



ZERO BEAT

Meeting Update!

The Holyoke Hospital has opened their meeting room to us once again. Beginning in September in-person meetings are back! For more info see this issue, "From the Presidents Shack"

Welcome New Members

Josue Lugo Delgado - KP4JLD

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Our 74th Year as a Club!

September 2022

From the editor,

There's nothing better than returning to editing Zero Beat after the long hot summer than the fact we are returning to in-person meetings at the Holyoke Hospital with no restrictions! See page 4 for info. If you're unsure of the meeting location in Holyoke visit hcra.org/meeting-location for complete directions.

August 31st is the final day of the fiscal year which means memberships for those who choose to renew annually have expired. Please renew your membership as soon as possible. More Information about dues renewal on page 9.

If you're into restoring vintage ham radios then Bill, W1FMX, wrote a great article that's all about restoring and re-capping an older HF radio!

Project BIG E is coming up fast with less than 2 weeks away at the time of publication. HCRA is the Home club so If you haven't volunteered yet please do so ASAP!

Sept. 15th is the next date for Paul, NF1G and the Outgoing QSL Service. You must be a member of the ARRL to take advantage of this HCRA service.

If you have an article or idea for ZB email myself at kd1ku@arrl.net. Be sure to take part in club activities such as the 10 meter net now that we're back on the winter schedule. I hope to see everyone at the September meeting, in-person!

73, Ken - KD1KU

September 9th Meeting

We're Back at the Holyoke Hospital, In-Person!

In-person meetings at the Holyoke Hospital are back! Doors open at 7 pm. Meeting begins at 7:30 pm. If you're unsure where the meeting is held

Click this link: <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

This meeting's guest speaker is none other than Tim Duffy, K3LR. Tim works for DX Engineering and is the owner of the K3LR Super Station! At the time of this publication it's unknown what his topic might be, but one thing is for sure... it's bound to be highly interesting!

Please welcome our new Vice President Ez, W1AEZ and our new Treasurer, George, KC1V. Read about it in this month's "From the Presidents Shack" on page 4.

Upcoming Meetings and Guest Speakers

 <p>September 2022</p>	<p>Tim Duffy, K3LR will be our September guest speaker. Tim is from the K3LR SuperStation in West Middlesex, PA. Don't miss his presentation!</p>
<p>OCTOBER 2022</p>	<p>Guest Speaker To Be Announced</p>
 <p>November 2022</p>	<p>Guest Speaker To Be Announced</p>
 <p>DECEMBER 2022</p>	<p>The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant Join us for a night of great food and fun with your fellow hams. (subject to change)</p>
 <p>JANUARY 2023</p>	<p>Guest Speaker To Be Announced</p>
 <p>FEBRUARY 2023</p>	<p>Guest Speaker To Be Announced</p>
 <p>MARCH 2023</p>	<p>Guest Speaker To Be Announced</p>
 <p>April 2023</p>	<p>Guest Speaker To Be Announced</p>
 <p>MAY 2023</p>	<p>Guest Speaker To Be Announced</p>
 <p>JUNE 2023</p>	<p>Elections, Field Day prep and more. Please consider running for a board position, HCRA is a better club when you're involved!</p>

WE NEED YOU!

AT THE AMATEUR RADIO BOOTH AT THE BIG E THIS FALL

Amateur Radio will be on public display like never before at The BIG E in West Springfield, MA from September 16th - October 2nd, 2022.

Over a million people will visit the Fair over the 17-day period. We need ham radio “Goodwill Ambassadors” to staff the booth and promote our hobby-service to the public and potential licensees.

Who: Hams like you who enjoy interacting with the public

What: You’ll be demonstrating ham radio contacts and sharing Amateur Radio information with the public (talking points will be provided)

When: Two shifts per day, **9:30 am - 4:00 pm** (first session) and **3:30 pm - 10:00 pm** (second session) on some days. (check schedule)

Where: Booth #103 inside Door Number 6 of the Better Living Center (BLC)

How: Sign up via the following link or QR code, both will **ONLY** show currently available shifts!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9_iH1ZucHuCFCNwreEuVPWnmLOT5D_s92vHPuEUASS78Tew/viewform

Or simply point your cell phone camera at the QR code to the right: 



HCRA is the HOME BASE club and a sponsor of this exciting event!
Many club members have already volunteered, how about YOU!

All HCRA members should be familiar with Project Big E as it has been advertised plenty! There has been lots of planning with weekly meeting’s plus recruiting volunteers as well as other clubs around New England.

SPACE CHAT is the grand finally of sorts and will happen in the Big E Arena where the concerts are held. This is where the ISS chat will happen. The exact date and time will be announced soon!

This event is a huge honor so please support the HCRA and volunteer today! All volunteers will have admission and on Big E grounds parking fees reimbursed! Support your club by clicking the link directly below to volunteer or contact Larry at the email address in the bottom yellow bar.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9_iH1ZucHuCFCNwreEuVPWnmLOT5D_s92vHPuEUASS78Tew/viewform

To volunteer to staff the booth or to ask any questions, Contact Larry at w1last@arrl.net



September 2022 - From the Presidents Shack Late Breaking News!

The HCRA will once again be meeting in person at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Room Starting with the September 9th meeting!

Why on the 9th? The first Friday in September is part of Labor Day weekend and many people go away. By holding the meeting, a week later, more people get to attend.

Doors open at the 7 pm and the meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

Gary, AA1UE assures me he has a good speaker planned for us.

There are no restrictions on the room use. No masks are required. But if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, no one will question you.

I look forward to seeing everyone on September 9th! Here is the meeting location info: <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location>

Also, we are looking for someone to volunteer to make the meeting live and run a Zoom session and record it. Making the meeting a hybrid so those that could not attend could view it and others can watch it in the future. If you can do that at each meeting, please let me know via email at w1ast@arrl.net.

The past three months have gone by quickly. At the June election, a new vice president was elected. Then 3 weeks later, he told me he accepted a new job in the Dallas Texas area and was moving in early July.

After some careful consideration, I asked Ez, W1AEZ if he would like to become the new VP. We had a good discussion and he said yes. Ez is a new ham and brings that new ham excitement and interest in learning to the vice president position. I feel he will make an excellent VP. When you see him, please welcome him to the position.

Field Day came and went. See the article elsewhere in this ZeroBeat. It was a HOT weekend and the turnout was much less than anticipated. But everyone said they had a great time and that is what is important.

13 Colonies occurred July 1st -7th. We had nine HCRA members as part of the 24 K2H activators for Massachusetts. They helped to make 21,373 contacts this year. That is up 40% or 6108 over last year! Great job HCRA'ers!

Plans for Project Big E are rolling right along. As of August 21st, there are 11 New England clubs; including the HCRA; signed up for a session or a full day at the booth.

There is a lot going on in planning and recruiting people to staff the booth. If you would like to learn more about the project, go to this web site: <https://nediv.arrl.org/project-big-e>

Continued on page 5

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK CONT'D

There is now a sign-up link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9_iH1ZucHuCFCNwreEuVPWnmLOT5D_s92vHPuEUASS78Tew/viewform

Watch here for the latest news: <https://nediv.arrl.org/project-big-e/>

If you would like to sign up for a session or a day, please go here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/_s92vHPuEUASS78Tew/viewform or point your cell phone camera at the QR Code on the right.



If you still have questions, please email me at w1ast@arrl.net

What is the goal of having a booth at the Big E? I believe it will be the perfect opportunity to showcase modern ham radio to the public. By speaking with the public and showing certain aspects of ham radio, possibly getting the public to sign up for classes.

If ¼ of 1% of attendees (a possible 1.5 million people or more) sign up, that could generate a list of 1000 to 1500 possible names of people interested in taking a ham course and earning their license.

This list will be distributed to clubs that participate with the booth. There is the possibility that 500 to 1000 new hams could join local clubs across New England once licensed. Some of those could very well be the next new HCRA members.

For post Covid times, all clubs will benefit with new members and bringing new excitement of new hams to local clubs.

The possibility is something we all should be excited about and helping to “give back” to our hobby.

Boxboro is no more. It has been replaced by the HamXposition scheduled for August 26-28 this year. It will be finished by the time you read this.

It is worth going, to support those that go to a lot of effort to make the HamXpo better each year with more vendors, a better flea market and more seminars. Plus, the banquets on Friday and Saturday nights.

I'll give a detailed report for the October Zero Beat.

73 for now,
Larry, W1AST
w1ast@arrl.net



QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo Coming September 17-18, 2022



The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo is the first and only on-line amateur radio convention, since August 2020

[Click for Info](#)

FIELD DAY RAFFLE WINNERS

WINNERS OF THE 2022 VOLUNTEER RAFFLE PRIZES

Every year HCRA does a raffle for those who volunteer their time for setup, teardown, and during Field Day for a minimum of three consecutive hours during Field Day, this includes those who volunteered for the FD trailer inventory as well.

As with past FD raffles there were some fantastic prizes just waiting to be in the hands of two very lucky volunteers that were at the Field Day site for setup on Friday, during all of Saturday and on Sunday for teardown too!

Two excellent prizes were available this year, a Heil Pro Set 3 is a professional-quality headphone set and a high quality soldering station both of which should make any ham smile!



Winners were drawn randomly out of those who volunteered to work at least the minimum number of required hours during Field Day to be eligible for the raffle.

The winner of these beautiful headphones pictured on the left was our newest Vice President, Ez, W1AEZ.

The next winner was that of the soldering station (pictured below) that went to our newest member, Josue, KP4JLD who did more work than many and he wasn't even a member of the HCRA at Field Day!

Please say congrats to both Ez and Josue at the next meeting or when you see one or both of them.



FIELD DAY RESULTS

A REALLY HOT WEEKEND, LOW TURNOUT, BUT IT WAS STILL A BLAST!

We went into Field Day 2022 hoping to return to a “normal” Field Day weekend. Little did we know, there was no relief to the heat that weekend!

Friday afternoon arrived and we had a good group assembling the antennas and towers. Nearly everyone that signed up, was in attendance. The weather reared back and threw some hot weather our way too.

By the end of Friday, 3 towers and antennas were partially or fully up with the rest of the assembly planned for Saturday morning.

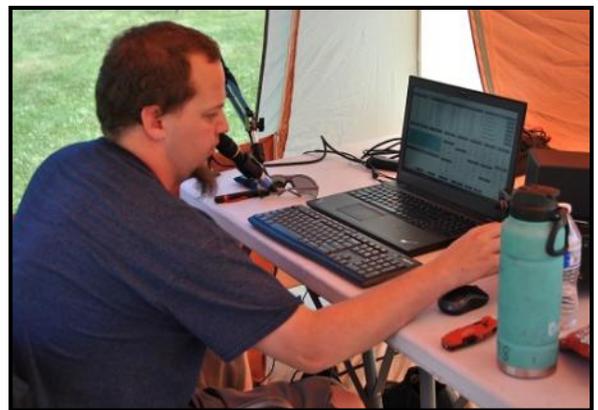
Saturday Morning, only a small portion of people who said they would be on-site to complete setup actually arrived. And those who were there were late too. But somehow, we did get all the stations set up and operating for the 2 pm start of Field Day.

On Saturday morning, we also had visits from Fred, AB1OC, the ARRL New England Division Director, with his wife, Anita, AB1QB. We also had visits from Ray, AA1SE, the ARRL Western Mass Section Manager, and Phil, K9HI, the ARRL New England Vice Director.

We ran the W1NY call sign on two SSB and one CW station. Unlike past years, we ran N3FJP logging and had zero problems as compared to N1MM. We did have some cross-band



Marc, K8LSB working some 40 meter CW QSO's



Chris, W1TRK is working 20m on the Triband

interference. The 40m CW and SSB stations seem to be battling each other which caused both to have much lower contact numbers than in past years.

We were also short on operators too. A few that said they would be on-site to operate were absent. We all did what we could, operating on 20m SSB, 40m CW, and 40m SSB plus a Satellite station. Altogether we made 1001 contacts total during the event.

Saturday night we had the usual club-sponsored burger and fixings dinner. We all owe Ez, W1AEZ our gratitude for arranging such an excellent dinner and making use of his fine cooking skills.

Sunday, we completed operating and started tearing down the stations. It was HOT. Maybe because of the heat, more than half the people that signed up to help tear down did not show up.

Continued on page 8



FIELD DAY RESULTS Cont'd

A REALLY HOT WEEKEND, LOW TURNOUT, BUT IT WAS STILL A BLAST!

This lack of people made for a very long tear-down time. Add to that the super-hot weather, making sure everyone stayed hydrated and took breaks and we finally left the Field Day site at 5:30 Sunday afternoon.

A big thank you to Chris, W1TRK for his tower and antenna guidance. To Ez, W1AEZ for his cooking and food and drink organization, to all those volunteers for setup, tear down, and operating. Altogether, you all made Field Day 2022 a fun weekend!

Altogether, you all made Field Day 2022 a fun weekend!

The School Street Park has been reserved again for 2023!



Nadine, KB1VSX is logging & Larry, KD1RV is making the contacts on 40 meter phone



What a great burger feast everyone had thanks to Ez, W1AEZ for working the grille & more

W1NY's Contest Summary Report for ARRL FIELD DAY

Created by N3FJP's ARRL Field Day Contest Log

Version 6.6.3 N3FJP.com

Operating Period: 2021/07/03 22:19z - 2022/06/26 09:34z

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band CW Phone Dig Total %

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
40	193	441	0	634	63%
20	0	357	0	357	36%
15	0	9	0	9	1%
Total	193	808	0	1001	100%

Total 2022 Contacts = 1,001

Total 2022 Points = 1,194



MEMBER DUES RENEWAL

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND WIN \$150!

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

This year we are doing a raffle for a gift certificate in the amount of \$150 to DX Engineering as a reward for any member that pays his or her dues by October 31st 2022. It's that simple, pay your dues and you're automatically entered into the raffle!

This applies to any level of membership if your dues are up for renewal in 2022. If you want to save the hassle of doing this yearly you can select and pay for a multiple year renewal.

If you're not sure when your membership is up for renewal go to <https://www.hcra.org/current-members/> and look to the right hand side where your expiration is listed. If you don't see your name and call on there then you need to renew as quickly as possible!

The form can be downloaded and mailed in with a check, or you can pay your dues at the September meeting, please bring exact change. The fastest way to renew is to fill out the form and use PayPal and you do not have to have an account to use PayPal.

Renew your membership before October 31st and be automatically entered into the raffle for the gift certificate for \$150 to [DX Engineering!](#)

Note: *While I was typing this I renewed my membership!*

73, Ken ~ KD1KU

2022 HOLIDAY PARTY

The 2022 Holiday Party has begun it's planning stages by the Board of Directors.

Everyone had such a wonderful time last year it was decided to return to the Steaming Tender Restaurant in Palmer, Massachusetts once again in December.

It's far too early to give an exact date, but it will be in place of the December meeting.

If you did not attend last year's Holiday Party you missed a great time!

Great food, great venue, and great company makes for a enjoyable time had by all.

Watch for future updates with the date and related information.

CLUB DONATION

A VERY GENEROUS GESTURE!

Many of you knew, or have heard of Irv, W6IS, a past HCRA President who sadly became a SK in February 2021. Without Irv, the club we all know and love might not exist today.

Last June, Margaret and Barry Slitzky, W6IS' son and daughter in-law donated a brand new Butternut HF2V 2-Band Vertical Antenna as seen in the illustration on the right.

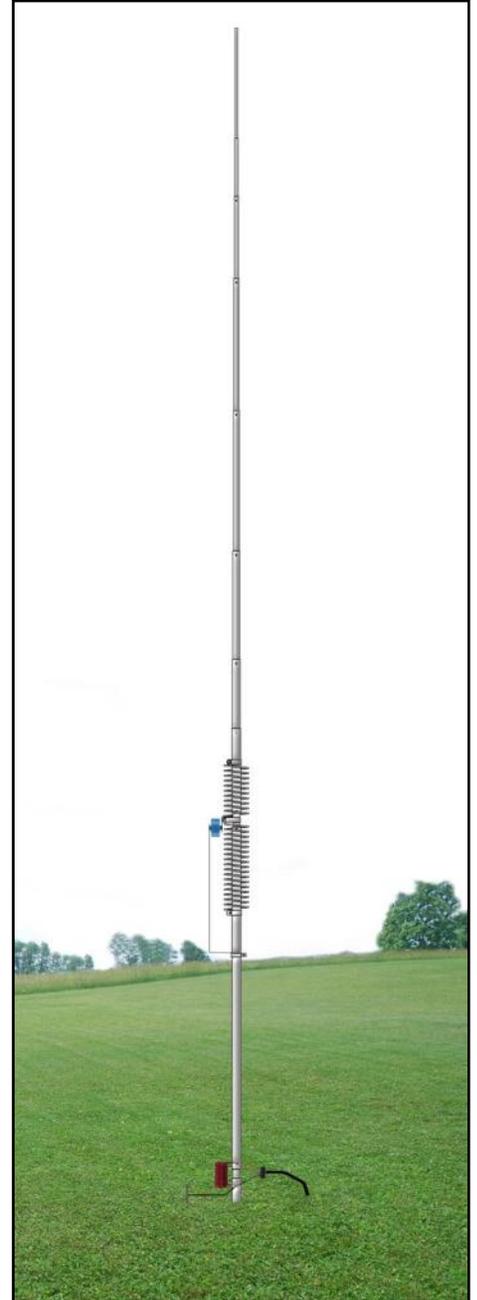
As you can see from the following link:

<https://www.dxengineering.com/parts/but-hf2v>

This HF antenna is worth \$453.99 at DX Engineering!

With HCRA's 75th anniversary coming up in 2023 I'm sure it will be put to very good use whether it's a raffle, a prize, or something next year to benefit the club members.

Thank You, Margaret and Barry!



The June Meeting is Now on the HCRA You Tube Channel - Don't forget to click subscribe!

Did you miss last months club meeting? Maybe you want to re-watch all or part of any past meeting?

Use the following link to the last regular meeting or search You Tube for HCRA past meetings.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_J_yyIVg6E

ARES NET UPDATE

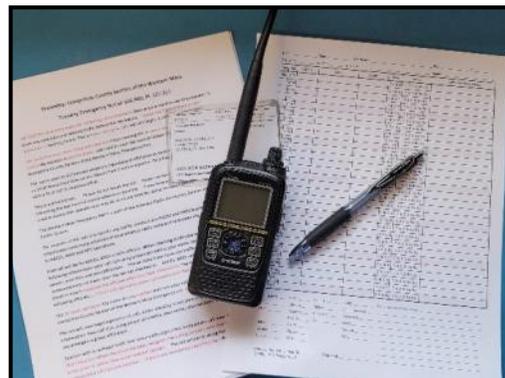
WMA ARES UPDATE BY SMITTY, KC1IKA ~ ASEC NET MANAGER

Greetings everyone!

Welcome back from Summer to the wonderful news of club meetings live, in person, once again.

I hope everyone had time to get some summer projects done. I finally took a deep breath and drilled a hole in the end of my trailer to make a feed-through for the coax. It went well and now I have vertical VHF/UHF antenna mounted on the rear bumper.

We are still looking for additional Net Control Stations. If you are interested in helping you can contact me at KC1IKA@ARRL.net for details. The three new NCS have been doing a fantastic job. Thanks to Mike, KC1IZC, Ez, W1AEZ, and Iain, W1IKW, for stepping up to the plate.



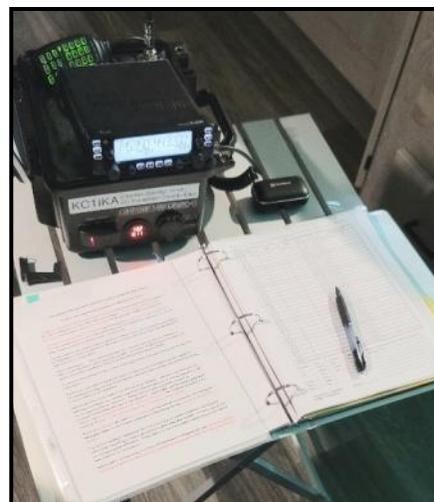
We are having ARES NCS Zoom meetings to keep updated and occasional breakfasts in person to discuss procedures and additional training.

Actually, it's just an excuse to get together over a good breakfast.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for training, please contact Smitty, KC1IKA at kc1ika@arrl.net. Smitty is the Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator and Net Manager for Western Mass ARES.

73,

Smitty, KC1IKA
ASEC, Net Manager, WMA ARES



THE END OF HAM RADIO CLUBS?

WRITTEN BY JASON ANDREWS, W1SFS

It seems like there is a social media group for just about any interest. The original intent of allowing “amateur” radio operators to begin transmitting over the federally regulated radio spectrum with gear they built themselves, was of course, to expand the state of the art of radio communications. That motto still exists today (among others) for hams. Of course, its no surprise that we are expected to understand, embrace, use, and challenge technology especially when it concerns communication.

Social media has created avenues for people to meet, collaborate, build business and find relationships. It has also allowed a never before reached audience to find ham radio. There are of course nearly unlimited resources for ham radio operators and aspiring hams on the internet. YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are likely the top places in cyberspace that people go to learn about any topic, including amateur radio.

So, with access to thousands of like minded folks, has the internet eliminated the need for the traditional ham radio club? Not at all, in fact, internet access and social media has only demonstrated the need for more radio clubs. There is no substitute for a group of hams sitting around and talking. I learned more in my early days of amateur radio by just listening at club meetings than I ever could searching the internet for answers.. Something that social media can't replace is the real conversation that club meetings and events generate.

I've lost count of the number of online threads I've read on various social media outlets regarding new station questions, test prep, experimentation, or any other radio topic. Unfortunately it seems, for every valid, helpful comment there are ten or more sarcastic, demeaning, or simply irrelevant comments to go along with it. For a new operator, I can only imagine the frustration that goes along with that type of response when you are just trying to figure out what to say the first time you key the mic. Online resources cannot replicate the personal interaction and the learning that goes on at most club meetings. Likewise, there is no substitution for special operating events that most clubs engage in. After all, hams like to get on the air. Most clubs will have what amounts to an official business meeting and follow it up with some type of activity either operating or building something.

When I finally earned my Technician License in 2011, I did a simple search for ham radio clubs near my location and almost instantly I got a response from a real person!. I was immediately welcomed in and have been a member ever since. I was fortunate to randomly select a very active club that gave members plenty of options to try out different aspects of the hobby. They even offered opportunities to operate for those who had yet to set up their own station. Amateur radio offers so many opportunities within the hobby it can almost be overwhelming, but connecting with a local club can give hams, new and seasoned, exposure to new ideas, modes and experiences with the added benefit of a providing a group of friendly people who likely have some “insider secrets”. Once you put in the work to get licensed, be sure to take advantage of what the hobby is really about - connecting with people- and check out your local club. Go to some meetings, check out several clubs, offer to help out, ask questions, and get to know your local ham radio operators. You may very well discover an aspect of the hobby you never knew existed. You will get more out of the hobby by joining a local club.

Thank You to:

Jason Andrews, W1SFS - The author, andrews883@gmail.com
Cory Golob, KUIU editor “The Maine Telegraph”

WANTED! SOMEONE FOR HYBRID MEETINGS

SOMEBODY TO CREATE A HYBRID ZOOM/IN-PERSON MEETINGS

HCRA is in need of someone with the knowledge to make our in-person meetings into a hybrid Zoom meeting for members that can't make it to our regular in-person meetings.

This is necessary as some of our members who live too far away to drive to the Holyoke Hospital. A hybrid meeting will benefit any member that cannot make it to the meeting for any reason.

The meeting and guest speaker will need to be videoed and broadcasted via Zoom where a link will be sent out prior to each meeting via the Reflector so anyone wishing to can watch from home!

Besides broadcasting the meeting it will also be recorded for future viewing by the membership

This is very important for some of our members who have expressed a desire to have this as an option.

If you are able to do this easy task please step up to help your club grow even more than before Covid!

Please contact Larry, W1AST at w1ast@arrl.net to help with this task



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE:
2022 AWA Conference
October 4 thru 8, 2022



RIT Inn and Conference Center - 5257 West Henrietta Road - Henrietta, NY 14467

- Dual themes: "100 Years of Car Radios" and "Evolution of Audio"
- **Free* access for buyers and sellers - Thursday 10/6 & Friday 10/7 to the AWA Communication & Electronic Equipment Flea Market**
 - Equipment auction on Saturday 10/8
 - Book mart
 - Over a dozen outstanding presentations
 - Equipment contest
- Admission to the Antique Wireless Museum is free Wednesday October 5th

***You do not need to register for the conference to buy or sell at the flea market.**
Conference registration: includes the free dessert social on Wednesday evening October 5th, this year's registration also includes your free Friday night banquet dinner and includes equipment auction bidder's card. As always, registration for your spouse or significant other is free. You do not need to be an AWA member to attend.



**ARRL
SANCTIONED
EVENT**

For complete details: <https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/annual-conference/>

ITEM'S FOR SALE & WANTED

HCRA MEMBERS ITEMS FOR SALE, TRADE OR WANTED

FOR SALE!

Malahit-DSP SDR receiver that covers 50 Khz to 2 Ghz (less cell phone freqs)

Receiver Details:

- ◆ Covers 50 Khz to 2 Ghz (less cell phone freqs)
- ◆ Long Life Internal Battery
- ◆ Touch Screen
- ◆ SMA adapter
- ◆ Head Phone Jack / Ear Phone Jack
- ◆ Internal Speaker
- ◆ Charges via USB Port

Barely used and is in excellent condition.

Asking \$195

Contact Larry, W1AST at hamop.w1ast@gmail.com

FREE Tower and Antennas (must take down)

From the estate of Norm, W1BMK (SK) for sale by his XYL, Betty.

FREE:

Tower and antennas must be removed, along with any accessories that may come with it. Exact details are unknown however the tower is believed to be a R-25. See photos on the next page. Tower is approximately 35ft tall.

Images on the next page so you can decide if this will work for you. It is not known exactly what the antennas are but one is a Mosley TA-33Jr. Tri-band, 3 element yagi and a 6 meter yagi beam as well as other antennas.

FOR SALE:

Rotor is a Yaesu 800 G-800DXA with controller and cable: Only \$325

Please see the photos on page 15.

Contact John, K1VOI k1voi_jp@charter.net

Continued on page 15

Do you have an item(s) that you would like to sell? Or something you are looking for?

If it's computer or ham radio related please list it here by emailing kd1ku@arrl.net

ITEM'S FOR SALE & WANTED

Cont'd

FOR SALE!

HCRA MEMBERS ITEMS FOR SALE, TRADE OR WANTED

FREE Tower and Antennas

From the estate of Norm, W1BMK (SK) and offered by his XYL, Betty



Please contact John, K1VOI for any further info on these items

John, K1VOI
k1voi_jp@charter.net

Do you have an item(s) that you would like to sell? Or something you are looking for?
If it's computer or ham radio related list it here by emailing kd1ku@arrl.net

PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

FROM OUR FRIENDS IN THE FRANKLIN COUNTY CLUB (FCARC)

Public service opportunity at the Franklin County Fair from our friends in the Franklin County Club (FCARC) on September 9th - September 11th 2022.

Subject: Franklin County Fair 2022: Recycling Volunteers Needed!

Dear Past, Present, and Potential Recycling Volunteers,

It's hard to believe that the Franklin County Fair is only 1 month away! Thank you to previous volunteers for helping recycle tons and tons of materials at the Franklin County Fair; our efforts really make a difference! At each fair we have fun while recycling and composting almost 4 tons of bottles, cans, containers, and food and paper waste, which otherwise would have gone to an out-of-state landfill!

Volunteers are needed for:

2022 Franklin County Fair Recycle & Compost Program
September 8-11, 2022

Volunteers will:

- ⇒ Get into the Fair for free
- ⇒ Get a free T-shirt
- ⇒ Earn community service hours, when applicable (schools, student clubs, classes, teams)
- ⇒ Walk around the Fair collecting bags from recycling and compost bins
- ⇒ Have fun at the fair while slowing climate change and protecting our environment

ANYONE* can volunteer: adults, families, students, clubs, groups, teams! Please forward this email.
*Kids under 14 should have additional adult supervision.

How it works: Volunteers enter the fair for free on the day they volunteer and can enjoy the fair before or after their 4-hour shift and during their ½ hour shift break. Volunteers must be confirmed before the event. Training is provided at the start of each shift.

Volunteers are also needed for set up and breakdown before and after the Fair, on Wed. Sept. 7th, Thurs Sept. 8th, and Monday Sept. 12th. If you volunteer when the Fair is closed, you can attend the Fair for free another day.

→ **To sign up and see shift times, please go to the link below** ←

<https://tinyurl.com/FairRecycling2022>

Questions? Email me, Amy Donovan, Program Director, Franklin County Solid Waste District:
amy@franklincountywastedistrict.org

Franklin County Fair, 89 Wisdom Way, Greenfield, MA 01301

More info on the fair at: <https://fcas.com>; or facebook.com/FranklinCountyFairGreenfield

Thank you, Volunteers!!! This program would not be possible without YOU!

Thanks again,
Amy

“RE-CAPPING” A VINTAGE RADIO

HOW TO TEST AND RE-CAP A VINTAGE HAM RADIO! BY BILL ~ W1FMX

Today, many Hams have become interested in restoring and using older radios – often, one of the first things they will talk about doing is “re-capping” the radio. This article will give an overview of what this usually involves.

First, if you are interested in working on an old Ham radio, a good place to start is to find a basic Heathkit which was a very popular brand with electronic kit builders in the 1950’s -70’s. With each kit, Heath provided a detailed assembly manual that clearly identified all the parts, and it gave detailed installation instructions; there is always a troubleshooting guide, too, included in the manual. Popular gear for beginners would be an HW-16 (CW Transceiver), a HR-10 Receiver, or a DX-60 transmitter as these were all designed to be built by novice license Hams. Manuals for these radios can be purchased from Heathkit directly (Heathkit.com) or from vendors such as Manualman (manualman.com).

With old radios, one group of components that frequently fails as a result of age is the electrolytic capacitors. Though it is beyond the scope of this article to explain them (for complete explanation of electrolytic capacitors, see the ARRL Handbook), it is useful to keep in mind that they are polarized (i.e., have positive and negative leads) and are often used for filtering. Electrolytic capacitors fail because there is a wet dielectric agent within them that can dry out. In photograph (1), the red and yellow tubes (known as tubular or axial capacitors) are old electrolytic capacitors; on the right side, are the modern axial electrolytic capacitors.

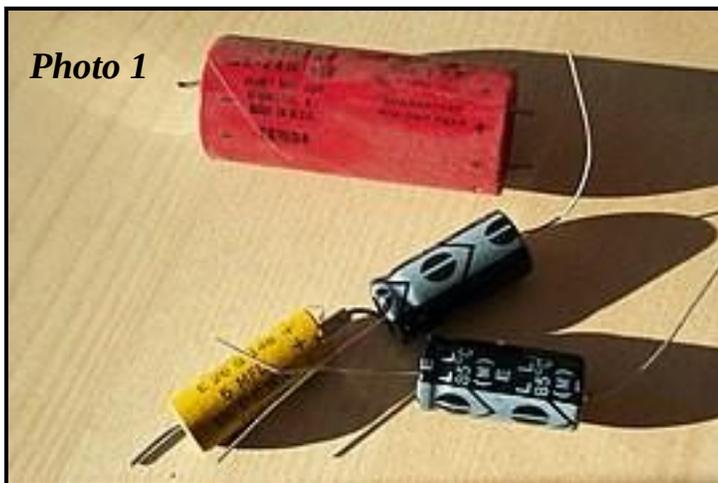


Photo 1

If you decide to work on an old radio, it is important to avoid connecting it to full power at first. Generally, a good thing to do is to use a Variac which is a variable transformer that will allow you to start at a low A.C. voltage and slowly increase the input voltage over a period of hours.

If you do otherwise, you could damage the radio, and even find that an electrolytic capacitor might very well “blow-up.”

One technique that is sometimes used with old electrolytic capacitors is to “reform them” – which means to apply low voltage and increase it slowly over time. For someone who is beginning to work on radios, my suggestion would be to simply replace the old electrolytic capacitors with new ones, and this is especially true if you don’t have access to a Variac.

When replacing the electrolytic capacitors, you need to make sure that the capacitor is installed so that the positive and negative leads are placed correctly in the circuit; on a printed circuit board, the proper connection points are generally labeled with (+) or (-) markings to guide you. It is also important to keep two things in mind besides the polarity.



Photo 2

Continued on page 18

“RE-CAPPING” A VINTAGE RADIO Cont’d

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First, the capacitance value of the capacitor - it could be 10 mfd (microfarads) or 20 mfd, for example; there is also the voltage rating, which indicates the maximum operating voltage for that capacitor - with vacuum tube radios, expect to use capacitors that are rated at least 450 volts. Since electrolytic capacitors must be installed into a circuit according to the polarity of the leads, how do you tell which lead is negative? Tubular, also known as axial capacitors, have a black stripe that has arrows pointing to the negative lead (photo 3) radial capacitors, the leads come out of the bottom of the capacitor like the roots of a tree (photo 4) will usually also have the stripe pointing to the negative lead and, sometimes, the positive lead is longer too.

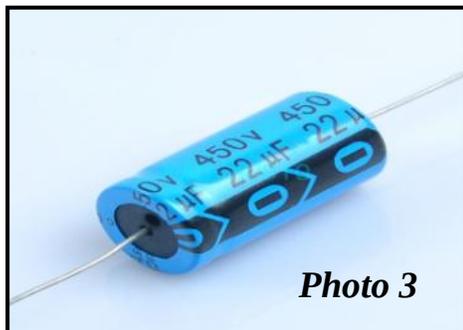


Photo 3

There is a meter for testing electrolytic capacitors known as an ESR which measures equivalent series resistance of an electrolytic capacitor; these meters can be bought for about \$50.00.

Other types of capacitors (for example, ceramic disk capacitors) are tested using a capaci-

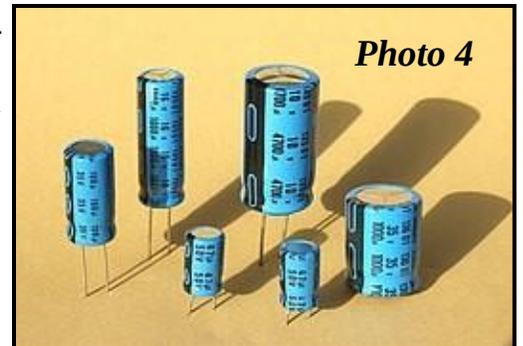


Photo 4

tance meter; an inexpensive L/C Meter (measures inductance of coils and capacitance of capacitors) costs about \$50.00.

Of course, there are other types of capacitors in a circuit, but usually, there is only one other type that you'll find to be in need of replacement. These are what are known as “paper” capacitors which are made using paper as a dielectric material. Photo 5 shows a typical paper capacitor.

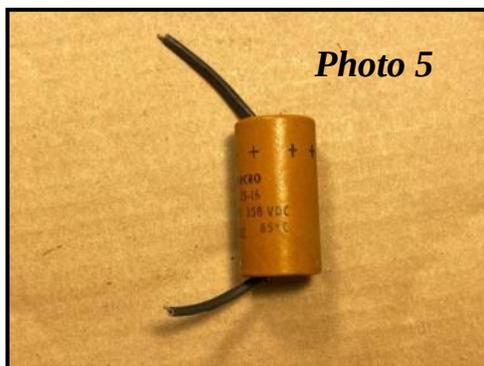


Photo 5

After replacing the electrolytic capacitors and the paper capacitors, it may be that you will find one of the ceramic disk capacitors (photo 5) (left) is not working optimally, but this is rare. In an old CW transceiver that I restored (a Heathkit HW-16), I just could not get the CW sidetone to sound right - it worked, but seemed “off” to me. It turned out that the ceramic disk capacitor that is across a neon bulb in the sidetone circuit was no longer functioning at the specified value (which was .002 mfd), instead, it turned out to be about 25% lower than it should be (i.e., it tested to be at .0014mfd). When I replaced that ceramic disk capacitor, the sidetone sounded much better.

So, where can you find the new capacitors, you'll need? My recommendation for electrolytic and paper capacitor replacements would be to contact Hayseed Hamfest (<https://hayseedhamfest.com/>) which offers a variety of “re-capping kits” for Heathkit radios. The company will also work with you to find “special orders”, or unusual items if you need any. Other types of capacitors (for example, Ceramic Disk) can be purchased on eBay or from an electronic parts company such as Mouser, www.mouser.com

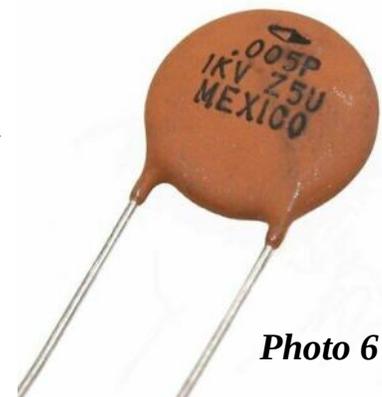


Photo 6

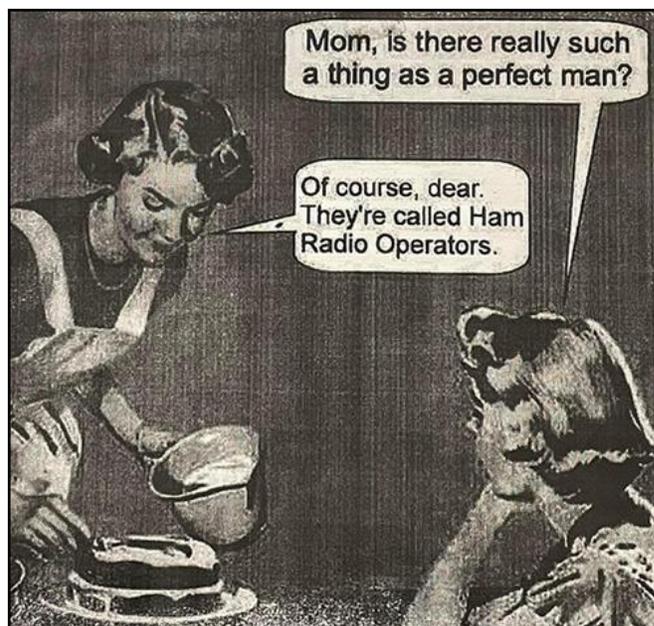
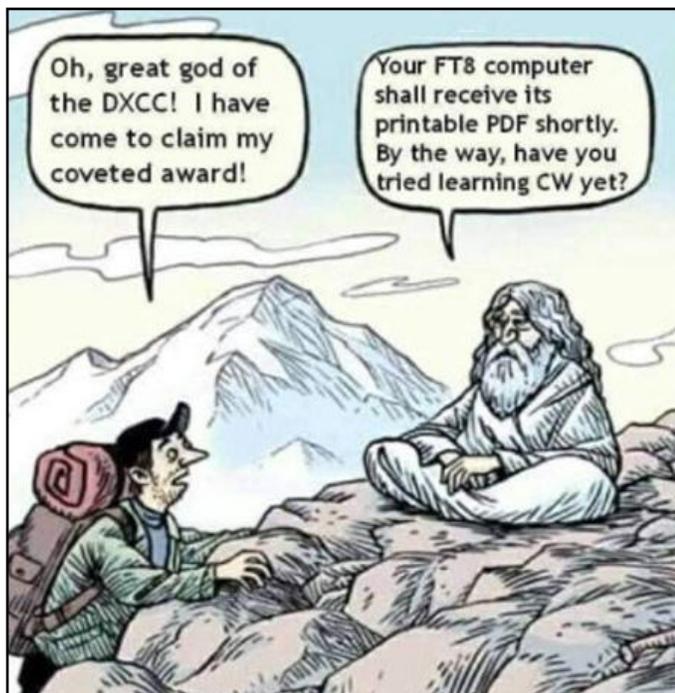
73, Bill - W1FMX

Hamtoons

RF humor (Really Funny)



I got my new all band antenna today. The range isn't great but the SWR is outstanding! 🌈



ARRL STUFF By John, N1JIE

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. To learn more about ARRL membership, and how it can benefit you, visit: <http://www.arrl.org/membership>

Well, I hope everyone had a fun summer. I did a bit of radio (FD2022 and POTA) but I also did other stuff. I have been riding motorcycles since the mid 70s, and I managed to do a POTA activation recently carrying everything on my motorcycle. No, it's not mounted as a mobile, but I am able to carry radio, tuner, antenna, battery as well as a folding table and chair, and a lunchbox. It was nice to combine the 2 hobbies together.

So now we get into fall, winter and spring, our traditional time to sit in the shack and be on the air. As you all know, HCRA and ARRL are putting on a big demo of ham radio at the Big E. So once we have attracted attention to people about ham radio, what do we do with them? Licensing classes are few and far between. But the Technician license is fairly simple, mostly memorizing a few regulations, the band plan, and some safety stuff.

You Tube has lots to offer. There are a plethora of different videos going over the ARRL license manuals, as well as Gordon West's books. For the technician class, most last about 6-8 hours, broken up into half hour segments. Kinda like a classroom. Most focus on passing the test...

The ARRL actually has a You Tube technician class. It is broken up into shorter segments, and taught by Dave Casler KE0OG. It is located:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuapIzKwhZN_30dcgsDbGU3J7C8BAYJcG

Dave KE0OG has a complete set of study videos on his web page <https://dcasler.com/ham-radio/> - you can see the links on the right side for each license level. Now these are not "cram" guides that are readily available on other You Tube channels, but are made for the student to learn and understand the material. Since Dave KE0OG is the instructor on the ARRLHQ You Tube channel, I think this is a pretty good method to use when in person learning isn't available.

ARRLHQ has a pretty good selection of videos, covering tech inspections of various radios, antenna building, tower zoning, etc. But right now, with it still being difficult to have in person activities, perhaps we can share the online information, especially to newly interested folks.

So, when someone asks you about how to be a ham—go beyond the classroom. Show them other methods to get the license. It's an online world (we've been having our meetings on Zoom for 2 years...) and part of our shtick is being able to adapt to conditions to communicate. Below is a QR code for the ARRLHQ You Tube page. Try it out, and maybe we can find a media we can share this with all the people at the Big E. I'm not that technical, but maybe something like this on a poster board at the big e will help.



73, John, N1JIE

(Note: Hold your cell phone camera over the QR code on the left and it will open)

Western Massachusetts Section News: <https://wma.arrl.org>

ARRL New England Division: <https://nediv.arrl.org>

ARRL Western Massachusetts Section Manager - Raymond P. Lajoie, AA1SE - aa1se@arrl.org

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



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 2022 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy so far this year!
HCRA Clublog Information Updated on September 5th 2022



DXCC Leagues

The leagues are rebuilt once per day. Only callsigns active in the last 12 months are included in the league tables. The maximum size of a league is 2000 participants.

Filter by club/continent:

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	33	68	0	137	40	166	81	180	66	112	28	235	911	69 yrs
2	NF1G	0	18	0	31	56	100	85	133	110	89	34	208	656	38 yrs
3	KK1W+1	38	55	0	73	21	120	33	114	14	47	26	204	541	46 yrs
4	KX1X	16	59	18	99	95	119	91	130	61	71	3	169	762	25 yrs
5	NE1C	4	59	0	82	0	95	0	101	0	54	0	127	395	20 yrs
6	W1AST+1	2	8	0	39	15	59	49	63	59	35	1	126	330	13 yrs
7	W1NU+2	0	16	11	10	20	54	43	53	37	57	2	109	303	7 yrs
8	K1NZ+1	10	20	27	20	74	43	16	40	44	32	0	108	326	11 yrs
9	K1VOI	1	28	0	41	29	75	26	68	14	34	0	108	316	21 yrs
10	N1TA+3	1	26	0	21	8	33	8	35	2	29	0	80	163	21 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	N1FTP	0	0	0	31	6	59	19	6	3	16	1	76	141	14 yrs
12	N1JIE	1	3	6	18	19	31	31	39	15	13	1	73	177	5 yrs
13	W1JA+1	1	6	3	3	26	0	17	7	5	29	7	68	104	63 yrs
14	W1PY+1	0	0	0	1	0	26	0	14	0	1	0	42	42	12 yrs
15	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	2	0	27	0	16	0	6	0	39	51	10 yrs
16	WD1S	2	2	0	19	0	27	0	14	0	4	0	37	68	10 yrs
17	NV1Q+3	0	0	0	1	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	8	11	43 yrs

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

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

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



HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



Membership Renewals

Every HCRA fiscal year ends on August 31st and a new fiscal year begins on the 1st of September. Many club items begin on 9/1/22 however the largest by far is the annual membership dues that must be paid or renewed on or before September 1st of each year. If you're not sure when your dues expire, simply go to <http://www.hcra.org/current-members/> on the current members page and see if you're listed as a member. If your name is there you will see the expiration date on the far right. If your name is NOT there then you need to renew your dues ASAP! Go to: <http://www.hcra.org/online-new-membership-application-and-renewal/> & follow the directions.

10 Meter Net Winter Schedule

The HCRA 10 meter net will return to its Winter schedule on Monday, September 5th, and every Monday evening afterwards at 7pm for the Fall / Winter months. Gary, KC1JZR is NCS. This is a great way for our newest HCRA members with a Tech license to get some time on HF. Everyone is welcome to join us on 28.375 USB regardless of affiliation. Have any questions? Contact kd1ku@arrl.net

Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

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

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

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>

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

Project Big E Update

Project Big E is less than 14 days away! Larry, W1AST has been working with [New England Sci-Tech](#), and NE Division Director Fred, AB1OC to make the ISS contact happen in the Big E Arena! With less than 2 weeks to go there is lots to do so please volunteer to help man the booth by clicking the link below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9_iH1ZucHuCFcNwreEuVPWnmLOT5D_s92vHPuEUASS78Tew/viewform

Club Commission Program

One of the benefits of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is that you receive a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and securing timely ARRL membership renewals. The structure for this program has been updated, the process has changed to make things easier for the clubs. The complication of adjusting funds around credit cards, checks, and cash has been eliminated. ARRL is now responsible for all of the processing. Clubs receive \$15 for each new membership or lapsed membership, for renewing members, clubs will now receive \$5. For more info visit: <http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-benefits>

Contests and Special Event Stations

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

ARRL September VHF Contest | Sept 10th ~ 12th | Begins 1800z Sat / ends 2359z Monday

For additional details and rules visit: <https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/JanJunSep-VHF-Rules.pdf>

AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party | Sept 24-25 Begins 2200z Saturday, ends Sunday

For additional details visit: <https://antiquewireless.org/homepage/am-qso-party-details/>

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

Project Big E SES, N1E - West Springfield, MA. | Sept 16th thru Oct 2nd 2022

Eastern States Exposition - For additional details visit: <https://groups.io/g/ProjectBigE>

Search for more Special Event Stations at: <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

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 2023

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

or

Contact Paul, NF1G at nf1g@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:

RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

Mondays: 1900 7pm (Local) **HCRA 10 Meter Net 28.375 usb**

New topic each week. Have an idea for a topic? kd1ku@arrl.net

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

Wednesdays: 1930: MTARA Info net followed by the swap net & the N1RLX simplex net on 146.94, PL 127.3 W1TOM/R

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

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

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

Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



Club Meetings and VE Sessions

1st Friday of the month at 7:30pm HCRA Meeting. In-Person meetings will begin on Sept.9th. Meetings start with a meet & greet session with other members at 7pm followed by the regular meeting at 7:30pm sharp.

<http://www.hcra.org/>

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

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

Event: FCARC Pioneer Valley Experimental Net

Location: 10 Meters 28.354 MHz

When: Every Wednesday morning, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Organizer: Brad Councilman bc@councilman.com

Note: As things are opening up after the Covid Pandemic you should contact any meeting or VE session if you are planning to attend to be extra sure they are back on their normal schedule!

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

HCRA Contact List

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WB1Z trustee, Vanessa, W1IRL
webmaster@hcra.org



**Here is your exciting new
Issue of Zero Beat!
Plenty to Read Preparing for the
Anniversary Edition**

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