



ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

February 2020

Special points of interest:

Next Meeting:

February 7, 2020—Bob, K1YO will tell us about ARES and it's recent come back in Western MA

[Visit the HCRA facebook page.](#)

- Don't forget to check out hcra.org
- Our section webpage—WMA.ARRL.org
- [Visit Summits on the Air](#)
- [Visit POTA413 facebook](#)

New Members—Welcome!!

KC1KFZ Steve Berian
KC1MKY David Archambeault
K1EJK Edward Knight
KC1LWF Chester Andrzejczyk
KC1CTB Joel Lagergren

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Hello everyone,

So, it's winter, and contest time—I now have a couple under my belt, and I enjoyed it. One thing to remember—when the contest is over, submit the log!! I was late getting mine in for the NAQP... lesson learned ;-)

As you will see in Larry's (W1AST) message this month—HCRA is doing another tech class. If you would like to help with the class, contact Vanessa (W1IRL) and jump in. There will be plenty to do for anyone that ones to help. Pay it forward for those that helped you get your ticket! There are also a couple of kit builds coming up—a CW reader, and an Arduino. I'm looking forward to those!!

Bob Meneguzzo K1YO will be visiting us to bring us up to date on the resurgence in ARES in western Mass.

Another fun thing is nets. No, not the things that catch fish, but the organized talk sessions on various frequencies, various times and various subjects. Our own 10M net on Mondays is getting to be a lot of fun—lots of updates, lots of folks, and with the band getting a bit better, a lot of fun! I have some nets listed later in this issue, Give it a try, it's a good way to practice operating in a group.

73, John N1JIE

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



February 2020 Presidents Message

It certainly has been a wild winter so far. A few weeks ago, we had the thunder snow, which made for great conversation and stories on the HCRA Monday night 10m net. Every Monday night at 7:30 pm local time on 28.375, we have the net. It's a great way to find out what everyone is up to and meet new people. It's always interesting and is also a great welcome to hams new to HF.

Working along the success of the 10m net, the HCRA will soon be starting a 2m net on the 146.715 W1BR (PL 100.0) repeater. This will be run just like the 10m net and will be a comfortable and welcoming place for new hams with 2m radios to become comfortable getting on the air and chatting. We hope to get this 2m net operational around the March meeting.

We are also excited to announce a Tech Class the weekend of March 21 and 22. In one weekend, you will be able to walk away a licensed ham after taking the class and test on Sunday afternoon the 22nd of March. The Saturday class will run 8 am to 6 pm and continue on the next day. Sunday sessions will run 8 am to 2 or 3 pm with testing by the NT1K Laurel VEC Group immediately afterwards.

Vanessa, W1IRL has volunteered to organize this class and there is a need for instructors. If you would like to teach one module or multiple modules, please contact Vanessa at: webmaster@hcra.org and volunteer. If you would like to teach certain things, please provide that information as well. We will also be raffling off at least 3 per-programmed with local repeaters, 2m HT's with accessories to those that took the HCRA class and passed their Tech license that weekend!

These classes are just the beginnings of HCRA classes. We hope to do at least 2 classes a year with Tech and General to start. The goal is for 2 Tech and one General in the next 18 months and continue beyond that.

We are also doing at least one follow up class to get new hams on the air, give them some hands on and much more. There will be much more info in the March ZeroBeat. That session is Saturday, March 28th from 10 am to 1 pm, the Saturday after the testing session.

The HCRA is also doing another kit build. Last years Fox Hunt antenna and attenuator building session was a HUGE success. We are following that up with a CW Reader kit build session on Saturday, April 25th at 10 am and runs to 3 pm. But it is likely you will be done before then. This will be a fun project where you'll learn how to solder (if you don't already know), have fun building a project that is also useful and really works! The deadline to sign up and pay for this is the March 6th meeting. Your cost is just \$25. You can sign up and pay at the February and March meetings or send a check to the PO Box.

We're also doing another Arduino build and training session. This one is on Saturday, May 16th. If you already have a kit, you can sign up and bring yours with you. If you want a kit, you can sign up and pay and build yours at the class. Estimated cost is \$30 and will be confirmed very soon. This session will run 10 am to 3 pm. The deadline to sign up and pay for this is at the Friday, April 3rd meeting.

Speaking of the April 3rd meeting. It is one of our most popular meetings every year. It's Show and Tell. A chance for you to show what you have built or assembled in the past 12 months since last years Show and Tell. It's a great way to see what everyone has been up to and what cool things they've built. Last years was certainly interesting and this year should be equally as interesting!



It's also not too early to start thinking about Field Day weekend in June. Just think about it for now!


The HCRA has big plans for the rest of this year and for the next 18 to 36 months! I hope you will not only attend the meetings, but also participate and contribute. The board has big plans for the future and we hope you will be part of them!

73's and I look forward to seeing you at the February 7th meeting!



Larry W1AST

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.

Changes at the top

At its meeting this weekend, the ARRL Board of Directors did not elect Howard Michel, WB2ITX, as the ARRL Chief Executive Officer. Beginning Monday, January 20, Barry Shelley, N1VXY, will become interim CEO. Mr. Shelley was ARRL's Chief Financial Officer for 28 years and CEO during 2018 before his retirement. The board has created a search committee to select the next CEO. More details on this and other matters which took place at the board meeting will be released shortly.

QST—THE ham radio magazine

While it does have a goodly number of ads in it (at least they are relevant to the hobby—not for cruises or AARP) there are a ton of well written articles as well as reader (member) submissions.

Think its all technical jargon for those devoted to recognizing circuit components at a glance? How about real estate advice? That's right—this month an article on how to ensure you can have your radio hobby where you live. We have all read the horror stories about Homeowner Associations that won't let veterans fly the American flag—you can imagine the restrictions on an 80' tower of a 160M dipole. As some of us (countdown for me is about 5 yrs) plan to move to warmer climates for retirement, some of the things you need to think about, and tips to help your realtor find your place in the sun are mentioned.

How about operating your transceiver from your office via the internet? I had a coworker that had his rig setup to do that. It was kinda cool—he could make contacts on lunch break, participate in a net, or chase a DXpedition. Another article gives an overview on how this works, and some of the things you can do to make this a reality. While many of us would love a new Flex6000, not all of us can afford one... so, if this is an interest, this article will get you a start.

The Doctor is in is another regular feature—this month discussing a Moxon vs Yagi. This is also a podcast available to members. These are quick and pretty clear explanations about various topics that usually come in as questions from members.

One of my favorite benefits of membership is this magazine. You will find many ham shacks with a stack of issues on a shelf somewhere ;-)

Clubs—like ours

Our club is like many others. Affiliated with ARRL (we are a special service club) with much more going on than just meeting every month. Not just our club—but others near and far.

Up in Greenfield is the FCARC (Franklin County Area Radio Club). Several of their members are members of HCRA and attend our meetings. They do a good bit of public service communication, hold license classes, and have events. Sometime when you are looking for a change of pace look at their website / FB page (<https://www.fcarc.org/> FCARMA on FB). If public service comm (race coordination, etc) looks interesting, reach out. A good opportunity to use that HT for something new.

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.

DXCC Leagues

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.

☐ No Mode Filter ☐ CW ☐ Phone ☐ Data
☐ Rank by DXCCs ☐ Rank by slots Rank by band: **Totals ▼**
☒ 160M ☒ 80M ☒ 60M ☒ 40M ☒ 30M ☒ 20M ☒ 17M ☒ 15M ☒ 12M ☒ 10M ☒ 8M
☐ Current entities ☐ Current and deleted ☐ Worked ☐ Confirmed
☐ No Date Filter ☐ 2020 ☐ 2019 ☐ Last 12 months
 Filter by club/continent: **HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association ▼**

Generate DXCC League

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	NV1Q-3	26	134	0	178	111	308	255	314	232	255	2	329	1817	41 yrs
2	KK1W-1	127	180	7	284	203	303	289	275	211	231	20	327	2090	44 yrs
3	NF1G	0	127	0	205	231	228	244	209	138	73	14	290	1459	5 yrs
4	W1PY-1	34	109	0	188	83	231	199	237	128	204	3	286	1395	10 yrs
5	K1VOI	5	54	2	103	49	198	135	159	85	142	3	245	917	18 yrs
6	KX1X	58	108	48	180	115	185	95	201	28	191	4	239	1191	23 yrs
7	K1NZ-1 *	107	135	63	154	162	163	120	124	16	54	1	224	1099	9 yrs
8	AB1WT	2	32	1	62	4	123	122	125	82	88	1	211	612	6 yrs
9	W1AST-1	2	50	9	94	23	181	98	120	7	120	7	198	901	11 yrs
10	NT1K-2	5	49	2	102	33	181	44	141	47	123	1	196	728	10 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	N1FTP	0	7	0	59	0	165	44	117	16	109	1	181	518	11 yrs
12	WD1S-2	49	57	1	115	23	148	40	95	11	98	2	176	830	7 yrs
13	AB1XW-1	0	7	1	75	22	110	42	107	29	94	0	144	487	7 yrs
14	N1JIE	0	3	0	21	2	44	18	5	1	4	1	63	99	3 yrs
15	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	14	0	38	0	0	1	0	0	45	51	4 yrs
16	KB1VSK	0	2	0	4	0	30	4	1	0	2	0	33	43	4 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 1/27/2020

DXCC Leagues

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☐ No Mode Filter ☐ CW ☐ Phone ☐ Data
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☒ 160M ☒ 80M ☒ 60M ☒ 40M ☒ 30M ☒ 20M ☒ 17M ☒ 15M ☒ 12M ☒ 10M ☒ 8M
☐ Current entities ☐ Current and deleted ☐ Worked ☐ Confirmed
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Generate DXCC League

League for HCRA - Hampden County Radio Association

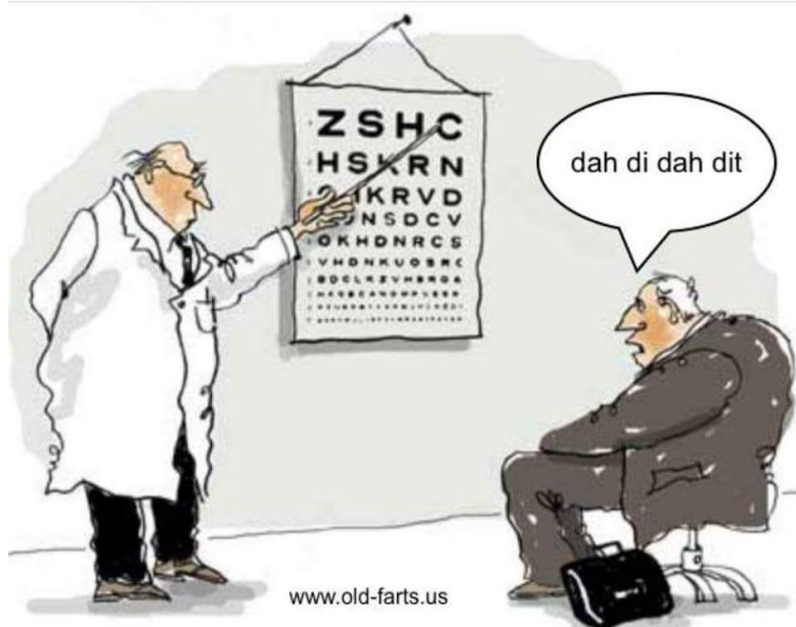
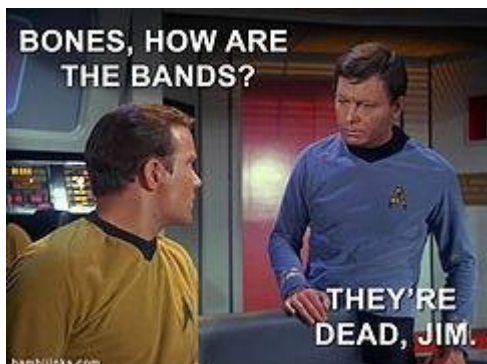
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1	KX1X	38	34	16	71	41	73	24	15	0	2	1	115	313	23 yrs
2	W1PY-1	0	13	0	14	0	78	0	3	0	0	0	90	108	10 yrs
3	KK1W-1	19	26	0	17	13	24	4	2	0	0	1	84	108	44 yrs
4	K1NZ-1 *	25	35	12	21	31	42	42	7	2	1	1	78	219	9 yrs
5	NF1G	0	19	0	21	15	12	15	2	2	2	0	63	88	5 yrs
6	NT1K-2	4	0	0	3	13	41	0	3	0	0	0	48	64	10 yrs
7	K1VOI	0	2	0	13	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	16	22	18 yrs
8	NV1Q-3	0	2	0	2	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	11	13	41 yrs
9	KB1VSK	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	4 yrs
10	N1JIE	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	3 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4 yrs
12	AB1WT	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	4	6 yrs
13	W1AST-1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	11 yrs

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

This is the clublog for 2020. 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



DOTS & DASHES:

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

INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

Looking to ragchew with a bunch of people? Want to have a discussion, but can't find anyone on the air—try a net!! Nets are an organized controlled environment to discuss things, practice operating, meet new hams and get on the air! To find a net that works for you—<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-net-directory-search>
This subject came up on our weekly 10M net. One of our members Gary (KC1JZR) provided us with some of his favorites.

Net	Common freq Mhz	link	time
• Flying Saucer Net	28.475		Thurs 9pm EST
• The Rare Ones of New Orleans	7.275	https://therareones.net/	daily 1900 CST
• 3838 Breakfast Club Net	3.838		daily 0630 EST
• Maine Potato Net	3.958	https://themainepotatonet.net/	daily 1630 EST
• Carrier Net	3.935	http://thecarriernet.w2blc.net/	M-Sa 0900 EST

Many of these nets utilize netlogger <http://www.netlogger.org/> to keep up with who is on the net. Netlogger also lists currently active nets, and allows you to check-in online without having to bust into a pileup. Give nets a try—just another way that hams can connect!!

AREA SWAP/HAMFESTS:

MTARA Hamfest Saturday 3/7/2020 Castle of Knights, Chicopee <https://mtara.org/>

INTERESTING “EVENT”

Not so much an event, as a challenge. Chasing DXpeditions. This is a special set of DX contacts—Hams going to a remote locale, and setting up for the purpose of contacting other hams to get them the “rare” DX. While current band conditions make it even more challenging—try to bag a few!

<https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html> has upcoming DXpeditions, as well as contact info, and how to get the contact confirmed.

UPCOMING CONTESTS (just a few...)

February

Various	QSO Party—VT,MN, SC, BC	Lots of fun!	
Feb 15-16	AWA AM QSO Party	Int'l, AM only	www.antiquewireless.org
Feb29-3/1	N America QSO party—RTTY	Focus North America	ncweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf

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

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