

#### http://hcra.org

Special points of interest:

Next Meeting:

HCRA physical meetings are currently postponed until we have access to the meeting rm at Holyoke Hospital. Meetings will take place on Zoom. See HCRA FB page for link

HCRA is on the web in many places—twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and HCRA.org.

New Members — V	Velcome!!
Alan Perry	KB1WXX
Edwin Morales	KC1BTX
Kevin Washington	KC1OQB
Rodney Rookey	KC1FFL

Inside this issue:

From the Shack - Larry WIAST	2-4
Balloons! With AA I WH	5,6
Winter Field Day eh	7-9
Meeting Schedule	10
ARRL Stuff—	11
A bit ah humah ;-)	12
HCRA Stuff—	13
Clublog Update	14,15
Dots and dashes - Contests, SES and more	16
Local Happenings	17

2021

March 2021

Well, Winter Field Day was even more fun than I'd hoped it would be. Harold N1FTP and I setup on Hampton Pond in Westfield. Turns out, there are tons of bonus points for playing outdoors. Read about our afternoon on the ice.

What have you done over the last year that is different? Tried a new mode? New software? A new Rig? If you are doing the same old - same old, then you aren't growing. This hobby has so many ways to participate. Stretch a bit - get with other hams and try something new.

As I said last month, I am stepping down as Zero Beat editor. At this point, Ken KD1KU has offered to step in. After his work on our online presence (Twitter, Instagram) I am sure he will carry on, and add his experience to the newsletter. I will continue to contribute, and advocate for HCRA and ham radio. Thanks for all the feedback and support.

73, John N1JIE

## March Meeting

March 5 @ 7:30pm— breakout rooms @7:00

### Clublog—What is it?

We will be meeting on Zoom (link is in Larry's "from the shack"). Clublog is an online site that you feed your logbook info into, and tag HCRA. As you may have noticed, the monthly summary for HCRA is in each month's Zero Beat. I know with the N3FJP logging software, it is a couple of clicks to update my log in Clublog when I update to LoTW or eLog. It's kind of fun to see who is operating, and what they are doing—there are the perennial heavy operators, and then folks like me...

So join in, and learn more about it.

# **FROM THE SHACK**

### LARRY KRAINSON W1AST



#### March 2021 - From the Presidents Ham Shack

Right now, your HCRA board is one of the most active, energetic, and idea filled boards in many years for this club. We all work very well together and keep brainstorming to come up with new ideas to engage you all and keep ham radio in the Pioneer Valley and beyond, interesting and fun. I am continually grateful to have them serve on the board with me.

Are you aware that there is an HCRA 2m net on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm? It is held on the W1BR 146.715 repeater (PL 100.0). The net serves three groups.

 $1. \ \ \mbox{New Hams}$  from within the past 5 years or so. They do not need to be HCRA members.

 $2. \ \ \mbox{Hams}$  that have returned to the hobby. They do not need to be HCRA members.

3. All HCRA members both new and experienced

Net control is Gary, KC1JZR a newer ham himself. He's in his first net control position. You can hear the energy and excitement in his voice. Each week there is a different topic of interest with comments from the check-ins. Your comment is valuable. The goal is to give hams just getting on 2m a comfortable, safe and welcoming place to get on the air and learn something. Please check in and show your support.

I'd like to say thank you to John, N1JIE for his work doing ZeroBeat during the past few years. John is stepping down. All of us in the club say "Thank You!"

Ken, KD1KU has stepped up to take over the ZeroBeat reins. Ken is working with John and has plans to continue to make ZeroBeat an even better newsletter than it already is. You may recognize Ken from the FB page, 10m net and see some of his signs and notifications for the nets and classes over the past few months. Welcome aboard Ken, we look forward to seeing your creativeness.

Did you know that with Zoom meetings, we are recording and publishing them on a YouTube channel? If you go to the meeting videos on the HCRA.org site and select watch on YouTube, you can click subscribe. We're trying to grow the list of subscribers.

The videos are great to go back and review what was said or shown and pay closer attention to something you are interested in. You can fast forward, rewind and re-watch as often you want. Have to work during the meeting? No problem, watch the video online. Did you miss the recent talk on CW Academy? That was our first Share the Knowledge session in a while and held on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. That video is also on HCRA.org. Go check it out. The pre-meeting is kind of fun with everyone showing off some of their keys and paddles.

# FROM THE SHACK CONT'D

There will soon be a page added to the HCRA.org website as a memorial page for any Silent Key HCRA member you would like to memorialize. If there is someone you would like to be added, you can write up some text in MS Word format and if you have a picture that's fine too. You can send it to anyone on the board via email or fill in the form at: <u>http://www.hcra.org/contacts/</u> and we'll get it published on the page. If you have pictures, also send them along too via email. I'm sure a lot of people would like to read about W1KK, W1CJK, WB1Z, W6IS and many others. Record their memories before they are gone.

We are creating a "Worked All HCRA" contest for you. It's in the planning stages right now. The basics are work 10 HCRA members in any mode or mixed modes (different people) and earn a certificate. Work 20 and earn another certificate or an endorsement. Possibly at the end of the year, the person who has worked the most HCRA members may win a gift certificate for a ham store. We just approved this at the February board meeting and hope to get it in place in the next few months. It should be fun and give you some HCRA wallpaper too.

We are looking for members to create short 3 to 5 minute and less than 20 minute video's that we can add to the HCRA YouTube channel. Vanessa, W1IRL will soon be publishing a list of potential subjects and there are certainly many others too. The videos could be as simple or complicated as you want. If you've mastered making baluns, for example, you could make a video detailing that. A few possible subjects:

- Baluns and Ununs
- Dipoles
- OCF antennas (Off Center Fed)
- Programming your Baofeng or other HT
- How to Use Chirp
- How to get on DMR and demo
- How to get on Fusion, D-star and more
- How to solder
- What is a hot spot and demo

The possibilities are endless. If you need help, ask the board. There are many of us with digital cameras and tripods to help you make your video. Record it in MP4 format. If it is too large to email and it probably will be, there are ways to share it. I save the club meetings to my DropBox pro account and share them with W1IRL who then uploads them to the HCRA YouTube channel and the website. Your participation will make the club more exciting and help many hams who are learning and tinkering.

Make sure to read the updates on the Balloon Project. Marcel is hoping to do the first launch sometime soon. It sounds exciting and being able to track it via ham radio makes it even more exciting. We hope to get the launches on video and on the website too. Stay tuned.

As of today, the club now has 132 paid members! Woo hoo! Just a few years ago, we were sitting at a little over 70. The club has great activities, an active board, interesting guest speakers and great membership the club continues to grow.

# FROM THE SHACK CONT'D

The Fox Hunt gear and techniques meeting in February drew 45 attendees. January we had 38. Just because you Zoom in to the meetings is no reason to not participate. Covid is preventing us from gathering in person and very well will keep us separated for many months yet. But you can join the meetings and Share the Knowledge sessions and converse with friends and new visitors before and after meetings and enjoy the meeting speakers and subjects from the comfort of your home. We are having fun, just watch the pre-meeting portion of the videos and see everyone's smiles. Yours can be there too!

The March meeting will have guest speaker and club member, Nick Maslon, K1NZ talking about ClubLog. It's more than just tracking your DX accomplishments, but that will be covered too. What are those charts in every issue of ZB. That will be covered too? (<u>www.clublog.com</u>) The meeting is on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Here is your link to that meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83886060390?pwd=dEorbHpkcGphTVlEQjh1TXlRS1BDQT09

I'm starting to see announcements for Dxpeditions for later this year. That will give us all some rare DX to chase and maybe open the door for hamfests and flea markets towards the end of the year. Get your Covid vaccine and continue to stay healthy.

Best 73,

Larry, W1AST

W1AST@arrl.net

# BALLOONS!!

#### AA1WH Pico Balloon Project

Well, here we are in mid-February already and there are a few updates to the project that I want share. Ivey Industries in Springfield have graciously agreed to donate 100 cubic feet of hydrogen along with regulator and hose for inflating the balloon(s). Don Iverson at Ivey has been more than helpful and generous. Ivey is a customer of Larry, W1AST as well as an acquaintance and neighbor of Juergen, NV1Q. I encourage anyone reading Zero Beat who has need for compressed gases whether for business or hobby to please consider Ivey Industries as a supplier. The 36-inch party balloon that I will be using for the first flight will only require a few cubic feet of gas, so there will be more than sufficient remaining for further flights.

Launch site and a backup sites have been selected. I plan to launch from the Holyoke Mall parking lot on Whitney Ave. Located at the intersection of Whitney Ave and the road around the perimeter of the mall there is an old overflow parking lot. Currently, Amazon is parking some delivery vehicles in the lot but I'm hoping that in late morning or early afternoon the lot will be available. If not, I will move to one of the adjacent parking lots depending on wind direction. The goal is to provide the greatest distance between the immediate launch area and trees, buildings or other obstructions. Backup site will be the Springfield Plaza on Liberty Street in Springfield. A suggestion was made to consider the Northampton Meadows off I-91 south and/or east of the Northampton Airport. However, a recent check of the area showed it to have significant remaining snow. If the balloon were to go down right after launch, it might be difficult or impossible to retrieve it now. The area may be a great location once the weather warms up a bit for a future launch.

As I write this, we are experiencing a freezing drizzle with significant worsening predicted for the overnight. This is exactly the weather that must be avoided after launch. The balloon will be flying with only 2.7 to 3 grams of lift so as to prevent rupture of the mylar membrane once it fully inflates in the lower atmospheric pressure at 30,000 +/- feet. With such little buoyancy, any icing on the balloon will certainly bring the balloon down. But the Jetstream is actually ideal right now. From Western Mass (blue dot over Mass on map below) it is moving in a slow undulating path east-northeast to the mid-Atlantic. Then it moves towards the southeast directly over the Azores before really picking up speed (in excess of 100 mph) to Great Britton and then enters a roller coaster ride south over Europe to Libya, Egypt then back to the north toward Turkey and Russia with very few storms spotted! This would be a great time to be aloft were it not for the local weather expected the next 7 days.

# BALLOONS CONT'D



#### Jet stream on Feb 15, 2021 at 30,000 feet

That is about it for now. As soon as I have the proper Jet Stream wind direction and a clear 4 or 5 day window weather wise, I will be launching. Ken, KD1KU will be assisting with Facebook and other social media postings and I will be working with Vanessa to keep our website up to date with anything new.

Stay safe, socially distance, wear a mask, wash your hands, better days are coming!

73,

Marcel, AA1WH

## Winter Field Day 21

(or how to play outdoors on the ice)

Winter field day is meant to provide an event for hams to practice off normal communications under pretty much adverse conditions. While it is a contest, it is not the ARRL that is sponsoring – it was started under sponsorship of Society to Preserve Amateur Radio in 2007, and continued after 2015 under the Winter Field Day Association. This is about how Harold N1FTP and John N1JIE did Winter Field Day.



Harold is kind of my Elmer, as well as a friend –we have more than radio in common (motorcycles, camping, dry humor) but he has a good bit of portable operating experience, and I have almost none. So, since we got together to do this, and we have a lot of similar equipment, it works.

First the Equipment. Last year during

the Covid Field Day 2020, I planned to operate outdoors, and portable. Well, rain and limited experience and equipment put me back in the basement. This time, we will setup similar to what we did for Easthampton Winterfest 2018.

- Radio: Yaesu FT-857D HF, VHF, UHF all mode in about a 4.6 lb package.
- Tuner: LDG YT-100 light, built for this radio, and works like an autotuner should. Not needed if you are using a resonant antenna – we aren't. But did not need it much.
- Antenna: End fed wire with the wire length, ground plane wire, and the pond – it works 80m-10m. Using a 30 ft. fiberglass pole to hold the high end. It's a Jackite, made in China. Didn't know that when I got it. MFJ makes a very similar pole but made in USA. Just sayin...



- Location: Hampton Pond, Westfield. Yes, on ice! Using an ice fishing tent, etc. we kind of setup like a McKenzie Brothers skit from SNL. CQ eh!!
- Battery: Bioenno 15AH I have 2 of them, 1 is strictly solar charged, the other through normal power. Per Bioenno, this size can take the discharge rate for a radio in a contest. It slightly reduces the # of cycles from 3000 to 2000... I'm OK with that. It weighs less than the radio (4.3 lb)
- Logging: N1JIE used paper, and transferred to N3FJP log, N1FTP brought his tablet. We both have the tablet setup, but paper is still easier for me. Harold has a Microsoft tablet, powered by a different battery setup, running N3FJP logging software.
- Secondary accoutrements: chairs, a table, various cables, etc.
- Buddy Heater (propane) and ice fishing tent. We never even took the heater out of the sled.
- Beer and cigars. (Coax fluid and SWR vapor)



## Winter Field Day 21

(or how to play outdoors on the ice)

So, we get to the pond a little after noon and setup. The pole got bungeed to a tree along the shore. Luckily, we placed the tent just about the perfect distance from shore. We were able to tie off the balun for the end fed to the top of the tent, and run the coax thru the corner of the door. Could have gone under the edge of the tent just as well. Found out it is easier to tie a pole to a tree after it is extended with the wire attached. Remember that for next time.

Since Harold has much more experience with the 857, he did the setup of the station. We were all hooked up about 20 minutes before the contest started, and got a contact (VE2) as a tune up. Worked great.

Now, we were not in competitive contact mode – we were having fun. So, over the 2 hrs. we were there, we each made 10-11 contacts. But as you can see from the pictures, we had a pretty cool setup, and it went together pretty quickly. We were comfortable in the tent, even though it was 19 degrees outside. The equipment worked really well – contacts from ME, to NC, to MN, to AR. It was hard busting through pileups, but it always is when you are barefoot on a wire (my favorite operating mode). And we didn't get all involved – we just rolled up and down the 2 bands (40 and 20) and made contacts. And had fun. Damn, we had fun. This was about the first time we had either done anything with another person in weeks. Miss this interaction. We kept our distance, had masks, and it was cold. Both of us are limited in our social contacts, so we are responsible. But we miss this contact with others.

One thing we both noticed – the QRM on 40m is almost nonexistent when away from solar neighborhoods. Both of us live surrounded by neighbors with solar panels. N1FTP runs about an S6 noise level at home, N1JIE is about S8. Kind of frustrating. At the pond – maybe S2. Wow, what a difference. Keep this in mind when you think about operating remotely. Noise level is going to be different.

Now, when we finished up our logs for the WFD21, it turns out that contacts are not the most points.

Contacts – 11

Bands – multiplier x2

Low Power (100W) – multiplier x2.

44 pts.

But... bonus points!!

Outdoors – 1500 pts (on the ice!)

Battery power – 1500 pts (bioenno)

Away from home – 1500 pts (Hampton Pond)

Total - 4544 pts. Ain't that a hoot – But, WFD is all about operating under challenging conditions. And we did. And had fun. And if you can't have fun, well – why do it?



## Winter Field Day 21

(or how to play outdoors on the ice)

So, I hope you got something to think about out of this. We did – we are going to do this operating remote, portable thing again. One thing I (N1JIE) am thinking about, is how to transport this portable POTA setup on my motorcycle. I am not spending another summer at home if I can help it – and I want to combine motorcycle, camping and radio together. I'm looking into another antenna (Wolf River Coil SOTA) to use when I can't hang the wire from a tree. Going to try to reconfigure the top box to hold everything protected from vibration (It's a BMW, so that should be easier than a HD...just sayin) and hopefully by mid-June I will have it tested and ready for a road trip.

Larry W1AST does it with his camper often. Larry KD1RV has a rig in a backpack, ready to go. Several members do this a lot – POTA, SOTA, etc. This could be a good pre-meeting Zoom room – portable operation. If you haven't done it – ask around. Somebody in this club has done just about everything. I'm sure you can find an answer, and open up a whole new operation.

So 73 eh and Take Off!

John N1JIE and Harold N1FTP



### SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS:



# 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.

### ARRL is tracking and reporting on the changes in the Solar Cycle.

Starting next month, there will be updates, information, predictions etc. about the new, current solar cycle. Current predictions expect the peak to be about 2026, so we all have time to get ready. I have only been a ham since 2017 (general level and above) so I do not have any experience with the dx activity of the past. From what I read so far, 10M openings is one of the indicators of better conditions. I look forward to being able to tally up DX100—not going to put in for the award, but I would love to get some contacts from the Pacific. Maybe even get all continents...

Well, it will take a good solar cycle for me to achieve any of that—I pretty much play barefoot with a wire. Maybe if I get CW skills, I can get further out.

But anyways—the next issue of On The Air (available online) will have the beginning of the ARRL coverage, and QST will follow up with monthly articles starting in April.

Dang, I am hopeful that I can get some of that open airwaves I hear some of the more experienced members talk about... imagine— SSB to Japan, barefoot ;-)

### ARRL Western Mass Section

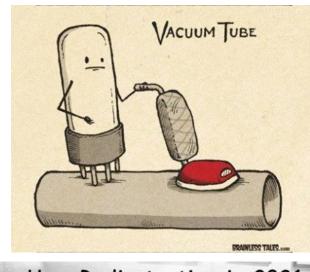
Not much new on the WMA page. But, there have been news reports that people were using "ham" radios during some riot events. This is most likely the Baofeng and similar radios, from China. These are fairly easy to jailbreak, and allow transmission in non-ham frequencies. But sometimes using our frequencies. Remember, using crypto for ham transmissions, as well as coordinating violence on the air is not legal. If you hear anything like this, try to determine who / where, and contact either FCC or ARRL personnel with information. This has always been part of our behavior as licensed hams—protect the airwaves.

Another mention for the 2022 Big E Ham Radio Demonstration. Such an undertaking can succeed only if there is a sufficient number of volunteers and radio clubs who agree to participate in the event. A special Groups.io mailing list group has been established to promote exchange of dialogue and ideas for the event. To join, send an email to <u>ProjectBigE+subscribe@groups.io</u>.

As we all know—the FCC fee went into place, at \$35 instead of the proposed \$50. Well, looks like the free ride is over. I know, it's not free, hams provide a lot of emergency communication services. But not all hams do, and it's not a requirement. Effective date has not been announced, but we will get 30 days notice. If you have a desire for a license change, now is the time!

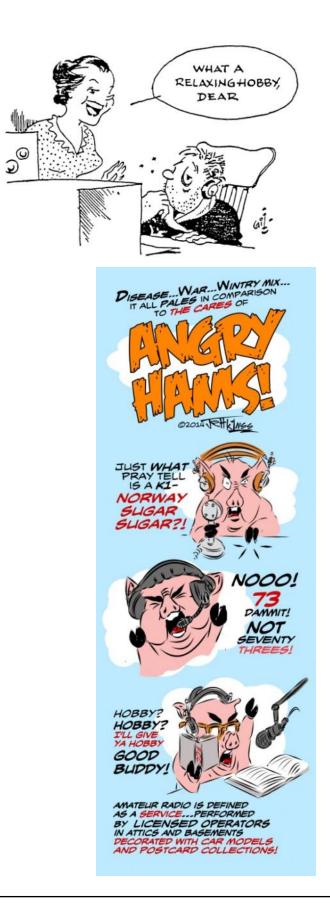
To learn more about membership, and how it can help you-<u>http://www.arrl.org/membership</u>

# A bit ah humah ;-)











HCRA STUFF

HCRA is an ARRL Special Service Club



### Where is HCRA on the internet, and what is there?

HCRA has a pretty wide and growing presence on the web. Ken KD1KU and Vanessa W1IRL keep up with it.

- <u>http://www.hcra.org/</u> that's right, first stop is our website. The .org ending identifies us as a non-profit organization. HCRA does pay a fee for the hosting / site address name. Vanessa W1IRL is the person that has the keys to the website. This is for several reasons—but mostly to keep it professional and organized. I think she has been doing a great job. There are several links / subsections to the website. Look under membership, and you can renew online using paypal ;-) Past Zero Beat issues and our recent Zoom meetings (http://www.hcra.org/category/meeting-videos/) are there too
- <u>https://www.youtube.com/user/HampdenCountyRA</u> Youtube the place with informational videos. HCRA is growing here, there are several videos up, and more coming. These are videos of presentations made at club meetings.
- <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/HampdenCountyRA</u> Facebook!! This is a private group, you must ask to join. As almost 300 people are in the group, it's not just for our members. Group members can (and do) post things here. It's a quick way to read about ISS events, Contest stuff, tech discussions, etc.
- As Ken, KD1KU showed us, there is Twitter and Instagram.
  - Instagram
     https://www.instagram.com/hampdencountyra/
  - <u>Twitter</u>
     <u>https://twitter.com/HampdenCountyRA</u>

#### HCRA - Growing! Growing! Growing!

Our club is up to 130+ members, has 2 nets weekly (10M on Monday, 2M on Thursday) Fox hunt, Tech class, Zoom meetings .... And Marcel is sharing his balloon launch with us.

Each month, our Zoom meeting is a new guest, sharing another facet of Amateur radio. And HCRA has pretty darn good attendance—usually 40 members or so.

And Show and Tell is coming up!! This is where club members share projects they have made, whether simple or complex, following other's directions or their own design. This is a large part of amateur radio—making your own gear!

Oh, and HCRA will likely be a very large part of the proposed Big E 2022 radio demonstration. It is our home area, so we have convenient access. Larry W1AST proposed this to the New England region ARRL board, and received enthusiastic response from other clubs. I listed the io group elsewhere—sign up. Imagine setting up and operating at the Big E. Kind of like a Super Field Day... for many days. Demonstrate portable, mobile, HF, repeater, fox hunt, kit building.... Endless possibilities!

Not bad for just coming out of a low solar minimum, a year of pandemic and most of society and business virtually isolated.

Thanks for being part of an active and growing radio club—you make it better just by being with us.

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

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 2/27/21

Your Log	DXCC	League	s													
DXCC Charts			t once per	day. Onl	y callsig	ns activ	e in the l	last 12 n	nonths a	are includ	ed in the	league	tables.	The maximum	size of a le	ague is 2
Timelines	participar	nts.														
QSL Charts	No	No Mode Filter				Ocw								OData		
Zone Charts	Ran	OR	○ Rank by slots 2 40M 2 30M 2 20M 2 17M 2 15M						Rank by band: Totals 🗸							
Log Inspector	160M 880M 60M												2 40M			
.og Matching	@ Cur	Oc	O Current and deleted						ed			O Confirmed				
League Tables	No Date Filter			02	0 2021						)			O Last 12 months		
DXCC Leagues	Filter by club/continent:			HCF	2021 2020 HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association											
Zone Leagues																
Club Leagues	Genera	ate DXCC L	eague													
CDXC Challenges	League	e for HCRA -	Hampden	County R	adio As	sociatio	n									
Super League																
Uniques League	Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC V	Slots	Range
Tools	1	W1RM	179	293	10	334	317	337	329	336	319	321	86	339	2861	58 yrs
X Cluster	2	NU10+1	18	149	9	268	240	326	274	322	231	308	4	335	2149	33 yrs
og Search	3	KK1W+1	136	191	7	269	222	309	276	278	216	232	36	329	2172	45 yrs
all Tester	4	NV1Q+3	27	136	0	181	111	308	257	314	232	256	2	329	1824	42 yrs
lost Wanted	5	NF1G	0	156	0	233	249	301	256	263	175	203	43	319	1879	37 yrs
XCC Analysis	6	W1PY+1	34	116	0	199	64	246	205	241	130	204	7	291	1446	11 yrs
Propagation	7	KX1X	67	127	62	184	143	202	127	203	46	193	8	252	1362	24 yrs
Great Circle Maps	8	K1VOI	5	61	2	113	51	199	139	161	69	142	3	247	945	20 yrs
.oTW Sync	9	K1NZ+1 *	115	154	86	166	187	186	159	145	82	67	6	246	1353	10 yrs
ADIF DIff	10	N1TA+3 *	109	149	16	188	85	203	83	188	8	129	0	242	1158	20 yrs
2SL Archive			160		60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
	11	NE1C	63	114	0	151	0	206	0	195	0	152	2	238	883	10 yrs
	12	AB1WT	2	32	1	52	4	128	123	126	64	89	1	212	622	6 yrs
	13 14	W1AST+1 NT1K+2	3	60 49	9	102	28 33	166	105 45	124	10	120	7	202	734	12 yrs
	14	N1FTP	0	7	0	103 61	0	167	47	141	16	123	2	182	527	11 yrs
	15	WD1S+2	49	57	1	115	23	167	47	95	10	98	2	182	639	12 yrs 8 yrs
	17	AB1XW+1	0	7	1	75	23	110	40	107	29	94	0	144	487	8 yrs
	18	WF10C	15	43	0	77	12	99	0	62	0	6	0	105	314	4 yrs
	19	WITRK	0	3	0	11	0	64	0	34	0	1	0	79	113	4 yrs
	20	NIJIE	2	5	0	23	5	48	22	7	1	4	1	69	118	4 yrs
			160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
	21	N1FJ	0	0	0	6	0	30	0	16	3	16	0	51	71	8 yrs
	22	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	14	0	37	0	0	1	0	0	46	52	4 yrs
	23	KB1VSX	0	2	0	4	0	35	4	1	0	2	0	38	48	4 yrs

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

Club Log @ Michael Wells G7VJR | About | Privacy | Contact | Reflector | Uptime

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

This is the Clublog for the new year—you can see who has been on the air hot and heavy to start the year!

Your Log	DXCC	Leagues															
DXCC Charts		ues are rebuilt once p	er day.	Only cal	lsigns	active in	the la	st 12 months	are incl	uded in	the leag	ue tat	les. Th	e maxim	um size of a	league is	
Timelines	participan	its.															
QSL Charts	No No	No Mode Filter				Ocw								OData			
Zone Charts	Ran	(	Rank	by slot	s			Rank by band: Totals 🗸									
Log Inspector	160	M 280M 60M	4	M 🖾	30M	20M		17M 🖾 15M		2M	10M	6M					
Log Matching	@ Curr	Current entities				Current and deleted								○ Confirmed			
League Tables						0010100			020	orked							
DXCC Leagues		O No Date Filter				dar C	unt i	De dia Ann		20				O Last 12 months			
Zone Leagues	Pitter by	club/continent:	Ŀ	ICRA-	Hamp	oden Co	ounty F	Radio Assoc	ation						•		
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You can link to your club here: https://clublog.org/league.php?club=189

Club Log @ Michael Welts G7VJR | About | Privacy | Contact | Reflector | Uptime

# **DOTS & DASHES:** Things I can't think where to put, but are interesting.

### **INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:**

OK, this isn't necessarily Ham radio-but commercial radio-worldwide!!

http://radio.garden/ is a site where you can pick from a world map, and listen to streaming audio from around the world!! It may take a couple of minutes to load up the map, but it was cool to listen to the various music the world listens to. Imagine, country music in Morocco...

#### **INTERESTING ON FB**

So, there are a ton of groups on Facebook besides ours. Really...

One I found was "100 watts and a wire". That's where I got the site above. They also have a net, and lots of info and tips from other members for those of us that enjoy operating barefoot. A great place for new hams to get ideas on how to get on the air with less than a SteppIR and 1500 watts...

UPCOMING CONTESTS (just a few) - It's wintah!! Contesting Time!!!											
<u>March</u> — Mar 6-7 March	ARRL Int'l DX Contest, SSB State QSO party (OK, ID, WI, VA)	10-160M All	<u>http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx</u> Various								
More contests	listed at: <u>http://www.arrl.org/contests</u>	or <u>https://www.c</u>	contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html								
	pecial event stations— <u>http://www.arrl.</u> QSL card or certificate.	org/special-ever	<u>nt-stations</u> These are fun contacts, usually								

## Local happenings / Nets

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: <u>HCRA 10m Net</u> 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.

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

Thursdays: 1900: —HCRA New Ham Net - 146.715 PL - 100 - W1BR/R. HCRA members and new (<5 yr) hams.

## Club meetings & VE sessions Please

contact site / organization to ensure it will meet. Clubs meet on Zoom, VE sessions are being developed.

**1st Friday of the month** 7:30 PM, HCRA Club Meeting, Virtual meeting on Zoom. Meetings will continue on Zoom until it is safe to meet as a group. <u>http://www.hcra.org/</u>

**3rd Friday of the month** 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Meetings are on Zoom—contact a member for link. <u>https://mtara.org/</u>

**4th Friday of the month** 6:00 PM, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, **in-person exams are on hold at present**. A virtual exam is being explored. 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, Virtual meeting on Zoom. Meetings will continue on Zoom until it is safe to meet as a group. <u>http://www.fcarc.org/</u>

## 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

## **HCRA** contact list

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Here is your exciting copy of Zero Beat!

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