



ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

December 2018

Special points of interest:

Next Meeting:

HCRA / MTARA Holiday Party!!

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

ARRL 10M Contest

0000 12/14/19—2359 12/15/19

SSB and CW

Great contest for new Tech

New HCRA Callsign Trustees

W1NY—John N1JIE

WB1Z—Vanessa—W1IRL

December: Holiday Party!!

This month there is no meeting. The Annual HCRA / MTARA Holiday Party is December 1.

Hope everyone has a great holiday (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah and others). Stay safe, get on the radio and we'll see you in January!

Hello everyone,

I can't believe it's been a year since I started doing the newsletter. I still enjoy it, but since I've gone back to work I find I have to focus more to get things done.

So now we are in the "indoor" season for radio—contests, special event stations, rag-chewing, or ft8 for DXCC—hopefully everyone has their outdoor parts setup and working before winter, and can sit snug and warm in the shack. I'm looking forward to repeating the 10M contest, and learning more about contesting.

As many have heard—Harold N1FTP is stepping down as HCRA Secretary. Harold has been a longtime board member, both with HCRA and MTARA. His experience and knowledge in HAM radio is deep, and he will be missed on the Board. Thank you Harold for everything you have shared and done for Ham Radio in the area!!

Welcome to Bob Jeffway WA1OJN as At Large member, and Paul Kelliher NF1G as the Secretary.

73, John N1JIE

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Win a Honda EU2200i Generator

Tickets \$10 each
Only 250 to be sold

Drawing to be held at
the MTARA HamFest
March 2020 or when
all tickets sold.



FROM THE SHACK

LARRY KRAINSON W1AST



December is here. The holidays are upon us. Contest season is in full swing. That means it's also a good time to be chasing DX. Many DX go to their locations to over lap with a contest to enhance their desirability and number of contacts.

This is a benefit for us all from the new DX chaser to the experienced DXCC hunter. After many, many years of resisting, I caught the bug a few years ago. I do have my DXCC mixed with around 170 entities. Not much really but it's been a heck of a fun ride so far with many more to be worked. Hopefully the next few months will bring me some luck and some new countries/entities.

There are a number of good places to learn about when DX is on. One is to watch the HCRA Facebook page as members post new DX that they've worked. Here are a few do check:

- dxsummit.fi
- dx-world.net
- dxnews.com and dxnews.com/calendar
- dxwatch.com
- <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html> (d Expedition announcements)

There are tons more. Just do a search and you'll see them. The last one is great to see what is active or will be active. Then you might want to watch for DX Contests where it's usually pretty easy to work a lot of dx. Just remember what may be common for you is a new one for someone just catching the DX bug. Try checking the ARRL Contest Calendar and NG3K's contest calendar and subscribing to the weekly announcement about contests:

<https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

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

December 14-15th is the annual ARRL 10m contest. This is both a SSB and CW contest. Yes, 10m is not in the best shape right now. But sometimes it can really surprise you with what you can hear and work.

The 10m contest is something the HCRA has always been active in as a club. When you are submitting your score, please list the Hampden County Radio Association as the club that gets your contest scores too. Please see more 10m contest info elsewhere in this ZeroBeat. I DO hope to hear you on the air during the contest!

Speaking of 10m. The renewed HCRA 10m Net has been active for a few months and is gathering steam. It's a great place to be at 7:30 pm on a Monday night on 28.375. It's where you connect with other hams, share your news and things you have going on and talk all things ham radio or anything you'd like to bring up. It's a very fun and casual net run by Marcel; AA1WH running as W1NY net control. Come and visit us on Monday nights.

The HCRA board would like to wish you a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!

I hope to hear you on the air!

Larry/W1AST

ARRL 10M net—December 14-15

A CW and SSB event, especially interesting because this HF band is open for SSB to Tech level licensees, and the antenna needed is smaller than the lower bands.

This was my first (and only) contest . My goal was to get 1000 points, and I did. This year, I will try to exceed last year's total AND do the contest on a computer log. I have finally moved into the computer age with my radio—I have an electronic logging system, and separate contest logs. Last year I had to make a Cabrillo file from my paper log, and then submit it. Now I have an elog—Thanks Harold!!

This is a challenging time for propagation. Last year the band was up and down—I would hear CT, NH, CT, NH, silence, then AZ, Mexico, FL, Suriname, then pfffft—gone again. Made for a challenge for me—I'm new to radio, contests and I operated unaided (no spotting software). Gonna do it that way again this year—just roll the dial, and listen hard...

The beauty of this contest is that Tech licensees can play—an antenna can be an old 102" whip with a few ground plane wires on the roof—a short half wave dipole across the backyard... pretty much <\$100 for antenna setup. You can practice your setup on Monday nights with the HCRA 10M net at 730 pm @ 28.375 MHz.

The ARRL info is at <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

All the info is there, including some help with an antenna setup from 1995 QST article. It runs the second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday (December 14-15, 2019). You have a week to turn in your log, and it takes several months before the ARRL publishes the results. There are a LOT of participants.

My best luck was to roll between 28.300 and 28.500 in SSB mode. That is in the Tech band area, and seems to be where the activity was for me. CW ops is below that. Multipliers are the most important—it is better to make contacts in multiple states / locations than multiple contacts in one state / location. I only had 37 contacts, but got over 1000 pts by having multiple states and a few Dx.

Spend a bit of time practicing with any software you will be using—test out the log, if your rig has a built in tuner—run it across the band and let the memory keep your SWL low.

Finally—when you setup / submit your log, please list Hampden County Radio Association (full name) as your club affiliation. We had 9 participants last year—and did pretty well. I'd love to see more folks in the results this year!!

Hope to hear everyone talking about it at the January meeting.

73

John N1JIE

SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS:


September



Everything you wanted to know about Mag Loop Antennas by Ted Robinson, K1QAR

OCTOBER



Rich Collins, K2UPS of the Long Island CW Group & showcase his key collection


November



The Amazing Transatlantic Feat of 1901 by Marconi – K1ZM, Jeff via Skype as he is in PEI

DECEMBER

The annual HCRA / MTARA Holiday party

JANUARY 

Bob Hassett Springfield emergency preparedness & EOC facility


FEBRUARY

Bob, K1YO – ARES and it's recent come back in Western MA


MARCH

Rob Macedo KC1DY talks all about Skywarn and how important it is for weather tracking


April

Show & Tell — members bring in their projects and show them off!!


MAY

Marty Sullaway, NN1C: Team Exuberance – teens and contesting


JUNE

Elections, Field Day and more?

ARRL STUFF

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

Club Call Signs / Licenses

Many amateur radio clubs have an FCC vanity callsign / license for club activity use. HCRA has 2—W1NY and WB1Z. Right now, the club is in the process of transferring the trustee name listed for the club on each of the callsigns. Vanessa W1IRL will be the trustee for WB1Z, and John N1JIE will be the trustee for W1NY.

A club can have multiple callsigns under 1 trustee and FRN number, but only 1 VANITY callsign under that trustee. We have 2 vanity callsigns. To keep the 2 vanity callsigns, we have a trustee for each, and have maintained this since before the rule change in 2011. HCRA also maintains the 2 separate FRN numbers for these callsigns.

W1NY is the club callsign most frequently used for club activities. Right now, the Monday evening 10M net is using W1NY with Marcel AA1WH as net control. W1NY is also the callsign we use for Field Day in June, and was used last winter at the Easthampton Winterfest.

Club callsign use is for club activities, and can only be operated within the extent permitted by the privileges authorized for the class of operator license held by the control operator. Records (contact log, denoting control operator, frequency, contacts) will be maintained by the trustee. If the trustee is not the control operator, the control operator and the trustee are jointly responsible for the operation of the station. This means that while both our trustees are Extra level, if the *designated control operator* is a General level, that is the band privileges that the operator is limited to. That is why we try to have the *designated control operator* be an Extra level.

Permission to use the club callsign can only be given by the trustee of that callsign. Since the trustee is the one responsible to the FCC for that callsign, the use of it must go through the trustee. The trustee will keep the Board informed of the callsign use. Please contact Vanessa or John for any requests to utilize WB1Z or W1NY.

Further info can be found on the ARRL website: <http://www.arrl.org/club-station-faq> and also in a summary of the changes that were put in place in 2011 at: <https://www.k6arp.org/new-fcc-rules-for-vanity-and-club-station-call-signs/>

As always, proper operation is the responsibility of the licensee and the control operator. Always operate to the highest standards when on the air.

Contact John N1JIE at N1JIE@arrl.net, Contact Vanessa W1IRL at W1IRL@arrl.net for use of the call signs.

73,

John N1JIE and Vanessa W1IRL

Membership is just \$49/yr, less than a weekly coffee at Dunks...

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

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


Your Log	DXCC Leagues
DXCC Charts	The leagues are rebuilt once per day. Only callsigns active in the last 12 months are included in the league tables. The maximum size of a league is 2000 participants.
Timelines	<input type="radio"/> No Mode Filter <input type="radio"/> CW <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> Data
QSL Charts	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rank by DXCCs <input type="radio"/> Rank by slots <input type="text" value="Rank by band: Totals ▼"/>
Zone Charts	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 160M <input checked="" type="radio"/> 80M <input checked="" type="radio"/> 60M <input checked="" type="radio"/> 40M <input checked="" type="radio"/> 30M <input checked="" type="radio"/> 20M <input checked="" type="radio"/> 17M <input checked="" type="radio"/> 15M <input checked="" type="radio"/> 12M <input checked="" type="radio"/> 10M <input checked="" type="radio"/> 8M
Log Inspector	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Current entries <input type="radio"/> Current and deleted <input checked="" type="radio"/> Worked <input type="radio"/> Confirmed
Log Matching	<input type="radio"/> No Date Filter <input checked="" type="radio"/> 2019 <input type="radio"/> 2018 <input type="radio"/> Last 12 months
League Tables	Filter by club/continent: <input type="text" value="HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association"/>
DXCC Leagues	<input type="button" value="Generate DXCC League"/>
Zone Leagues	
Club Leagues	
CDXC Challenges	
Super League	
Uniques League	
Tools	
DX Cluster	
Log Search	
Call Tester	
Most Wanted	
DXCC Analysis	
Propagation	
Great Circle Maps	
LoTW Sync	
ADIF Diff	
QSL Archive	

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	8	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	NV1Q-1	28	134	0	178	111	308	298	314	232	255	2	339	1817	45 yrs
2	KK1WV-1	122	178	7	262	202	303	269	275	211	231	20	326	2080	43 yrs
3	NF1G	0	119	0	195	222	221	242	209	138	73	14	287	1434	4 yrs
4	W1PY-1	34	105	0	187	83	229	199	238	128	204	3	285	1388	9 yrs
5	K1VQI	5	54	2	103	49	198	138	159	88	142	3	245	817	18 yrs
6	KK1XK	31	98	34	165	110	183	88	200	28	191	4	239	1119	22 yrs
7	K1NZ-1 *	102	129	82	161	155	182	105	123	18	84	1	221	1050	8 yrs
8	AB1WT	2	32	1	51	4	123	122	125	82	88	1	211	811	5 yrs
9	W1AST-1	2	50	9	94	23	150	98	120	7	120	7	198	590	15 yrs
10	NT1K-2	3	49	2	102	24	150	44	141	47	123	1	196	718	9 yrs
Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	8	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
11	N1FTP *	0	7	0	59	0	155	44	117	18	109	1	181	518	11 yrs
12	W01S-2	49	57	1	115	23	148	40	95	11	98	2	176	839	7 yrs
13	AB1XW-1	0	7	1	75	22	110	42	107	29	94	0	144	487	7 yrs
14	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	14	0	34	0	0	1	0	0	43	49	3 yrs
15	KB1VSK	0	2	0	4	0	27	4	1	0	2	0	30	40	3 yrs

You can link to your club here: <https://clublog.org/league.php?club=189>

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

Info from 11/29/19

	Home Settings Upload QGRS Donate Expeditions Help
Your Log	DXCC Leagues
DXCC Charts	The leagues are rebuilt once per day. Only callsigns active in the last 12 months are included in the league tables. The maximum size of a league is 2000 participants.
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CDXC Challenges	
Super League	
Uniques League	
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DX Cluster	
Log Search	
Call Tester	
Most Wanted	
DXCC Analysis	
Propagation	
Great Circle Maps	
LoTW Sync	
ADIF Diff	
QSL Archive	

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1	KK1WV-1	72	72	0	130	80	114	51	82	8	11	1	211	599	43 yrs
2	NF1G	0	84	0	121	119	118	127	111	48	13	4	197	723	4 yrs
3	K1NZ-1 *	73	98	43	109	104	140	88	95	10	11	1	191	773	8 yrs
4	W1PY-1	0	57	0	115	0	135	0	94	0	11	0	156	413	9 yrs
5	KK1XK	20	58	34	115	99	108	58	58	5	9	1	150	585	22 yrs
6	NT1K-2	1	15	0	36	17	103	10	25	3	3	1	113	214	9 yrs
7	W1AST-1	2	27	0	42	4	95	28	40	1	1	2	104	242	10 yrs
8	NV1Q-1	7	32	0	82	17	87	7	27	4	2	0	99	245	40 yrs
9	K1VQI	4	14	0	40	7	82	23	20	1	3	0	88	174	18 yrs
10	N1FTP *	0	1	0	7	0	57	0	38	0	4	1	69	108	11 yrs
Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	8	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
11	AB1WT	2	8	0	8	0	31	12	17	1	5	1	48	85	8 yrs
12	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	12	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	32	38	3 yrs
13	KB1VSK	0	1	0	2	0	9	0	1	0	1	0	10	14	3 yrs
14	W01S-2	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	7	7 yrs
15	AB1XW-1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	7 yrs

You can link to your club here: <https://clublog.org/league.php?club=189>

This is the clublog for 2019. You can see a different order of participants. But also some newer Hams getting active—awesome!!!

A bit ah humah :-)

shamelessly collected from the internet



Sorry for sneezing... you say there is a shortage count on resistors?



DOTS & DASHES:

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

INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

NEDECN is a network for the New England Digital Emergency Communications Network. I may have mentioned them in the past—they deal with a lot, if not all the DMR repeaters for New England. If you are getting into DMR, this is the site for you. They also have an email listserv that comes up with other info—such as an upcoming ISS contact that we should be able to listen to. It was funny to see an old friend, Dave N1ESK in the email chain from TN—small world in Ham Radio!! I think I'll bring the HT to work with me and listen in ;-)
<https://nedecn.org/>

International Space Station There will be an ISS Crew Contact taking place over the eastern United States on **Thursday, December 5th beginning around 12:55 pm eastern time**. The contact will be a direct one with the Council Rock, H.S. in Holland, PA (near Philadelphia, PA). Astronaut Drew Morgan, K15AAA will be hosting the contact. Fred, AB1OC, will be the ARISS Mentor for this contact and plans to be on-site at the school during the event. The ISS pass associated with this contact is a high one (71 degrees at TCA) and we should be able to hear Drew answering the student's questions on the ISS Voice Downlink at **145.800 MHz FM**. The pass will last 10-15 minutes. **It should be possible to hear the downlink with simple 2m vertical antennas or even an HT.**

AREA SWAP/HAMFESTS:

Not any listed for our region (New England) for a while. There will be several (including the usual one at Castle of Knights) after the holidays.

INTERESTING "EVENT"

Not a contest, but an activity—Straight Key Night—This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Runs for the entire UTC day of 1/1/2020, Straight key or bug is preferred, no points are scored, and everyone is a winner!! If you are just getting into CW, this may be a way to get on the air, or at least listen in and see if you can hear!

More info at: <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

UPCOMING CONTESTS (just a few...)

Ongoing (all year)

Jan 1-Dec 31	Canada POTA (all year)	https://cnpota.ca/	All
Jan 1-Dec 31	US Islands 25th ann (all yr)	http://usislands.org/	All

December

Dec 6-8	160 Meter Contest—CW	W/VE to/from DX	http://www.arrl.org/160-meter
Dec 14-15	10 Meter Contest—CW / SSB	International	http://www.arrl.org/10-meter

Many more contests listed at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests> or <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Don't forget special event stations— <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> These are fun contacts, usually with a special QSL card or certificate.

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

2nd and 4th 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

Second Monday of the month 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield Community College, East Bldg. Rm 110 (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/>

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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WB1Z trustee, Vanessa W1IRL
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**Here is your exciting copy
of Zero Beat!**

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