



# ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

June 2014

## Proposed Slate of Officers & Directors

### *Special points of interest:*

- Next Meeting Friday, June 6
- HCRA Elections
- Field Day June 28-29
- WRTC July 8-14
- ARRL Centennial July 17-19
- Visit the HCRA facebook page.
- Don't forget to check out [hcra.org](http://hcra.org)
- Visit Summits on the Air <http://www.sota.org.uk>

This edition of Zero Beat was edited by both Frandy Johnson and Gary Fields using Microsoft Publisher.

### **Inside this issue:**

<i>From The Shack</i>	2
<i>Happenings</i>	3
<i>Contact List</i>	3
<i>Club &amp; VE Sessions</i>	3
<i>WiFi on a KX3</i>	4
<i>Field Day 2014</i>	5
<i>ARRL Centennial Invite</i>	6

It is with great pride we present the following slate of proposed officers for the 2014/2015 Elections. Approval of this slate will be at the June 6th club meeting.

### **Officers:**

President	Ed LaCombe/KB1NWH
Vice President	Eric LaCombe/W1MOR
Treasurer	Dave Cain/AA1YW
Secretary	Dave Fant/WM1B

### **Directors:**

Program	Larry Krainson/W1AST
Technical	Bob Meneguzzo/K1YO
Membership	Rich Wheeler/N1KXR
Editor	Gary Fields/WA1MOW
At Large	Jeff Bail/NT1K

### ***A message from your outgoing president:***



This slate represents a major change in officers and directors for the upcoming season. Four long-time board members decided to move on to other adventures. Ordinarily I would have concern with such a change for our club, but not this time. The slate as presented gives our club a healthy make up of experience, age and most importantly involved and energetic amateur radio operators. I'm certain they will step into their new positions smoothly and HCRA will not skip a beat. I'm confident the future of our club is as good, if not better, then ever. Please continue to provide the support you've always given over the years and we, as a club, will remain strong, innovative and a strong contributor to the amateur radio community in the Pioneer Valley.

# FROM THE SHACK

## 2014/2015 Elections

*Vote to approve our new board*

As always our June meeting is when we hold our annual elections approving the slate of officers and directors selected at our last board meeting. The slate is located elsewhere in this publication. I think you'll agree the new board will enable HCRA to excel again next year. Many thanks to the folks that volunteered to fill the vacant positions and to the current board for working hard to make the transition seamless to our members.

Also this month Matt/W1MSW will be holding a "How to" for Field Day logging. This should fun and will offer an opportunity for everyone to practice operating and logging Field Day contacts with N1MM. More details can be found in Matt's article in this month's issue.

## WRTC Equipment Sale

*It's all over except for the delivery of the goods.*

Thanks everyone for getting your payments in on time. This has turned out to be a win/win for our club and our members. HCRA made history by purchasing four station setups in 2012 and our lucky members get to enjoy the savings. All that's left now is disassembling the stations July 13<sup>th</sup> and transporting them back to Western Mass. Once back in the area Dave and I will contact each purchaser to arrange either pickup or delivery. I can't wait to hear these stations on the air soon.

## WRTC2014 Volunteers Still Needed

*Become part of a 'Once in a lifetime' event in New England*

After two years of testing stations and locations 2014 becomes "Showtime" for WRTC2014. We're still looking for volunteers to help with all aspects of the 'Olympics of Amateur Radio', can you help? Our club will be erecting four WRTC stations in Medfield, MA this year. We will be raising towers, building antennas, setting up tents and generators and keeping an eye on everything while the competitors vie for first place in the world. It only happens every four years and this year it is happening in New England. You shouldn't miss it!

Sound like fun? Not sure what it's all about? Take a look at the WRTC2014 website to get an idea of the

magnitude and scope of the event. If it looks like something you would like to part of then contact me and I'll get you on our list. With four stations, three of them on the Medfield State Hospital grounds and one just outside of it we can't have too many volunteers. Join us for fun and as proof HCRA members do more than just go to meetings ☺

## ARRL National Convention, July 17-19

*You should have this on your list!*

As part of the League's Centennial Celebration the National Convention will be just down the street, so to speak, in Hartford, CT. Usually held in faraway places this is a great opportunity for HCRA member to enjoy the fun of a large convention/hamfest without incurring expensive travel or lodging costs. A three day affair Thursday is dedicated to training seminars, lunch, guest speakers and an ARRL HQ tour. Friday and Saturday are typical convention days with forums, presentations, vendor exhibits and an indoor flea market. This is a simple overview, be sure to visit their website for all the details. Most importantly make some time in your schedule to attend, it isn't a chance you get very often so make the most of it.

## Thanks for the opportunity

*It's been a fun 16 years..*

This will be my last contribution to Zero Beat as president of our fine club. Thanks to everyone for allowing me to represent HCRA over the years. It's really been a fun time and I think together we've created a better and stronger club with our efforts.

I'm confident HCRA, under the guidance of Ed/KB1NWH and the new board, will continue to push forward with interesting programs, exciting events, license classes and community service. With your support HCRA will remain a premier amateur radio organization for years to come.

What will I do with my time? I'm looking forward to working on my DX totals, activating more SOTA summits along with serious contesting and station/antenna upgrades. I'm sure there will be time to lend support to club activities and write a few Zero Beat articles along the way.

See you at the June meeting, we can all play FD logging, enjoy some coffee & donuts and have a great time together!

73...

*Jim/KK1W*

# 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 506 Cottage St, 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 High School (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
- 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, Jim Mullen KK1W (413) 237-4666

kk1w@arrl.net

Vice-President, Ed LaCombe KB1NWH (413) 250-3137

kb1nwh@comcast.net

Treasurer, Dave Cain AA1YW (413) 569-6901

aa1yw@arrl.net

Secretary, (vacant)

At Large, John Pise KX1X (413) 532-7474

kx1x@arrl.net

Newsletter, Frandy Johnson N1FJ (413) 584-9005

n1fj@arrl.net

Programs, Matt Wilhelm W1MSW (413) 336-4701

w1msw@arrl.net

Membership, Rich Wheeler N1KXR (413) 584-3372

n1kxr@arrl.net

Technical, Bob Meneguzzo K1YO (413) 896-4879

k1yo@comcast.net

Skywarn Liaison, Eric Tuller N1QKO (413) 967-3869

et-n1qko@juno.com

VE Session Liaison, Dave Cote W1FAB (413) 575-2950

w1fab@arrl.net

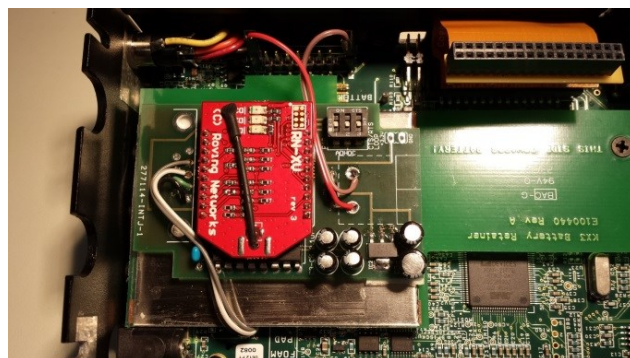
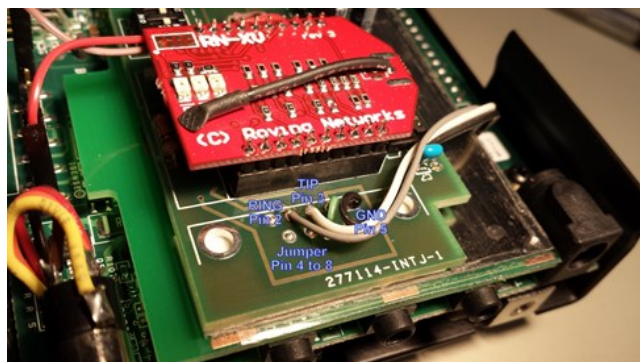
# Wifi inside a KX3



While browsing info on the 'Piglet' on Nick Garner's [Pignology](http://pignology.com) web site the thought struck me, I wonder if I could install a version of the Piglet inside my KX3. I built my KX3 from a kit and never installed the battery holders or the internal charger. I've always operated the rig from an external supply, either Lipo batteries or from a 12 VDC supply in the shack. Looking at the size of the Piglet I thought there might be room enough to fit it *inside* the KX3.

A few emails back and forth with Nick/N3WG, (the guy behind the pig) confirmed the possibility. Nick suggested a through-hole version of the board, minus the DB9 and Power Poles connectors, for experimentation. A few days later the parts showed up and it was off to the races – another first for Muppet Labs. Actually It turned out to be an easy project and enables logging with Pignology's [Hamlog](http://pignology.com) app without having to deal with wires.

The first 'trial by fire' was on top of Cascade Mountain in the Adirondacks. I brought along pencil and paper as backup but Nick's Hamlog software and the built in Piglet worked perfectly. I logged 22 contacts without a hitch. I was using the Android version of the app which unfortunately does not export a SOTA compatible .csv file but Nick may add that in the future, soon I hope. I experienced intermittent cell service while on which let Hamlog look up callers in QRZ while I was logging. Very cool to be able to answer someone with a 'Thanks Barry, you're 599 72', making a personable, but quick QSO. The photo shows the 'shack' on top of Cascade (3880') but not the phone I was using for logging because? You guessed it, I was also using the same phone to take the picture!



*What you get is a really cool, KX3/W – not everyone has one of those, right?*

This mod isn't for everyone. You should be comfortable with soldering in tight places and not afraid to damage a \$1000 radio. Battery drain is increased as the Piglet draws 70 ma, and you have to disconnect it if you want to use the ACC1 jack to update firmware or use a different logging program. For my use this is perfectly acceptable. The ease of logging and (hopefully) log upload to the SOTA database make it perfect. As always YMMV. A detailed, step by step article can be found on the HCRA website. <http://hrca.org/2014/05/28/adding-wifi-to-kx3>

'73...

Jim/KK1W



# HCRA Field Day 2014



Photo by Kiely Allen , K2KHA



## Field Day 2014: June 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

There is less than a month to go before HCRA's biggest event of the year and your chance to participate in Field Day. We will be back again this year as a 5A (5 stations on emergency power) at School Street Park in Agawam in roughly the same area of the park as last year. We will be setting up towers on Friday, stations will be setup Friday afternoon/evening and Saturday morning. Operating starts at 2pm on Saturday and goes straight through until 2pm Sunday when breakdown begins.

We need YOU! We need folks to help setup, operate and breakdown the site. Please remember that Field Day is an emergency preparedness event and learning to setup and take down the club's portable towers is a great skill to have. Also, because control operators will be present anyone has the opportunity to operate regardless of license class at the various stations. We will get you all setup and can help with logging. Just come on by and ask someone to put you on a radio. This is a 24-hour operating event and we can't keep all of these stations going unless we have enough operators, so please come down and have some fun making contacts.

Don't forget that as part of our June club meeting, I will be giving an interactive presentation on using the N1MM logging software that we use at Field Day. It will be a great chance to learn a little about the software and find out how easy it really is to use. I'll also be going over some operating tips specifically for Field Day.

To see a list of bands, modes, radios & antennas and other information about the event: <http://www.hcra.org/field-day/field-day-2014/>

If you've read all of this and have no idea what Field Day is: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

For a map of School Street Park in Agawam: <https://www.google.com/maps/@42.0753554,-72.5938845,17z>

If you have ANY questions at all please feel free to contact me or Ed\KB1NWH at our numbers listed here: <http://www.hcra.org/contacts/> or our [callsign@arrl.net](mailto:callsign@arrl.net).

We look forward to seeing you at Field Day!

73,

Matt/W1MSW



From: Tom Frenaye, K1KI – ARRL Director, New England Division

This is my personal invitation to you to attend the **2014 ARRL National Centennial Convention**, July 17-19 in nearby Hartford, Connecticut. Advance registration is recommended, and you may do so by visiting [ARRL2014.org](http://ARRL2014.org). I recommend that you register as quickly as possible.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to come together with other members and friends as we celebrate the very best of the ARRL and Amateur Radio. Already, registrations have been received from all 50 states and 22 countries. This will be a CELEBRATION to remember!

The event is being held at the Connecticut Convention Center in downtown Hartford, within arm's reach of the picturesque Connecticut River. This is a handsome, modern facility where we'll host all of the convention activities. A free shuttle connects many of downtown hotel options (visit [ARRL2014.org](http://ARRL2014.org) for convention rates at nearby hotels). The convention center is handicap accessible.

On Thursday, July 17th, the ARRL Centennial Convention will feature all-day training tracks (advance registration is required). These workshops will be led by the top national-level trainers and experts in Amateur Radio. On Friday, July 18th, and Saturday, July 19th, the convention will feature a huge exhibit hall and 70+ hours of forums and special presentations. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ will give the keynote address at the Centennial Banquet on Friday night (over 600 have registered already!), and Nobel Prize Winner, Joe Taylor, K1JT, will speak Saturday at noon.

ARRL Headquarters in nearby Newington is rolling out the red carpet for all convention attendees. Shuttle buses will run attendees to ARRL HQ (about 15 minutes away) for tours of the main administrative building, grounds & antenna farm, and W1AW—the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. If you've never visited 225 Main Street, now's your chance!

Bring the entire family! We have tours planned on Friday and Saturday for spouses, companions or any family members who might not be interested in attending the convention activities. On Friday, a tour is planned of the Mark Twain House and Harriet Beecher Stowe Center; On Saturday, a visit to the Wadsworth Atheneum—the oldest public art museum in the US. These tours require convention registration. The Connecticut Science Center is next door to the convention center—and is offering half-price admission to all convention registrants and their families throughout weekend.

There's so much planned I can't begin to cover it all here. Please visit the official convention registration site to review the entire agenda: [ARRL2014.org](http://ARRL2014.org)

Let's make history! See you in Hartford!