



ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

October 2016

Special points of interest:

- Novembers Meeting
Dennis Markel N1IMW
The History of WCC & Chatham Marconi Radio
- [Visit the HCRA facebook page.](#)
- Don't forget to check out hcra.org
- [Visit Summits on the Air](#)
- [Visit POTA413 facebook page](#)

October's Meeting

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

RADIO, SET, GO QRP AND PORTABLE RADIOS



Whether you want to communicate across town, or across the ocean, RSG can help you with a radio that is easy and fun to use - at home, or even better, outside; at a park, hiking or camping. Take your HAM shack in a backpack!

Come and hear Hanz Busch W1JSB talk about his innovative custom portable and QRP rigs.

Watch your email for more information about our up coming **“Introduction to the Arduino-Share the Knowledge”** Saturday October 22nd

For directions to The Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center:

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

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September and October Are dues renewal months!

Your HCRA membership dues are due during the months of September and October.

Your dues help to pay for various club sponsored activities such as: Amateur Radio Classes, VE Sessions, Field Day, Speaker's expenses, and the Holiday Party. It also allows us to make donations to the Holyoke Hospital, and Agawam Parks and Recreation for use of their facilities for our meetings and Field Day.

You can use the form at hcra.org, bring it to a meeting, or mail along with a check for \$15.00 to:

HCRA, P.O. Box 562, Agawam, Ma 01001-0562

You can also pay them online at:

<http://www.hcra.org/membership-payment/>

Or at any meeting.

Win a **KX2** !!!

Elecraft's Hottest New Transceiver



ELECRAFT KX2

The New KX2: An 80-10 Meter SSB/CW/Data Station That Fits In Your Pocket!

Quick Specs

- 5.8" x 2.8" x 1.5"
- Ultralight grab-and-go station
- 80-10 meters (9 bands)
- SSB / CW / Data
- Up to 10 W TX
- Li-ion battery option
- Amp-hour meter
- Built-in mic and 0.5-W speaker
- Wide-range Internal ATU
- Perfect for SOTA and field ops

NEW!

\$1000 Package

Elecraft KX2 Transceiver

with

Elecraft MH3 Hand Microphone

Elecraft KXAT2 Antenna Tuner



Tickets only \$10 - all proceeds to HCRA

Only 250 tickets sold!

Drawing March 11th, 2017 @ MTARA Hamfest

(or at a preceding HCRA meeting if all tickets sold prior to March 11th)

FROM THE SHACK

JEFFERY BAIL NT1K



It's Still Renewal Time

September and October are busy months for HCRA. We are still accepting renewals. Your membership dues are important. They help pay for HCRA related activities such as meetings, classes, field day and other events. It's still \$15 which is not bad considering the benefits. If you haven't renewed, please do so as soon as possible. Attached to ZB is an application, you can mail it in or go online to HCRA.org and renew using a credit card or paypal account. It can't get any more easy.

Contest University

On Saturday, September 17th, HCRA held a Contest University at the Holyoke Medical Center. Class was intended for those who were interested in contested or for those experienced operators who needed a refresher. The class was presented by Matt Willhelm (WIMSW) and myself. Around 12 members took advantage and hopefully left knowing more. It appeared everyone had a good time and hope to hear them in upcoming contests. Big thanks to Matt and HMC.

Share The Knowledge

One of HCRA's goals is to make amateur radio more enjoyable for members. Our club is filled with many people who have vast knowledge when it comes to certain aspects of amateur radio. Why not take advantage of this as a club and give these people a soapbox. So far we've had two classes and they both seemed to be a success. We plan to have more classes in the future. If you are interested in being an instructor, please contact the board.

We Need YOU!

HCRA is a volunteered based club. We depend on the help of the membership to reach our goals. It can not be left upon a few people. Even though Field Day is 9 months away. It will be here before you know it. We need volunteers for the following positions

Co-Chair - Responsible for station layout, General assistance

Antenna Captain - Responsible for overseeing the assembly of the TX-38 and 40-2CD beams.

Tower Captain - Responsible for overseeing the assembly of the AB-577 towers

Software/Network - Ensuring that station captains software/computer is working together

These positions require people who are willing to learn, lead and are dedicated to the tasks. We're also looking for people to help with setup, operations, cooking and tear down. There will be sign up sheets at meetings and other HCRA events. Or you can contact any board member

Show and Tell

Just want to let you know that HCRA will be having a show and tell in the first quarter of 2017. This event gives the chance for members to show others what they've been working on for the past year. If you haven't started a project, let this be a reminder. HCRA will have prizes on hand for the top 3 entries. It's an excellent event that may inspire you to make something of your own.

Contest Season Is Here

HCRA is not a contest club persay, but like other aspects of amateur radio, we have members that enjoy participating. CQWW SSB is the un-offical kickoff of the contest season. It starts on Friday, October 28th. This will be the perfect contest for those hunting for DX since there will be a lot of rare locations on the air. With our recent contest university, hopefully some more HCRA members will be heard. HCRA does participate as a club with ARRL Sweepstakes and the ARRL 10m contest. Look in future Zero Beats for more information.

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE

"Introduction to the Arduino"

Saturday Oct 22nd

9 am

**Holyoke Medical Center
Auxiliary Conference Center**

Directions

**Coffee, Donuts and Arduinos
will be Available**



ACTIVATING THE CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE FOR NPOTA SS03

LARRY KRAINSON W1AST

Faye and I planned our annual return to Cape Cod at the end of our vacation there last year. Then a few months ago, with NPOTA activations in full swing, I started thinking about activating the Cape Cod National Seashore (aka SS03) in early spring. Then on the Facebook NPOTA page, Rob; W1AFP put out a request as he was going to be on the Cape from 7/23 to 7/30.

I posted on the NPOTA activations web site. Rob made arrangements to operate from Marconi with the proper permissions. We both had letters and printouts in case of visitors to the station.

I answered Rob's call as that was the first week of me being out there. Fast forward to July, Rob and I texting ideas to each other ideas and thoughts about doing one or more activations. Rob had mentioned bringing his TS-590 and a car battery and some other stuff. I was bringing my KX3, battery, paddles, antenna and more plus my laptop. Between the two of us, we would be prepared.



We made plans to operate from the Marconi site Monday morning at 10 am. We also made plans to talk on the Dennis repeater on the way to the Cape. So on Saturday morning, July 23rd, we met on the repeater and started chatting. Thankfully our chat clarified where we were meeting Monday as Rob thought it was the Chatham Marconi Museum which is NOT in the National Seashore. We clarified that to the National Marconi Site in Wellfleet.

Monday morning I arrived about 9:30 am and started setting up in the parking lot. I positioned my truck so I could raise my 31 foot fiberglass antenna pole and strap it to my kayak racks for stability. Which worked out perfectly as you can see in the photo.

I set up my little station on a picnic table about 30 feet from my truck. In a few minutes, Rob arrived and mentioned he had so much stuff in his car for family, there was no room left for ham radio stuff. Thankfully I had everything we needed!

I started operating CW first, Rob spotted me and also posted on the NPOTA FB page. The bands lit up, 20 meters came alive and I worked 26 stations in about 40 minutes. Not bad for 15 watts QRP cw. Rob operated next on 20m SSB. The stations came in almost faster than he could write them down. It was great fun!

Unfortunately, his family called and said it was too hot at the beach (he had dropped them at Marconi Beach, not far away). While it was peaking at 104 here in Longmeadow, it was pushing 95 and high humidity in Wellfleet. We needed up with 45 Q's in about an hour of operating cw and SSB. We called it a day and had hopes to do another on Thursday from the Provincelands.

Thursday arrived and his family obligations prevented Rob from coming to the Provincelands Visitor Center back parking lot. That was okay as George, KC1V had joined me and we set up my little station. (George and his wife Jan were camping with us for a week).

The Provincelands Visitor Center is around 77 feet above sea level and has great views of the ocean. I thought it would be a great place to operate from.

There was a camping group parked in the back parking lot much to my extreme surprise since every other time I had been there it had been empty! Not a problem as we picked an empty spot and a picnic table in the shade.

I set up the same way I did on Monday and spotted myself and posted on FB. Working CW first made a bunch of contacts and then tried SSB which worked pretty good. But the band conditions were not as good as Monday. We still had a bunch of fun making Q's. George got in the act too making a few Q's with my call. Then once again it got too hot and we packed up and left.

During the remainder of my stay, I operated from my camper which was at the Adventure Bound Camp Ground which itself is in the Cape Cod National Seashore. So my next 3 activations on weekends and at night, were in the comfort of my camper with the AC on. Playing radio in the ac was nice, but the RFI from other campers was strong and prevented me from hearing very well. But it was still fun.



If you're thinking about activation a NPOTA station, do it. It is so much fun! You'll be glad you did it. It's easy to do. If you don't have the equipment, there are a number of us that do, just ask and I'm sure you'll have parties willing to participate.

Right now I'm trying to figure out if there are any NPOTA possible activation sites between where my son goes to college in Brockport, NY and home, but it doesn't look good. I have two more camping trips before we store the camper for the winter and hopefully something NPOTA is not far away. Otherwise, other day trips will be in the making.

The NPOTA fun ends December 31st of this year. Get in the fun and plan an activation!



Larry W1AST operating from picnic table at the Chatham Marconi Museum



Larry W1AST and Rob W1AFP
At The Cape Cod National Seashore



Larry W1AST
Operating CW

Hands-Only™ CPR **1**  **Call 911** **2**  **Push hard and fast in the center of the chest.** **American Heart Association**  **Learn and Live**
Learn more at handsonlycpr.org

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY FIRST RESPONDER DAY FOR NPOTA 2016



BY DAN VIERNO KB1VWQ

At The Springfield Armory for 9/11 There was an interesting twist during this National Parks On The Air 100th year centennial that happened just a few weeks ago. Dan Vierno / KB1VWQ, titled as the lead event coordinator for POTA*413's Springfield Armory Activation(s) during this 2016 Centennial, noticed his September activation fell on the date of September 11th. Wanting to organize a special event within this special centennial event, Vierno started planning for the final product of having past and/or present first responders be the radio operators on the air during the event for the 09.11.2016 activation at our Nation's First Armory - The Springfield Armory, which has Presidential ties from George Washington to John F. Kennedy

In addition to first responders either, past or current duty roster, Vierno also planned to have several members of the Western MA Chapter of The American Red Cross also help on the air, and offer chaser points for stations calling in during the NPOTA event, but also to share a story, listen to stations checking in, and just generally offer a day of reflection of the tragic events of 9/11 as well as a bitter sweet day of celebrating the 100th year centennial of The Nation Park Service. Despite severe weather that moved through in the early AM, with heavy rains and aprox 45 mph wind gust, the group was able to hold off and operate on 80, 40, and 20 meters once the weather cleared up around 10:00 that morning.



Nadine KB1VXS (American Red Cross)
&
Jeff AB1WT (Former 1st Responder)

Many of the stations who checked in happen to be either first responders themselves, or were effected by the 9/11 event to some degree, and wanted to say hello and mention thanks for conducting the special event. Which is exactly what KB1VWQ wanted to do for this event... Vierno's original motivation for hosting this small tribute was not only to all the fallen victims, but included with the casualties were two Uncles of Vierno, by marriage, FDNY fire fighters that he knew growing up in his early life in Staten Island, NY... "I did it for Buddy and Stephen. I just wanted to pay tribute to them. They are now embedded as the vision in my mind of what being a true hero is." Of course, Vierno was referring to Lt. Harvey Harrell of Rescue Co. 5 and Lt Stephen Harrell of Ladder Co. 157 / Serving Ladder Co. 10.



All went according to plan. By 17:00 local the activation was over as the National Historic Site was closing for the evening... Vierno concluded by saying thanks to all the radio operators and to the visitors that came by, for helping make this special day a success.

DOTS & DASHES:

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

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE : INTRODUCTION TO THE ARDUINO

We are going to have another "Share the Knowledge" on Saturday October 22nd., at 9 am. It will be an introduction to the "Arduino". After the session you will have a good understanding of this very versatile micro-controller, how to use it in your application and how to write a program for it. We will use a starter kit to build and program some examples during the session. The kit can be purchased at the upcoming HCRA meeting , or at the session for \$10.00.

ARRL FOUNDATION INVITES SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2017-18 ACADEMIC YEAR

[The ARRL Foundation](#) will begin accepting scholarship [applications](#) on October 1 from eligible radio amateurs planning to pursue post-secondary education in the 2017-2018 academic year. Completed applications must be received by January 31, 2017. Individuals and clubs support many of the more than 80 [scholarships](#), ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, that are awarded annually. Applicants for all scholarships must be active radio amateurs and must complete and submit the online [application](#).

ZERO BEAT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

I am looking for a couple of members to help with Zero Beat. I would like someone to help put together a more complete calendar of events. That would include, among other things, contests, hamfests, nets, local club meetings, and events of special interest to amateur radio.

I am also looking for any member who would like to write a monthly or bi-monthly column on any subject involving amateur radio.

If interested in helping out contact Gary at walmow@arrl.net

INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

Ever wonder how a repeater works, or want are the proper procedures to use on a repeater system?

[Hamuniverse](#) has an excellent article on repeater basics.

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/repeater.html>

AREA SWAP/HAMFESTS:

Oct	1	Mt Beacon Fall Ham Radio HamFest	Fishkill, NY	www.wr2abb.org
	9	Hall of Science Semi-annual HamFest	Queens, NY	www.hosarc.org
	14-15	NEAR Fest	Deerfield, NH	www.near-fest.com
	15	Flea at MIT	Cambridge, Ma	www.swapfest.us
	16	Nutmeg Hamfest	Meriden, Ct	www.nutmeghamfest.com
	29	Tri-City Amateur Radio HamFest	Gales Ferry, Ct	www.qsl.net/tricityarc
	30	LIMARC HamFest	Hicksville, NY	www.limarc.org/fest.htm
Nov	5	Falmouth Amateur Radio HamFest	Bourne, Ma	www.falara.org
Dec	3	CT Vintage Radio Museum SwapFest	Windsor, Ct	www.vrcmct.org

OCTOBER'S CONTESTS:

Oct	1	California QSO Party	www.cqp.org/Rules.html	CW, Ph
	8	Pennsylvania QSO Party	www.nittany-arc.net	CW, Ph, Dig
		Arizona QSO Party	www.azqsoparty.org	CW, Ph, Dig.
	9	North American SSB Sprint	www.sbspsprint.com/rules	Ph.
	10	International 10-10 Day Sprint	www.ten-ten.org	CW, Ph, Dig.
	15	10-10 Inter. CW Fall Contest	www.ten-ten.org	CW
		Iowa QSO Party	www.wa0dx.org/iaqso	CW, Ph, Dig.
		New York QSO Party	www.nyqp.org	CW, Ph, Dig.
		South Dakota QSO Party	www.kb0wsw.com/sdqp	CW, Ph, Dig
	16	Illinois QSO Party	www.w9awe.org	CW, Ph, Dig.
	17	ARRL School Club Roundup	www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup	CW, Ph
	22	ARRL EME Contest	www.arrl.org/eme-contest-1	CW, Ph, Dig.
	29	CQ Worldwide SSB DX Contest	www.cqww.com/rules.htm	Ph.

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
- 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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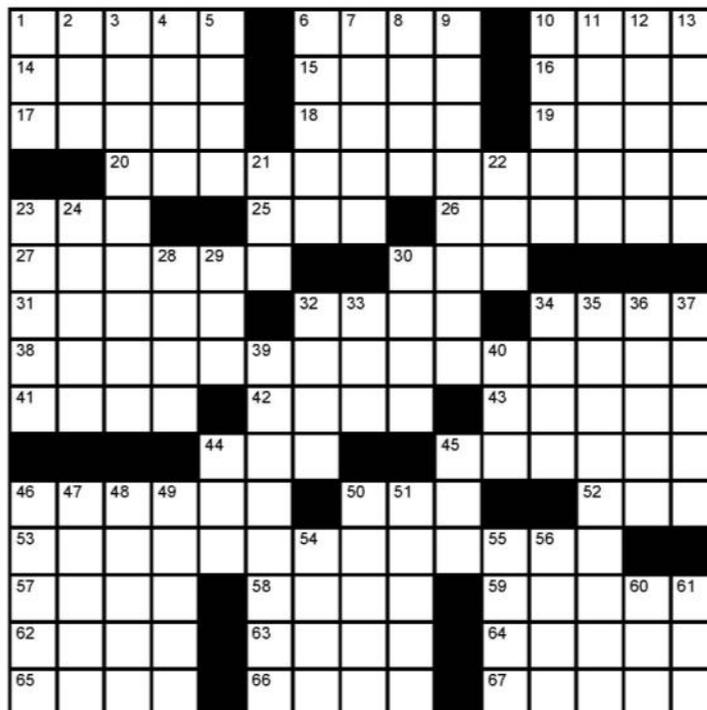
VE Session Liaison, Dave Cote W1FAB

w1fab@arrl.net

Receiver Pathways

Across

1. Superhet preceder
 6. BCD followers
 10. UA missile made famous by YI
 14. ____ loop
 15. Meadow mouse
 16. LA capital
 17. ___ to back...
 18. Part of LAN
 19. Nit hatchlings
 20. Teetering swizzle stick?
 23. Golf ball position
 25. Polite partner of TU
 26. Sensors using RF
 27. Antelope array element?
 30. CW preposition
 31. VS9H middle name
 32. Employs
 34. " ___ that special?!"
 38. Supermarket scanner?
 41. What a non-ham might call rigs
 42. Prefix with -line
 43. I-land wine
 44. CW T
 45. Told to wait, on CW
 46. Thicker
 50. Function switch label
 52. Double curve
 53. Salt shaker?
 57. Lone entry class
 58. G-land YL title
 59. Label on a PS, possibly
 62. Like a xmtr in stby
 63. And others, for short
 64. RCA synonym
 65. Rig
 66. Pound brass, say



67. Next to Quebec

21. MI, MO and MT, QP mo.

45. W4 sect.

Down

1. Foxhunt activity (abbr.)

22. ARRL DX test mo.

46. A series cap. blocks it

2. Ending, with engin-

23. #44, #47 and others

47. Eat away

3. Go on DXpeditions, far and wide

24. Become accustomed (to)

48. African owner of 27-across

4. IT9 volcano

28. Poor ops

49. Upper or lower user

5. NCL-2000 mfgr.

29. F H2O

50. Isle ____ (GD)

6. Olympic swimmer Janet

30. Word with line or point

51. ____ Day

7. ___-12 antennas

32. W7 state

54. Calling in after the sked

8. High spirits

33. The Flex, e.g.

55. Pioneer digital comm. org.

9. Whiplash preventer

34. Desktop feature

56. EME sound

10. State with transistors

35. /MM quarters

60. F-land one

11. Possible Bahamas prefix

36. Big bangs

61. " ___ bad!"

12. Worrier's worry

37. Lock of hair

13. Action people

39. Hand game

40. ZS dir. from W2

44. Stg. before AF amp.



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

**Don't forget to renew your
membership in the
months of
September & October.**

**Hampden County Radio Association
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, MA 01030-0562**