



# ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

November 2017

*Special points of interest:*

*Next Meeting:*

*Holiday Party*

*Castle of Knights*

*December 3rd, 2017*

- [Visit the HCRA facebook page.](#)
- Don't forget to check out [hcra.org](http://hcra.org)
- [Visit Summits on the Air](#)
- [Visit POTA413 facebook page](#)

## November's Meeting

**Join us Friday November 3rd at 7:30, in the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center .**

### SHORTWAVE LISTENING AND DXING, PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE.

**HAROLD WOERING N1FTP**



“I have been listening to Shortwave for 50 years and would like to show you what I've accomplished and what the future holds for Shortwave listening.”

For directions to The Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center:

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



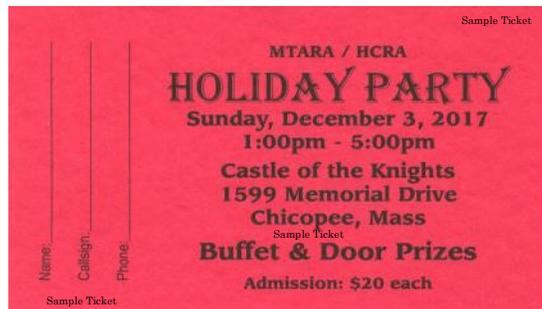
**Get your own HCRA Hot/Cold Tumbler. See page# 10 for details**

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## HCRA/MTARA Holiday Party

**Tickets now on sale!**



**See page# 3 for details.**

# FROM THE SHACK

DAVE FANT WM1B



The weather is getting colder and that normally means two things, Winter is coming and the Bands should be opening up. With that contesting becomes more frequent and for some becomes the highlight of the season. Hiding away in the shack, trying to dig out the weak signal that you need for the next multiplier all while hoping the family will still remember you when you come up for air. For others it may be finding the one band that is not tied up with a contest so some good rag-chewing can proceed. Whatever is your choice this is the season and hopefully all will get a chance to work some great contacts this fall. Good luck to all this fall and winter as we spend more time indoors.

In the early summer I had the opportunity to attend a meeting which was attended by area Club Representatives to learn what is/was going on in the area. In attendance was ARRL CEO, Tom Gallagher/NY2RF. One topic that he brought up was the high percentage of new amateurs that never get on the air. It seems as though many see Ham Radio as an exciting adventure and so they study and get their ticket. But then they don't know what to do with it. It seems as though the concept of ELMERS has dropped off. As a VE, I see a number of new Hams take the test and obtain their Tech ticket. We congratulate them and they are invited to come to our next meeting. They might come, less than 10% do, and hear about SO-TA, DX, SWL, HRO, HT, and it is all Greek to them. They go away and don't come back (to our meetings OR the radio).

I would like to suggest that we reinitiate the Elmer program in our club on a more formal basis. Volunteer to be an Elmer to new Hams. Tell our Membership Director, John/K1VOI that you would like to be an Elmer. He is at every VE session and talks to all the new Hams about HCRA. He can then be a link between the newbie and the Elmer. As an Elmer give the new ham a call and invite them to the next meeting. Better yet offer to pick them up, get to know their interest and perhaps introduce them to another member that shares the same interest.

Many contests are coming up in November and December. One of the most popular is the 10M contest on December 9-10. Why not invite a new Ham to join you and operate for a while? Give them a chance to get on the air. A couple of hours will not hurt your score but can increase the excitement of a new Ham. How about inviting a new Ham to your shack for Rookie Roundup? CW in Dec or SSB in April are both opportunities to get a new Ham on the air. I guarantee they will never forget your help and it may be their first contact.

Enough from the shack, until next time, May the Bands be Open and the QRM be gone.

73

Dave/WM1B

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## SOME INTERESTING RADIO HISTORY

Reprinted from the "Great Britain Royal Armed Forces Newsletter"

### Last Surviving Bletchley Park 'Listener' Dies Aged 97



The last surviving Bletchley Park 'listener' who intercepted and passed Nazi messages on to Allied codebreakers at Bletchley Park has died. Alison Robins, 97, taught herself Morse code and German during World War Two and stayed up all night eavesdropping messages from U-boats around the British coast. Alison was tasked with passing on messages to Station X - later identified as Bletchley Park.



She rarely spoke about her wartime years, that were spent in isolated points around the coastline, intercepting messages from enemy fleets, after teaching herself both Morse code and German.

Alison's daughter believes it was the most exciting time of her mother's life. Jill Hazell said: "She was the last one left - very few had Morse code and German, there were only a handful of them. "I think she must have been quite intelligent - she left school with almost nothing.

"They kept to the Official Secrets Act - even after the Bletchley Park film came out. She didn't talk about it."

Alison taught herself Morse code to change from her stewardess role in the Wrens.

Alison's husband Maurice also spoke German and was sent there after the war to do translating work ahead of the Nuremberg Trials. When he returned, the couple started their own reconciliation process by bringing the German POWs who worked at the bottom of their garden cups of tea, and inviting them for lunch.

Jill said: "It was very practical - my parents went to talk to them, I think that was a really important part of the post-war period for them.

"My mother was lovely - we all adored her."

Alison died on October 15 at a Bristol nursing home, where she was being cared for after suffering from dementia.



HCRA / MTARA  
**Holiday Party**

When: Sunday, December 3, 2017

Where: Castle of Knights  
1599 Memorial Dr., Chicopee, MA

Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Tickets: \$20 per person (in advance)

Contact: Harold-nlftp@yahoo.com  
(or) Brian-BrianDive@aol.com

(Last date to buy tickets - November 24)

- Buffet
- Door Prizes
- Cash Bar

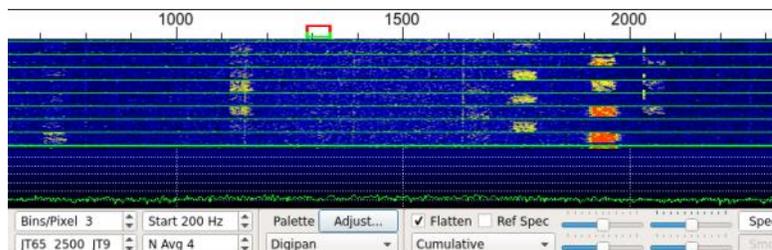
Tickets can be purchased at the club meetings  
or send a check to *either* of the following:

- HCRA, P.O. Box 562, Agawam, MA 01001
- MTARA, P.O. Box 3494, Springfield, MA 01101

# ARE DIGITAL MODES THE FUTURE OF HF?

DANIEL M. ROMANCHIK, KB6NU

My friend, and fellow ham radio blogger, Jeff, KE9V, recently wrote about the latest digital mode, FT-8. Since its introduction this summer, it has become very popular. Part of the reason for this is that it offers many of the advantages of JT65 and JT9, but contacts are four times faster.



FT-8 on a waterfall display. Photo: Koos van den Hout

Jeff's blog post, "Look No Further Than the Waterfall," describes how he—a die-hard CW man—has become enchanted with the mode and how it's opened his eyes to a part of the hobby he hadn't really been aware of. As the title implies, you only have to look at a waterfall display to see how popular digital modes have become. Not only that, Jeff notes, "A high percentage of these [FT-8 operators] are younger than average operators and many of them also happen to be relative newcomers to hobby radio."

One of the reasons for this popularity is obvious. You don't need crazy big antennas to operate FT-8 on HF. FT-8 allows you to make contacts with very weak signals. W6LG has even made FT-8 contacts, using two light bulbs for an antenna.

While I can appreciate the cool technology behind this, and I can see myself playing around with this a little, I can't see myself becoming an avid FT-8 operator. It's just too impersonal. That's the same reason I'm not an avid contester. Contests are fun to play around with once in a while, but I'm definitely not an every weekend contester.

What I think would be cool is for this technology to somehow allow more information exchange than just IDs and signal reports. Might this be possible? If it was possible, what kind of information could be exchanged? Does it even make sense to suggest this? If you've been working FT-8, I'd love to hear your opinions on this.

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## PAUL WISLOLEK K1TKL SILENT KEY

From: Dave K <[dklim@crosslink.net](mailto:dklim@crosslink.net)>  
Date: October 16, 2017 at 2:12:18 PM EDT  
To: [wm1b@arrl.net](mailto:wm1b@arrl.net)  
Cc: Dave Klimaj <[dklim@crosslink.net](mailto:dklim@crosslink.net)>  
Subject: NEWS of K1TKL (SK) de W4JVN



Hi Dave,  
AS a childhood member of HCRA, I write to tell you & the Club of the passing of Paul Wisiolek, K1TKL.

He and I were Tech High School Students in 1959-1962. Thats how we got our start in ham radio. Paul's father was Chet, K1YQQ. Paul, Chet, and I were HCRA members of long ago. I write so you can let those club of Paul's passing on Sept 16, 2017, at a LaJolla, CA hospital of cancer. Paul was retired from GE.

As a young kid, we all appreciated what the club did for us. Both Paul & I became engineers. He was at UMASS and I was at WPI. I am retired from the Pentagon. When you look through a Night Vision Device " YOU SEE MY WORK".

73,  
Dave Klimaj, W4JVN  
(ex-K1NIJ)



# HCRA's 2017 Raffle

ONLY 250 TICKETS TO BE SOLD!

JUST \$10 EACH

- Legendary Yaesu Receiver Design
- Triple conversion with a 1st IF frequency of 69.450 MHz
- 3 kHz roofing filter equipped as standard
- Detachable Front Panel for convenient mounting and operation
- with torque adjustment
- Pop-up Menu for quick and easy operation
- Multi Function Knob
- Large Transmit/Receive indicator
- Three Programmable Front Panel Function Keys
- Specifically designed External Antenna Tuner FC-50 (option)

Winning ticket to be drawn at the MTARA  
Hamfest Saturday March 10th, 2018



HF 50 MHz 100 Watt All Mode Transceiver

## FT-891 & ATAS-120

Yaesu ATAS-120A 40 Meter through 70cm Auto Tune Motorized HF/VHF/UHF Antenna

*A \$1000 total package!*

# A DAY ON THE CAPE

LARRY KRAINSON WIAST

Faye and I had just arrived on the Cape on Saturday when we met up with Bob (WA1OJN) and his wife Celeste. Over dinner we made our plans for the next day to show them some parts of the Cape they hadn't explored in their 30 years of vacation time.

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> arrived and we met Bob and Celeste at the appointed parking lot. Off we went on our adventure. Originally, we were going to include the Marconi Museum, but Bob had gone the prior weekend. So today's new goal was the French Cable Museum and whatever else we could fit in.

Since we were in Falmouth, we traveled east towards Chatham on Route 28. It was a scenic drive past harbors, through towns and past other places worthy of conversation. Since I was driving, I was sort of head tour guide.

I started by showing Morris Island with a quick drive through and mentioned the hiking trails, bird watching and neat place to just relax on the beach at low tide. Next stop was the marker for Samuel DE Champlain at Stage Harbor in Chatham. There is a description here too which is interesting (See pics).

[\(\[HTTP://www.nps.gov/caco/learn/historyculture/samuel-de-champlain.htm\]\(http://www.nps.gov/caco/learn/historyculture/samuel-de-champlain.htm\)\)](http://www.nps.gov/caco/learn/historyculture/samuel-de-champlain.htm)



From there we headed just back towards Chatham Light where we parked for 20 minutes and looked for seals and sharks in the water and around the area. The view is worth the stop.

[\(<http://www.capecodlighthouses.info/chatham-light/>\)](http://www.capecodlighthouses.info/chatham-light/)



We headed north on 28 towards the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy in Chatham. There have been a number of great white shark sightings in the past few years along the beaches and bay. Due to the huge growth of seals, those that prey on seals have grown too. Quite often the purple flag will be raised by life guards signaling to get out of the water as a shark has been seen. At all beaches are warnings for dangerous sea life and to not swim with the seals.



We next stopped at the French Cable Museum in Orleans. We let the wives loose to shop at the Christmas Tree Shops and other places while Bob and I took the tour. I had been there a few times before, but it's such a cool place and I learn something new every time I go. Bob and I were intrigued that back over 100 years ago they could detect the area of a break and send ships out to repair the cable.



How it was determined where the break occurred: They figured out the resistance of the cable per mile. When there was a break, they measured the resistance and did the math to figure out how far out the cable creak was. Often it was in harbors where a ships anchor had broken it. But not always. Once the repair ship was in the area, it used an anchor like tool to drag along the bottom for both cables and then patched them back together. Just being able to figure out how far and where is simply amazing. They used a compass and sextant. The GPS was over a hundred years away from being invented!

The museum docents will explain what went on and then show and explain the devices in each room. Those alone were pretty fascinating. This museum is worth the stop. Make the time.

[\(<http://www.frenchcablestationmuseum.org/>\)](http://www.frenchcablestationmuseum.org/)

We practically had to pull Bob from the museum as he found it so fascinating.

Next stop – Marconi.

We pulled into the ranger station at Marconi and found it closed. You want to stop there as the ranger station houses the Marconi station and model and more information. The actual site was just down the road. Park and walk to the observation deck for a fabulous view of what's left of the historic site and the beach. There is a hiking trail here. And new markers for the history that was made here. NOTE: There is supposed to be a new kiosk put in place for next year replacing the one that was taken down a few years ago.



A few miles north of Marconi is the Highlands Center area of Truro. I've always found this place to be mysterious and interesting. Faye and I had a walking tour a number of years ago which only peaked my curiosity for the place.

It used to be a cold war radar listening post which was linked to a few others that were straight out in the ocean. Those are gone, but the empty buildings remain.

## A DAY ON THE CAPE CONTINUED

You can drive or walk around the grounds, stop and read the information and let your mind wonder. Bob went into one of the buildings and said he only went so far as it was very dark and creepy. Maybe a place to carefully explore with a good flashlight in hand.

Periodically the rangers will host a tour and it's worth going, as it's pretty darn interesting. I think it has the potential to make a fascinating small museum.

<https://www.nps.gov/caco/planyourvisit/highlands-center-at-cape-cod-national-seashore.htm>



It was now around 5 pm and sun light was decreasing. So we headed to Provincetown. Specifically the Provincelands visitor center. The center itself was closed, but the decks were open. With binoculars in hand we went up to the top deck in search of planes and whales and whatever else we could see. No blow spouts, plenty of small planes and lots of amazing views.



We then drove to Race Point beach and Herring Cove beach and the Long Point Breakwater; which is a mile long jetty to walk from the mainland to the

very tip of Cape Cod.

<http://capecodonline.com/things-to-do/crossing-provincetown-breakwater/>

It was time to end our travels and find a good spot for dinner. We left that to Faye and Celeste and stopped at Montano's Italian restaurant. It has to be the absolute best Italian restaurant on the Cape. Absolutely delicious. (<http://montanos.com/>) Skipping the restaurant dessert, we went to Sweet Escape Ice Cream just down route 6 in Truro for some incredibly tasty ice cream. Both Bob and Celeste agreed it was a extremely tasty way to end the day.

Then it was time to head back to Falmouth. With Bob and I in the front seats and an hour drive, we turned on the HF and proceeded to work a few mobile HF stations, both stateside and DX. While it's fun working the HF rig from home, I always get a much larger satisfaction from making any kind of HF contact from my vehicle.

There were other things we wanted to see and do, but those were for another day's adventure.

## FOR SALE:

**MFJ-4115 small 15 amp switching power supply. Used very little and works great.**

*If you have a piece of Ham Radio equipment to sell. Send photo, and details by the 20th of the month to: [gary.fields@northcomm.net](mailto:gary.fields@northcomm.net).*

*All submissions will be screened for appropriateness and content.*

*The decision to publish is at the discretion of the Zero Beat Editor.*

Here's the description:

MFJ-4115 is supercompact, great for traveling -- weighs just 11/2 lbs and is a tiny 3 3/4W x 2 1/4H x 7 3/4 D inches. This tiny supply will easily fit in your briefcase or suitcase and power most VHF/UHF or QRP radios. Has over - voltage and over - current protection systems and works with AC input from 90 to 130 Volts. Output is 13.8 VDC, 17 Amps surge and 15 Amps continuous. It has one set of 5 - way binding post connections. It is super clean, has a quiet fan and super regulation. Has load fault indicator and automatic shutdown.

Price is \$70 in the current MFJ catalog.

Larry, W1AST: 413-348-3289 or [wbl1dby@gmail.com](mailto:wbl1dby@gmail.com)



**Price \$50.00**

**Hands-Only™ CPR**  **Call 911**  **Push hard and fast in the center of the chest.**  **Learn more at [handsonlycpr.org](http://handsonlycpr.org)** **Learn and Live**

# AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

RICK MCCALLUM KC7MF

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## A LIGHTHEARTED LOOK AT SOME OF OUR IDIOSYNCRASIES...

When all else fails, there is Amateur Radio. We all stand ready to provide communications in times of emergency. We can actually do quite well at this and I do not mean to make light of it. Well maybe a little. That said.

As a new ham you may want to get your feet wet in what we call ECOM, or ECOMM, or EM-COMM...whatever. Let's go with ECOM for brevity sake. As a newly licensed Technician-Class 'Amateur Radio Station Operator/Licensee' (ARSOL) uh, I mean Licensed Amateur Radio Station Operator(LARSO) you will start with the basics. You will learn emergency communications from the ground up.

The Basics:

First you will need equipment. You will need a name tag with your call sign on it. It should also have your name on it because there will not be one living soul with whom you will work who will be able to remember your name for over 30 seconds and you will get really tired of being called Mike Foxtrot. Then you will need a hat with your call sign on it. The best hat is a green hard hat indicating that you belong to a CERT team. (More about CERT in part II.) It will afford you protection when you are working "in ECOM" as we say. I recommend putting your name on the back of your hard hat. This way people who hiding behind...that is to say following your lead, will not forget your name. It will be easy for them to communicate with you at the disaster site, shouting official ECOM stuff like, "Rick. Slow down. It is really scary here. Do you smell smoke?"...And other such essential emergency communications. You will need camouflage fatigues and combat boots. You will need a Sam Brown belt to carry your bundle of keys, your aluminum 36,000 lumen flashlight, spare batteries, your canteen, your flare gun, your knife, your first-aid kit, your multi-tool and your portable field Morse code key (snicker).

You will crown your new outfit with an orange reflective vest with ECOM on the back of it. (You may be asking yourself, "won't the orange vest counteract the effect of the camouflage fatigues? The answer is yes but just drop it. OK? There is no call to be pedantic.) Now let's move on. There are Ham radio Badges. They look just like Police badges. Do not get one. You will look like an id...well let's just say the police do not like any badges with references to "ham" on them. OK? A little sensitivity...

Of course you will need an "HT". This is short for "Handy Talkie". Your HT will cost anywhere from, at the high end, about \$600.00 down to, at the low end, about \$6.00 used. Perhaps one of your new ECOM friends (or should I say platoon mates) will help you. "Oh? Bill is looking for an HT? He can have this worthless piece of...oh there you are Bill. Let me give you this rig to get you started". Wouldn't that be a lucky stroke? He/or she may just be your new Elmer. Please note. There is no difference between a \$500 and a free HT. They all work equally, ah, one might almost say, well.

Thus outfitted you are ready for ECOM training. This is a series of evening classes taught by a guy named Frank (known affectionately in the ECOM community as Methuselah.) You will be able to spot him right away at the radio club meetings as he is the one with the green hard hat, orange vest, HT with remote mic and ham radio badge. (NOTE: Before you ask, yes we have all noticed that he looks like an 80 year old school crossing guard and it is not necessary to mention it.) These classes will be exciting. You will learn ECOM procedures, first aid, outdoor survival, equipment preparation, which vegetation is edible, jeep riding, and why you should keep all of your radio equipment in a Faraday Cage right next to your three year supply of food and 846 guns, and always vote libertarian and...but then I digress... (Do not worry for the moment what a Faraday Cage is. You will not really need to know until you go for your extra class ticket unless, God Forfend, events lead you to **really** need one but in that case the subject is sort of academic.)

Continued on page #9

# AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

## A LIGHTEARTED LOOK AT SOME OF OUR IDIOSYNCRASIES... CONTINUED

Trained to the hilt you will participate in events designed to hone your emergency communications skills. Most of these are bike races. Your leadership will have pled... that is to say, kindly volunteered your group's services to monitor the race route in case something awful might happen. There you will be; dressed in your entire combat-first-responder ensemble, HT at the ready, stuffed full of surplus trail mix and ready for any emergency. And then it happens. Something awful! You get on your HT and shout, "Operation Chainguard Flash Eagle Leader Alpha Charlie One whatever this is Flash Thunder Falcon three four, Kilo Echo Seven Uniform Xray Echo, we have a code 6. A bicycle just crashed into three people who were not paying attention because they were on their cell phones and wandered into the race route. Get on your cell phone and call the paramedics." And there you have it. ECOM at its most basic. Most gritty. Most...

Now if that does not whet your appetite there is more! You could become a weather observer!

### Ham Radio Weather Observers

This is a highly technical program to...well...tell people it is raining or windy. I know. Even a no-code Extra can tell when it is raining and/or windy but I guess some people can't. On edit: I was just informed that I am off-base here. It is not to tell people it is raining and/or windy. It is to tell people who are not where it is raining and/or windy that it is raining and/or windy somewhere else. That makes more sense, even to me. Oh no really?

Okay. The person who told me about the rain just told me that these "observers" go out and try to find tornadoes and then tell people that there are tornadoes somewhere else. You could do that! How cool. You could don all of your ECOM equipment, jump into your emergency SUV, and head toward really nasty looking weather, where you could jump out and look for funnel clouds. Here is where you must make a strategic decision. "Do I carry all of my emergency equipment or travel "light". The decision will be based upon your skill set. If you are not, shall we say, fleet of foot, the extra weight of the equipment might come in very handy. Your training will be important here. At times like these it is sometimes easy to forget proper radio procedure. But you will stay calm. Seeing a funnel cloud roughly the size of Cleveland headed your way you will take cover behind that... oh what is there... fence post... key your HT and say..."Holy, I mean Hotel Sierra there is Bravo Foxtrot funnel cloud, about the size of Cleveland that just ate my camouflage SUV and is headed right for me. Where is it? I'll check my map. I have it in my back pocket... I'll let you know in a minute. Something has uh gotten on my map."

Doesn't that sound like fun? And it's important too. It allows the folks at headquarters to tell others not to go near you (or where they believe you were) and give thanks that they are not there with you. Don't worry. I have never actually heard of someone getting his clothes blown off and you can always get another CERT hat and map. My suspicion is that when this article is published there will be a great many of them available. All the better for an aspiring storm watcher.

This is enough for the first installment. Next time we will cover CERT and ARES. There is much to cover. But at this point it is important to add that what ham radio can and does do in emergencies is a very real thing. I have answered a real Mayday call myself and it is quite the experience. Sometimes though it is instructive to take an alternate look at some of our "foibles." That is what we just did.

**Don't forget to get your tickets for the  
2017/18 HCRA Raffle see page #5 for details!**



# DOTS & DASHES:

Things I can't think where to put, but are interesting.

## NOVEMBER FCARC PROGRAM: DIGITAL MODES

Digital Modes will be the program for the November 20th FCARC meeting. Chris KB1NEK has been experimenting with digital modes for emergency communications, for which detailed information needs to be transmitted reliably. Keith KU1N has been using other digital modes which are good for short DX contacts with weak signals, where successful exchange of information on signal reports and not much else are needed to count a contact as successful. Other club members who have experience with digital modes may participate.

The November 20th meeting will start at 7:15 pm at our usual location, the Hammond Lounge, room E132 in the East Building of GCC. Directions can be found on our website at <http://www.fcarc.org/directions.htm>

## HCRA'S "SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE" FT-8 AND DIGITAL MODES

Jeffery Bail NT1K has agreed to "Share His Knowledge" about introducing amateurs to the joys of digital Modes, after the 1st of the year.....Stayed tuned for details.

## INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

I am always looking for portable antenna designs to use while camping. Found this interesting 17/10 meter "Hanging Rectangular Loop Antenna" Going to give it a try next year.

<http://kt4qw.com/acan1.htm>

## AREA SWAP/HAMFESTS:

Nov 4	FARA Fest 2017	Bourne, Ma	<a href="http://www.falara.org/">http://www.falara.org/</a>
Dec 2	Vintage Radio & Comm Museum	Windsor, Ct	<a href="http://www.vrcmet.org">http://www.vrcmet.org</a>
Jan 20	Whitman ARC WinterFest 2018	Whitman, Ma	<a href="http://www.walnpo.org">http://www.walnpo.org</a>
Feb 3	Conn. Valley FM Assoc. HamFest	Springfield, Vt	<a href="http://www.cvfma.org/">http://www.cvfma.org/</a>
Feb 17	Algononquin ARC HamFest	Marlboro, Ma	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/n1em/">http://www.qsl.net/n1em/</a>
Mar 10	MTARA HamFest	Chicopee, Ma	<a href="http://www.mtara.org/">http://www.mtara.org/</a>
Mar 15	Southington ARA Flea Market	Southington, Ct	<a href="http://www.chetbacon.com/sara.htm">http://www.chetbacon.com/sara.htm</a>
Mar 30/31	Androscoggin ARA Convention	Lewiston, Me	<a href="http://www.w1npp.org">http://www.w1npp.org</a>
Apr 7	Seacoast Amateur Radio Flea Market	Hampton, NH	<a href="http://www.w1wqm.org">http://www.w1wqm.org</a>
Apr 14	Waltham ARC HamFest	Waltham, Ma	<a href="http://www.wara64.org">http://www.wara64.org</a>
May 4/5	NearFest	Deerfield, NH	<a href="http://www.near-fest.com/">http://www.near-fest.com/</a>

## NOVEMBER'S CONTESTS

Nov 4	ARRL EME Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest">http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest</a>	CW, Ph, Dig
	ARRL CW Sweepstakes	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes">http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes</a>	CW
11	10-10 Inter Digital Fall Contest	<a href="http://www.ten-ten.org">http://www.ten-ten.org</a>	Dig
	Kentucky QSO Party	<a href="http://www.wkdx.com">http://www.wkdx.com</a>	CW, Ph, Dig
13	4 States QRP Group Sprint	<a href="http://www.4sqrp.com">http://www.4sqrp.com</a>	CW, Ph
18	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes">http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes</a>	Phone
19	Homebrew & Oldtime Equip Contest	<a href="http://qrpc.de/contestrules">http://qrpc.de/contestrules</a>	CW
25	CQ Worldwide CW DX Contest	<a href="http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm">http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm</a>	CW

## HCRA THERMAL MUG FOR SALE:

Attention HCRA members:

For a limited time, you can own your own 30 ounce hot/cold tumbler with the HCRA logo and your call or name laser engraved on it. Keep your coffee hot or your ice tea cold. Look good with the club logo and your call.

Makes a great gift too.

We need to reach a minimum order and if we do by November, you can have your tumbler by the holidays.

A great deal at only \$20 each.

Must be paid in full. Make checks payable to the HCRA.



# Local happenings

**Sundays:** 0845: Western Mass Emergency Net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

**First Monday:** Southwick Regional RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

**Mondays:** 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

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

**Wednesdays:** 1930: MTARA Info net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - includes NTS Net

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

2000: MTARA Simplex Net - starts on 146.94 - PL 127.3, then goes to 146.42 direct (simplex) Usually starts immediately following the swap net.

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

**Fridays:** 1200: BB's (Brown Baggers Luncheon)  
Munich House  
13 Center Street  
Chicopee, MA 01013

Expect between 6 and 12 attendees every Friday. Good food, great company!

## Club meetings & VE sessions

**1st Friday of the month** 7:30 PM, HCRA Club Meeting, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech St. Holyoke MA 01040 (no meetings held in July or August.)

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

**3rd Friday of the month** 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building, [150 Brookdale Dr. Springfield, Mass.](#) (no meetings held in July or August)

**4th Friday of the month** 6:00 PM, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, Mass. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET). Contact: David Cote, w1fab@arrl.net

**Third Monday of the month** 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield Community College. (no meetings held in July or August)

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

**4th Monday of February, May, August, November** 7:00 PM, FCARC VE Exams, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Northfield <http://www.fcarc.org/>

## Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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



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

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