



ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

February 2020

Special points of interest:

Next Meeting:

March 6, 2020—Rob Macedo KC1DY talks all about Skywarn and how important it is for weather tracking.

[Visit the HCRA facebook page.](#)

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

New Member—Welcome!!

KD1KU Ken Dion

Hello everyone,

Well, the winter has been milder than expected, and I've been busier than I want to be, so I haven't been on the air much. I have been listening on 75/80m in the evening, and it's really busy after dark there. Lots of nets, lots of ragchewing. I kinda like it there ;-)

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!!

Rob Macedo KC1DY talks all about Skywarn and how important it is for weather tracking. Anybody that is interested in weather alerts, storm tracking, etc will especially find this interesting. Look at <https://www.weather.gov/SKYWARN> for an overview.

On another note—a call for papers!—tell us a story, teach us something you have learned. It could be a simple gadget you made, or a teaser like Juergen has in this issue, or anything. This newsletter is for and from all of us. Can't be the Larry and John show each month!! Send stuff in .doc format please.

73, John N1JIE

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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



Presidents Message for March 2020

If you haven't heard yet, there is a LOT to get excited about with the HCRA in the next few months.

We need YOU to help spread the word for the Earn Your Tech License in a Weekend Class. It's happening on Saturday and Sunday; March 21 & 22. They are all day classes with testing $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way thru Sunday. A participant could walk away with a Tech license. There is a flier you can print and post in your work place, libraries, post office and any place with a bulletin board or lets you post a flier. Here's the link to the flier.:

http://www.hcra.org/files/March2020_TechClass-flyerv2.pdf and here is the link for anyone interested in signing up:

<http://www.hcra.org/licensing-classes/> The club will be supplying bottled water during both days and will be providing a pizza lunch for the students and teachers on Sunday. PLUS all students who pass their Techs get entered in a raffle to win a 2m HT plus accessories for free. The Saturday after the test, we are doing a followup meeting with the new hams to help them get on the air and to demo some modes like portable HF operation, DMR and more.

Some time in March we will be starting a HCRA 2m net similar to the 10m net. It will be a welcome place for any HCRA member and any newly licensed ham to get some on air experience. This will give new hams a friendly place to get on the air and get comfortable getting on the air and be able to ask questions w/o worry of those "that give ham radio a bad name" by talking down to them and discouraging them. It will be a friendly and social place for all. We will be hosting this net on the 146.715 (PL 100.0) W1BR repeater which is located on the Soldiers Home in Holyoke. We have permission to use this repeater.

We're holding a build session for a CW Decoder/Reader. It is scheduled for April 15th with the last day to sign up at the MTARA Flea Market on March 7th. Cost is just \$25 and the kit can be built in a few hours. For those that need soldering help, assistance will be there. The kit has a 4 line, 40 character display. Bob, WA1OJN, one of the organizers for this project built one and says it works quite well. We hope to have an online sign up soon. Check the HCRA.org web site often. You MUST be paid in advance to participate. To sign up, send an email to NF1G@arrl.net to be added to the list and pay at the meeting or the flea market.

How would you like to learn how to build and program an Arduino? The HCRA is holding a build and learn session on Saturday, May 16th. The cost is just \$25 if you need the kit or free if you have one and just want to learn more about it. The deadline to sign up and pay is the April meeting. Contact NF1G@arrl.net to sign up.

Guess what is coming up fast? Field Day of course. Field Day is the largest HCRA activity. The field is already reserved for our use. Plans are being made. A sign up sheet will be passed around at the March meeting. Make sure you put June 26 to 28 in your calendar and make yourself available. We will need set up help on Friday, set up help on Saturday morning, operators for the 24 hours of the event for cw, ssb and other modes such as satellite and maybe digital. We need someone to be in charge of the food and cooking. Plus help tearing down and storing on Sunday. Also needed is someone to pick up the trailer and tow it to the field on Friday and return it on Sunday. Anyone with a vehicle that can tow 5000 lbs can very easily tow it as my little truck has done recently. If interested in any of the above or to just volunteer, email me at: w1ast@arrl.net

FROM THE SHACK CONT'D

If you like chasing DX, then the next few months are for you! The South Orkney Island runs February 6 through March 6th. It's a rare one that is worth chasing. Read more about it: <https://sorkney.com/> Plus don't forget about a few DX contests and you could be working some needed DX entities or start you're DX chasing and have a load of fun at the same time. It's so easy to get hooked chasing DX.

Don't forget the March meeting on the 6th. Rob Macedo, KC1DY is coming to speak to us about Skywarn and the importance of weather reporting. Rob hasn't visited the HCRA is over 10 years. So it will be good to have him return. We hope that you will join us in welcoming him back. Sign ups for all the above activities will be available as well as raffle tickets.

Sunday March 7th is the annual MTARA flea market at the KofC in Chicopee. This is where we draw the tickets for the annual raffle. The money raised for the raffle helps the club to pay for some of it's yearly expenses such as food for field day, web site related fees (domain & hosting), the extra each month for those that don't pay for their donuts and coffee, donations we make to the hospital for it's use and to the field day location for it's use. Plus any hardware and other supplies for Field Day, and other items through out the year. As of last night we only have sold 45 tickets. We need to sell at least another 55 to break even. The prize is the Honda EU2200i inverter 2K generator. I would love to own one myself! These are the generators that all other brands compare themselves to. I'll be buying a few more tickets and hope you will buy some too.

In April we're going to try running our first foxhunt. Plus the April meeting is the annual Show and Tell where you get to show off the latest kit you built or the project you have assembled. Juergen is in charge of the prize procurement and judging the presentation. Start building now so you are ready in April! Stay tuned for more information in next months ZeroBeat!

There is a lot to get excited about with the HCRA in the next few months. The board hopes you will participate and join in the fun!

I hope to see you at the March meeting on the 6th and the flea market on the 7th.


73,

Larry - W1AST

HCRA President


W1AST@arrl.net

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.

ARRL Periodical Archive Search

Members can search online for articles, tech info, past reviews etc. from just about any ARRL publication. You can dig back to 1915 in QST articles. Vaguely remember an article on a Collins radio tech review from when you first got your license? Its there.

I'll admit its not as quick as google, but the info is there. Articles, letters from members, regulation changes...

So, your XYL may be right—you don't need all those magazines stacked around your shack. You just need to go to <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-periodicals-archive-search> and type in some keywords. Newer hams have access to decades of info without having to have all those years of magazines and membership.

Public Service in Amateur Radio

As we heard recently from Bob Meneguzzo K1YO—ARES is growing in Western Mass. This used to be the most public face of amateur radio, and as Bob told us, lack of organization and formality kinda tarnished that image. But the Western Mass section is getting things back on track

I still remember just after the hurricane in PR, listening to the ARRL volunteers on 20m passing info to the mainland. And there was recently a call put out for volunteers to help with the Boston Marathon. FCARC, our fellow club up in Greenfield is active in supporting local races and activities (and welcomes anyone that wants to join in).

If you are interested in learning more about the public service aspect of amateur radio go to <http://www.arrl.org/public-service> and look at the training materials and contact info.

Logbook of the World

Probably the definitive electronic logbook for confirmed QSOs. This is the one all the DXpeditions use, the "proof" for many awards. It's like a passport stamp for your contact log—it is legitimate.

ARRLs Logbook of the World confirms your contact by matching the information from the other party to yours. Once both parties have submitted matching log info, it is a confirmed contact. Uploading contact information is much like uploading a contest log, and once you are setup, most logging programs will do it easily.

It is free, it is secure, and it does not require membership in ARRL. It is recognized worldwide.

So, if you are thinking about DX awards, or any verified contact award—this is the way to have proof of the contact (if the other party also uses LoTW). It's either this or QSL cards.

For more info, directions and links to software, go to <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>

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

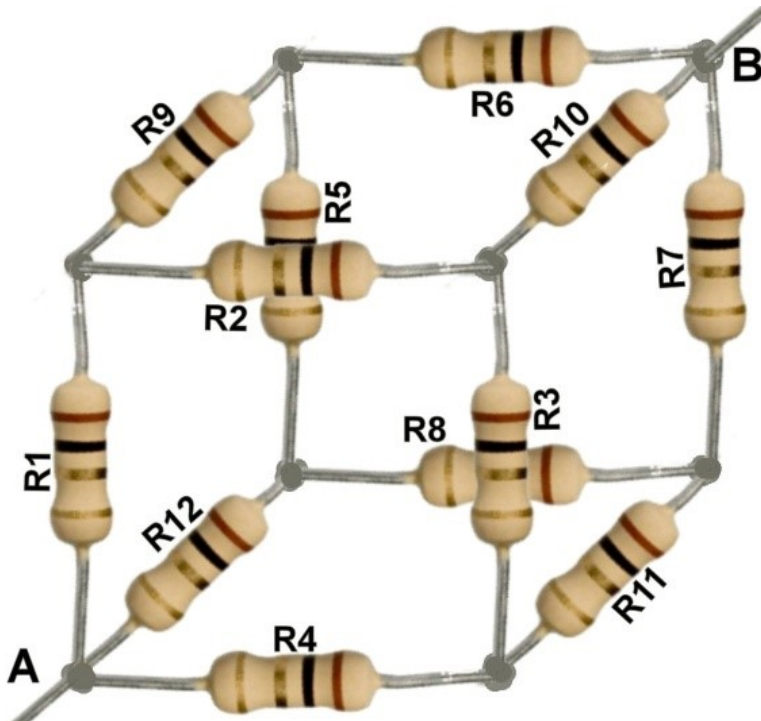
To learn more about membership, and how it can help you—<http://www.arrl.org/membership>

TECH TEASER

This is a new, periodic feature. This one is from Juergen Malner NV1Q. The purpose is to refresh our memories or learn a new thing about electronics, radio, etc. Whenever a teaser is submitted, I'll publish it.

I think this is a great way to review the principles we have learned getting our licenses, or learning something new.

Thanks Juergen for the idea for the page, and hopefully more of these to come. NV1Q will explain this at the next meeting ;-)



How well do you know Ohm's Law and Kirchhoff's Law?

Each of these resistors that make up the cube is 1Ω . (R1 to R12)

What is the total value R_{total} between "A" and "B"?

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 ☒ 6M
☐ 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	27	135	0	180	111	308	257	314	232	256	2	329	1822	41 yrs
2	KK1W-1	133	188	7	267	207	304	270	275	211	231	20	328	2111	44 yrs
3	NF1G	0	137	0	211	234	235	247	214	140	73	14	292	1505	5 yrs
4	W1PY-1	34	113	0	188	63	235	199	237	128	204	3	286	1404	10 yrs
5	K1VOI	5	54	2	105	49	199	138	159	88	142	3	246	920	19 yrs
6	KX1X	61	112	49	166	116	187	100	201	26	191	4	242	1213	23 yrs
7	K1NZ-1 *	110	140	67	155	171	170	131	127	16	54	1	229	1142	9 yrs
8	AB1WT	2	32	1	52	4	124	123	125	62	88	1	211	614	6 yrs
9	W1AST-1	2	58	9	97	23	162	98	121	7	120	7	198	704	11 yrs
10	NT1K-2	5	49	2	103	33	181	44	141	47	123	1	196	730	10 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	N1FTP	0	7	0	59	0	165	45	117	16	109	1	181	519	12 yrs
12	WD1S-2	49	57	1	115	23	148	40	95	11	98	2	176	639	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	N1FJ	0	0	0	3	0	14	0	14	3	16	0	38	50	7 yrs
17	KB1VSX	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 2/29/2020

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 ☒ 6M
☐ Current entities ☐ Current and deleted ☐ Worked ☐ Confirmed
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 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	KK1W-1	30	41	0	67	29	41	10	7	0	0	1	169	226	44 yrs
2	KX1X	42	48	18	97	48	90	42	28	0	2	1	138	414	23 yrs
3	K1NZ-1 *	48	71	22	53	62	94	64	19	3	1	1	132	438	9 yrs
4	W1PY-1	0	19	0	23	0	101	0	5	0	0	0	127	148	10 yrs
5	NV1Q-3	8	10	0	55	0	100	2	50	0	5	0	109	230	41 yrs
6	NF1G	0	33	0	38	30	31	29	12	8	8	0	98	183	5 yrs
7	NT1K-2	5	0	0	4	13	55	0	3	0	0	0	60	80	10 yrs
8	W1AST-1	2	25	0	34	0	40	2	9	0	0	1	57	113	11 yrs
9	K1VOI	0	5	0	27	1	17	4	0	0	0	0	37	54	19 yrs
10	AB1WT	0	1	0	1	0	7	5	0	0	1	0	12	15	6 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	KB1VSX	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	4 yrs
12	N1FJ	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	7 yrs
13	N1JIE	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	3 yrs
14	AB1ZJ	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4 yrs
15	N1FTP	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	4	12 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

Honey, when you are finished watering I need to speak to you about this receipt I found for ham radios

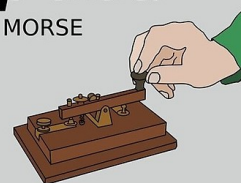


Two weeks later...

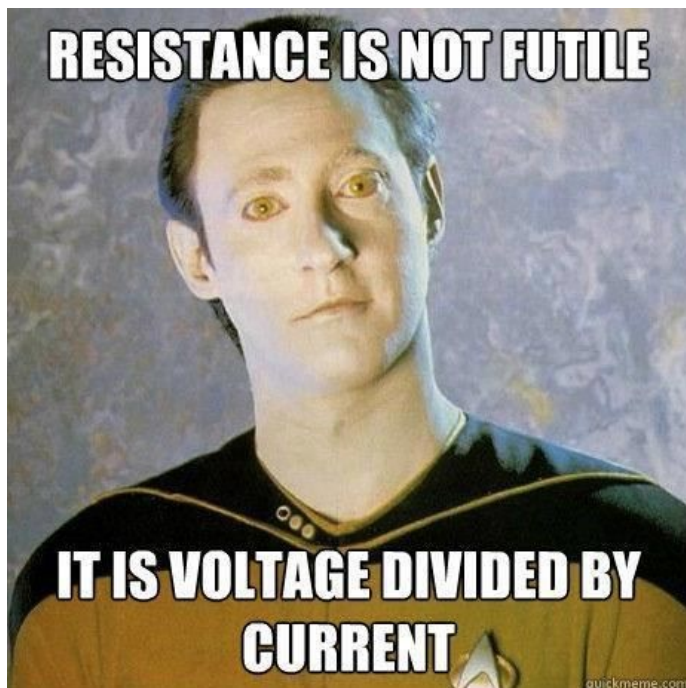


"I'd tap that!"

- SAMUEL MORSE



RESISTANCE IS NOT FUTILE



IT IS VOLTAGE DIVIDED BY CURRENT

HAM QUIPS



SOMEHOW, CLYDE NEVER FULLY GRASPED THE CONCEPT OF HOW TO ROTATE A BEAM

DOTS & DASHES:

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

INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

Amateur Radio you tube

Looking for a lesson to get ready for a test? Learn CW? Setup a signalink to your rig? It's all on you tube. Yes, that web place that your kids go to for eating tide pods, or cinnamon, or skateboard fails also has useful stuff. With a simple search (https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=ham+radio) there is a long list of topics, from DMR, grounding, preppers, you name it.

I have used you tube in the past to find out how to make simple household and car repairs. There is virtually NO topic that is not on you tube somewhere.

Some of these are podcast style, some are lectures, some are demonstrations. Some are funny, because you soon realize the person talking has no clue. But hey, hang around a hamfest, you get the same thing ;-)

Also, many clubs are posting their information, educational and technical on you tube. N1FD in Nashua NH is one club that does it. If you are interested in videography, especially of HCRA activities, contact one of the board members at the next meeting.

AREA SWAP/HAMFESTS:

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

INTERESTING "EVENT"

Apr 19 1800Z-2359Z ARRL Rookie Roundup New Hams www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

This is an event especially for new hams—licensed in 2018, 2019, 2020. Make as many contacts as possible in that 6 hour span. It's a great way to get over that 'mike shyness'. Experienced hams are encouraged to provide contacts for rookies. So, new or old, get on the air and make some contacts!!

UPCOMING CONTESTS (just a few...)

March

Various	QSO Party—NC, OK, ID, WI, VA	Lots of fun!	
Mar 7-8	ARRL Int'l DX Contest	SSB	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

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.

Special Event Station

Mar 14 1300Z-1900Z	W1M Western MA Scouting	QSL for contact	14.290 14.060 7.190 7.030
Mar 14-15	N2RE Pi Day 2020	qrz.com/db/n2re	14.250 14.050 7.120 7.050

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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WB1Z trustee, Vanessa W1IRL
w1irl@arrl.net



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

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