



ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

April 2019

Special points of interest

Next Meeting:

Show and Tell—bring in your project and share knowledge!!

[Visit the HCRA facebook page.](#)

- Don't forget to check out hcra.org

**We have some new members to the HCRA.
Welcome to the club!!**

**E Lary Grossman -
KC1LCI - 2/25/19**

**Harold Lemieux -
KC1LCH - 2/25/19**

April Meeting

Show and Tell. This was my first meeting last year—and I was so impressed with the stuff. The LF antenna, the BitX transceivers, the solar power go box and others. Made me recognize that the innovation and experimenting side of Ham isn't dead. So bring your projects, print up an info sheet telling about you, the project, etc (include call sign!!) and Juergen and the judges will select the winners. Actually, all of us win, because we will be sharing knowledge, experience and that sense of wonder that comes with making something!!

The Swap / Sell table is back in action!—Rob KC1KPF has agreed to handle it at meetings. Bring your old stuff, get some new to you stuff. Check in with Rob when you get to the meeting.

Been busy this winter? Doing anything? Any new contacts? Doing a DXpedition? Drop me an email, and share it with the club! We have an amazing membership, that will celebrate your successes, and help you with your experiments. I have been trying to get outside of my comfort zone, and have found that reaching out to other members has helped me a lot. Whether it is encouraging a homebrew project, learning a new mode of communication or just learning about what others have done, This club is on your side. Utilize our help for members information on the web page <http://www.hcra.org/ham-radio-help-for-members/>

Not a member?—post a question on the facebook page—you will get a response.

73, John N1JIE

Inside this issue:

From the Shack - Larry, W1AST	2,3
Share the Knowledge Workshop—fox hunt	4
HCRA restored as special service club!!	5
Upcoming meetings	6
ARRL Stuff	7
Dots and Dashes	8
A bit ah humah ;-)- old CB	9
Contacts / local happenings	10

IC-7300—Won by HCRA member Gary Thomas AA1UE



Congratulations Gary—We hope you get a lot of enjoyment out of that modern SDR in your historic QTH!!



The club had a net gain of \$960.00 from the raffle—thanks to all who helped and participated!!

FROM THE SHACK

LARRY KRAINSON W1AST



A number of years ago participation in Show and Tell was so low and the submission of projects so bad. (do you remember the foam cw paddles?) the board nearly elected to cancel Show and Tell for the future. There was a lively discussion and it was decided to give it one more year to see if it made a comeback. Boy did it ever and has stayed as one of the most popular meetings thru out the year since.

I'm hoping that the 2019 Show and Tell, which is the next meeting on April 5th will be interesting and fun as well. S & T is a chance to show off that ham or electronic related project that you've built. Any project is eligible. Last year we had some superb projects consisting of Ubitx transceivers, mobile go box, power converters, antennas and interfaces and so much more. This year we do hope you will bring your project and spend 5 minutes telling the group about it. No project is too small and if it's too big, take some pics and bring them with.

For each participant, we ask that you make a sign on a piece of paper saying what the project is, what it does and add your name and call. Each participant will get 5 to a max of 10 minutes to explain their project. Juergen, NV1Q is the supreme project judge and has a stable of 4 additional judges. Participants can win one of 4 prizes in different categories including a new ham/original idea category. This is new and one we wish we had last year. What are the prizes? Come to the meeting and you'll see.

If you're not bringing a project, S & T is a great way to learn about what your ham friends have been building in the past year. Usually there is some very cool stuff to view and it might give you ideas to build something yourself or get over the hump of wanting to build but never have. It certainly motivated me. I will be bringing something I assembled. I know we had 2 winners of the Ubitx transceivers at Field Day. Hopefully we'll see one or both in their built form (KD1RV? & K1VOI?). For many years I resisted chasing DX. I watched a number of HCRA members go at it comparing catches, QSL cards, what bands and what modes they worked them on. I was happy just rag chewing. But then something changed. I got curious how many countries (or entities) I had worked. I uploaded my log to ClubLog a few years ago to the HCRA group. Suddenly I could see how my contacts for that year stacked up against everyone else. Suddenly I was interested. Suddenly I started paying much more attention to the rarer DX stations and making an attempt to work them.

Once you're a member of ClubLog adding new contacts to your records there are easy peasy with DX Labs DX Keeper logging program. Set up your variables (user name and password) and click one button occasionally. Give ClubLog 24 hours to catch up to your entries and it updates. Then revisit the HCRA page and see how you compare to everyone else. You can change sort options to see all sorts of information. What is your position? I seem to be stuck in #4 or #5 position each year, but am having fun anyways. I probably check ClubLog too often!

But it's FUN. If you are on HF and making any contacts and using a computerized logger, upload your log to www.clublog.com and join the fun (it's free). You can be on digital, ssb or cw, in any portion of the band. You don't need to be an extra to participate. DX Contests are a fast way to make contacts earning a new country. But making QSO's on your schedule works too. Give it a try. I hope to see some new calls up there!

HCRA Presidents Message: March 2019 (cont'd)

Saturday, April 27th is our Fox Hunting Share the Knowledge session. We will be doing 3 main things. First is building a tape measure yagi beam. NT1K is taking this on again and the cost is \$20 for this portion to cover costs of parts. Second is the assembly of the attenuator. The costs cover the box it will be built in, connectors, attenuator, everything. This is also \$20. If you are not comfortable with building and soldering, we'll have experienced hams there to help and teach you. Then when all done, we will have a mini fox hunt in the parking lot. Here we'll train you on use of the antenna and what you need to do to track down the fox. Somewhere in the middle we get pizza for lunch and ask for \$5pp to cover that. More as time gets closer. It will be a fun day. Deadline to sign up is April 10th.

As June slowly approaches, a few things to think about.

Join the board and help make decisions that affect your club, elections in June. One long standing member, Dave, WM1B is leaving the board after many years. We need someone to take his place as Vice President. Or if you want another position, please let a board member know.

Also, Bob; K1YO our technical guru is stepping down and Najm, AB1ZA is filling Bobs shoes. That opens up Program Director for a new person. Who ever volunteers will not be alone as they will have my assistance where ever they need it every step of the way. And 2019 is filled completely already, which makes the job even easier.

We have a change of the May guest speaker and subject. Tim, KA2A is coming up from NJ and will speak on DMR and HotSpots. This is something really interesting and a subject I have been looking for a speaker for a while now. Even the ARRL doesn't have anyone to suggest. So this will be a rare treat for us! I've been told Tim is very knowledgeable and patient and an excellent teacher for DMR. It would be great if we got a big crowd to welcome him to the HCRA. That's Friday, May 3rd.

Field Day – will you be there? We need Friday setup crew, operators, cooks, tear down, late night ops for Saturday night, someone to tow the trailer to the park Friday morning and tow it back Sunday afternoon. Everyone invited, helpers welcome in all categories. If you think you can help, let me (w1ast@arrl.net) know.

John, N1JIE is doing an excellent job as Zero Beat editor. But John needs articles. It's hard to put out a newsletter without articles. Any contribution is welcome. Contact John at ewelljohn188@gmail.com

Join Juergen and others at Brown Baggers aka Hams at Lunch the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at the Munich House Restaurant in Chicopee. Parking behind and across the street. Good food, great conversations with ham friends. Give it a try!

N1PJ

Don't forget to check out the newly improved club web site at www.hcra.org

73 and I hope to see you and maybe your project at Show and Tell on April 5th.

Larry, W1AST

Share the Knowledge Workshop

A workshop to build a tape measure antenna and an attenuator to use in Fox Hunting.

The HCRA is taking signups and deposits or payment in full for a Share the Knowledge session on Fox Hunting. The cost is \$40 pp and that covers parts and the building a tape measure antenna, parts and the building of a attenuator. Plus training on the use of the gear and a small fox hunt in the parking lot if the weather cooperates.

The antenna parts are \$20 and the attenuator parts are \$20.

Please sign up via email to: Larry, W1AST at W1AST@arrl.net and provide your name, call and email. At the March meeting you can bring cash or check and Harold will collect your payment. You **MUST** sign up and put a deposit in to reserve your space.

Paying commits you to the parts we must buy ahead of time so we have enough for everyone in the session.

The date will be **Saturday April 27th** in the same room as where the meetings are held. The Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary room, **10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. If you've never soldered before, there will be enough helpers there to teach you to solder and help you assemble the attenuator. Help will be there if needed for the antenna too. Please bring a 9 volt battery.

This will be a fun session and get everyone ready for fox hunting with the HCRA. You need to bring a HT or battery operated 2m radio (817, etc).

Signup by April 10 so we can make sure we have the supplies for class.

MTARA Hamfest—Swap Meet

For those of you that didn't make it to the hamfest—a great time was had by all of us that did!! As you saw, the club raffled off the IC-7300 (this was the “BIG” prize for the attendees) to HCRA member Gary Thomas AA1UE. I'm hoping he sends a better picture of his smiling face when he picks up his radio.

There were several of us that hung out for the whole day—sold many raffle tickets for the IC-7300 (**Harold N1FTP** did a great job with the raffle) and the club had a net proceed from the raffle of \$960. This will go towards continuing our activities, keeping our Special Service Club status, and covering activities for the upcoming year (Field Day!!!)

I was lucky enough to win the MTARA final raffle prize—a “field day” kit. It included a built, and a kit QRP 40m CW rig (woo hoo!!) assorted other things (backpack, extension cord, tools, bungees, etc). Since I picked up a key, and plan to learn CW this year, I am stoked to put the QRP rigs into use.



HCRA Awarded Special Service Club Status!!!

Last fall, our former President Dave Fant WM1B stated the intent to restore HCRA as a Special Service club. To do that we needed to accomplish several things—public service, education, active ARRL participation. Well, last meeting that was accomplished. HCRA received the award as a Special Service Club, presented to our current President Larry Krainson W1AST. This gives our club priority listing in the club listings for ARRL. When hams lookup clubs in Western Mass, HCRA is listed at the top. We are currently the only Special Service Club in the Western Mass Section, and 1 of 5 in all of MA. This is big. It was a big deal to Dave and our Board to accomplish this. Dave completed and submitted the paperwork for this last month and the ARRL surprised the club with the presentation at our last meeting. Congratulations to all—we are now a Special Service Club for the next 2 years. Lets keep this going—education (license class, teaching non-hams about amateur radio), Public service (support of emergency services) and active participation in ARRL events to the betterment of the Amateur Radio Service.



Scheduled meetings and speakers: (a full slate for the year!!)

April 5, 2019: Show and Tell—bring in your homebrew / projects and show them off!! Prizes for the top 3 projects, and an extra prize to be awarded by the judges. All projects need a description paper with their call sign / name in front of their project.

May 3, 2019: Timothy, KA2A is coming up from NJ to speak and give a demo on DMR and hotspots. This should be a great opportunity to learn about a new, growing type of amateur radio technology!!

June 7, 2019: Election of officers and finalizing plan for Field Day.

Give some thought to how you can get more involved in the club—volunteer for a board position!

Field Day is June 22-23 2019. There will be things to do setting up on Friday June 21—help setting military towers, assemble an antenna, setup linked logbooks. Then be there from Noon to Noon and operate with the club.

July and August—no meetings. Go out there—do a SOTA or a POTA. Go QRP. Or setup in your back yard, and pretend. CQ in a tent, CQ in a garage, CQ there, CQ everywhere! Keep an eye on the FB page—impromptu and planned things WILL happen during the summer!

Have a great summer!

September 6, 2019: Bob Hassett, KB1IVG; Director of the Springfield Emergency Preparedness and EOC Facility. Specifically: What it is, how they respond and operate and bring a few examples of the technology tools they use and tell some examples of how they were used in the past.

October 4, 2019: Rich Collins, K2UPS will come up and speak to us about the group he helped to start, the Long Island CW Group and also show some of his key collection. A night of CW.

November 1, 2019: Jeff, K1ZM : The Amazing Transatlantic Feat of 1901 by Marconi via Skype from PEI

December 2019: HCRA / MTARA Holiday Party

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 Education:

Lifelong Learning Initiative—The ARRL is funding (almost \$.5M) an upgrade / change to the learning environment. Tentatively set to roll out this fall, it will start with online opportunities for newer hams, and youth education. Talk about a way to grow the field of amateur radio. Online learning is very appropriate, especially with the new mentoring initiative.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-board-gives-the-go-ahead-to-lifelong-learning-initiative>

<http://www.arrl.org/lifelong-learning>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/demand-high-as-new-arrl-introduction-to-emergency-communications-courses-open>

ARRL Advocacy:

The ARRL is our lobbyist / advocate with both Congress and the FCC. There are a couple of big items that have been in discussion for a while. One of them (Radio Parity Act) has been withdrawn, for review and re-appraisal. The other is some proposed changes to the amateur frequency and mode privileges.

The FCC has opened the comment period for some changes that will give Technician licensed amateurs SSB privileges in some of the HF bands. This has been talked about amongst hams for a while. Many believe it will help grow amateur radio. So, read about the changes, and send in your comments.

<http://mangsebyo.com/?p=10490>

ARRL Public Service:

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) has a new plan. ARRL is establishing 3 levels of membership and online training. ARES is a very important function in amateur radio.

As many of you know, our own **Bob Meneguzzo K1YO** has accepted an appointment as ARES Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) for Western MA, covering the 5 counties from Worcester west to the NY border. Bob has been our Technical Director, and is known as a really smart, really helpful, really experienced ham. He is also a technical specialist for WMA / ARRL.

Find more info on ARES at:

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

ARRL Membership:

So—why be a member? If some of the above doesn't convince you, there is also QST magazine. Print and digital, lots of informative articles, and technical information. There are email bulletins on specific interests you choose. There are podcasts (The Doctor is In is one of my favorites) about different subjects each week. Email forwarding service (N1JIE@arrl.net). They have a technical information service, similar to the one the club has—members can submit technical questions, and get answers from experts. The biggest one is advocacy, they are like AARP, but for hams. The work done by the ARRL to benefit amateur radio is extensive, Imagine what our bandwidth would be vs commercial interests if the ARRL wasn't holding strong to prevent us losing frequencies.

So, look into it—membership.

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

DOTS & DASHES:

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

INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

Y'know—HCRA has about 120 members. Almost half of them are Amateur Extra level, which means that we have people available to help new hams. Recent attendance at club meetings has ben 40-45 people. Come to a meeting. Meet someone.

www.HCRA.org

Even Uncle Sam's Yacht Club (USN) recognizes the benefits of amateur radio to make their sailors a bit better!

<https://swling.com/blog/2019/02/us-navy-finds-ham-radio-training-makes-workers-better-at-their-jobs/>

So, you know that "atomic" clock next to your radio in the shack?—well, that WWV station has been broadcasting for 100 yrs this year. Expect a celebratory special event this fall.

<https://qrznow.com/wwv-100th-anniversary-special-event-operation-in-the-planning-stages/>

AREA SWAP/HAMFESTS:

Mar 24	Connecticut Hamfest	Southington, CT	http://www.chetbacon.com/SARAflea2019.pdf
Apr 13	Seacoast Amateur Radio Flea market	Hampton, NH	http://w1wqm.org/flea.php
April 28	Eastern CT ARA	Thompson CT	www.ecara.net
May 3-4	NEAR-fest	Deerfield NH	https://near-fest.com/
May 17-19	ARRL National Convention—Dayton Hamvention		www.hamvention.org
Jun 22-23	ARRL Field Day	HCRA—Agawam MA	http://www.arrl.org/field-day

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

Mar / April **3YOI DXpedition /Bouvet Island** <http://www.arrl.org/news/>

April

April 6-7	Missouri QSO Party	http://www.w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party	All
April 13-14	NM / ND / GA QSO Parties	3 states—look up—should be busy !!	All
April 14	ARRL Rookie Roundup	http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup	SSB

May

May 4-5	New England QSO Party	http://www.neqp.org/rules.html	All
May 4-5	7th Call Area QSO Party	http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?content=rules	All

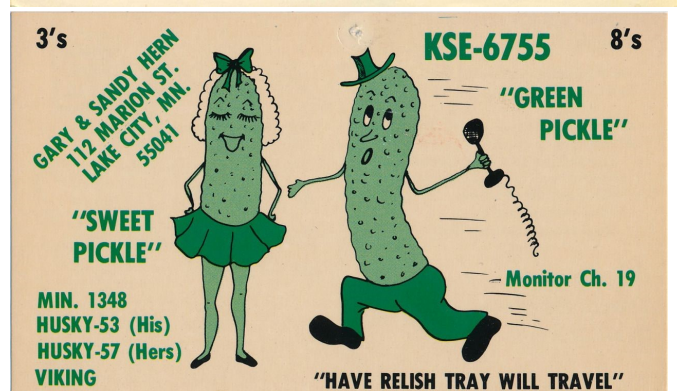
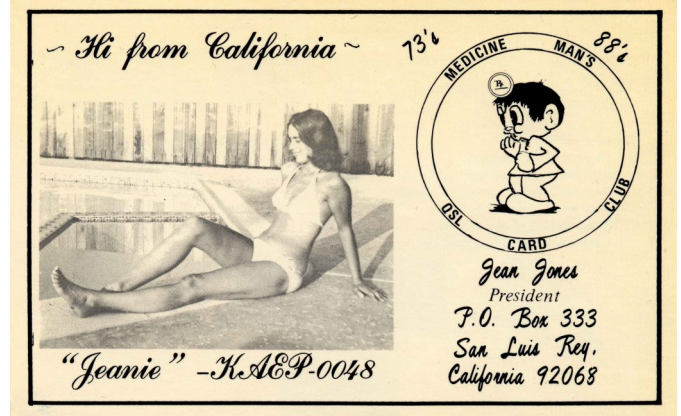
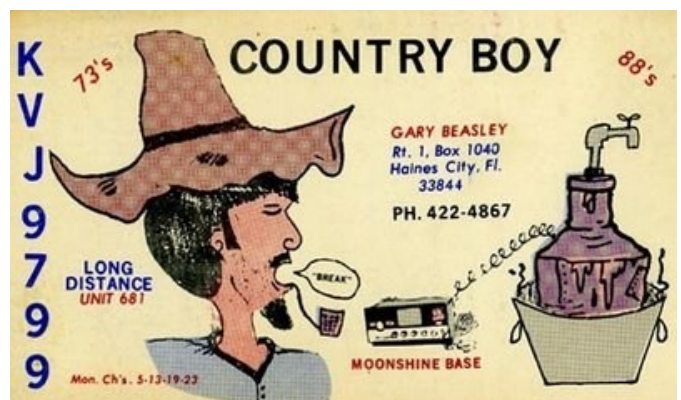
Many more contests listed at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests> or <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

A bit ah humah :-)



shamelessly collected from the internet

Some funny / vintage QSL cards from the CB days... I think those CB folks had fun with this!!



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!

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

President, Larry Krainson W1AST
w1ast@arrl.net

Vice-President, Dave Fant WM1B
wm1b@arrl.net

Treasurer, Juergen Malner NV1Q
nv1q@arrl.net

Secretary, Harold Woering N1FTP
n1ftp@yahoo.com

Programs, Najm Choueiry AB1ZA
njc2@cox.net

Membership, John Plaster K1VOI
k1voi_jp@charter.net

Technical, Bob Meneguzzo K1YO
k1yo@comcast.net

At Large, Todd Hoessler N1GNX
blzrls@yahoo.com

Newsletter, John Ewell N1JIE
ewelljohn188@gmail.com

Web Page, Vanessa Oquendo KC1IRL
votrailblazer@gmail.com

There have been changes to the Board as Bob K1YO is shifting over to SEC. Update will be next month. Todd N1GNX is now the at large member—reach out to Bob and let him know of anything you want the board to know.

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/>



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

**Hampden County Radio Association
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, MA 01030-0562**