



# MINI ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

June 2018

*Special points of interest:*

*Next Meeting:*

*September 7th*

*Speaker and topic to be announced*

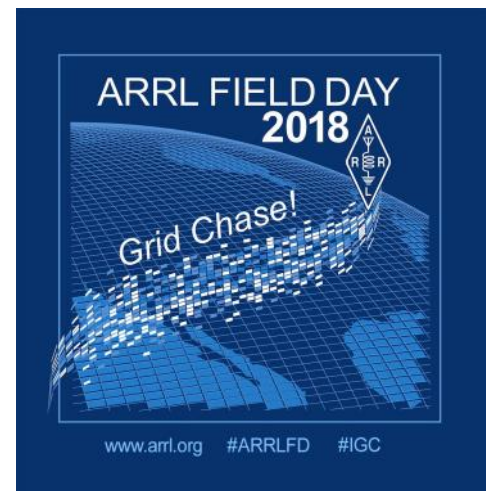
- [Visit the HCRA facebook page.](#)
- Don't forget to check out [hcra.org](http://hcra.org)
- [Visit Summits on the Air](#)
- [Visit POTA413 facebook page](#)

## June's Meeting

**Join us Friday June 1st at 7:30, in the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center .**

## ANNUAL MEETING AND FIELD DAY

**OFFICER'S REPORTS  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
AND  
FIELD DAY INFORMATION**



**Things On  
The Air**

SEE PAGE #3

### INTERESTING YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Want to learn about QRP operations. Here is a YouTube Channel that can help.

["hamradioqrp"](#)

For directions to The Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center:

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

## PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS 2018/2019

**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Technical Director**  
**Membership Director**  
**Program Director**  
**At Large**  
**Zero Beat Editor**

**Dave Fant WM1B**  
**Larry Krainson W1AST**  
**Harold Woering N1FTP**  
**Juergen Mainer NV1Q**  
**Bob Meneguzzo K1YO**  
**John Plaster K1VOI**  
**Najm Choueiry AB1ZA**  
**Ron Ford AB1ZJ**  
**Open**

### HAM RADIO LINKS

Have you ever been interested in working amateur satellites?

[Ciprian Sufitchi](#)  
[N2YO](#)

hosts a satellite information page, on his website.

<https://www.n2yo.com/satellites/?c=18>

# FROM THE SHACK

DAVE FANT WM1B



What a month! Was it just a month ago that we had our last meeting with Steve Ford as our guest speaker, and two months ago that we had our show-n-tell? Where has the time gone! Seems like only a short time ago we were celebrating our Holiday party and waiting for the winter snow to fall. Time flies and before we know it we will be looking for the bands to open up as the solar cycle becomes more in our favor.

Speaking of the solar effects, 10 Meters seems to be doing all sorts of strange things. The 10-meter band seems to be open a great deal more than it has been over the past months. It is not wide open but sporadically it is surprisingly kind to us. Many contacts have been made both locally and DX. If you have been following the (relatively) new 10-Meter Facebook Group, there have been many reports of good contacts both on SB and CW. I have tried a few with only limited success due to the placement of my antenna – more about that at another time. But I have made a few contacts on what was most of our first bands of choice.

It is not just the 10 Meter band that has been exciting, but also the digital bands. If you have not had the enjoyment of the FT8 digital mode, it is a mode that can be really exciting. With little effort, it is easy to make many of the DX contacts you have been looking for to fill a number of those missing countries - And all on only very low power!

My NEQP event in early May was a great success in many ways and a failure in other ways depending upon how you look at it. I made 15 contacts and had 10 multipliers! (Success or Failure? - you decide). I was only able to work about 4 hours but most contacts were made on Sunday evening during the last hour. Maybe a failure, but I did learn that you cannot get very far when you have your power setting for digital when you are working SB! Nor can you do much when the mike is not working worth a hoot! Once I figured that out (with the help of a ham in NY) I was able to do a bit better. During the last hour, 40 M opened up and I scored two good contacts from friends in northern Maine, a state that has eluded me for over 30 years! For me this was a huge success as I have many fond memories of the Grand State of Maine!

In less than a month, Field Day will be under way. This is a chance for many new hams to make their first HF contact. Even more importantly, a chance for all hams to get together to have a great weekend. Whether you can be there the whole weekend or just a few hours; whether you operate or help with the set up or tear down, it is a great chance to reach out and meet new friends and to get reacquainted with those you have missed at meetings. Come on down to School Street Park in Agawam and join the fun. Good Food, Good Fellowship, and Oh yes, Good Radio. We will have it all.

As we reflect on last year and move forward to the next year of HCRA we have a lot to do. In 2017-18, we did not have a training class and that will be mandatory for us in the next year. Our sell and swap had a late start and needs to pick up. Our use of the Interest information that we put on our applications and renewals needs to be reviewed so that our club reflects what you want to see. We need to bring in as new members more young people to our hobby and that means we need to provide them with the information and help that they want and need. But first we need to be present in the community. If we set a goal to do two new activities during the next year, we will begin building our club. But it will take more than just the BOD to do it. If you as a member have an idea and are willing to bring it to the BOD and work with us, we can make sure that HCRA will continue to grow, become well known in the community and will become the strong organization we want to have. The 7 or 8 members of the board, cannot do it alone, we need your help.

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American Heart Association  
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# THINGS ON THE (TOTA) AIR

**BOB WITTE KØNR**

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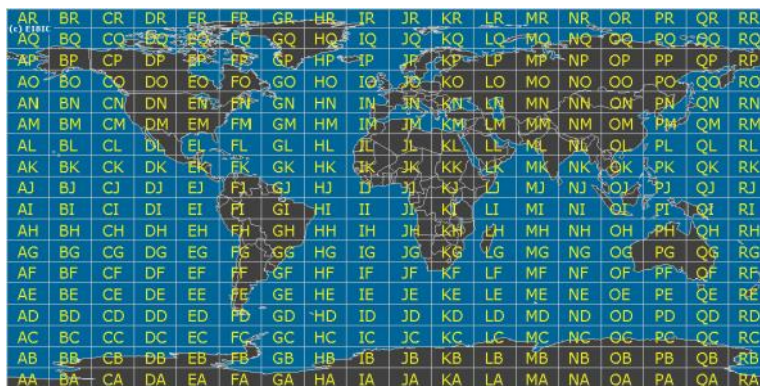
The Sundance Mountain Radio Association (Palmer Lake, CO) today announced the creation of the Things On The Air (TOTA) program. The radio association's Need More Lists Committee spent the past year analyzing the effect of various "on the air" programs, including the [Islands On The Air \(IOTA\)](#), [National Parks On The Air \(NPOTA\)](#) and [Summits On The Air \(SOTA\)](#).

The overall trend is clear. The ham radio community used to be satisfied with the basic [DXCC](#) list (a list of countries that aren't really countries so we have to call them entities).

But over time, additional lists to be worked have been created. For example, the Islands On The Air (IOTA) was created in 1964. More recently, the Summits On The Air program was established in 2002. It seems that every year or so we hear of another "something" on the air program. Even the normally docile satellite grid chasers created a [Walmart Parking Lots On The Air \(WMPLOTA\)](#) event.

Unfortunately, this has created a miss-mash of programs with inconsistent and conflicting rules. The Need More Lists Committee concluded that the best solution to this problem is to fast-forward to the likely end state: pretty much everything can be put on the air. Inspired by the latest technical hype called Internet Of Things (IoT), the committee named this program **Things On The Air (TOTA)**.

To be comprehensive and inclusive, the TOTA program is based on the existing [Maidenhead Grid system](#). There are 324 fields defined (AA through RR), each having 100 squares (although they really are not square). Each square contains 576 subsquares indicated by aa through xx. So using the six-character locator results in  $324 \times 100 \times 576 = 18,662,400$  unique locators. Or, as the Committee likes to say, about 18 million locators. In North America, the six-character locator represents a rectangle about 3 miles by 4 miles. This raises the question of how many things need to be on the list inside a typical  $3 \times 4$  mile rectangle. An in-depth study revealed there are a lot of things that might need to be listed in even a small area.



For TOTA to achieve the vision of being the "last list of things on the air", it must accommodate an unlimited number of listed things. To start out a 15-digit serial number is appended to the 6-character locator to indicate a TOTA thing. As the program grows and new Things are added to the list, the 15-digit number can be extended indefinitely.

Here's an example listing of some of the first TOTA designators:

Locator	Serial Number	Description
DM79nb	000000000000001	Walmart Parking Lot
DM79nb	000000000000002	Home Depot Parking Lot
DM79nc	000000000000001	Leroy's home QTH
DM79nc	000000000000002	Leroy's barn
DM79nc	000000000000003	The big tree behind Leroy's house
DM79db	000000000000001	Charlie's home QTH
DM78lu	000000000000001	Pikes Peak Summit
DN70di	000000000000001	Rocky Mountain National Park

When making a valid TOTA contact, the activating station must give a signal report and the TOTA designator: 6-character locator followed by the serial number (at least 15 digits but may be longer). The official TOTA list is currently maintained on an Excel spreadsheet on Leroy's computer but a HDFS database is under construction to handle the expected large dataset.

The Committee requests the help of all amateur around the world to submit additional entries into the TOTA list. Eventually, this process will be automated via the ThingsOnTheAir.com web site but for now submissions can be made in the comments field below.

*The post Things On The Air (TOTA) Launched appeared first on [The KØNR Radio Site](#).*

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