



ZERO BEAT

HCRA's 75th Anniversary - 1948 - 2023!

Meeting Update!

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

Welcome New Members

Eric Taylor Jr, KB1PJN

Whats Inside

Regular Meeting Schedule	2
From the Presidents Shack	3-4
ARES Update	5-6
QSO Today Academy	7
75th Anniversary Picnic	8
Project Big E	9
2023 Field Day Results	10-13
HCRA Fall Clock Kit Build	14
The Fox's Den: WANTED!	16
HCRA's Best Mentor	17-18
Nuts and Volts	19-20
Big-E Volunteers Needed	21
VOTA Fall Update	23
For Sale & Wanted	24
HamToons - RF Humor	25
Clublog Update	26
ARRL Commissions	27
Dots & Dashes	28
HCRA Stuff	29
Local Nets & Happenings	30

September 2023

From the editor,

It's hard to believe, but the summer of 2023 is nearly over! Summer might be coming to an end, but that doesn't mean there aren't loads of club activities to come in 2023! Be sure to read *From the Presidents Shack* on [page 3](#).

Let's give a big welcome to our newest member, Eric, KB1PJN, who actually joined last spring, but the June Zero Beat was already published. When you see Eric at our next meeting, take a minute to say hello and welcome him to our club!

Smitty, KC1IKA, has the most recent updates to ARES, Skywarn, and ECOMM nets, plus the need for a few more NCS; see [page 5](#) for all of the details.

We cannot forget about Project Big E 2023! It's happening again, and after last year's success, everyone's help is needed to do it again! [Page 9](#) and [page 21](#) have lots of info needed to volunteer and help your club and the hobby!

Field Day has come and gone. Beginning on [page 10](#), get all the details, including photos. Field Day was different than those in the past as it was a much smaller setup with wire antennas, everyone who attended had a fantastic time.

Bill, W1FMX, has put together another article about Art Zavarella, W1KK, as seen through the eyes of John, W1JCW. Check it out on [page 17](#).

So much more to come this fall beginning with the 75th anniversary club picnic on [page 8](#). Members can take part in a club kit build with details on [page 14](#).

One last huge deal is that members can renew their membership for **5 years** for the price of only **4 years**! This is only good for Sept and October. See [page 20](#) for all the details.

73, Ken - KD1KU

September 8th In-Person Meeting

Bob Glorioso, W1IS, and Bob Rose, KC1DSQ

In-person meeting features guest speakers Bob Glorioso, W1IS, and Bob Rose, KC1DSQ, speaking on wire antennas. Both Bobs have had articles published in QST and CQ magazines! **Note: Sept. meeting is one week later due to the holiday.** Meeting begins at 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm.

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

Upcoming Meetings and Guest Speakers

 <p>September 2023</p>	<p>In-person guest speakers are Bob Glorioso, W1IS, and Bob Rose, KC1DSQ, will be speaking on all types of wire antennas. Both Bobs have had articles published in QST and CQ magazines. This meeting is NOT to be missed!</p>
 <p>OCTOBER 2023</p>	<p>This in-person meeting features a very special guest speaker. WWLP Channel 22's meteorologist, Adam Strzempko, W1AJS Yes, Adam is one of us! I'm sure he will be a fascinating speaker.</p>
 <p>November 2023</p>	<p>HCRA's Annual Auction is Back in-Person at the November Meeting! Ham Radio Gear and Related Accessories Only! Absolutely no computers, monitors, or PC parts! The 2022 auction was a huge hit; don't miss it this year!</p>
 <p>DECEMBER 2023</p>	<p>The Annual HCRA Holiday Party at The Steaming Tender Restaurant Dec 5th. Join us for a Night of Food and Fun as we celebrate HCRA's 75th Anniversary of being an ARRL Affiliated Club with some very special guests.</p>
 <p>JANUARY 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>FEBRUARY 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>MARCH 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>April 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>MAY 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>
 <p>June 2024</p>	<p>Guest Speaker to be Announced</p>



September 2023

September is here, and the HCRA has many exciting activities coming up!

In honor of the club's 75th anniversary, we have a special rate for dues. Normally \$75 for five years, this year you can get five years for only \$60. This very special rate is only valid for September and October of THIS year!

Have you noticed how fast the years go by? A way to solve that and not have to remember that each September you have to pay your HCRA dues is to pay for more than one year. The \$60 for 5 years special is just for 2 months, and then it is gone. Take the club up on this special and don't worry about your club dues for another five years.

The actual club anniversary is in early October. Ez, W1AEZ, is putting together a special October 7th picnic and POTA-like afternoon. We're holding it at the pavilion at the School Street Park in Agawam. This is the pavilion ACROSS the field from where we hold Field Day.

The pavilion is covered, so rain cannot ruin the event. There is plenty of parking, handicap access, restrooms are right there, and a big field where you can set up your portable antennas and bring your rigs and get them on the air.

Watch for detailed information elsewhere in this issue of Zero Beat with Ez and his committee's complete event information!

We have some blockbuster meetings planned for this fall. They are all in-person meetings. Starting in September on the second Friday, so we do not conflict with Labor Day weekend.

September: All about wire antennas by Bob Glorioso, W1IS, and Bob Rose, KC1DSQ; both Bobs have had articles published in QST and CQ and are masters of wire antennas. This meeting is **NOT** to be missed!

Ez, W1AEZ, will have coffee and donuts at the meeting too. A dollar donation per item gets you that tasty snack and quenches your thirst.

October: *Guest Speaker To Be Determined*

November: The annual HCRA auction is scheduled for November. It's time to start collecting items that you want to sell. The club gets 10% of the sale, and you get the rest. All radio gear is welcome. Absolutely NO computers, monitors, printers, or accessories; RADIO GEAR ONLY!

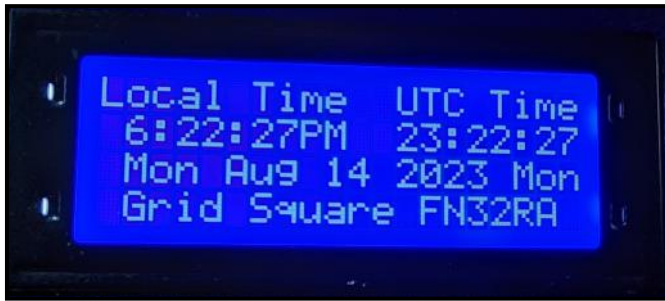
See the list of meetings on **page 2** in this issue of ZeroBeat.

Let's build a kit! My goal for the club this year is to build two kits. We're going to start this fall with a clock kit by QRP Labs. This is an easy and fun kit that will look good in anyone's shack. The photos on the next page are from the one in my shack. I have the GPS option and have the GPS module positioned near the window in my shack. In the photo on the following page, you can see the displays showing different info.

Continued on page 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

BY LARRY KRAINSON, W1AST



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

(All prices include shipping to the club)

My enclosure was printed on a 3D printer by a friend. There are many ways to enclose the clock, and you can buy different enclosures or create one that's perfect for you.

This is an easy and fairly quick kit to build. We'll schedule a Saturday morning at the Holyoke Hospital meeting room for a group build. There will be experienced people on hand to help you if you would like assistance.

Next spring, we hope to choose a more advanced kit and will have more information on this in the next few months.

If you'd like to participate, send in the amount and a note with the options you want, and we'll get them ordered for everyone. The deadline is Friday, October 6th, at the HCRA October meeting. Checks need to be made out to the HCRA. Or via a PayPal link that will go up on the web site very soon.

We hope you will participate!

The 10m Net begins again in September and runs every Monday night at 7:00 pm. This year, we're changing things up a little. On the 4th Monday of each month, we will have a guest net control. This brings some change to how the net is run and what is done on the net. It also gives Gary, W1JZR, a well-deserved break.

If you hold a Technician class license, you already have 10m SSB privileges. You can join us and participate!

If you would like to volunteer as net control for the 4th Monday of the month, send an email to Ken, KD1KU, at kd1ku@arrl.net.

There will be some fun and different things planned for the 4th Monday of each month! I hope to hear everyone on the net beginning on September 11th at 7 pm on 28.375 USB.

73, and I hope to see you at the meeting on September 8th.

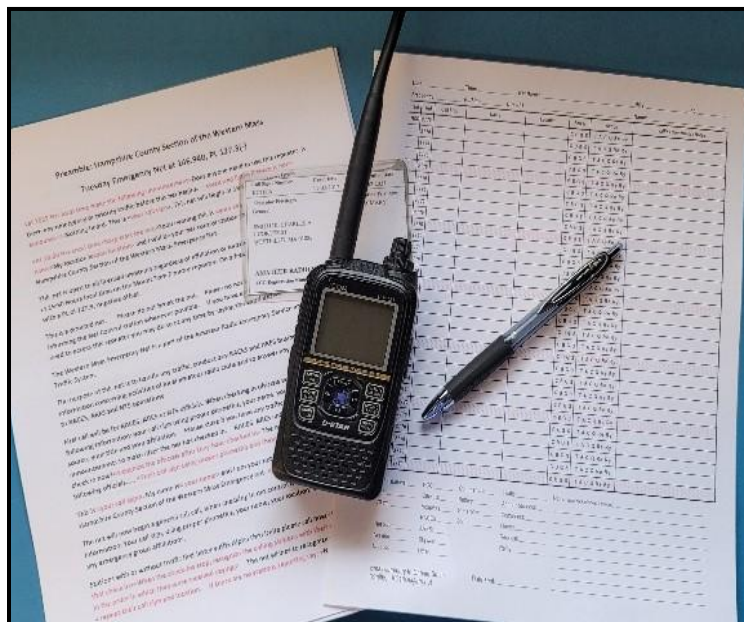
Larry, W1AST - HCRA President
w1ast@arrl.net

ARES NET UPDATE

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

The end of another busy summer. What will fall and winter bring next?

This summer brought many days of rain and quite a few Skywarn activations. There weren't too many operators checking into the nets, which is something we must work on. The Skywarn nets are a major tool for the NWS to determine what is happening at the local level. As we saw last winter when one town received over 39 inches of snow and this year when one town received over 21 inches of rain, the local reports are very important. If you are a trained Skywarn station, please consider calling in more often during future severe weather.



We have also had challenges with the local repeater, 146.940. The location of the receive antenna is close to high-powered broadcast radio and television antennas. This causes a lot of interference, which the receiver must overcome. Some days, it is a real challenge to get a good signal into the receiver. On those days, if you can switch over to the UHF side, 443.200, you should be able to get a lot better signal into the receiver on lower power.

The ARES nets have been getting a decent number of stations checking-in, but we can always use more. We try to announce quite a few nets and any club announcements that we know about. W1AEZ, EZ, has done a great job of keeping a list of those available for broadcast on the three nets.

Last year, we added three new net controls. W1AEZ, Ez, from Holyoke; KC1IZC, Mike, from Agawam; and W1IKW, Iain, from Southwick. They have all grown in the position of NCS and are doing a fantastic job. One question I occasionally get is, Why do we request the stations let us know which repeater they are on when they have two different acknowledgement tones? Some of us have had noisy jobs or hobbies in the past, and our hearing isn't the best to be able to tell the difference between the tones. That is one of the parameters we track on the nets, so we want to get it right. By asking for the repeater, we don't have to worry about not hearing as well as we used to.

One of the other tools we use is dual-band transceivers with Bluetooth ear buds or headphones. This allows us to monitor the other repeater so we can tell if we are transmitting and how well we are hitting the repeater. It also allows us to instantly tell if we are transmitting over someone trying to check in.

I do want to thank all the stations that do check into the nets. Sometimes we have a long pause when we don't hear some of the regulars. We also get asked why we tend to leave gaps in our speech. The gaps are so someone with emergency or priority traffic can interrupt the net and get their information or traffic in a timely manner.

Continued on page 6

ARES NET UPDATE CONT'D

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

I would like to see more new hams checking out the nets. It is good practice for whatever segment of ham radio you want to explore. It is great practice for anyone who is thinking about getting into emergency communications.

The hurricane season is just starting to enter the most active part of the season. There are many varying opinions about how bad it will be. We only need one bad hurricane to make it a bad season. If we do have anything tropical that comes into this area, there would be a great need for many Skywarn stations checking in to keep the local conditions updated.

The hurricane season is just starting to enter the most active part of the season. There are many varying opinions about how bad it will be. We only need one bad hurricane to make it a bad season. If we do have anything tropical that comes into this area there would be a great need for many Skywarn stations checking in to keep the local conditions updated.

Once we get through hurricane season, we will be getting ready for winter to rear its ugly head. There are some models suggesting we could be in for above-average snowfall and below-average temperatures. Not a good combination. Last winter, we had a few long nights with Skywarn nets. We could use a few additional Skywarn net controls. W1AEZ, Ez, is in training mode to be a NCS for Skywarn. We could still use more.

We only have three trained Net Control Stations until Ez gets on board. Richard, KC1AEO, in Ludlow; Bob, K1YO, in Southwick; and myself are the only Skywarn net controls. There have been times when none of us have been available.

When the storm is intense and long-lasting, we end up working long hours to keep the reports going to the NWS. It would be nice to have a couple of additional operators available to share the workload. It can be very fast-paced and intense at times. That makes it great practice for dealing with contest pileups.

Welcome back to the in-person meetings, everyone. I'll be listening for you on the nets.

73,

Smitty, KC1IKA

ASEC, Net Manager, WMA ARES, Skywarn Net Coordinator, CERT Radio Operator for Westfield

QSO TODAY ACADEMY

Welcome to the Next Chapter ~ September 9th and 10th, 2023



IS NOW THE



<https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>

Once upon a time, during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, we introduced the **QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo**. Six fantastic Expos later, it's time for a shift. A shift towards learning, innovation, and connection in the world of amateur radio. Welcome to the **QSO Today Academy**!

Mark your calendars for our first event on **September 9th and 10th, 2023**, where our journey towards a new era of amateur radio exploration begins.

So, you might be asking:

How is the QSO Today Academy different from the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo?

Well, let's rewind a bit. Back in August 2020, we envisioned the Virtual Ham Expo as a virtual substitute for a full-fledged amateur radio convention, complete with a bustling convention center, vendor booths, and an area for presentations on all things ham radio. However, what we found over six Expos and multiple experiments with virtual hosting technologies, was that our presentation strength shone through. Our Expo presentations were top-notch, offering an immense variety for a weekend conference, but the need for vendor exhibitor space faded as most ham radio vendors leaned more towards traditional "brick and mortar" styles.

In light of this, the Academy will zero in on enhancing these amateur radio presentations. We will use our sequel.io presentation rooms, equipped with the capacity to broadcast high-quality presentations to large audiences. These rooms also allow for audience participation, live Q&A sessions, and offer immediate playback of all recorded content.

While we're saying goodbye to the convention center and exhibitor hall, we'll be saying hello to a new form of vendor participation. Vendors will be invited to deliver presentations, engage in live forums, and conduct user meetings during Academy weekends. This will be complemented by roundtable discussions for any follow-up questions and answers.

Ready to join the QSO Today Academy? Tickets for our inaugural Academy weekend are up for grabs, and will grant you access for 30 days following the event. Welcome aboard as we voyage into this exciting new phase of the QSO Today experience!

Get all the details about this exciting event by clicking the link below.

<https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>

HCRA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC CELEBRATION

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

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

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

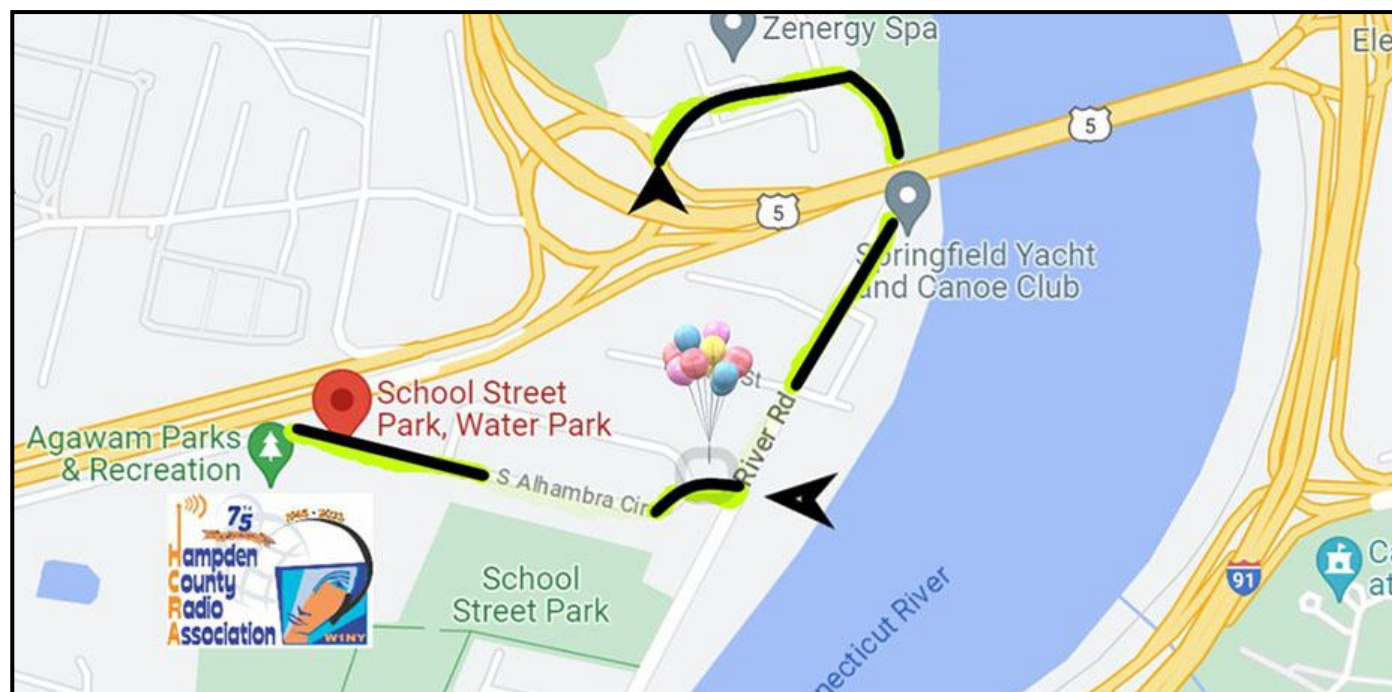
Included in the fun is the HCRA Celebration Picnic, which starts at 12:00 p.m. If you would like, bring a favorite food dish (potluck) to share with the hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages. HCRA wants YOU to be a part of it! HCRA requests everyone "Check-In" to the hcra.org website and fill out the Picnic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

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

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

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

For more information, go to www.hcra.org and look for the Picnic Day Celebration.



Project Big E 2023 Needs Your Support!

- 17-day New England Fair Sep 15 – Oct 1
- Centrally located in West Springfield, MA
- Over 1.6 million attendees last year!
- 12 clubs, 100 hams volunteered last year
- *We need your help again this year!*



We have a **FREE** booth in the Better Living Center, the building which attracts the most visitors. Our **GOAL** is to introduce ham radio to the public and show it is still relevant in today's world. People join the hobby and seek local clubs to join, thereby growing all ham clubs in New England! We need 3 people in the booth per six hour session. (Booth must be staffed 10 am to 10 pm.) Clubs that reserve a 6 or 12 hr session may bring their **Club Banner**, handouts, and demonstrations. We are also looking for individuals to volunteer. You do not have to be part of a club. We have an ARDC grant to reimburse you for admission (\$15) and parking (\$10 per car).

We need your support to make this a success!

QUESTIONS? Contact Larry Krainson, W1AST at W1AST@arrl.net or 413-348-3289

Read about **PROJECT BIG E:**



Sign up **HERE** to **VOLUNTEER:**



2023 FIELD DAY

Were you at Field Day? If not you missed a great time!

If you missed this year's Field Day, then you missed a fantastic time that was had by all who attended. Due to low participation in 2022, this year's FD was much more relaxed with a focus on fun!

No towers went up; wire antennas were put up in their place, which allowed for more fun to be had by all. On the following pages are some photos and a list of those who took part in this laid-back event in honor of HCRA's 75th anniversary as an ARRL Affiliated Club!

Not only did several club members take part in this special anniversary Field Day, but there was a very special guest who made an appearance not once, but twice!



First order of business was to get the rope & wire over the trees to support the wire antennas. What an arm on Howard, AC1MN



Saturday morning there was an uninvited guest who decided he wanted the Beignets all to himself



No HCRA Field Day would be complete without a beautiful cake with the HCRA 75th logo on it!

Continued on page 11

2023 FIELD DAY

CONT'D

Were you at Field Day? If not you missed a great time!



Ez, W1AEZ, and his better half, Lucy, did a fantastic job of cooking on the club's brand new grille!



John, K1YYM (left), and Larry, KD1RV (right), both wrestled this operators tent but at this point I think the tent was winning!

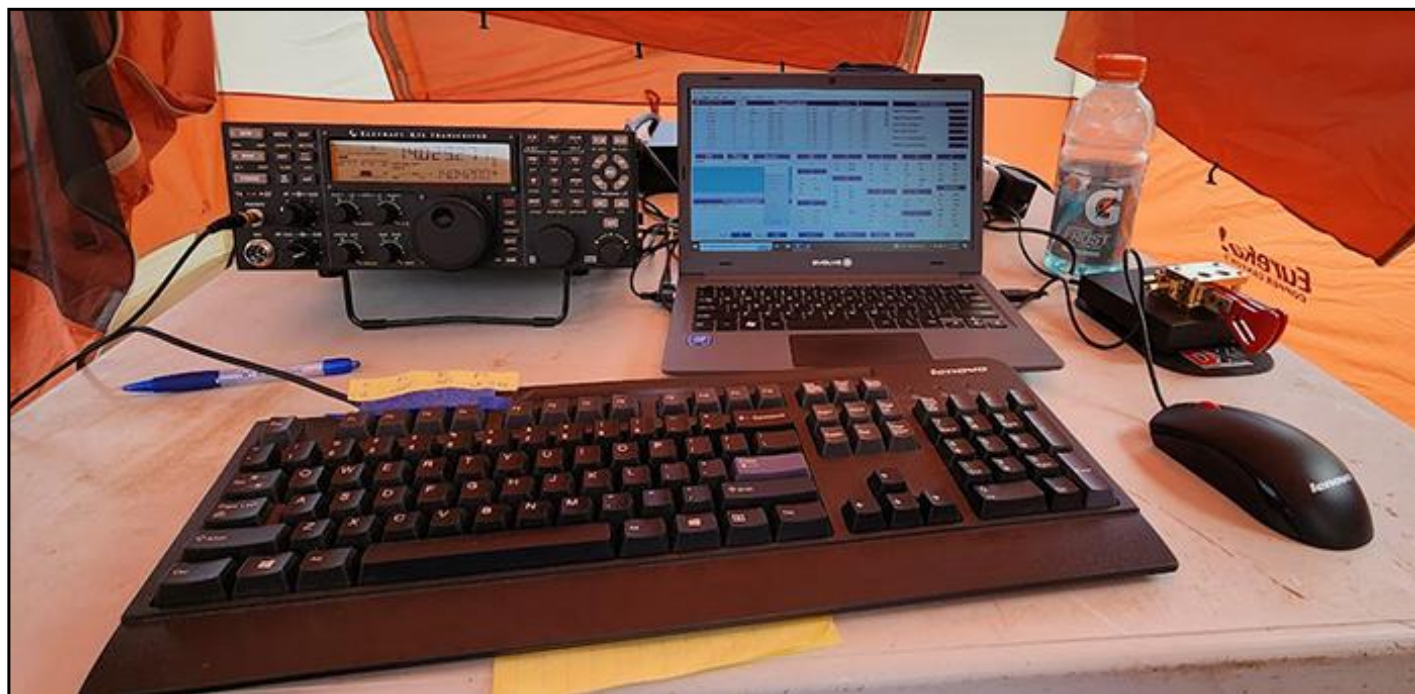


There's not much that can keep a group of hams quiet but there is one thing that'll do the trick... FOOD!

Continued on page 12

2023 FIELD DAY CONT'D

Were you at Field Day? If not you missed a great time!



The CW station was on 20 meters at the time this photo was taken. Note the N3FJP Field Day logging program

Field Day Operators / Setup and Teardown Crew for 2023

	OPS		SETUP/TEARDOWN
1	W1AST		W1AST
2	W5JAZ		W5JAZ
3	KC1V		K1YO
4	AC1MN		KC1V
5	KD1RV		AC1MN
6	W2BUD		KD1RV
7	K8LSB		K1VOI
8	K3FEC		W2BUD
9	AA1UE		K8LSB
10	KB1VSX		K3FEC
11	W1AEZ		AA1UE
12			KC1ONA
13			KB1VSX
14			Lucy
15			Faye
16			KC1FQV

Continued on page 13

2023 FIELD DAY CONT'D

Were you at Field Day? If not you missed a great time!

Summary

Call Used: **W1NY** GOTA Station Call: **(NONE)** ARRL/RAC Section: **WMA** Class: **2A**

Participants: **10** Club/Group Name: **Hampden County Radio Association**

Power Source(s): **Generator**

Power Multiplier: **2X**

Preliminary Total Score: 2,634

Bonus Points:

Bonus	Points Status
100% emergency power	200
Public location	100
Site visit by invited elected official	100
Site visit by invited served agency	100
Satellite QSO	100
Entry submitted via web	50
Total bonus points	650

Score Summary - Cabrillo log/dupe sheet file: W1NY-2023.dup

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	298	0	396		
Total Points	596	0	396	992	Claimed Score = (QSO points x power mult) = 1,984

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
Band	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m						
40m	45	100			395	100
20m	252	100				
15m						
10m	1	100				
6m						
2m						
222						
432						
Other						
Satellite					1	40
GOTA						
Total	298		0		396	

HCRA FALL KIT BUILD

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

QRP Labs Clock Kit

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

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

This clock's features include:

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

Sample Clock:



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

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

Go here to sign up online:

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

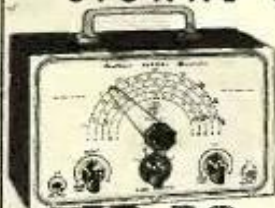
HEATHKIT SERVICE INSTRUMENTS

BUILD...LEARN...SAVE

Ideal for Schools, Training Courses,
Laboratories—Service Shops, Hobbyists.

HEATHKIT

SIGNAL GENERATOR KIT



\$19.50

NOTHING ELSE
TO BUY

Every shop needs a good signal generator. The Heathkit fulfills every servicing need, fundamentals from 150 Kc. to 30 megacycles with strong harmonics over 100 megacycles covering the new television and FM bands. 110 V 60 cycle transformer operated power supply.

400 cycle audio available for 30% modulation or audio testing. Uses 6SN7 as RF oscillator and audio amplifier. Complete kit has every part necessary and detailed blueprints and instructions enable the builder to assemble it in a few hours. Large easy to read calibration. Convenient size 9" x 6" x 4 3/4". Weight 4 1/2 pounds.

HEATHKIT SINE AND SQUARE WAVE

AUDIO GENERATOR KIT



\$34.50

NOTHING ELSE
TO BUY

The ideal instrument for checking audio amplifiers, television response, distortion, etc. Supplies excellent sine wave 20 cycles to 20,000 cycles and in addition supplies square wave over same range. Extremely low distortion, less than 1%, large calibrated dial, beautiful 2 color panel, 1% precision calibrating resistors, 110 V 60 cycle power transformer, 5 tubes, detailed blueprints and instructions. R.C. type circuit with excellent stability. Shipping weight 15 pounds.

HEATHKIT SIGNAL TRACER KIT



\$19.50

NOTHING ELSE
TO BUY

Reduces service time and greatly increases profits of any service shop. Uses crystal diode to follow signal from antenna to speaker. Locates faults immediately. Internal amplifier available for speaker testing and internal speaker available for amplifier testing. Connection for VTVM on panel allows visual tracing and gain measurements. Also tests phonograph pickups, microphones, PA systems, etc. Frequency range to 200 Mc. Complete ready to assemble. 110 V 60 cycle transformer operated. Supplied with 3 tubes, diode probe, 2 color panel, all other parts. Easy to assemble, detailed blueprints and instructions.

Small portable 9" x 6" x 4 3/4". Wt. 6 pounds. Ideal for taking on service calls. Complete your service shop with this instrument.

HEATHKIT HIGH FIDELITY AMPLIFIER KIT

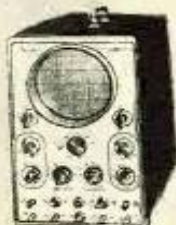


\$14.95

NOTHING ELSE
TO BUY

Build this high fidelity amplifier and save two-thirds of the cost. Push pull output using 1619 tubes (military type 6L6's), two amplifier stages using a dual triode (6SN7), and a phase inverter give this amplifier a linear reproduction equal to amplifiers selling for ten times this price. Every part supplied; punched and formed chassis, transformers (including quality output to 3-8-15 ohm voice coil), tubes, controls, and complete instructions. Add postage for 20 lbs. 12" PM speakers for above \$6.95

NEW 1948 HEATHKIT 5 INCH OSCILLOSCOPE KIT



A necessity for the newer servicing technique in FM and television at a price you can afford. The Heathkit is complete, beautiful two color panel, all metal parts punched, formed, and plated and every part supplied. A pleasant evening's work and you have the most interesting piece of laboratory equipment available.

Check the features—large 5" 5BP1 tube, compensated vertical and horizontal amplifiers using 6SJ7's, 15 volts to 30 M cycle sweep generator using 884 gas triode, 110 V 60 cycle power transformer gives 1100 volts negative and 350 volts positive.

Convenient size 8 1/2" x 13" high 17" deep, weight only 26 pounds.

All controls on front panel with test voltage and ext. syn post. Complete with all tubes and detailed instructions. Shipping weight 35 lbs.

Order today while surplus tubes make the price possible.

\$39.50

NOTHING ELSE
TO BUY

The NEW HEATHKIT VACUUM TUBE VOLTMETER KIT



\$24.50

NOTHING ELSE
TO BUY

The most essential tool a radio man can have, now within the reach of his pocketbook. The Heathkit VTVM is equal in quality to instruments selling for \$75.00 or more. Features 500 microamp meter, transformer power supply, 1% glass enclosed divider resistors, ceramic selector switches, 11 megohms input resistance, linear AC and DC scale, electronic AC reading RMS. Circuit uses 6SN7 in balanced bridge circuit, a 6H6 as AC rectifier and 6X5 as transformer power supply rectifier. Included is means of calibrating without standards. Average assembly time less than four pleasant hours, and you have the most useful test instrument you will ever own. Ranges 0-3, 30, 100, 300, 1000 volts AC or DC. Ohmmeter has ranges of scale times 1, 100, 1000, 10M and 1 megohm, giving range .1 ohm to 1000 megohms. Complete with detailed instructions. Add postage for 8 lbs.

HEATHKIT CONDENSER CHECKER KIT



\$19.50

NOTHING ELSE
TO BUY

A condenser checker anyone can afford to own. Measures capacity and leakage from .00001 to 100 MFD on calibrated scales with test voltage up to 500 volts. No need for tables or multipliers. Reads resistance 500 ohms to 2 megohms. 110V 60 cycle transformer operated complete with rectifier and magic eye indicator tubes.

Easy quick assembly with clear detailed blueprints and instructions. Small convenient size 9" x 6" x 4 3/4". Weight 4 pounds. This is one of the handiest instruments in any service shop.

A WORD ABOUT HEATHKIT INSTRUMENTS

All Heathkit service instruments are supplied complete in every way—gray crackle cabinets, 2 color calibrated panels, all tubes, test leads (where required) etc. All are 110 V transformer operated. Calibrations are complete and exact, 1% precision resistors are supplied where needed.

Heath engineers are ready to assist and advise. Heathkits are sold direct to customer, order from this ad. All are guaranteed.



The **HEATH COMPANY**
BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN

THE FOX'S DEN - WANTED!

Volunteer Wanted to Hide HCRA Fox Boxes!

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

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

Depending on the amount of use (hunters), either Fox Box sees will determine how long a FB charge will last. Generally, the batteries last between 7 and 10 days before a recharge is required.

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

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

This is a fun position that I held for a few years, but I had to give it up as I have too many irons in the fire now. The challenge of hiding a fox box is finding a suitable public location that is easy enough for our newest hunters but challenging enough for even the most experienced hunters!

If you would like more information about this, please contact Larry, W1AST, at w1ast@arrl.net, or you can contact myself, Ken, KD1KU, at kd1ku@arrl.net, for details.



HCRA'S BEST MENTOR

How I met Art Zavarella, W1KK, by John, W1JCW

I met Art Zavarella, W1KK, in 1978, when I was 11 years old. This is that story.

My grandmother had purchased me a Yaesu FT-757GXII from a local pawnshop in Springfield. I didn't know anything about the radio, and I lived in downtown Westfield. With no help or ideas about antennas or mounting one, without a dad around, and no local hams to help me, I was stuck until I finally met Art.

At first, I went to the library and found many books about radio and electronics. Once I started reading, I was hooked. Then I found a copy of QST! I now had the contact number for the ARRL. This was back in the costly long-distance phone call days, and my mom could not afford to even have a phone in service. I snuck into the guidance office at school and called the ARRL, explaining my interest and my age. They sent me a large envelope full of tractor-feed computer printer paper with testing locations and Elmers.

Guess whose name was on that list? Art Zavarella, W1KK!

So, I called numbers on the ARRL list. Unfortunately, the Hams I contacted didn't want to take the time or were not open to assisting a youngster who was poor, didn't have transportation, and lived in the inner city. Not Art, though; when I called him, he was excited to hear from me, and he went out of his way to get me over to his QTH in Agawam to see that W1NY shack and contest station.

Art showed patience and had a passion to help everyone. I was so fortunate to meet Art and spend the many years we did together having fun with radio and becoming a part of his family. Later, when I became a father, I would bring my kids over to help with heavy projects he had, and Art would drag my kids around on the bottom half of a shopping cart to entertain them.

Art would call each night, and I would monitor 10 meters while he would send me CW, just like the ARRL does. Using a page from the latest QST that Art had, as he always gave me his copies of QST. I would copy the CW and call him back on the phone to read what I had. He would then make suggestions about what to listen for and how to group sounds. Consistency was key! (Hi, hi, pun intended.)

How proud Art was when I passed my Novice, Tech, and General exams all in one sitting! Then it was onto 20 wpm code to acquire Advanced and Extra Class licenses. He stuck with me, mentoring me during summer vacation in the hot and humid weather of Western Massachusetts.

As I look back, one of my proudest days was when I passed my Extra exam just short of my 12th birthday, and I had enough change to put some gas into my mom's old car for her to drive over to see Art and deliver the news in person that I passed! Even though I had no dad, Art was my adopted father, and I explained to him why I felt this way. He was very proud to have that status with me after all he showed me about ham radio and life.

As I grew up, Art was always there for me to ask for advice or just to say hello. He helped so many others, and I am sure that he is looking down on us smiling. I believe that some amateur radio friendships last forever in this great hobby of ours, and my friendship with the kind little Italian man, Art Zavarella, is one of them. As I miss Art and our great times together, I have a dedication to Art on my QRZ.com page and am very proud every time someone comments to me about how special it is.

Continued on page 18

HCRA's BEST MENTOR CONT'D

How I met Art Zavarella, W1KK, by John, W1JCW

As I look back, one of my proudest days was when I passed my Extra exam just short of my 12th birthday, and I had enough change to put some gas into my mom's old car for her to drive over to see Art and deliver the news in person that I passed! Even though I had no dad, Art was my adopted father, and I explained to him why I felt this way. He was very proud to have that status with me after all he showed me about ham radio and life.

As I grew up, Art was always there for me to ask for advice or just to say hello. He helped so many others, and I am sure that he is looking down on us smiling. I believe that some amateur radio friendships last forever in this great hobby of ours, and my friendship with the kind little Italian man, Art Zavarella, is one of them. As I miss Art and our great times together, I have a dedication to Art on my QRZ.com page and am very proud every time someone comments to me about how special it is.



Above: Art Zavarella, W1KK, (on right) with John, W1JCW, and his children (undated)

73, John - W1JCW

NUTS AND VOLTS

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

The RV Radio Network

The RV Radio Network (RVRN) is an ARRL affiliated association for amateur radio. Operators who share an interest in Recreational Vehicles. Here you will find information about rallies, hamfests, radio nets, and other activities of interest to the members of our club.

We invite all amateur radio operators with an appropriate FCC license to participate in the RVRN 40m net on about 7264 kHz at 7:00 pm Central Time Sunday through Friday, and in our multi-mode Echo-Link net each Thursday at 8:00 pm Central Time on the *SELINK* node.

Read a sample of the Network News: https://www.rvradionetwork.com/NetNews_2021_11.pdf
For info on this great RV/HAM Net and how to join, visit: <https://www.rvradionetwork.com>

New Web and YouTube Volunteer

Let's all welcome Alan, AB1XW, to the Web and YouTube admin team. Vanessa called out looking for another volunteer to help with the HCRA website and YouTube channel a few months ago. Alan stepped up and answered her call. This will make regular maintenance and site updates much easier!

With Alan onboard, continuity of the website is ensured in case Vanessa, W1IRL, goes on vacation, etc. Next time you see Alan at a club function, Thank him for helping the club. 73, Vanessa - W1IRL

Live Free and Ham Podcast!

These days, there are podcasts for just about any topic, including ham radio. The Live Free and Ham Podcast has so many topics that will spark a fire under anyone with a heartbeat! Topics ranging from POTA to nearly every topic in between. One very special "live" guest is our very own HCRA President Larry, W1AST, speaking about Project: Big E.

Subscribe today and watch the podcast about Project Big E: <https://livefreeandham.com/>

Welcome HCRA New Membership Director

A big welcome goes out to our newest Membership Director and Board of Directors member, Steve, N1SR. I'm sure Steve will do a wonderful job in his newest position with our club.

The next time you see Steve at a club meeting or event, let's all wish him nothing but the best in his new position! Steve's contact info is on [page 30](#) of this issue and on <https://hcra.org/>

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

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

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

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

NUTS AND VOLTS CONT'D

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

Renew your Membership in Sept. & Oct. & Save!

In honor of this being the club's 75th Anniversary we have a very special deal for a limited time! Everyone who renews annually knows how fast a year goes by and many members, including myself, can easily forget to renew by September 1st which is when everyone's annual membership expires.

There is an easy fix for this, simply renew your membership for multiple years and save the aggravation of having to remember every year. This Sept. and Oct. you can renew for 5 full years for only \$60! Normally 5 years of membership would cost \$75 so you'll be saving \$15 plus the aggravation of missing the September 1st renewal date! Take advantage of this special deal by following the link below.

Click this link and SAVE! <https://hcra.org/online-new-membership-application-and-renewal/>

HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

The HCRA provides "pooling" of outgoing QSL cards as a benefit to its members, who are also members of the ARRL, and who wish to send their DX cards through the ARRL's QSL Service.

The next batch of outgoing QSL cards will be going out on or about September 15th.

For info on how to take advantage of this click on the link below or email Paul, NF1G at nf1g@arrl.net
<https://hcra.org/dx-qsl/>

HCRA's Website Has A New Look!

You might have noticed our club website has a new look. At the end of June, we got a notice from the company that had been hosting our site for years that the price was going up. The increase was significant, on the order of almost three times more than what we were paying in the past.

The Board requested we look for less expensive alternatives. We had an aggressive schedule to migrate and coordinate everything before the old hosting company cut us off. As of the beginning of August we went live with new hosting company, with a new version of WordPress, with new back-end administration menus, etc. Not only does the website have a new look but we're saving money too!

Worked All HCRA Award

Larry, W1AST, has been working on this for some time now, but he believed 2023 was a far better fit. Why you ask? 2023 is the year the club turns 75 years old! HCRA has been associated with the ARRL for 75 years. The goal of this year long event is to work 10 different HCRA members on HF in any mode and on any band!

Submit your logs to w1ast@arrl.net and earn a commemorative certificate celebrating our 75th anniversary! **This only runs through 2023**, and is a little something special for our 75th year! January 1st through December 31st 2023, this is one of many special HCRA activities!

PROJECT BIG-E 2023 NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The Ham Radio Booth at the Big E Needs You This Year!

The Big-E is a 17 day New England fair that takes place September 15th - October 1st this year. ***The start of the fair is ONLY 2 weeks away!!! Your help is important to Project Big E, please volunteer today!***

It attracts attendees from all over New England, northern NJ, and eastern NY. The fair takes place in West Springfield, MA. Last year the Big-E had over 1.6 million attendees from all over the northeast and beyond!

Last year, in 2022, we did a booth at the Big-E, and we are doing one again this year. 12 clubs and over 100 individuals volunteered last year. We need your help again this year!

We have been provided with a booth for free that is normally worth \$6000. The booth is in the Better Living Center, which is the largest building in the fair and attracts the most visitors.

The goal of the Ham Radio Booth is to introduce ham radio to the public and show that it is still relevant in today's world. By getting people interested in our hobby, we hope they will sign up for classes and, upon earning their license, go looking for local clubs to join. Thereby growing ham radio clubs in New England!

We learned a lot after last year in the booth and are changing the way we do things in the booth this year. One of those things is the need for only 3 people in the booth this year per six-hour session, compared to 4 to 6 people last year.

We are looking for clubs to reserve a 6-hour session or a full 12-hour day. The booth must be staffed from 10am through 10pm. We ask that volunteers for session one be at the booth from 9:30 am through 4 pm and for session 2 from 3:30 pm through 10 pm.

Clubs may bring a club banner, handouts, class information, and demonstrations to show and use during their time in the booth. **We are also looking for individuals too, you do not have to be part of a club!**

There is an admission fee of \$15 and a parking fee of \$10 per car to enter the fair. We have been awarded an ARDC grant and will be reimbursing those fees to everyone who participates after the fair has ended. The reimbursements will be mailed to your QRZ.com address.

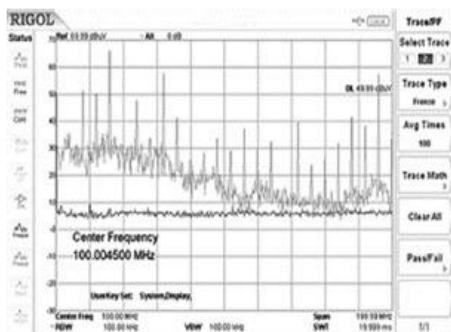
We need your support to make this event a success!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvo1vUzuuJTHbTtDLApQQD1m4ZzX9kVe_hF2416e6apho3g/viewform

Please go to this link to sign up: bit.ly/45Cv6mn

For further information, please go to: <https://nediv.arrl.org/project-big-e>

For more information, feel free to contact Larry Krainson, W1AST, at: w1ast@arrl.org



Need Help With RF Interference Issues ?

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

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

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

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

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

Vy 73,
Your WMA RFI Team

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

VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR FALL UPDATE!

ARRL's VOTA Operating Event Continues!

ARRL's yearlong operating event, Volunteers On the Air, or VOTA, began January 1, 2023. The event is organized as part of ARRL's 2023 theme, "Year of the Volunteers," which recognizes the contributions of ARRL member volunteers, and offers opportunities to become more active and involved in amateur radio and ARRL.

VOTA encourages participants to make contacts with ARRL members and volunteers, earning points for each contact. Point values have been assigned (see the Points Table at vota.arrl.org). All scoring is automatically calculated through ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW, <https://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>). If you are already a LoTW user, continue uploading your QSOs to participate. If you're a new LoTW user, visit Getting Started with LoTW.

As part of the event, there will be week-long activations by W1AW portable stations operating in all US states and territories. W1AW/# portable operations are worth 5 points for each contact, and they can be contacted on all bands and modes. There's also an opportunity to earn the W1AW Worked All States Award. There will be two week-long W1AW operations from each of the 50 states.

Only two-way contacts qualify for points (cross-band, cross-mode, and repeater contacts are not valid), using any mode (CW, phone, or digital) - including EME and satellite operations - on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, and 1.25 meters, as well as 70 centimeters, VHF/UHF/SHF, and microwave bands available to US amateurs above 2 meters (2190-, 630-, 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter band contacts are not counted for credit in this event).

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

Every volunteer is given a point value as is every member. You can't add up your points if for example, Larry, a life ARRL member, field volunteer, affiliated club president. He will be assigned the highest point value for one of those and that's what working Larry is worth. Working Larry gives the maximum points.

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

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

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

See the Points Table at vota.arrl.org for the full list of points.

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

Would you like to be an activator for W1AW/1 this Fall? If so, contact Larry, W1AST at w1ast@arrl.com to learn more. In the meantime, start working those other states. Each one is worth at least 5 points!



ITEM'S FOR SALE & WANTED

Items For Sale, Trade or Wanted

FOR SALE!

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

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

Got Questions? Email Dave at dfant19508@aol.com or call 484-529-0090 or 413-525-3022

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

If interested, or have questions, contact Dave Fant, WM1B at dfant19508@aol.com

Email - dfant19508@aol.com

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

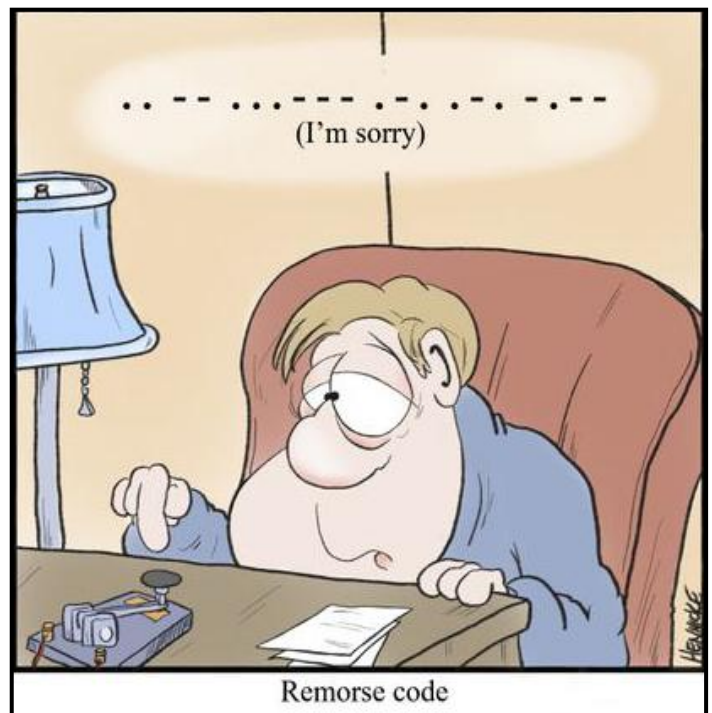
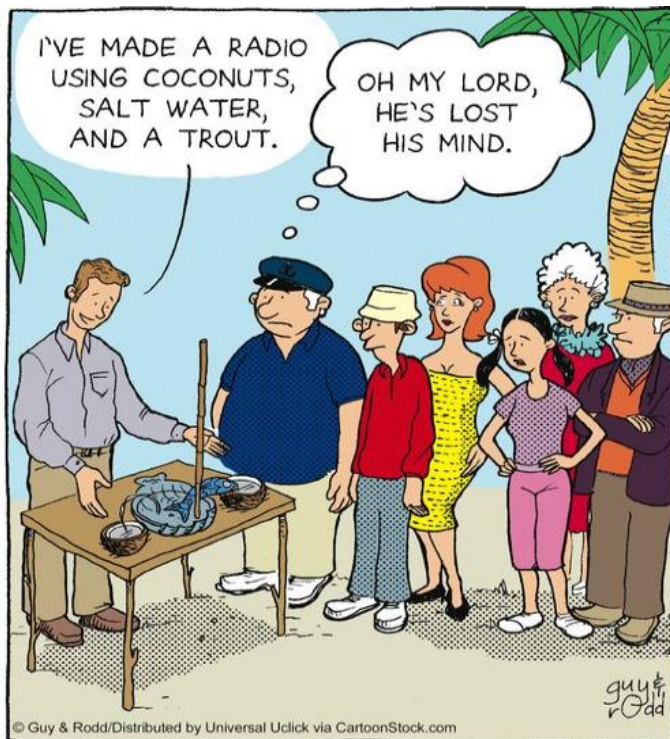
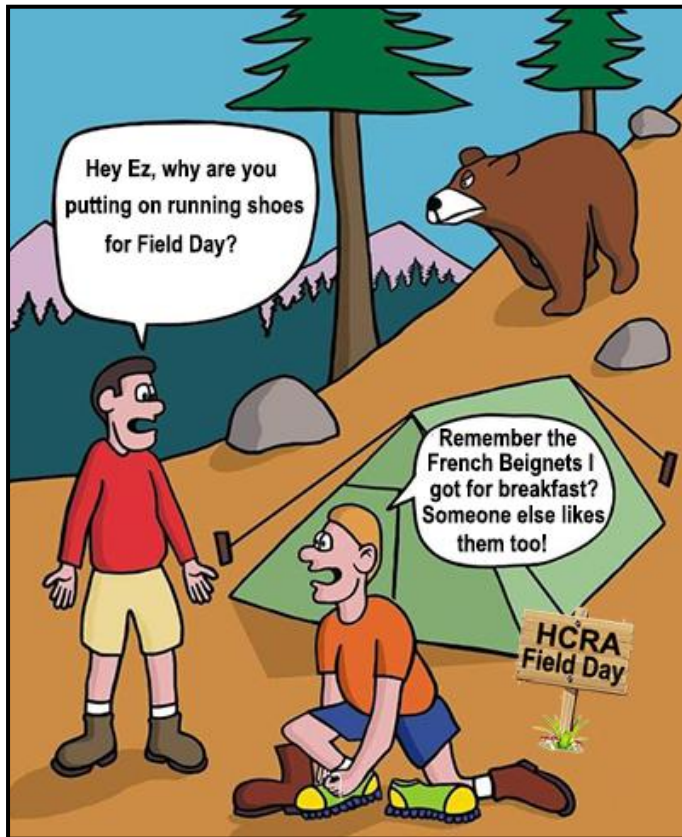
1948 ~ 2023 75 Years as an ARRL Affiliated Club

Share The Knowledge Video Library

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

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





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

This is the latest HCRA Clublog for 2023 - you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy this year!

HCRA Clublog Information Updated on September 1st 2023

The screenshot shows the Clublog website interface. At the top is the Clublog logo. Below it are three radio buttons for selecting a year: 'No Date Filter', '2023' (which is selected), and '2022'. To the right is a radio button for 'Last 12 months'. Below these is a dropdown menu labeled 'Filter by club/continent:' with 'HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association' selected. At the bottom of the filter section is a button labeled 'Generate DXCC League'. Below the filter section is a header for the generated league: 'League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association'.

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	W1RM+1	25	56	0	117	12	149	47	159	73	159	7	240	804	60 yrs
2	KK1W+1	21	30	0	66	53	86	94	114	93	73	9	222	639	47 yrs
3	NF1G	0	12	0	21	45	102	88	150	85	91	0	220	594	39 yrs
4	KX1X	2	37	5	93	84	107	86	134	91	121	4	182	764	28 yrs
5	K1NZ+1 ★	19	25	15	24	75	91	72	103	100	94	5	172	623	12 yrs
6	WY1G	0	9	0	26	0	47	36	68	71	77	7	147	341	42 yrs
7	W1AST+1	2	10	0	14	14	64	35	61	70	61	4	143	335	14 yrs
8	W1PY+1	0	4	0	38	0	48	2	94	5	86	0	124	277	13 yrs
9	NE1C	23	49	0	65	0	96	0	108	0	84	0	122	425	21 yrs
10	K1VOI	2	21	0	40	31	69	26	68	15	54	1	115	327	22 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	N1FTP ★	0	2	0	22	1	51	5	29	35	83	0	104	228	15 yrs
12	W1JA+1	0	1	4	16	25	2	34	0	33	0	2	80	117	54 yrs
13	N1JIE	1	2	1	8	21	22	14	23	9	23	1	58	125	6 yrs
14	N1TA+3	2	22	0	6	5	16	4	17	4	6	0	53	82	22 yrs
15	NV1Q+3	0	0	0	7	10	13	4	4	4	9	0	31	51	44 yrs
16	WD1S	1	2	0	2	0	22	0	12	0	8	1	29	48	11 yrs
17	W1NU+2	1	0	0	9	1	3	1	0	0	2	0	14	17	8 yrs
18	AB1XW+1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	11 yrs

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

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

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

ARRL CLUB COMMISSION PROGRAM

Join or Renew your ARRL Membership through the HCRA!

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

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

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

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®		ARRL Affiliated Club Membership Application	
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a brand-new member, or my membership lapsed for 2 or more years. My club will receive a \$15 commission.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I am renewing (includes lapsed members of less than 2 years). My club will receive a \$5.00 commission.			
Name _____		Call Sign _____	
Address _____			
City _____		State _____	ZIP _____
Email _____		Phone _____	
Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____			
<input type="checkbox"/> My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (Annually \$10 per member)			
Name _____			
Name _____			
Your Annual Membership Dues - Circle Your Choice			
	3 Years	2 Years	1 Year
US Membership	\$140	\$95	\$49
International (Digital Only)	\$140	\$95	\$49
International (with mailed QST)	\$217	\$147	\$76
Blind	\$30	\$20	\$10
Family	\$30	\$20	\$10
Student			\$25
TOTAL \$		<input type="text"/>	
Choose your print magazine - Check One			
<input type="checkbox"/> QST , ARRL's membership journal for active radio amateurs (12 monthly issues)			
<input type="checkbox"/> On the Air , Beginner-to-intermediate-level help and advice (6 bimonthly issues)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Digital Only (All members can access the digital versions of both magazines)			
Payment Enclosed is my: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Charge Request			
Charge to my: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Amex <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card Number _____		Expiration Date _____	
Card Holders Signature _____			
Toll Free (US) 1-888-277-5289 or 860-594-0200 • ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1400 membership@arrl.org • www.arrl.org/join			

DOTS & DASHES

THINGS THAT DON'T FIT ANYPLACE ELSE!

HCRA Needs Your Memories!

Do you have any memories of past HCRA events, club activities, or cool club history? Anything is great, but the older the better! Your Board of Directors needs any information, no matter how insignificant you may think it is. We would rather have too much information than not enough. This is part of HCRA's 75th anniversary!

If you have anything to submit, contact your Vice President, Ez, W1AEZ, at ez.w1aez@gmail.com

HCRA Needs your Call

HCRA President Larry, W1AST, has come up with something very cool, but he needs your help, provided you have multiple callsigns, that is. Have you changed your call from your original FCC-assigned call sign to what you have now?

Example: I used to be **WB1DBY**, and I'm now **W1AST**. If you can help, please use the following contact. Larry, W1AST, at w1ast@arrl.net

Contests and Special Event Stations

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

September VHF Contest | 50Mhz and up | Sept 9th, 1800z to Sept 11th, 0300z

For rules and info go to: <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

Texas QSO Party | Sept 16th at 1400z to 17th at 2000z, | 1.8 - 14mhz

For rules and additional information go to: <http://www.tcqp.net>

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

Volcano Days, WV SES | Sept 23rd | 1400z-2200z | 40m, 20m & FT8

For more information and complete details on this SES: <https://w8par.org>

HCRA Member Outgoing QSL Service

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

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

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

or

Contact Paul, NF1G at nf1g@arrl.net



Join Brown Baggers for Lunch

For the benefit of every HCRA member, Brown Baggers is a friendly lunch get-together that happens on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. It's held at the [Munich Haus Restaurant](#) in Chicopee Center at 12:00 pm (noon), located at 13 Center St. Chicopee, MA, across from City Hall, or simply click the link above.

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

10 Meter Net Fall / Winter Schedule to Begin

The 10 meter net is about to start it's Fall/Winter schedule. Beginning September 11th and every Monday evening at 7 pm local. Gary, W1JZR is NCS of this fun net! On the 4th Monday of each month there will be a guest Net Control Station.

Anyone who would like to volunteer for the guest NCS should contact Ken, KD1KU at kd1ku@arrrl.net Everyone is welcome to join in on 28.375 regardless of affiliation. Questions? Contact: kd1ku@arrrl.net

Share the Knowledge Meetings are Coming Back for 2024

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

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

Membership Memorial Page

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

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

For Sale Items

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

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

HCRA Social Media Links

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

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

Local Nets & Happenings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, Following Info Net

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

Wednesdays: 9 am, FCARC Experimental Net, 28.354 MHz

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

Join or Renew Your ARRL Membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



Club Meetings and VE Sessions

1st Friday of the month at 7:30 pm HCRA Meeting.

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

2nd Monday of the month at 7 pm, FCARC meeting.

1 Aviation Way, Turners Falls, MA. (airport). Social Hour 6-7 pm, meeting at 7 pm. <http://www.fcarc.org/>

2nd Saturday prior to FCARC meeting. 8 am Breakfast at

Denny's Pantry, 496 Bernardston Rd. Greenfield, MA. Brad Councilman bc@councilman.com

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

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

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



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

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

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