



# ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

June 2017

*Special points of interest:*

*Next Meeting:*

*Sept 8th  
World Wide Flora  
and Fauna Rich KC1AEO*

- [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 2nd at 7:30, in the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center .**



## Election of Officers and Field Day Planning

**Join us at 7:30 at the Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center for our annual election of Officer's. We still have some openings. Remember this is YOUR club.**

**We still need help for Field Day 2017. Come join the fun!**

## HELP WANTED!

**We need help for Field Day**  
Visit  
[hcra.org/field-day-2017](http://hcra.org/field-day-2017)  
for more information

For directions to The Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center:

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

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## 2017/2018 HCRA SLATE OF OFFICER'S

**President— Dave Fant WM1B**

**Vice President—Open**

**Secretary— Harold Woering N1FTP**

**Treasurer—Juergen Malner NV1Q**

**At Large—Karl Krassler KB1RXO**

**Programs—Larry Krainson W1AST**

**Membership—John Plaster K1VOI**

**Technical—Bob Meneguzzo K1YO**

**Zero Beat Editor—Gary Fields W1MOW**

# FROM THE SHACK

JEFFERY BAIL NT1K



## Field Day Is Just Around The Corner

The ARRL's annual Field Day will be taking place as usual on the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of June. HCRA will be participating with an operation at School Street park in Agawam MA. This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> year there and hopefully the weather cooperates and we have a wonderful weekend. We are planning to setup 4 towers with the hope of putting 5 stations on the air. We will meetup at School Street park on Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup> at around 10am to start laying out the towers and stations. We will have a break for a pizza lunch provided by HCRA and continue until all the antennas and towers are setup. We will return on Saturday morning to start setting up the stations. Goal is to be ready for the 2pm start time.

On Saturday, we will be having a couple events going on. HCRA will be providing a hamburger and hotdog meal to the volunteers and opera-

tors at the sites. Big thanks go out to Faye Krainson for volunteering the time to help! Once field day starts, we plan on being on the air for a 24 hours, making as contacts as possible.

HCRA's goal is to have fun. It's an excellent team exercise and is usually a good time for all those involved. It's also the only event throughout the year where HCRA interacts with the public. We get to show off one of the many aspects of amateur radio. We need your help to make it possible. We need volunteers to help with setup, teardown and operations. The more people we get involved, the easier things are to setup and put away. Please set some time aside to come help. It will be much appreciated.

## Elections Are Here

June means its election time for HCRA. If you are not aware by now, I will no longer be serving as president. In 2012, I got involved with the board when I volunteered to help with re-doing the website. I then served as at-large and the past couple years as president. Things have changed to where it's becoming difficult to dedicate time to club. I feel that by staying on the board, I will end up doing more harm than good. I felt that board should be filled with people that are active. I hope to stay active and participate when I can. Hopefully I can return to board at some point

My parting means that things will be changing with the board of directors. The rest of the board has planned on staying on for at least another term. There will be some shifting of directors and there will possibly be an open position. This would be your time to shine. If you feel you can help improve the club, please approach the directors and express your interest in helping by becoming a board member.

## Enjoy Your Summer

Since this is the last edition of ZB before the summer break, I hope that your summer goes well. The solar cycle isn't optimal at this moment but hopefully you can get on the air and operate. With amateur radio, there are almost endless possibilities. You could enjoy your summer by operating portable from an area mountain top or even a state park. There are many things you can do here in the county. HCRA will be back in operation in September. That's when we will be asking for renewals. Larry (W1AST) has some excellent guests lined up for the new season. It should be very interesting. Since this is my last "From The Shack", I would personally like to thank those who helped me out while serving as president. It was a new adventure for me and there were many people there that guided me along. I hope that I leave the board with the club in a better position than when I was elected as president. Once again thank you!

## ZERO BEAT PUBLICATION SCHEDULE CHANGE

GARY FIELDS W1MOW

Starting with the September 2017 issue of "Zero Beat" will be going to a every other month publication schedule. The off months there will be a 2-3 page newsletter containing the up coming meeting information, and important notes of interest.

There are a couple of reasons for this: It's getting harder and more time consuming every month to put it together, and most important, I am getting less articles every month submitted from members.

If things change, we will consider going back to a every month publication schedule.



# 2017

September 8: Special Programs

September 9 & 10: Flea Market, Exhibitors, All Activities

**The ARRL New England Division Convention**  
*at the Boxboro Regency Hotel and Conference Center  
off I-495 at exit 28A in Boxborough, Massachusetts*



LARGE FLEA MARKET  
MAJOR EXHIBITORS  
LICENSE-IN-A-WEEKEND  
VE EXAMS  
DXCC CARD CHECKING  
DOZENS OF SEMINARS  
YOUTH PROGRAM

**FRIDAY DX/CONTESTING DINNER**

**SATURDAY GRAND BANQUET**

**Featuring Paul Stoetzer N8HM of AMSAT**

*Effective DX and Satellite Operation with Minimal Antennas*

GENERAL ADMISSION (Good for the full weekend) \$15

FREE for full time student with Student ID

9' x 21' Flea Spaces \$10 (good for full weekend)

Friday and Saturday Dinner \$40 ea.

Whole Convention Package – Admission + both Banquets \$90

Tickets Available Online at [www.Boxboro.org](http://www.Boxboro.org)

# HCRA FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## JULY 2016 - MAY 2017

SUBMITTED BY: JUERGEN MALNER NV1Q  
TREASURER

**Beginning Balance:** **8,985.65**

**Ending Balance:** **9,590.47**

**Income:**

Dues	1,262.65
Table	363.70
Raffle	820.95
Share the Knowledge	<u>215.43</u>
	2,662.73

**Expense:**

Entertainment	157.74
Speaker	98.74
Field Day	525.13
Donation	250.00
Boxboro Ad	60.00
Web Hosting	320.78
Taxes	54.89
H-Party Gift	100.00
PO Box	102.00
Show & Tell	92.31
Plaque	36.92
Plaque NEQP	50.00
Insurance	200.00
Stamps	<u>9.40</u>
	2,057.91



# GROWING THE RANKS VS. GROWING THE ENJOYMENT

BY DAN ROMANCHIK, KB6NU

Because I teach amateur radio classes and publish a series of popular amateur radio license study guides ([www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/](http://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides/)), I often get kudos for "growing the ranks." In fact, Gordon West, WB6NOA, told me this just last week, when he stopped by the booth I was in at the Dayton Hamvention. I'm paraphrasing a little, but after telling me that he's heard good things about my study guides, he said something like, "You're doing good work in helping get more people into ham radio." People say that as if this is—or should be—the ultimate goal of teaching a license class. While this may be one of the goals, if that's your primary goal, I think that you're barking up the wrong tree.

In a way, creating more hams is selfish. If there are more licensed amateur radio operators, they say, then amateur radio will have more political clout with the FCC and with Congress, making it easier to pass legislation like the Amateur Radio Parity Act. While this may certainly help the new ham down the line, its main thrust is to reduce restrictions on those who are currently hams.

My goal in teaching amateur radio classes isn't to create more hams. Instead, my goal is to help more people have fun with ham radio. The first step in helping people have fun with ham radio is, of course, helping them get their license. I do that by publishing my study guides and teaching ham classes.

The next step, and I'm only really getting started on this right now, is to help people learn what they need to know to become better ham radio operators. That's why I got a little excited when I saw the article, "Making a Good hobby Better Through Post-Licensing Enrichment" by Tim Busch, N0CKR in the latest issue of Radio Waves, the ARRL's email newsletter for amateur radio instructors.

In the article, Tim describes several activities that his club encourages, including a "new ham net" and the Field Day GOTA station, but he also details a program of "mini classes" that will teach specific skills related to ham radio. These include:

- Programming Radios and Getting on the Air
- Soldering 101
- Multimeter 101
- Build and Use a Roll-Up J-Pole Antenna
- Build and Use a Satellite Antenna
- Foxhunts
- Operating Digital Modes: IRLP, AllStar, D-Star, EchoLink, etc.
- Remote Operation
- Software-Defined Radios
- Transitioning from VHF/UHF to HF Operating
- Chasing Awards
- Learn CW
- Contesting

Tim writes, "Each class is intended to be no more than two hours at a sitting, so they can be held before a monthly club meeting. The variety of subject matter allows many club members to get involved in leading a topic. Materials kits are prepared in advance, so students walk away with practical items they can use at home."

I think this is a great set of classes, and I plan to try some of these in the fall. A couple of other topics that occur to me are:

- Power Supplies 101
- Mobile Operation 101
- ARRL 101
- RFI/TVI 101

Helping new hams—and old hams—have more fun with amateur radio is a lot more satisfying to me than just "growing the ranks." It would be nice to say that we have a million licensed radio amateurs in the U.S., but I think it would be a lot more valuable to the hobby to say that a larger percentage of licensed hams were active and enjoying ham radio. I know that, for me, increasing the number of active, engaged hams would be more personally satisfying than simply creating a lot of new licensees.

When he's not working on helping new hams, Dan operates CW on the HF bands and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. If you have a good idea for a new ham "mini class," e-mail him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).



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# PROPER REPORTING FOR FIELD DAY AND POTA

DANNY, VIerno K1VWQ  
Co-FOUNDER POTA\*413

With nicer weather coming up, this brings POTA activations, Field Day... (or even just a general QSO anytime), I've had some newer hams ask me about giving proper RST reports (Readability, Strength and Tone) while most on phone only can omit the third "Tone" report, which is used on morse code (CW)

Thought I'd share the "RST report chart" and the "Correct Phonetic Alphabet", here on POTA\*413 for all hams to review and chat about here... Both are also vital in Emergency Communications which is also what POTA\*413 practices while doing activations.

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## The RST System-

### Readability (R)

- 1--Unreadable
- 2--Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable.
- 3--Readable with considerable difficulty.
- 4--Readable with practically no difficulty.
- 5--Perfectly readable.

### Signal Strength (S)

- 1--Faint signals, barely perceptible.
- 2--Very weak signals.
- 3--Weak signals.
- 4--Fair signals.
- 5--Fairly good signals.
- 6--Good signals.
- 7--Moderately strong signals.
- 8--Strong signals.
- 9--Extremely strong signals.

### Tone (T)

- 1--Sixty cycle a.c or less, very rough and broad.
- 2--Very rough a.c., very harsh and broad.
- 3--Rough a.c. tone, rectified but not filtered.
- 4--Rough note, some trace of filtering.
- 5--Filtered rectified a.c. but strongly ripple-modulated.
- 6--Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation.
- 7--Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation.
- 8--Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation.
- 9--Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind.

### Additional:

If the signal has the characteristic steadiness of crystal control, add the letter X to the RST report. If there is a chirp, the letter C may be added to so indicate. Similarly for a click, add K. The above reporting system is used on both cw and voice, leaving out the "tone" report on voice.

## International Telecommunication Union Phonetic Alphabet- Word list adopted by the International Telecommunication Union

- A -- Alfa
- B -- Bravo
- C -- Charlie
- D -- Delta
- E -- Echo
- F -- Foxtrot
- G -- Golf
- H -- Hotel
- I -- India
- J -- Juliett
- K -- Kilo
- L -- Lima
- M -- Mike
- N -- November
- O -- Oscar
- P -- Papa
- Q -- Quebec
- R -- Romeo
- S -- Sierra
- T -- Tango
- U -- Uniform
- V -- Victor
- W -- Whiskey
- X -- X-ray
- Y -- Yankee
- Z -- Zulu

# DOTS & DASHES:

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

## ANTENNA PARTY AT CAROLS W1LGU

Antenna Party at Carols, W1LGU's house this Saturday, June 3rd at 10 am.  
She lives at 30 Line Street, Easthampton, MA.

We need people who are comfortable being on the roof and also people on the ground. The antenna is together and just needs a little tweaking before being handed off to the roof.

Carol will provide lunch and beverages.

For those that don't know Carol, she has been a HCRA member for many years. While she rarely makes the meetings, she always supports thru club thru donations or money and equipment for many, many years. This is a chance for club members to help another ham and long time HCRA member who needs help getting this antenna up.

Please come out Saturday to help!

Parking is along Line Street at and near Carol's house. My truck will be in Carol's driveway with W1AST plates on it.

Rain postpones to Sunday. Rain again postpones to another yet to be announced day.

If you plan on attending, please contact Larry, W1AST.

Thank you!

## INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

With Summer almost upon us, many Ham's thoughts are about getting outside. Operating portable HF stations can be a lot of fun, and challenging. Power is one of the biggest challenges. [Alan Applegate has a great website full of information](#), one of his pages is about [Portable Operation](#).

## AREA SWAP/HAMFESTS:

Apr 8	Seacoast Amateur Radio Flea Market	Hampton, NH	<a href="http://www.w1wqm.org">http://www.w1wqm.org</a>
Apr 15	Portland Amateur Wireless Hamfest	South Portland, Me	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/pawa/">http://www.qsl.net/pawa/</a>
Apr 16	Flea at MIT	Cambridge, Ma	<a href="http://www.swapfest.us">http://www.swapfest.us</a>
Apr 21	Eastern VHF/UHF/Microwave Conference	Manchester, Ct	<a href="http://newsvhf.com/vhfconf.html">http://newsvhf.com/vhfconf.html</a>
Apr 22	Radio Association of Norwich Swap	Gales Ferry, Ct	<a href="http://www.rason.org/">http://www.rason.org/</a>
May 5/6	NEARFest XXI	Deerfield, NH	<a href="http://www.near-fest.com/">http://www.near-fest.com/</a>
May 13	East Greenbush ARA Hamfest	East Greenbush, NY	<a href="https://www.egara.club/events">https://www.egara.club/events</a>
May 20	Southern Berkshire ARC Hamfest	Goshen, Ct	<a href="http://www.sberk.org">http://www.sberk.org</a>
Jun 10	Vintage Radio & Comm Museum of CT	Windsor, Ct	<a href="http://vrcmct.org/">http://vrcmct.org/</a>
Sep 8/10	New England Convention	Boxborough, Ma	<a href="http://www.boxboro.org/">http://www.boxboro.org/</a>

## 2017/2018 HCRA MEETING SCHEDULE

September 2017	- World Wide Flora and Fauna. What is it and everything you wanted to know.	Rich KC1AEO
October 2017	- DX Labs. Everything you wanted to know about DXLabs. By the author.	Dave Bernstein A6YQ
November 2017	- SWLing and Dxing: Yesterday and today.	Harold N1FTP
December 2017	- Holiday Party: Date and Time to be announced.	
January 2018	- DX Engineering via Skype. Subject to be announced.	Teri K8MNJ
February 2018	- Open	
March 2018	- Open	
April 2018	- Open	
May 2018	- Open	
June 2018	- Elections and Field Day 2018.	

# 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](mailto: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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**Here is your exciting copy  
of Zero Beat!**

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