



ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

December 2018

Special points of interest:

Next Meeting:

MTARA / HCRA Holiday Party!!

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

Did anyone see the kids at Pathfinder Vo-Tech contact the ISS?

With help from MTARA members, they did it!!

See the report on WWLP:

<https://www.wwlp.com/news/local-news/hampden-county/pathfinder-tech-students-to-contact-astronauts-aboard-international-space-station/1568828839>

December: Holiday Party!!

Join us Sunday December 2nd from 1-5 pm, at the Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive in Chicopee!!

Get your tickets **by November 23** from:

Harold n1ftp@yahoo.com or Brian briandive@aol.com or

MTARA, PO Box 3494, Springfield, MA 01101

Hello everyone,

OK, first one under my belt, and nobody kilt me!! Thanks to all for the friendly and helpful feedback. I've done some fixin, and I hope to get some article material from our members also. If you have an article / information to share, please email it to me (preferably in Word) by the 7th of the month for the next issue. Include any graphics. Thanks!

Upcoming is the Holiday Party with MTARA—hope everyone has a good time.

Don't forget to get your raffle tickets—that's a pretty sweet radio...

73, John N1JIE

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Win a IC-7300

Tickets only \$10 each

Only 250 to be sold

**Drawing to be held at
the MTARA HamFest
March 2019 or when
all tickets sold.**



FROM THE SHACK

LARRY KRAINSON W1AST



From the Presidents Desk:

At the last HCRA Board of Directors meeting, Dave; WM1B informed everyone he was stepping down as president. Dave and I had been talking about it for a while. At the November meeting, he announced his intentions to the members present.

I'd like to thank Dave for his service to the HCRA as president the past 16 months. Dave stepped in when the club needed someone and we all appreciate what he has done. For now, Dave will assume my role as Vice President and I have stepped in as the new President.

A little about me: I earned my Novice license in March of 1977 when I was in the 8th grade as WB1DBY. General came 2 years later and two years after General I earned the Advanced license in August of 1981. I am still an Advanced to this day. 5 Years ago I changed my call from WB1DBY to W1AST which works much better in both CW and SSB. But many hams from my past still recognize me "DBY".

I have been a HCRA member on and off for the better part of the last 40 years. It's a great club with fun activities, exciting meetings and great members. My closest friends are hams and I enjoy spending time with them all and sharing our common interests beyond ham radio, too.

I am active in a number of facets of ham radio and many more interest me. After many years of just enjoying a rag chew on CW or SSB, I started chasing DX and am having a blast doing so on my 3 stations. My main one is at home where I run anywhere from 5 to 500 watts. I enjoy rag chewing on SSB while mobile on HF or doing the same running QRP of 5 to 15 watts while camping, mostly on CW, but occasionally SSB too. I still get that thrill when I make a contact whether it is talking to someone in South Carolina or catching that Ducie Island rare DX contact, which I did recently.

HCRA wise, it's shaping up to be a fun and active year. Dave; WM1B is organizing a Technician class that will be starting January 15th at the Public Library in East Longmeadow where there is lots of parking and handicap access. Dave is looking for instructors and also students to participate. If you would like to volunteer, email Dave at: WM1B@arrrl.net

December is the annual Holiday party which we hold with the MTARA. This year, once again it's at the K of C in Chicopee on a Sunday afternoon. But I've had a renewed interest from a bunch of people asking me if we could possibly return to the Steaming Tender in 2019 and to a Monday night or another night after work, so it doesn't interfere with precious weekend time. That's something the board will be discussing later in 2019.

December is also the annual participation in the ARRL 10m contest. The club urges everyone to participate and have some fun. A few members open their stations to guests to experience this fun contest atmosphere. The goal is to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10m band on December 8 to 9th starting at 0000z on Saturday (Friday night at 7:00 pm) and ending 2359z Sunday, 48 hours later.

You can operate SSB or CW only. Logs must be submitted within 7 days after the event by December 16th. So get them organized and submit them immediately. But make sure you credit the Hampden County Radio Association – spelled exactly like that (no abbreviations), so the club gets your score!

The exchange is simple as you provide signal report and state along with your call. For SSB that would be 59 MA (if in MA or 599 MA in CW). You record the same info from the station you are speaking with. Full rules are here: <http://www.arrrl.org/10-meter>

It's best to use a computer logging program such as N1MM or N3FJP as both work great and are easy and fast to log. The computer logging also track multipliers and your score.

One person does not make the club. It takes many people to participate, create ideas and lead or help with the activities. The board does what it can and those that are are helping too. From Dave, WM1B leading the new classes; Vanessa, KC1IIRL the new web designer who is doing a fabulous job; Nick, K1NZ who is posting contest info each week on the club FaceBook page; Bruce, KB1TLX bringing coffee and donuts to every meeting; and Paul, NF1G organizing the new HCRA pooling of Outbound DX QSL cards. Do you have an idea or want to help out? Reach out to any member of the board to discuss it and we will do what we can to make it a reality.

MTARA Holiday Party

Get your tickets now!!

The poster features a dark background adorned with festive Christmas decorations. At the top, there are green pine branches with gold beads and gold streamers. Several Christmas ornaments are hanging: a gold and white striped one, a black one with a gold bow, a gold one with a gold dot pattern, a black one with gold dots, and a white one with gold wavy lines. The text is arranged on the right side of the poster.

MTARA

Holiday Party

When: Sunday, December 2, 2018

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

Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Tickets: \$20 per person (in advance)

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

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•Buffet •Door Prizes •Cash Bar

Tickets can be purchased at the club meetings
or send a check to the following **before November 23rd:**

• MTARA, P.O. Box 3494, Springfield, MA 01101

Get tickets before November 23

N1FJ

Scheduled meetings and speakers:

December 2, 2018: Holiday Party

January 4, 2019: Najm, AB1ZA - EZ-NEC

February 1, 2019: Grounding and Bonding presentation by DX Engineering.

March 1, 2019: John Ellsworth from the Vintage Radio Museum.

April 5, 2019: Show and Tell

May 3, 2019:

June 7, 2019: Elections

Field Day 2019 (June 22, 23)

NEW Licensing Class!!

Do you know someone that may be interested in beginning the Amateur Radio hobby? Maybe someone young? Or old? Used to play on CB back in the day?

Put them in touch with our club – Dave; WM1B is organizing a Technician class that will be starting January 15th at the Public Library in East Longmeadow where there is lots of parking and handicap access. Dave is looking for instructors and also students to participate.

If you would like to volunteer, email Dave at: WM1B@arri.net

DOTS & DASHES:

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

What is a Special Service Club?

A club that exists to go above and beyond for their communities and for Amateur Radio is what defines a Special Service Club (SSC). They are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursue [technical](#) projects and operating activities.

If we hope to re-apply some day. Then those classes that Dave, WM1B is chairing is a start, but not the only thing we need to do.

We need to find a few events to provide communications for. Yes, the MTARA does this or used to (I don't keep up with them). But maybe there are a few public service events that we could do communications for each year? Maybe on simplex or whatever.

We need someone to step up and volunteer to research this and organize it. Are any of you interested?

And I would say if this person kept notes on contact and what needs to be organized, said person could step down in a year or two and pass it on to another person easily w/o worrying about completely re-starting it from scratch.

Any volunteers? Please contact me, Larry @ wb1dby@comcast.net or any of my emails.

INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

<http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>

With the bands low, and sometimes its hard to find what's open—this is my favorite spot to stop and see what's on the air. Whether chasing a dx, or looking to see if a band is busy, even before I go warm up the radio. When I'm trying to catch a series of contacts for a contest (e.g. 13 colonies) or a special event—this will bring you right there. Do the same, and if you make a contact report it so the next ham can find it. Can even pick the band or mode.

It's not the same as spinning the knob and listening, but it's a bit of a head start. Kind of another step up beyond just watching the waterfall... Note: some contests give extra score if you DON'T use this help—be fair.

AREA SWAP/HAMFESTS:

Jan 19	WinterFest 2019	Whitman, MA	http://www.walnpo.org/WF/2019Winterfest.htm
Mar 9	Amateur Radio & Electronics Hamfest	Chicopee, MA	http://www.mtara.org/

UPCOMING CONTESTS (just a few...)

November

Nov 17-18	LZ DX Contest	http://lzdxbfra.org/rulesen.html	CW, SSB
Nov 18	Homebrew and old-time equip party	http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/	CW
Nov 22	NAQCC CW Sprint	http://naqcc.info/sprint	CW
Nov 30-Dec 2	ARRL 160 Meter	http://www.arrl.org/160-meter	CW

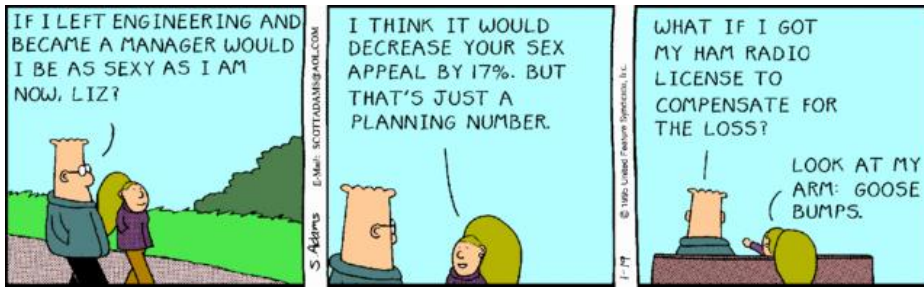
December

Dec 8-9	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org/10-meter	CW, SSB
Dec 26	Phone Fray (pretty much weekly)	http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray	SSB

January

Jan 5	ARRL Kids Day	http://www.arrl.org/kids-day	SSB
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A bit ah humah :-)



← I think I saw this at Boxboro last year!!

Didja hear the one about the Ham Radio Operator's kids who did it and did it because their dahdah did it?
VE6VPD, Feb 4, 2003

How was copper wire invented? Two hams saw a penny on the floor, both of them grabbed it at the same time:

wb6bcn, Feb 19, 2003

Q: How do you greet a ham radio operator?

A. With a short wave.

[freebird](#)



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!

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>

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

Second Monday of the month 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield Community College, East Bldg. (no meetings held in July, August, December—check website) <http://www.fcarc.org/>

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

HCRA contact list

President, Larry Krainson W1AST

wb1dby@comcast.net

Vice-President, Dave Fant WM1B

wm1b@arrl.net

Treasurer, Juergen Malner NV1Q

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**Here is your exciting copy
of Zero Beat!**

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