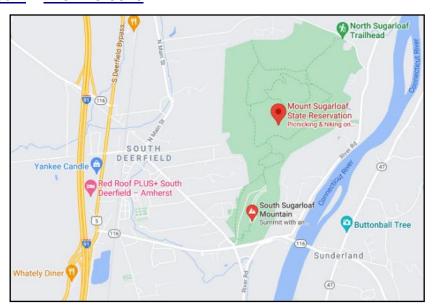
Parking at the base is free. Parking on the summit is pay and display: \$5 MA plates, \$20 non-MA. Late arrivals may find the summit parking lot full and need a ride up

We'll be grilling hot dogs and burgers under a roofed pavilion. Please bring your favorite pot-luck dish and folding chair. AC power is available

This is also an operating event. Lots of trees for wire antennas and unobstructed VHF/UHF access to most of the horizon

SOTA enthusiasts might want to activate nearby Pocumtuck Rock

Questions and RSVP's are welcome. Contact Brad at the following email or phone number brad@councilman.com ~ 413-773-0670





Scheduled Meetings and Guest Speakers

September	Everything you need to know to work satellites with equipment you already own by Gary, AA1UE
OCTOBÉR 2021	Building a Solid Future for Ham Radio by Fred Kemmerer, AB10C Campaigning to be your Next ARRL New England Division Director.
November 2021	Everything you Need to Know About You Tube by Bob, N1NUG
DECEMBER 2021	The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant (subject to change due to Covid variant)
JANUARY 2022	All About EMCOMM or Emergency Communications including some Go Boxes and ways to power off grid operations by Charlie, KC1IKA
FEBRUARY 2022	Building your very own Contest Station - Presented by DX Engineering
PARCH 2022	It's almost balloon time once again and here to give us all of the latest updates for the next launch is Marcel, AA1WH
April 2022	Show and Tell is back This has always been one of the very best and most interesting out of all the meetings!
2022	Guest Speaker To Be Аллоилсеd
2022	Elections, Field Day prep and more. Please consider running for a board position, HCRA is better with you involved!

ARRL STUFF

Things are happening in the world of Amateur Radio. ARRL is our advocate for Government, education and organization. I hope everyone that is a member of HCRA is also a member of ARRL.

District Director elections are coming up later this fall. Beginning October 1, ARRL members will send in their ballots for New England director and Vice Director. As with any organization, elected volunteer leadership is a lot of work, and the person in that office must have a clear concept of what they believe the correct direction of the organization should be. Often, membership does not have multiple candidates to choose from. This term, the New England Division has at least 2 candidates for election. Both have clear areas of expertise, and both are experienced hams and leaders. This is not a decision to leave to others. Get involved, learn about the candidates and vote.

A starting point to learning for our district could be a groups.io that I learned about from the EMA web page. Go to https://groups.io/g/NE-elect and start there. Already lots of good discussion. Candidates are responding to questions, and that is a good indicator of the importance of this election.

I will not pick or endorse a candidate here. But as I find information or discussion groups, I will try to put that info here for all.

ARRL Western Mass Section

Check the WMA section page at www.wma.arrl.org

Franklin Co. (MA) Members To Provide Public Service Communications for Two Events Aaron Addison, KF1G, writes:

The Franklin County Amateur Radio Club will provide communications for two events soon to take place in our area. We welcome licensed amateurs who would like to join us.

On 20 August, the Franklin County Land Trust will host an off the beaten path bicycle tour, called the Deerfield Dirt Road Rondonee (D2R2). It is part of their fund raising efforts. As the name of the tour suggests, it is mostly over dirt roads, in rural towns of western Franklin County and up into southern Vermont. Radio communications are necessary for key points along the tour where cell phone service is not available. At those points, our communicators will be the only way the Franklin Land Trust staff can send or receive messages to and from the base for the race in Deerfield.

The tour consists of three routes: 100k, 160k, and 180k. The first group of riders start at 6 AM, and the last rider may return as late as 6 PM. We will not cover that entire time period. We will ask radio volunteers to work in shifts. Volunteers may occasionally be asked to bring equipment, water, or food to remote stops along the way

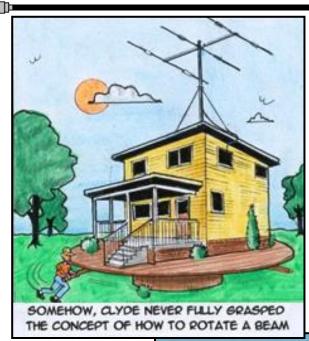
On 29 August, the Connecticut River Conservancy and the Sugarloaf Mountain Athletic Club sponsor a traditional, 26 mile marathon. It starts at the campus of the former Marlboro Community College, in Marlboro, VT, and follows a path along the banks of the Green River, over mostly dirt roads. Our club members, with help from others, will help with the needs of the race staff, many positioned at water stops along the way. We are also there to call for help if needed by runners in distress.

For the D2R2, contact Al Woodhull, N1AW, at aswoodhull@yahoo.com, or 413-773-3522. For the Green River Marathon, contact Chris Myers, KB1NEK, at camyers@protonmail.com, or 413-625-0344 More information on the Groups.IO site, at FCARC-MA, in the FILES section

ARRL Western Massachusetts Section Manager - Raymond P. Lajoie, KB1LRL - kb1lrl@arrl.org

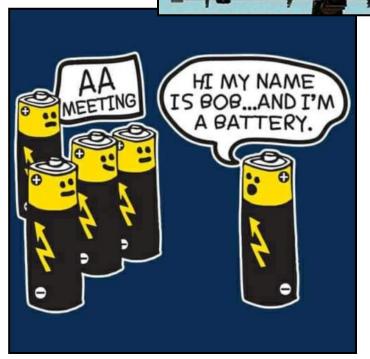
To learn more about membership, and how it can help you - http://www.arrl.org/membership

















HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club





Brown Baggers are Back!

For the benefit of our newer members Brown Baggers is a friendly lunch get together that happens on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. It is held at <u>The Munich Haus Restaurant</u> 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!

General License Class

HCRA has plans to hold a General license class but before this can happen we need is someone to head this class up! Also needed are teachers & more. Please consider volunteering to lead this class or it may be scrapped! For more information or to volunteer contact Larry, W1AST at: w1ast@arrl.net

Fox Hunting

Both Foxbox's will be in hiding during the Labor Day weekend and into the fall season twice a month. For more info see The Fox's Den or join https://groups.io/g/WMAFoxHunters for all the latest info including how to bring up Fox Box-1 and Fox Box-2 with frequency's, PL tones and more... join today, it's FREE!

10 Meter Net Fall Schedule

The 10 meter net Fall schedule will be as follows: Beginning 9/13 the net returns to every Monday at 7pm on 28.375usb. Marcel, AA1WH is NCS. Everyone is welcome to join us regardless of club affiliation or location. Weekly topics will be posted on the HCRA Facebook group and the Reflector email list.

Memorial Page

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

Please check-out the HCRA You Tube Channel and while you're there don't forget to click subscribe!

I hope that many members are working on their short video's for the club's You Tube channel.

For more info see the April issue of Zero Beat. The You Tube Channel link is below

For Sale Items

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

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

HCRA Social Media Links

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

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

Twitter: https://twitter.com/HampdenCountyRA

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

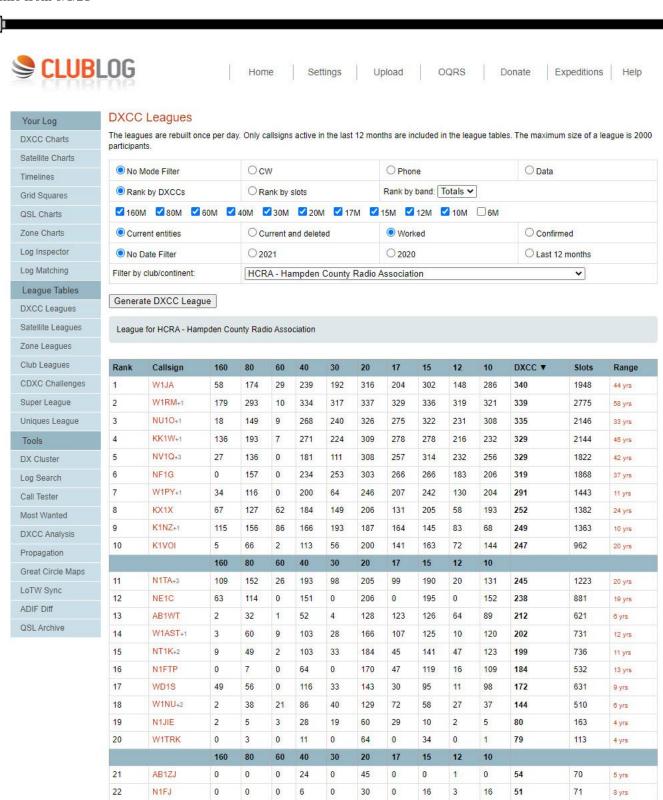




Clublog update: Clublog can be accessed at https://clublog.org/league.php Signup is free, and there are a number of ways to lookup information. Give it a try, who knows... you might like it!

This is the clublog with open dates—basically it's a history from the start of each persons log. As you can see, many of the top members have many years on the air.

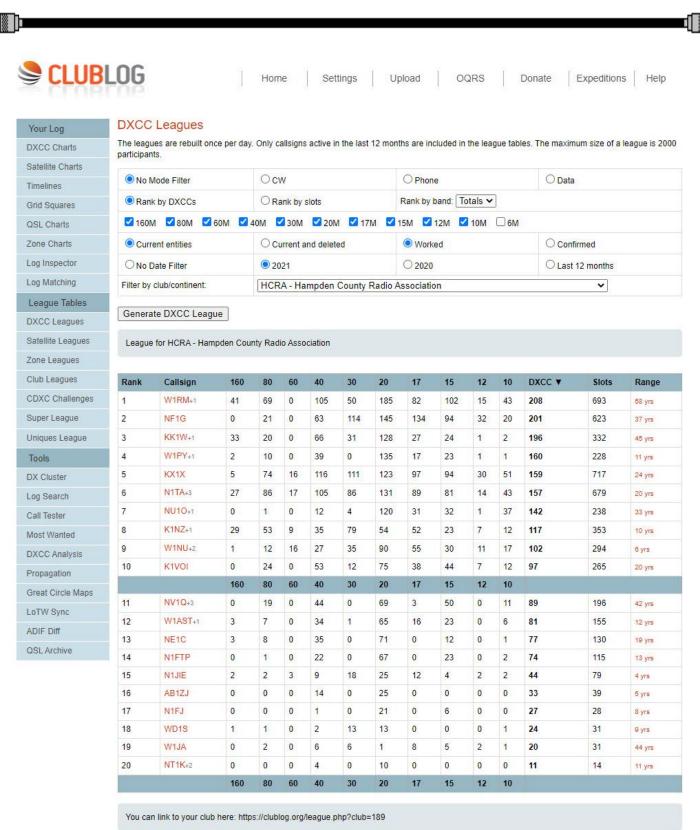
Info from 9/1/21



1 M. J

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 HCRA Clublog for 2021 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy so far this year!



DOTS & DASHES Things that don't fit anyplace else

Amateurs Asked to Keep Frequencies Clear

Following the earthquake in Haiti, radio amateurs are being asked to keep the following frequencies clear. The statement came from IARU-R2 Emergency Coordinator (EMCOR) Carlos Alberto Santamar Gonzalez, CO2JC. The frequencies are: 3750 kHz, 7150 kHz, and 14330 kHz. Jean-Robert Gaillard, HH2JR, President of the Radio Club of Haiti, reported significant structural damage.

FCC Application Fees Unlikely to Go into Effect Until 2022

The schedule of FCC amateur radio application fees likely will not go into effect before 2022. FCC staff confirmed during a recent virtual meeting. The agency is still working on the necessary changes to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) software and other processes and procedures. The new estimate is that the fees won't go into effect until early next year. Once it's effective, the \$35 application fee will apply to new modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications.

Changes to the licensee's name, mailing, or email address, will be exempt from fees.

Contests and Special Event Stations

Contests - www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

New Hampshire QSO Party - Sept 18 -19th http://www.w1wgm.org/nhqso/NEW_HAMPSHIRE_QSO_PARTY_RULES.pdf

Worked All Europe DX Contest, SSB - Sept 11th - 12th

More info at - https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/wae-dx-contest/en/

Special Event Stations - Special Event Station Search

WBZ Radio 100th Anniversary Special Event - Sept 17th at 1300z to 19th at 0359z All Bands, All Modes! Work call signs W1W, W1B, W1Z, and WB1Z for a very special QSL card! 27 operators on all four call signs. Info at https://nediv.arrl.org/wbz100/ Follow along with DXSummit.fi

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, September 15th and January 15th

See hcra.org for complete information

or

Contact Paul, NFIG at NFIG@arrl.net





Local Nets & Happenings

Sundays: 0845 Western MA. Emergency Net on 146.94,

PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

Sundays: 0915 Western MA. Emergency Net on

443.200, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

1st Monday: Southwick Regional RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Sim-

plex

Mondays: 1900 HCRA 10 Meter Net 28.375 Note: Winter 10m

net schedule begins on Sept, 13th at 1900 (7pm)

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

County Emergency Net

Wednesdays: 1930: MTARA Info net followed by the swap net &

the N1RLX simplex net on 146.94, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

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

2000: MTARA (N1RLX) Simplex Net, Check-in's 146.94, PL 127.3, then goes to 146.42 Simplex Immediately following the swap net

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

Club Meetings and VE Sessions

Please contact site / organization to ensure it will meet. Clubs meet on Zoom, VE sessions are being developed.

1st Friday of the month at 7:30pm HCRA Meeting. Virtual meeting's are held via Zoom. Meeting's start with a rag chew session at 7pm followed by the regular Zoom meeting at 7:30pm. http://www.hcra.org/

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

Saturday before the FCARC meeting at 8am. Breakfast at Denny's Pantry in Greenfield (as Covid allows)

4th Friday of the month 6:00pm, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, in-person exams are on hold at present. A virtual exam is being explored. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team at https://pvvet.org/ or contact David Cote at w1fab@arrl.net

4th Monday of February, May, August, November 7:00pm, FCARC VE Exams, http://www.fcarc.org/

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

HCRA Contact List

President - Larry Krainson, W1AST w1ast@arrl.net

Vice-President - Marcel LaPierre, AA1WH

aa1wh@arrl.net

Treasurer - Duane Pray, KC1FQV

kc1fqv@arrl.net

Secretary - Paul Kelliher, NF1G

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Programs - Gary Thomas, AA1UE

aa1ue@amsat.org

Membership - John Plaster, K1VOI

k1voi_jp@charter.net

Technical - Najm Choueiry, AB1ZA

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At Large - Bob Jeffway, WA1OJN

wa1ojn@jeffway.com

Newsletter - Ken Dion, KD1KU

kd1ku@arrl.net

Website - Vanessa Oquendo, W1IRL

webmaster@hcra.org

W1NY trustee, John, N1JIE n1jie@arrl.net

WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL





Here is your exciting new copy of Zero Beat!

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