



# ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

January 2018

*Special points of interest:*

*Next Meeting:*

*Lightning Protection  
Boston Lightning Rod Co.  
February 2nd, 2017*

- [Visit the HCRA facebook page.](#)
- Don't forget to check out [hcra.org](http://hcra.org)
- [Visit Summits on the Air](#)
- [Visit POTA413 facebook page](#)

## MTARA HamFest

Saturday March 10th  
Castle of Knights  
Chicopee, Ma

See Page #6 for details

## January's Meeting

**Join us Friday January 5th at 7:30, in the Holyoke Medical Center  
Auxiliary Conference Center .**



## Building Super Station K3LR

**Learn the story of building  
Super Station K3LR,  
from the Engineers and  
Product Managers from  
DX Engineering.**

**Live via Skype!**

For directions to The Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center:

<http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

### Inside this issue:

From the Shack Clean Wires for Soldering	2
HCRA 2017 Raffle	3
My FT8 Weekend	4
NASA on The Air	5
MTARA Hamfest	6
630 Meter Challenge	7,8 & 9
Dots & Dashes	10
Contacts/Local Happenings	11

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?

Hampden County Radio Association membership year runs from September 1 to August 31 with renewals beginning September 1. It is very important for members to support HCRA by paying dues before end of the year. Dues are the main source of revenue for the Club along with monies received from items sold at our meetings and the MTARA Hamfest.

Our 2 main expenses are Field Day and our annual donation to the Holyoke Hospital for their generosity of allowing us to use the facilities. These two expenses are generally covered by dues as long as members are timely. It is best to use the treasury balance to cover Field Day equipment improvements and not operating expenses.

As of this issue we only received 43 renewals compared to 82 of last year. Please send in a check or use PayPal and get us caught up.

# FROM THE SHACK

DAVE FANT WM1B



As I write this I am sitting in the Giant parking lot in Carlisle, PA. By the time you read this I will be sitting in Sunny Florida. Probably one of the coldest treks to FL that we have made. We expect that it will not be until we reach Savana that the temps will be above freezing.

While there, I expect to spend considerable time at the Club Shack in Sun City Center, just south of Tampa, FL. They have an active club and the shack is open every morning.

Hope to hear some HCRA members on the air while I am there.

While I am gone our Secretary and our Program Director will hold down the fort and handle the meetings. I plan on being back in time for the Show N Tell in April.

Until I see you in April or hear you on the air waves, stay warm and stay active. Don't forget the contest that we have jointly with the SOTA Jerks.

73  
Dave, WM1B

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## HOW TO CLEAN WIRES FOR SOLDERING

**COPYRIGHT © 2018 BY DANIEL M. ROMANCHIK, KB6NU**

Here is an old ham radio operator's trick for cleaning wires for soldering that are old and corroded. It is hard to find this technique printed anywhere! I am a ham, NH7ZE, and learned it from my Elmer (mentor). I am passing it on. I hope it helps people who need to clean wires.

Normally, if you strip a wire, and see it is corroded, there is not much you can do to restore its shiny new conductive properties. There is scraping and scratching which comes to mind, but you'll never get it to the solderable slickness it once was long ago. After laboring and fretting over the corroded pieces of wire for a long, long time, you see that your sweat coming out of your palms and fingers are corroding the copper AGAIN!!!! Oh, dear. NOT TO WORRY!!!! Give yourself a pat on the back, because what you will pull out of your bag of tricks now, will send all the corroded copper wires scurrying and scampering away in fear!!!! Here is how to clean any corroded wire without even touching it, in 30 seconds!! And what's more, you can even solder it!!!

This process uses two solutions, one is regular table salt and vinegar. Any kind of vinegar will work, from balsamic, to rice, to white vinegars. Its the acidity and corrosiveness of the salt and vinegar together that you want. The other solution is Sodium Bicarbonate, or baking soda, and water. This is used to neutralize the corrosive properties of the other solution, and to further clean the wires.

1. Strip the wires to be cleaned.
2. Get 2 containers, one for each solution. They can be paper cups, plastic, glass, bowls, whatever you can find. I have vials, because I am a professional electronics installer and I use these solutions out in the field.
3. Get 1 tablespoon of raw salt, and put it in one of the containers. Fill up the rest of the container with vinegar, and stir the both together. As a general rule of thumb, put as much salt in the vinegar as will dissolve.
4. Get 1 tablespoon of Sodium Bicarbonate, (baking soda) and add it to the other container. Fill up the rest with water, and stir well. Add more baking soda to make it cloudy. The amount is not important, as long as it is alkaline to cancel the acid of the vinegar solution.
5. Put the stripped end of the wire in the vinegar solution, and stir the solution with the wire. Any wire you want cleaned needs to be under the solution. Movement of the wire in the liquid speeds up the process.
6. After 2 minutes or so, the wire will look very shiny and new in the vinegar solution. The acid and salt in the solution is etching away the oxides, exposing the bare metal. Make sure the metal is uniformly shiny. Leave it in longer if it is not perfectly clean throughout.
7. Once the wire is satisfactorily clean, remove the wire from the vinegar, and plunge it into the baking soda solution to neutralize the acid's corrosive properties. If the wire was exposed to the air, without neutralizing the acid first, it would quickly corrode again. The baking soda keeps it clean and shiny. Swish the wire around in the baking soda water for about 10 seconds, and then you are done!! Shiny new wire ready for soldering, and conducting once again!!

# ***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 \$1000 total package!***



# My FT8 WEEKEND

LARRY KRAINSON W1AST

In mid October, while I was recovering from bronchitis and bad laryngitis. While the bronchitis went away, the laryngitis has remained. While chasing DX is great fun, it's hard to do so on SSB without a voice. While I love CW, I just didn't feel like working cw. So tinkering with digital seemed to be the temporary answer.

Back in February I worked some JT65. While JT65 was mildly interesting, it didn't rock my boat, but I still tinker with it occasionally. After the November HCRA meeting, where the talk was FT8, I decided to explore this new digital mode.

First up was to update my WSJT and JT-Alert software. Then go into the software and check the configuration settings and make sure it was linked to my DX Keeper logging portion of DX Labs. When updating Jt-alert it did a scan of my log, which then helps me in my chase of needed DX or whatever I may be chasing.

WSJT-X Software: <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html>

WSJT User Guide: <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx-doc/wsjsx-main-1.8.0.html>

JT-Alert Software: <http://hamapps.com/>

Starting the programs, I do in the following order: DX Labs launcher, Commander, DX Keeper, DX View, WSJT-X, WSJT-X JT-Alert. Plus a web browser with Reception Reports running and the manual for WSJT-X. My two computer screens were showing what I wanted to see. (see pic)

DX Labs Logging Software: <http://dxlabsuite.com/>

Reception Reports: <https://pskreporter.info/pskmap>

My first time starting it all I learned the clock in my computer wasn't as good as I thought it was at keeping time. So I ran a program called Dimension 4 which does a much better and needed job of syncing my clock. Once that was running, stations started streaming in.

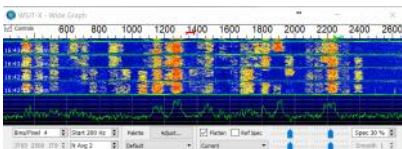
Dimension 4 Clock Sync: <http://www.thinkman.com/dimension4/>

The first thing I noticed was the stations being received. Some were highlighted dark purple, those were entities I needed when compared to my log. the light purple were entities I worked but not that station. Green is worked that station and black on white is not needed.



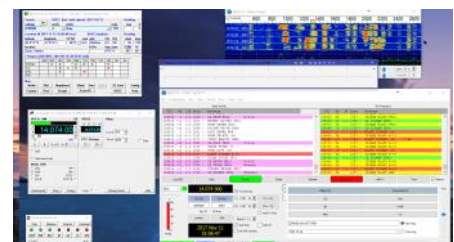
I just watched the screen for a while as new stations streamed in. I wasn't really sure what to do. I kept flipping to the manual and reading sections of it to learn more. I'm still doing that a few days later. It really ends up, not much needs to be done. Just double click the station I want to work and the program does the rest. When it's completed the contact, up pops a box with logging info. I ok it and it posts to DX Keeper and automatically uploads to LOTW. Today, I'm chasing a little digital DX on 20. I double click the station, type the call into DX View, press enter and then click SP (Short Path) which rotates my antenna in the right direction. Slowly I'm knocking off European stations. It's kind of fun and I can do something else at the same time, like type this article on my tablet.

What's nice too, is this is all being done thru my computer to radio via a USB cable. No interface needed with my Kenwood Ts-590s. And at just 20 watts. checking the reception reports web site, pop in your values and do a search and see where your signal is being heard. You can play with your power levels and see where your signal is being heard at different power levels. Lots of power is NOT needed.



WSJT-X has a waterfall display that shows other stations on and right now there are a lot on 20m. It's 11 am on a Saturday and according to JT-Alert, there are 613 stations receiving and 349 stations transmitting. Those numbers are staggering when compared to a few stations on Jt9 making it 100% more active and about 8X more active than JT65 at the moment.

FT8 has taken the ham community by storm. Especially since it's only been out since summer. Will you be next?



# 'NASA ON THE AIR' EVENTS TO HIGHLIGHT KEY SPACE MILESTONES



By Bob Granath  
NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Florida

NASA is known for communicating with astronauts on missions to space, but regular citizens can radio NASA centers across the country. From the end of this year through the next, NASA will mark several key milestones. Amateur radio clubs at agency centers across the nation plan to celebrate these occasions with several "NASA on the Air" events.

"We enjoy sharing NASA's story as part of the fun of making contact with fellow ham radio operators across the nation and around the world," said Kevin Zari, who is activities officer for the Amateur Radio Club at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. "We occasionally communicate with people who think that because we're not flying the space shuttle anymore, NASA has almost gone out of business. We tell them about activities such as the International Space Station and the Space Launch System, and they appreciate the update."

Amateur, or ham, radio operators use a frequency spectrum for communicating noncommercial and private messages. One of the most important uses of ham radio operations is providing emergency messaging following disasters, such as the recent Hurricane Maria that destroyed most avenues of communication in Puerto Rico.

"The amateur radio clubs at NASA centers are made up of civil servants, contractors and tenants who participate on their own time," said Zari, who has been at Kennedy since 1990 and is chief technology officer in the Mission and Support Office of Exploration Research and Technology Programs. "We all have a common goal to show our support for NASA and highlight some of the agency's amazing accomplishments."

Zari added that he hopes, if time permits, International Space Station astronauts can participate using ham radio equipment aboard the orbiting laboratory 225 miles above the Earth, made possible by the Amateur Radio on International Space Station (ARISS) Program. Amateur radio has even been part of NASA space flights since Shuttle Amateur Radio operations started in 1983.

The plan is to talk about these anniversaries and their place in the history of NASA, explains Rob Suggs, who is the secretary of the amateur radio club at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

"We also want people to know what we are doing now and what's coming up in the near future," he said. "This includes the Commercial Crew Program, as well as plans to send astronauts beyond low-Earth orbit with the Space Launch System and Orion."



"We plan to publicize the "NASA on the Air" events in amateur radio magazines, on our Facebook site and web page," said Suggs who has worked for NASA since 1994 and is the Space Environments Team lead at Marshall.

Zari added that they plan to use the hashtag #NOTA when announcing events on Twitter (@NASARadioClubs).

While NASA amateur radio stations are commemorating historic milestones, Zari explains they also are making it into a contest.

"Ham radio enthusiasts usually exchange QSL cards," he said. "When you make contact with someone, you exchange a postcard noting the contact was made. For this yearlong event, some clubs at NASA centers are offering commemorative QSL cards and a special certificate indicating how many centers a participant contacted on various frequency bands."

QSL cards serve as written confirmation of communication between amateur radio stations. QSL derived its name from the Q, or question, code message: "QSL?" It simply means, "Do you confirm receipt of my transmission?"

According to Suggs, points will be awarded to each center's amateur radio club based on the number of contacts made during the yearlong event. Participants can enhance their award by using one of the existing capabilities of amateur radio on the space station such as packet (digital operations) or listening in to an astronaut giving answers to school children during one of the scheduled school contacts. No special activity is planned from the station and only one activity from the space station is needed to qualify.

"We plan to have a web-based system for participants to check their points total and download a printable certificate at the end of the event," he said. "Points will be awarded for each center's contacts."

Learn more about the "NASA on the Air" events at: <http://nasaontheair.wordpress.com>



31<sup>st</sup> Annual



# Amateur Radio & Electronics Hamfest

Saturday March 10, 2018

Located

**Castle of Knights**

1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA 01020

[www.castleofknights.com](http://www.castleofknights.com)

## \*\*\*Directions\*\*\*

### From North:

\*Take I-91 South to the Mass Turnpike. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. After the tollbooth bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about 2 miles.

### From South:

\*Take I-91 North to the Mass. Turnpike. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. After the tollbooth bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

### From East:

\*Travel on the Mass. Turnpike toward West. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. After the tollbooth bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

### From West:

\*Travel on Mass. Turnpike toward East. Take exit 5 (Rte. 33) off the Turnpike. After the tollbooth bear to the right to the first traffic light. Turn left onto Memorial Drive and travel north for about two miles.

Castle is on the right for all of the above.

Mail- in Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Call sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell preferred) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tables \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Is 120 VAC Needed? \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: MTARA

Mail to: Brian Mullarney-N1FI, 20 Spring Street,  
Easthampton, MA 01027

## \*\*\* The Details \*\*\*

### Doors Open:

6:30 AM Vendors only; help available for  
loading and unloading  
8:30 AM General Admission

### Admission:

Adults: \$5.00  
Children: under age 12 are *FREE!*

### No Tailgating

### Handicapped Parking Available

**Snack Bar** – hot and cold beverages, hot  
dogs, burgers, etc.

**Raffle Prizes** – six (6) tickets for \$5.00

### VE Exam -10:30 AM

Bring **two** forms of positive ID; originals and  
photocopies of any CSCE's you hold; and if  
licensed, the original of your current license  
plus a photocopy.

### Additional Information:

<http://www.mtara.org>

**Talk-In on** 146.94 (127.3 PL)

### Table Registrations contact:

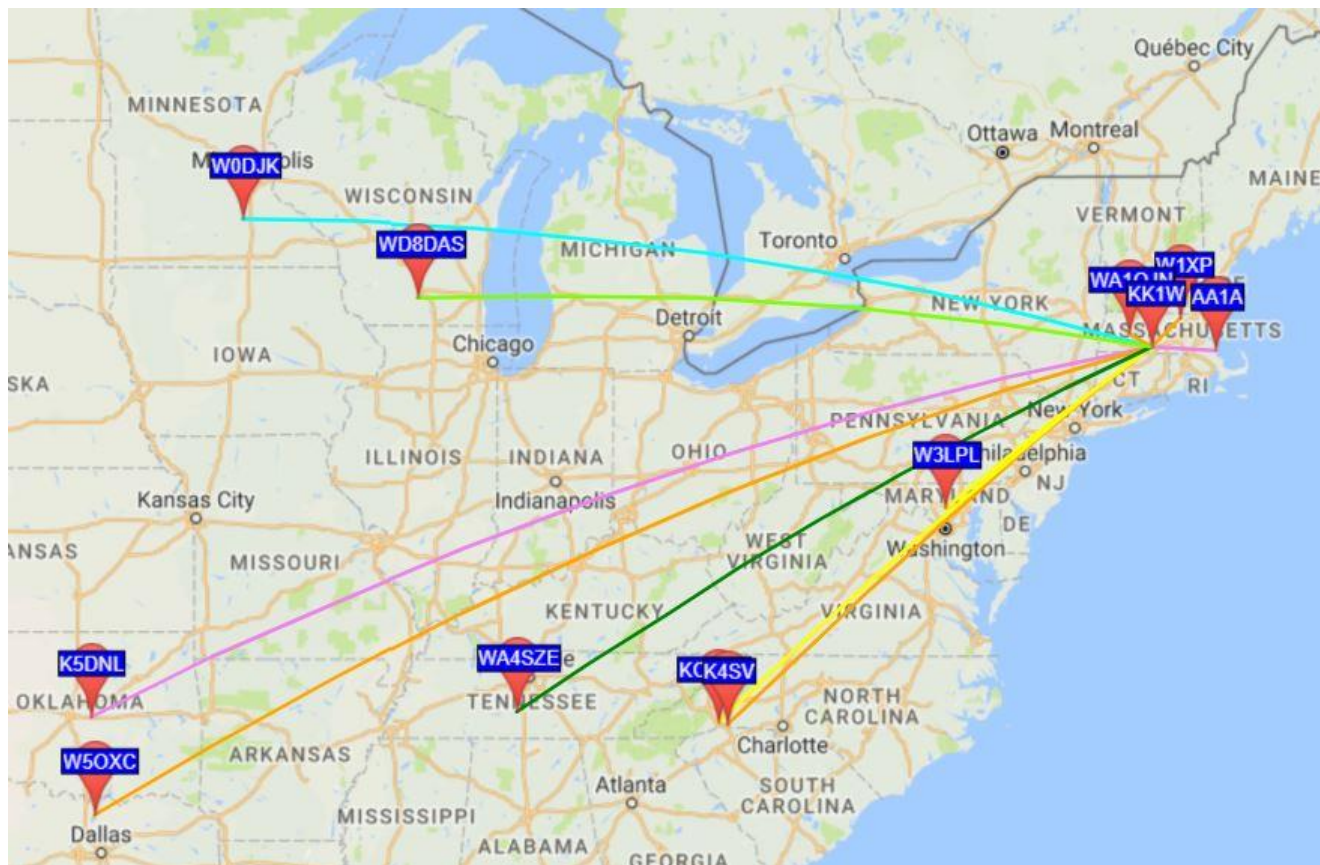
Brian Mullarney – N1FI  
20 Spring Street  
Easthampton, MA 01027  
Tel. (860) 478-6790  
[N1FI@arrl.net](mailto:N1FI@arrl.net)



# 630 METER CHALLENGE - HALFTIME UPDATE:

JIM MULLEN KK1W

The HCRA/SOTA Jerks 630 meter challenge crosses the halfway point January 1, 2018. So far close to a half dozen members have made QSO's or SWL reports on our new, medium frequency (MF) band. Here's a quick overview of their achievements so far along with station descriptions and photos. Not sure about the 630 Challenge? Details can be found [here](#). The purpose of the event is to encourage members of both clubs to expand their amateur radio horizons, "Go Low" and enjoy ham radio fun. There's a list of links at the end to get you started on your exploration below WHY'N AM if you're so inclined.



## STATIONS COMPLETING AT LEAST ONE QSO ON 630 METERS:

### Bob/WA10JN - First member QRV!

Bob was our first member QRV on 472 MHz. Bob hadn't done any home-brew for many years and was excited by the Challenge announcement at the October meeting. Here, in his own words, is his description of progress to date on 630m:



*I have had QSOs with 13 stations in 8 states on JT9 with a max distance of just under 900 miles. On WSPR I have been received in north western Canada at 2047 miles. Unfortunately that guy does not currently have transmit capability.*

*My antenna is a converted 80M dipole at 25 feet with a length of 137 feet and I am using a WA3ETD converter attached to my TS-440S driving it from WSJT-X software on a Windows XP machine.*

*I have been licensed since 1972 and this has really been an exciting project forcing me to get back into building stuff. I have learned a lot about RFI with*

**Hands-Only™  
CPR**

**1**  


**Call 911**

**2**  


**Push hard and fast in  
the center of the chest.**  
Learn more at [handsonlycpr.org](http://handsonlycpr.org)

**American Heart  
Association**  
Learn and Live

## 630 METER CHALLENGE - HALFTIME UPDATE: CONT

*my smoke detectors, the importance of proper grounding, impedance matching and a bunch more. Really gets you back to basics. It's really fun to find the limits and try to push it a bit more. The other night a guy over 1000 miles away had me at -29 on JT9 with my grid square and signal report and just couldn't get my RRR and 73. I tried cranking up the power supply voltage but nothing would do it. Now that I have remote antenna tuning I might have been able to do a quick tune and put him in the log. It is amazing that even a 300Hz frequency change will require re-tuning.*

*I have found all the guys to be super helpful and some great chat rooms. One thing I find interesting, is although most of the HF contacts I have made are using LotW, I would say the majority of the guys on 630M do not use LotW and are into paper QSLs.*

Bob/WA1OJN



### K1NZ and KK1W share the next spot

Nick/K1NZ and Jim/KK1W made their first QSO on 630 by working each other! Separated by a vast 7 miles here's their story:



#### Nick/K1NZ

Nick's station consists of an Icom 735 and a 160m Inverted-L antenna. The Icom is fully capable of transceive on 472 MHz and Nick had been monitoring WSPR and JT9 activity for a few weeks. When KK1W got his station QRV on the new band they decided to try a CW QSO. Guess what, it worked! Signals were weak but readable with a 339R/599S report at Nick's end. Power was very low at Nick's station because of high SWR concerns.

Since that QSO Nick has made modifications to the IC735 to improve RX and TX and hopes to get a resonant antenna up soon. One thing is certain, it's not expensive to get on this band but it takes some 'experimentation' and good old ham tinkering to make it happen.



#### Jim/KK1W

Jim's stations features an Elecraft K3s, MF Solutions converter, an Inverted L antenna for TX and a 650' Beverage for RX. The K3s is a great receiver on 472 MHz (with the general coverage filter) but sports only a half milliwatt (0.0005 watts) output! Getting that tiny signal boosted is the job of the MF Systems converter. The converter was modified to use only the amplifier portion and puts out about 20 watts.

The Inverted L antenna has 75' of vertical, about 175' horizontal and a half dozen 100' ground radials. It's tuned with a loading coil wound on a 2 gallon plastic pail.

Results have been good so far with over 20 QSO's, two on CW, one on FT8 and the balance on JT9 with 9 states and three countries. Jim's longest QSO to date was with ZF1EJ in the Cayman Islands approximately 1600 miles.

Plans for station improvement include a variometer to replace the fixed tuned coil and more power. With only 20 watts his station is a "rabbit with big ears" hearing much better than it can be heard.



## 630 METER CHALLENGE - HALFTIME UPDATE: CONT

### STATIONS LISTENING ON 630 METERS:

#### **James/WD1S**

James is an avid 160m operator with a nice location in Chesterfield, MA. His station consists of a Kenwood TS-590 and various wire antennas. He has been receiving signals on 472 and 137 MHz since the beginning of the challenge.

Like the K3 his TS-590 has very low output on 472HKz. James has tried to work a few local stations but his 1mw signal is just not heard, at least so far.



#### **Frandy/N1FJ**

Frandy added a general coverage filter to his K3 and is using a G5RV for receiving. To date he has copied KK1W's CW CQ and NDB's lower in the band. He has obtained an MF Solutions converter and hopes to get on the air soon feeding an Inverted L antenna.

#### **Mid-Challenge Wrap Up:**

This wraps up our mid-Challenge activities. There are others expressing interest in the band including George/KC1V and Bob/W1QA but we're not aware of their progress to date.

There's remains plenty of time to get into the fun of MF over the next few months. Winter months are great for these frequencies with little atmospheric interference. It is amazing the distances achievable on these so called 'low bands' and you will be too - if you give it a try. Many ham transceivers and most general coverage receivers can receive below 500 KHz. Besides amateur activity on 472 KHz and 137 KHz there's many interesting signals at VLF frequencies. Between the two amateur bands are many non-directional aircraft beacons (NDB's). How many or how far can they be heard? Give it a listen and use one of the links below to see where they are located. Interested in digital modes? WSPR, JT9 and FT8 abound on both bands.

Why not make a 2018 resolution to spin the tuning knob and "Go Low for big fun"

Happy New Year!

'73...

Jim/KK1W

#### **Interesting and useful links:**

*The links below have proven very useful for our members. They concentrate on the basics and will get you QRV on 630m quickly.*

<http://www.472khz.org/>

<http://ae5x.blogspot.com/>

<http://ve7sl.blogspot.ca/>

<https://wg2xka.wordpress.com/>

<http://njdtechnologies.net/>

<http://njdtechnologies.net/the-mf-solutions-630-meter-transmit-downconverter/>

<http://www.giangrandi.ch/electronics/shortanttuner/shortanttuner.shtml>

<http://wsprnet.org/drupal/>

<https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>

<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/ndb.htm>

**Don't forget to get your tickets for the  
2017/18 HCRA Raffle see page #5 for details!**



# DOTS & DASHES:

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

## DOES ANYONE STILL READ ARCHIE COMIC BOOKS?

Interesting but still fun to look through:

The Archie comic book issue devoted to Amateur Radio -

[https://kk4dsd.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/archies\\_ham\\_radio\\_adventure.pdf](https://kk4dsd.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/archies_ham_radio_adventure.pdf)

I don't know if kids read comic books, anymore - other than graphic novels. I was past kidhood when this first came out. As one who DID read Archie comics at one point, I can confidently say, that had it come out when I was a youngster, it would be dog-eared, and practically worn out from being read so much! Hope it stirs some fond memories for you!

## HCRA'S "SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE" FT-8 AND DIGITAL MODES

Jeffery Bail NT1K has agreed to "Share His Knowledge" about introducing amateurs to the joys of digital Modes. We're hoping for the 1st weekend in March.....Stay tuned for details.

## INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

EHam.net has an interesting article about surge protection in the "Shack". We hear a lot about properly grounding our equipment, but almost nothing about surge protection. Today, with solar, and emergency generators, surge protection is more important than ever.

<http://www.eham.net/articles/40128>

## AREA SWAP/HAMFESTS:

Jan 20	Whitman ARC WinterFest 2018	Whitman, Ma	<a href="http://www.walnpo.org">http://www.walnpo.org</a>
Feb 3	Conn. Valley FM Assoc. HamFest	Springfield, Vt	<a href="http://www.cvfma.org/">http://www.cvfma.org/</a>
Feb 17	Algononquin ARC HamFest	Marlboro, Ma	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/nlem/">http://www.qsl.net/nlem/</a>
Mar 10	MTARA HamFest	Chicopee, Ma	<a href="http://www.mtara.org/">http://www.mtara.org/</a>
Mar 15	Southington ARA Flea Market	Southington, Ct	<a href="http://www.chetbacon.com/sara.htm">http://www.chetbacon.com/sara.htm</a>
Mar 30/31	Androscoggin ARA Convention	Lewiston, Me	<a href="http://www.wlnpp.org">http://www.wlnpp.org</a>
Apr 7	Seacoast Amateur Radio Flea Market	Hampton, NH	<a href="http://www.wlwqm.org">http://www.wlwqm.org</a>
Apr 14	Waltham ARC HamFest	Waltham, Ma	<a href="http://www.wara64.org">http://www.wara64.org</a>
May 4/5	NearFest	Deerfield, NH	<a href="http://www.near-fest.com/">http://www.near-fest.com/</a>

## JANUARY'S CONTESTS

Jan 6	ARRL Kid's Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/kids-day">http://www.arrl.org/kids-day</a>	Ph
	ARRL RTTY Roundup	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup">http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup</a>	Dig
13	North American CW QSO Party	<a href="http://www.ncjweb.com">http://www.ncjweb.com</a>	CW
20	North American SSB QSO Party	<a href="http://www.ncjweb.com">http://www.ncjweb.com</a>	Ph
	ARRL January VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf">http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf</a>	CW, Ph, Dig
26	CQ 160-meter CW Contest	<a href="http://www.cq160.com">http://www.cq160.com</a>	CW
27	Montana QSO Party	<a href="http://www.fvarc.org">http://www.fvarc.org</a>	CW, Ph, Dig
	Winter Field Day	<a href="http://www.winterfieldday.com">http://www.winterfieldday.com</a>	CW, Ph, Dig

## HCRA THERMAL MUG FOR SALE:

Attention HCRA members:

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

Makes a great gift too.

A great deal at only \$20 each.

Must be paid in full. Make checks payable to the HCRA.



# 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

**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

**Third Monday of the month** 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield Community College. (no meetings held in July or August)

<http://www.fcarc.org/>

**4th Monday of February, May, August, November** 7:00 PM, FCARC VE Exams, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Northfield <http://www.fcarc.org/>

## Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

- QST Magazine
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- ARRL Field Organization
- ARRL-sponsored contests
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- Local Clubs
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- Hamfests and Conventions
- Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program

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



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