



MINI ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

December 2017

Special points of interest:

- January's Meeting
DX Engineering
Subject to be announced
- [Visit the HCRA facebook page.](#)
- Don't forget to check out hcra.org
- [Visit Summits on the Air](#)
- [Visit POTA413 facebook page](#)

**No regular 1st
Friday night meeting
for the month of
December.
See you January 5th
"DX Engineering"
(Via Skype)**

Attention HCRA members:

For a limited time, you can own your own 30 ounce hot/cold tumbler with the CRA 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.



A great deal at only \$20 each.
Must be paid in full.
Make checks payable to HCRA.

6th Annual HCRA-MTARA Holiday Party

**Sunday December 3rd at 1-5 pm, at the Castle of Knights,
1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, Ma 01020**

NO Tickets sold at the door.



[For directions to The Castle of Knights:](#)

**The Board of Director's
wishes everyone a safe and
Happy Holiday Season!**



Dave
WM1B

Harold
N1FTP

Juergen
NV1Q

Bob
K1YO

John
K1VOI

Larry
W1AST

Karl
KB1RXO

Gary
W1MOW



May your hands be always open, and your QSO's a "59".

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 & ATS-120

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

A Ham's Night Before Christmas

Yet another corruption of Clement Clarke Moore's classic Christmas tale,
this time distorted by Gary Pearce KN4AQ
December 2, 1996

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Technicians,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
By a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
And, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh,
With an eight element beam,

And a little old driver
Who looked slightly mean,
So I thought for a moment
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams,
On a mission this Christmas
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of *CQ*,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late
QSLs, for a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth
Till the station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before -
Now it works like a champ).

A new low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV.
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That wouldn't compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box.
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?
An Elecraft, TEN-TEC
Or Flex, could it be!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
It might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those weekends
I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly

Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy.
It was *my* call he sent.
But the cards and the postage
Will cost a month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile up was big.
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
Came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What an old ham expects:
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

© 1996, 2010 Gary Pearce [KN4AQ](#)
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[audio version \(mp3 download\)](#)

[Audio version with no music to play on
the air](#)

[YouTube Video Version](#)

