



# ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

June 2019

Next Meeting: **June 7**

**Annual Election**

**Field Day volunteers**

## Our new members for 2019:

John Lenville KI1A 5/13/2019  
John Bourque KC1LKT 4/26/2019  
John Murray KC1EKC 4/15/2019 previous member / renew  
Michael Scantlen KC1IZC 3/24/2019  
Bernard Brennan W1BJB (KC1LFW) 3/22/2019  
Phil Lord K1PRA (KC1LAV) 2/26/2019  
Harold Lemieux KC1LCH 2/22/2019  
E Lary Grossman W1ELG (KC1LCI) 2/22/2019  
Marcel Lapierre AA1WH 1/28/2019  
Rich Boyce K1CDX 1/27/2019  
Eddie Stankiewicz KC1LAW 1/15/2019  
Timothy Lord W1TTZ 1/15/2019  
Ray Marek KC1KXK 1/15/2019  
Steve Berian KC1KEZ 1/04/2019

## Inside this issue:

<i>From the Shack - Larry, W1AST</i>	2,3
<i>Field Day</i>	4
<i>Share the Knowledge pics</i>	5
<i>A Bit ah Humah</i>	6
<i>Upcoming meetings</i>	7
<i>ARRL Stuff</i>	8
<i>Dots and Dashes</i>	9
<i>Contacts / local happenings</i>	10

## June Meeting



### Annual Elections

Here we are, all positions open, there are people volunteering to fill all of them. So, come to the meeting, hear who's doing what, confirm their election. If you would like to get more involved, please feel free to volunteer for a Board position.

### Field Day

Lots of discussion for field day activities, schedule, signup to help: Setup, Operate, Food, Teardown. HCRA has a nice SDR usb radio for a lucky volunteer. This is our big club event—more fun than a box full of new tubes. Come help setup 3 towers, with tri-banders on top, maybe a couple of wires. We will have 3 stations—I for CW, and the others for SSB. E-logging, linked logs via a network, plenty of room to hang out and ragchew. There will be burgers, dogs, and other stuff (at this point—contact me to coordinate food n1jie@arrl.net). More info later in ZB, and plenty of discussion and signup sheets for volunteers galore at the meeting!

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.

Well, this is our last meeting until September. Hope to see everyone that can make it at Field Day.

What ya gonna do all summer? Try DMR? After last month's meeting, looks like this is the new tech, taking off. How about going to an alt QTH? I will get a few days in ME, where will you go? Doing a QRP on a SOTA / POTA? Want some company? Reach out on the FB page. Last year we had a few impromptu activities locally. Invite some of the new hams, especially the tech licensees. They could use exposure to different operating conditions, venues and equipment.

Try and get out and dispel the “radio in the basement” image. Operate freely and publicly. Share it with all!!

73, John N1JIE

Hey—if you are going somewhere in radio world—whether it's to HRO in Nashua, ARRL headquarters, Boxboro or field day, and you have room for a passenger—let folks know on the FB page or Larry W1AST has agreed to be a clearinghouse via email (W1AST@arrl.net) for rideshares. If you are looking for a ride—the same applies. If ya don't ask, ya don't get ;-)

Let's look out for each other, and help others participate in our hobby. Thanks Larry for helping by being a contact point.

# FROM THE SHACK

LARRY KRAINSON W1AST



I'd like to thank Bob, K1YO for his many years as technical adviser and Dave, WM1B for his years as secretary, president and vice president. All the work you both have done is greatly appreciated by the club. Thank you.

The Fox Hunt Share The Knowledge session on April 27<sup>th</sup> was a success. 16 people were busy assembling the tape measure antenna and building the offset attenuator. Hopefully it will stop raining enough to have a few fox hunts soon.

I'd like to say special thanks to the following that made the session possibly by helping others in the assembly and testing of their kits:

Bob – K1YO

Jeff – NT1K

Frandy – N1FJ

Bob – WA1OJN

Your help was greatly appreciated by all – Thank You!

Starting this fall we hope to have a kit building session as well as others to share with everyone. Stay tuned.

June is here and that means Field Day 2019 is right around the corner. Field Day is a fun and exciting way to push your hobby limits. We operate from a field using generator or other power other than AC. We put up temporary antennas and shelters. It's a time also to get new hams introduced to contesting and HF operation. It's also a time to possibly be introduced to new to you modes like satellite or cw or digital. It's a time to be *excited* about ham radio.

This will probably be at least my 36<sup>th</sup> Field Day. It's always an exciting time and always leaves great memories. My first FD (Field Day) weekend was as a Novice with the now defunct Provin Mountain Repeater Association. I remember being in a Boilard Lumber box truck listening to cw and having a Elmer (old word for mentor) standing behind me saying "GO". I was 14 years old and super reluctant. Eventually I answered and after being coached thru a few more contacts I was off. Boy oh boy did I have a blast. I was hooked.

Since then I've done FD's with the above club, many with the MTARA, a few with the Bear Bait Radio Club of the Adirondacks, a few with friends and many with the HCRA. My wife Faye knows the last full weekend in June is "always" reserved for ham radio Field Day.

# FROM THE SHACK CONTINUED

You too can start making FD memories. There are many aspects of the whole Field Day experience. Some like hardware and help set up and tear down. Some like operating, some like volunteering to help run things. Some like it all and participate in everything. Some just visit. What would you like to do?

Last years FD chair stepped down and into other much larger responsibilities. I stepped up to run FD in his place. We have chairs for towers, antennas, food, logging and networking, technical, message handling and info board. We have 2 generators committed and those 2 little Honda's run quietly all weekend and sip fuel sparingly.

Here's a list of what is still needed. Can you help out?

Publicity – someone to notify TV, radio and newspapers of our FD event

Education – plan something at our FD site (Technical may do this, maybe run a foxhunt)

Spare cabin tent for station operation

Band Captains for the 3 main bands: 40 cw, 40 ssb, 20 ssb

Operators for all modes and all bands

Want to volunteer? Email [W1AST@arrl.net](mailto:W1AST@arrl.net) with what you would like to do.

After FD, the club is on summer break for 2 months. The summer is always a good time to take your portable radio or HT and go camping, mountain topping, hiking or just go operate the rig somewhere other than home. Even sitting on the back deck is enjoyable and a reason to get outside.

I hope to hear you on the air, have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Larry, W1AST

# ARRL Field Day

HCRA will be operating 3 stations (40M CW, 40M SSB, 20M SSB) in the same place as last year. Operation will be beginning at 1800 UTC (2 PM local) Saturday and running through 2059 (5PM local) UTC Sunday. All the rest of the info or Field Day can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

Here is where we will be—School St Park in Agawam:

You can park in the lot off School St, or the one off Corey St. This is a playground and family park, so be mindful of the other users of the facility. **Alcohol is not allowed in the park.**

The pavilion that is circled will be the area that the stations, food, chairs, tents, etc will be located. The antennas will be going up on Friday afternoon in the baseball field, and will need several hands to help. There will be 3 50ft towers to assemble, raise, and tie down. There will also be assembly of the tri-banders, and the other antennas. If you've never setup a larger antenna, this is an opportunity to be part of it.



We will be open to, and encouraging the general public to stop by, and learn about amateur radio. This is a large part of what Field Day is all about. If someone asks about what we are doing, be encouraging, share our knowledge, and we will have handouts to help spread the word.

HCRA will provide coffee, water, and some food for the grill for volunteers. Please help by bringing a dish to share, or snacks, etc. Contact me (N1JIE@arrl.net) to coordinate things so we don't end up with 2000 cookies. Other items needed: Cases of water, gatorade, diet coke, coke, mountain dew (diet too). 2 liter is nice, but cans and smaller bottle much handier for those operating and working there. Salad and dressing, side dishes like casseroles, etc, desserts & snacks - finger food for those staying is great, Sturdy plates & cups, Silverware, Napkins and paper towels, Need to borrow coolers for soda and other things that need to be kept cold, Ice for coolers (bring a cooler, fill with some ice please). We will have electricity for crock pots, and limited refrigeration.

We need volunteers—this is our big outdoor event! Operate, setup, cleanup, hang out and visit, anything that you want. Want to volunteer? Email W1AST@arrl.net with what you would like to do. Volunteers will be entered into a drawing to get a nice SDR USB radio (not the little cheap one, but a *nice* one).

If you want, several of us will be camping. Bring a small tent and sleeping bag, catch a nap early, and then get up for the nighttime 40M openings!!

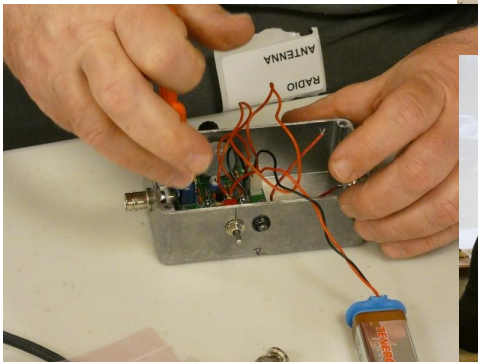
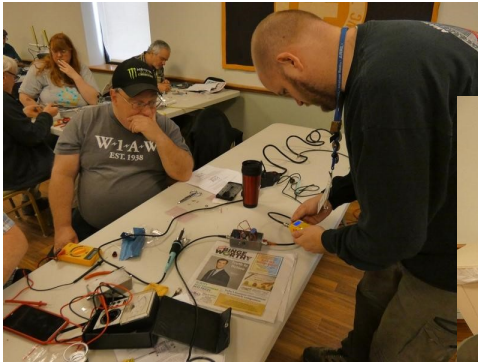
Sunscreen, bug spray, drinks, etc are a must. If you want to sit, please bring a comfy folding chair. We hope to have nice weather, and being outdoors can dehydrate, cause sunburn, and skeeters and no-see-ums can take the fun out of a great time. Be prepared!

As Larry mentioned—he has been doing this a long time. This is my second one—and I had a total blast last year. I was on the air for several hours, working with other club members, till I had a sore throat by morning. Loved every minute of it, and it made me SO much more comfortable operating my own station. All the new hams, especially the Technician licensees—you will be operating under the club license, with full band privileges. This is the opportunity to play in the other end of the pool, and get to know HF a bit. Come join us.



# Share the Knowledge pics

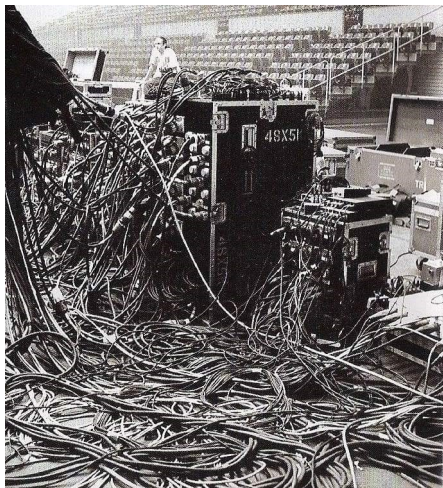
Lots of people making stuff—antenna and attenuator for Fox Hunting





# A bit ah humah :-)

shamelessly collected from the internet—this month by our members, and forwarded to me.  
Thanks to Harold, N1FTP, Carol W1LGU and Larry, W1AST



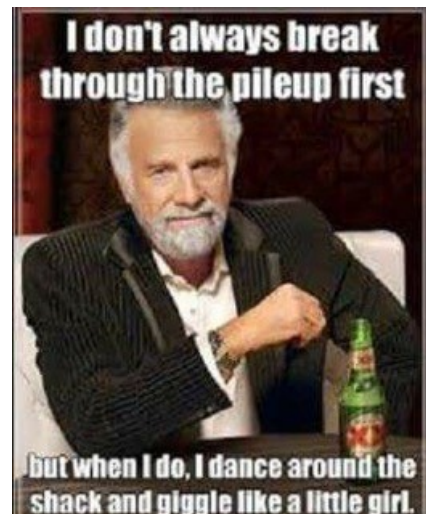
Jerry decided to take a break after setting up the station for Field Day



## A RADIO OPERATOR WALKS INTO A BAR...



OW! THAT HERTZ.



## Scheduled meetings and speakers:

**June 7, 2019: Elections - Interested in getting more involved? Become a club officer!**

**Field Day 2019 (June 22, 23) - I just wanna CQ all night long !!!**

**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: TBD**

**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 (Prince Edward Island)**

**December 2019: HCRA / MTARA Holiday Party**

**January 2020: 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**

# 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.

## Conventions and Hamfests:

Dayton, OH / NEARfest / Boxboro / MTARA—all are gatherings of Hams, a swapmeet, some have classes and presentations, most have exams. This is part of amateur radio, where we meet and greet, get supplies and look over new gear, visit with vendors, and catch up with friends new and old.

So how do you find these activities? Well, a good start would be your local club newsletter, and for a larger look—go to <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>. You can search by location, dates, etc. Going to visit your uncle in Peoria? Look and see if there is a hamfest while you are there. You could meet some new folks, or find that rare tube you need to get that boat anchor under your bench working again.... Or get another boat anchor!!

Registering, tracking and publicizing these fun gatherings is part of ARRL. Check one out if you haven't already!

## ARRL Licensing:

Volunteer Examiners are just that—they help administer the licensing exams, as volunteers. There is a book to study, a test to take and send in to the ARRL, and a bit of paperwork. But each exam requires a minimum of 3 VEs, at the level being tested. So if someone wants to take an Extra level test, 3 Extra level VEs must be there to grade the exam. As you know, there is an exam every month at the same place as our meeting. Also, Jeff NT1K and his group do quarterly (free exams). And think of all the other locations—each needing VEs to proctor, grade and process the exams.

There is even a list of top VEs, by how many sessions they have participated in. One of our members, Jim Mullen, KK1W, is on the ARRL VE Honor Roll for New England (323 sessions and counting). Another local, Stefan Radowicz, N1SR from Chicopee is on the list.

So that license you got—well, several people, generally all ARRL members, volunteered to help. Now that you have the ticket, think about helping someone else go for the ride!!

## ARRL Magazine—QST

So, what do you get with ARRL membership? QST magazine, both print and electronic. Loaded with articles, equipment tests, updates on legislation, dxpedition reports, contests, product testing and reviews and lots more. Yes, there are ads from many of the radio vendors, and while many are big multi page ads, there are smaller ads from the little guys. Want to know who to contact for your division or section about something? But you forgot who it was? —well all the contact info is there. Antenna designs are another big topic—usually with instructions, parts lists, and testing to prove that it works. Did you know that ARRL conducts an antenna design contest each year—results are in QST, with plans and testing. You ain't gonna find that on the magic antenna you saw on ebay!!

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

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



# DOTS & DASHES:

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

## INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/antennas.html#Antennaprojects>  
[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

This was a top hit for portable antenna designs when I searched on Google. I know I'm fascinated by DIY antennas, especially those that are portable, or cheap to build. Not having the space or money for a SteppIR (a FINE antenna) I like to try simpler stuff. I've got a copper pipe j-pole for my UHF/VHF base. Got a G5RVjr for HF. I built a 20M spiral dipole that worked (see Show and Tell). I'd like to put together some others. This site has several projects, and if you are interested in DIY antennas—there are tons of designs out there.

So whether you use this site, or others, a google search or an ARRL book or QST design, look into building your own antenna. Trust me, when you make that DX contact, on an antenna you built, you will jump around the shack and giggle like a little girl too.... Right, Harold?

## AREA SWAP/HAMFESTS:

Jun 22-23	ARRL Field Day	HCRA—Agawam MA	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/field-day">http://www.arrl.org/field-day</a>
Sept 6-8	Northeast HamXposition @ Boxboro	Boxboro Regency Hotel	<a href="http://boxboro.org/">http://boxboro.org/</a>
Oct 11-12	NEARfest	Deerfield, NH	<a href="https://near-fest.com/">https://near-fest.com/</a>

## UPCOMING CONTESTS (just a few...)

### Ongoing (all year)

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

### June

June 8-10	June VHF	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf">http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf</a>	All
June 15	Kids Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/kids-day">http://www.arrl.org/kids-day</a>	Ph
June 22-23	<b>Field Day</b>	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/field-day">http://www.arrl.org/field-day</a>	All

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!

## 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, **Rob Bolling KC1PF (upon election)**  
westsidesound@icloud.com

Membership, John Plaster K1VOI  
k1voi\_jp@charter.net

Technical, Najm Choueiry AB1ZA  
njc2@cox.net

At Large, **Todd Hoessler N1GNX (upon election)**  
blzrls@yahoo.com

Newsletter, John Ewell N1JIE  
n1jie@arrl.net

Web Page, Vanessa Oquendo W1IRL  
votrailblazer@gmail.com

The Board members in **Bold** are filling in, and will stand for election at the June Meeting.

## 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**