

ZERO BEAT

http://hcra.org

Field Day 2020 Edition

June 2020

Special points of interest:

Next Meeting:

HCRA physical are currently postponed until we have access to the meeting rm at Holyoke Hospital. Meetings will take place on Zoom.

See HCRA FB page for link

<u>Visit the HCRA facebook</u> page.

- Don't forget to check out hcra.org
- Our section webpage— WMA.ARRL.org
- Visit Summits on the Air

New Member-Welcome!!

Bob Lobley W1BOB

Hello everyone,

It's FIELD DAY!!! Every year, on the last weekend in June, Hams venture out of their basements, squint into the sun, erect temporary antennas, connect up generators, batteries, and radios and pretend the Apocalypse has arrived!!

Just kidding. Well, except about emerging from basements. Field Day is a time to operate in unconventional conditions. Most clubs put together a team / site with multiple antennas, radios, linked computer logs and make a grand weekend of it. That's how HCRA is doing it—the volunteer is list later in ZB. If you want to be a part of it, and haven't signed up—contact Larry W1AST@arrl.net and come on down. This is a GREAT opportunity for newer hams to really get some fast paced air time. I did that the year after I got my General and I had a blast. It gave me a LOT of operating confidence to be around experienced hams and having hours straight on the air. Really taught me how to get a rhythm to making contacts.

Other hams will be operating in different ways—perhaps as solo stations, either by battery / generator / solar power or commercial. That's what I'm doing, at my home QTH. Others are setting up remotely. However you do it—Field Day is an exciting weekend.

Another thing coming up is HCRA Board of Director elections. We have almost 100 members (that's a pretty big club) and a foot for every shoe on the Board. New appointees / candidates are highlighted in **blue** on the Board listing on page 12. Please attend the June meeting on Zoom, and participate. Bring forth suggestions, and don't feel shy about leading a project or idea—this club has a lot of talent and energy—let's all grow it together!!

Take a close read on Larry's message this month—he covers a lot. The Foxbox is up, running and active!! And July has the 13 Colonies contest, another fun, historic way to get on the air!

73, John N1JIE

Inside this issue:

Larry WIAST	2- 4
Meeting Schedule	5
ARRL Stuff— FD2020	6
Tech Teaser—the answers I I	7-8
Clublog Update	9
A bit ah humah ;-)	10
Dots and dashes - Contests, SES and more	11
Local Happenings	12

Win a IC-7300

Tickets only \$10 each

Only 250 to be sold

Drawing to be held at the MTARA HamFest March 2021 or when all tickets are sold.



FROM THE SHACK

LARRY KRAINSON WIAST



June 2020 Presidents Message

May was the HCRA's first Zoom meeting and it went fantastic! Marty, NN1C gave a great talk on Team Exuberance and youth in contesting. We had 34 people signed in and a few couples that brought the attendance up to 40. That was excellent and I am glad you all were able to join the meeting!

If you missed the meeting, go here to watch it: http://www.hcra.org/category/meeting-videos/

The June meeting will also be on Zoom. All members will get an email invitation so they can watch and listen and participate. You don't need a web cam, you can watch and listen on your computer, smart phone or call in on a number on any phone. You do need to either call in or have a web cam to participate though.

We have 3 people looking to join the board this June. The following are whom and what positions:

- Marcel; AA1WH as Vice President
- Gary, AA1UE as Program
- John, WA1JKB as Treasurer.

The following will be staying in their respective positions:

- Larry; W1AST as President
- John, K1VOI as Membership
- Paul, NF1G as Secretary
- Bob; WA1OJN as at Large
- Najm; AB1ZA as Tech
- John; N1JIE as Zero Beat editor

Anyone is welcome to run for a position, please contact any member of the current board and myself and we'll make sure you get put on the ballot and get voted on during the June Zoom Meeting.

Marcell; AA1WH came up with a great idea for a new net. A Health and Welfare Net is being held at 11:00 am every Tuesday and Friday on the W1BR repeater (146.715 PL 100.0). That repeater is located on the Soldiers Home in Holyoke. We all felt that in some way, we are honoring those that have passed away at the Soldiers Home due to COVID-19. This net will go on for as long as it is needed. Check in to learn more.

Back in January, I presented the board with my ideas on how to grow the club for the next 3 to 4 years. I'm hoping that through both Tech and General classes (delayed because of the pandemic), activities, welcoming new hams and encouraging them, following up with new hams *after* they pass their tests, The HCRA Members & New Ham Net on 2m on Thursday nights on 146.715 PL100.0 (W1BR repeater) and more, we'll grow the club. Building excitement thru activities, new hams and participation. I do hope you will be part of this and join in the fun.

FROM THE SHACK CONT'D

Right now we're approaching 100 full members. That's up considerably from where we were just a few years ago. I'm hoping to see 25% more members in the next few years.

How can you help? Participation is the key. For example – the new HCRA fox Box.

I presented the board with this idea a few months ago and it was approved. Through the help from Bob; WA10JN and Jeff; NT1K, we have an awesome new Fox Box.

The HCRA Fox Box was finally deployed on Friday the 16th of May. This is a perfect example of being able to get outside with your family and be safely social distancing. The WMAFoxhunters group on groups.io is approaching 35 members. Anyone can join, you do not have to be a HCRA member.

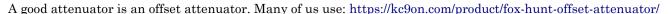


There are those that watch for the clues and then go hunting and others just reading everything and watching. They have an interest and someday may go hunt themselves.

If you look at the pictures, the fox box is in an ammo can. It has an antenna on the top and inside is a battery HT and foxhunt interface. It gets locked to a tree or solid object to deter it from walking away.

When you go searching, the Fox Box will not be out in the open. It will be well hidden, kind of like a geocache. Take a look at the third pic of the box in the woods. You have to listen to your equipment and believe what it is telling you (not always easy) and also keep your eyes open.

The easiest way to start hunting is with a tape measure yagi. See NT1K's plans here: https://nt1k.com/vhf-3el-tape-measure-yagi/



This is the attenuator kit we built in April of 2019. It's inexpensive and works great. Of course there are many other attenuators out there as well as antennas, but both above are very inexpensive to build.

Lastly you'll need a 2m HT. Here you can use anything you want. A \$30 Baofeng or a \$500 Yaesu or Kenwood and everything in between. You'll need an S-meter to watch signal strength as well as hear too at times. Some have better receivers than others, but they all work. You'll need to be able to walk with the HT, antenna and attenuator to find the fox.

Some people hunt alone, with their spouses, friend or kids. It's a great family event and sometimes where the foxbox is located has some very interesting history. For example, just earlier this week I was hunting in the Scantic River Linear Park in Enfield. While walking down the path, I saw some old structures in the middle of the wood. It prompted me to research the area and history and to find out it was all part of the Powder Hollow gun powder factory in Enfield. The area where I was searching for the fox had a dam and canal. The canal is now dry, so it didn't look like a canal but the dam still stands and got me curious.

The FoxBox transmits with 1 watt into an 18 inch high performance duck antenna. We're hoping to get 5 or 6 days from the battery before having to take the Fox Box back and recharge the battery. Then it will be placed in a different location for the next hunt.

The hunters need clues. Trying to activate the box from your house is one of those clues. Even if you can not activate it, the mobile hunters need that info. Taken all into account, hopefully someone *can* activate it and hear it and will state that in the group. It's also something you can try to do while mobile. ID every 10 minutes and attempt to activate to foxbox. Make a note to yourself where you were and post the results and post it to the group.



FROM THE SHACK CONT'D

Field Day is coming up quick. Yes, we have lost our access to the School Street Park this year because of the pandemic. But an offer was presented to us to use a 10 acre field in Wilbraham behind a house. Rich and Marcia, KB1WDW and KB1WEP have made that offer and the HCRA has accepted.

I've been out there twice and Chris, W1TRK, the clubs tower guru has taken a walk around it too. The verdict is that the field looks perfect and may even bring some new excitement to setting up field Day in a new location. The location is just down Stony Hill Road from Boston Road.

Rich has promised to have the field grass cut low. There is lots of room for campers, tents, vehicles and more. Chris and I have a rough idea of where the towers will go along with the operating tents and personal sleeping tents and trailers ad participating vehicles.

Plus the club will be renting a portapotty and have lots of anti-bacterial lotion around.

But first we need to do an inventory of the club trailer and re-organize it plus a cleaning to get it ready for Field Day. We have set aside Sunday, June 14th at 10 am with a rain date of Saturday, June 20th at 10am. Rockwell, WW1X will be leading this and we need volunteers for approximately 2 hours. This will be on location at AA1YW's house in Southwick.

We are confident we can organize and assemble and operate a very safe field Day. Social distancing will be easy. Bring your masks too. But this will be easy with lots of room to gather socially and safely.

See the volunteer lists for the trailer organizing and Field Day elsewhere in this Zero Beat. If you are still available please let us know so we can plan accordingly. Your participation will make this Field Day a big success and prove that the club can set up safe emergency communications if we ever need to.

Lastly, we have some great meetings planned thru January of 2021.

- September: Show and tell get your kits ready!
- October: How to begin contesting by Matt, W1PY
- November: SDR and the Flex Radio by Jeff, NT1K
- December: Holiday Party new plans, new location
- January 2021: Collecting Paper The Amazing Awards You Can Earn by Harold, N1FTP

February thru June 2021 are being planned

What are you doing July 1 through 7? For the past 5 years or so I have been chasing the 13 Colonies Special Event Stations. Working at least one of each and then sending in for the certificate and Qsl cards. It's always fun to do so.

Last year I became the Massachusetts State Manager in the 13 Colonies Special Event Station. We run the call K2H. I have to say it's a rush being on the receiving end of thousands of ham calling you to make that contact. In my 4 days of operating I made 1500 contacts. I would have made more if I didn't go on vacation the next day. (I planned better this year). With 14 operators last year, we made nearly 10,000 contacts. This year we have a few more operators and are looking for more.

There are a few ops from the HCRA as well as clubs from elsewhere in the state. It would be great to have even more HCRA members as activators. If you can dedicate the time and put in an effort to make at least 500 contacts, contact me at wb1dby@gmail.com

If interested in being a chaser, I hope to hear you on the bands between July 1st and 7th.

73 for now and hope to see you at Field Day in Wilbraham June 26-28th.

Larry / W1AST

HCRA President

SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS:



Show & Tell — members bring in their projects and show them off!!



Beginning Contesting



SDR and Flex Radio



The annual HCRA Holiday party—new venue, new plans



N1FTP and the thrill of wallpaper certificates



Being Planned



Being Planned



Annual Show and Tell—members bring in their latest projects and show them off!!



Marty Sullaway, NN1C: Team Exuberance – teens and contesting

This was an EXCITING presentation—see the website to view the recording



Elections, Field Day and more? Please consider volunteering to run for a Board position—many hands make light work, and HCRA is better with you involved!!

ARRL STUFF

Things are happening in the world of Amateur Radio. ARRL is our advocate for Government, education and organization. I hope everyone that is a member of HCRA is also a member of ARRL.

FD2020 June 27-28

There are many changes this year

- Location—HCRA will not be in Agawam this year, we have changed location to private property in Wilbraham just off Boston Rd. As Larry said in his message—there will be plenty of precautions using CDC and MA guidelines for participants. There will be plenty of room for camping, parking, and food is very nearby on Boston Rd. Porta-pottis will be onsite also.
- Participation—Please contact Larry (W1AST@arrl.net) or via the HCRA FB Page to help out. We will need people to inventory and prep the trailer, as well as setup the new site, and operate / teardown during FD2020. HCRA also needs to know who is coming in advance as much as possible.
- If you cannot participate at the club site, consider operating your own FD2020—rule waivers for 1D and club participation will let the club have credit for club members that operate at home / separately. http://www.arrl.org/temporary-rule-waivers-for-arrl-field-day-2020
- Remember—this is an opportunity to operate out of your envelope of comfort—whether by working with the club in Wilbraham, or operating at home. Try and do something different—battery / solar? Portable? Field antenna? Even if you just move your rig to the porch, and still use your base antenna—it will feel different, and add to the experience.
- There are some activities / events during June that are good practice—SES and contests to test out your setup. Try out your equipment and setup early, so you can know your FD setup.
- If possible—include VHF/UHF in your setup. While repeater contacts don't count for QSOs, Simplex does, and anybody that has participated in a simplex net will know what areas they can work. It's also a nice way to stay in touch with other members and the HCRA club operating site. It'll let us all feel a bit more connected ;-) Hopefully we can come up with a simplex frequency to contact on (for QSOs) as well as the repeaters.

Overall, this will be a challenging Field Day. Covid-19 has presented challenges to all of the world. We (HCRA) as well as other clubs have utilized different methods to communicate such as Zoom, as well as additional local nets to keep in touch. While scoring is important, the opportunity to meet the challenges this year presents will be memorable. I had already pretty much decided to try operating a solo station before this all hit, as I get myself set up to do POTA / SOTA stuff in the future. A new to me rig, battery, antenna and pole has been a bit of a challenge to my non-technical mind. But with the help of some experienced club members, I think I'm ready. Are you? I hope to have a couple of stories sent to me from some hams that do Field Day different this year—I plan to have a section of ZB for September to have club members tell their story. Please email me with your experiences so we can all share in our challenges and successes.

73, John N1JIE

Membership is just \$49/yr, less than a weekly coffee at Cumbys...

To learn more about membership, and how it can help you—http://www.arrl.org/membership

TECH TEASER—CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION!!

CQ CQ All Hams - Here is the completed Pioneers of Radio Crossword de Najm AB1ZA@arrl.net

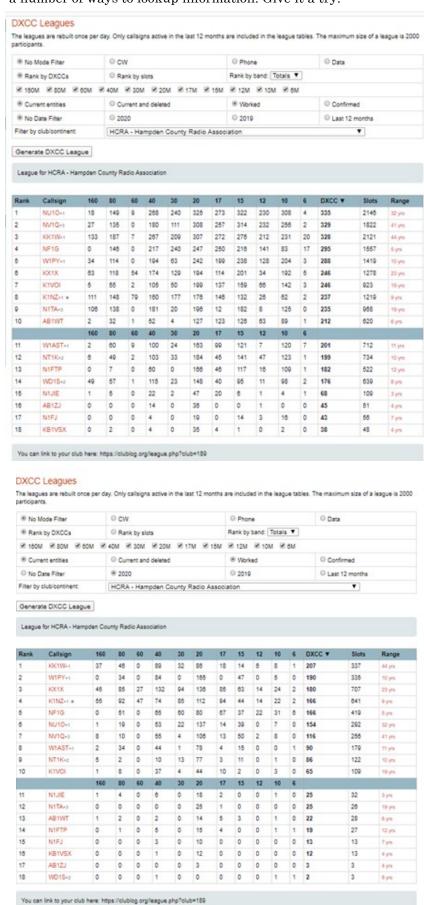
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TECH TEASER (CONTINUED)

CQ CQ All Hams Can you solve the Pioneers of Radio Crossword de Najm AB1ZA@arrl.net

	Across		<u>Down</u>
1	Developer of the APRS system (8)	1	Logarithmic unit named after him (4)
7	Measured the charge of an electron (8)	2	First ham transmission from space (7)
9	Controversial russian scientist (5)	3	Unit of current (6)
10	Crystal based oscillator (6)	4	Quantified the electric charge (7)
12	First practical transformer (7)	5	First OSCAR satellite (6)
15	Founder of the ARRL (5)	6	Invented the triode (8)
17	Had an assistant named Vail (5)	8	Hated all forms of AC. (6)
19	Fisrt satellite (7)	11	German scientist and unit of resistance (3)
22	Unit of voltage (5)	13	Inventor of the superheterodyne receiver (9)
24	Eddy currents in Canada (9)	14	Postulated the equations of electromagnetic waves (7)
26	Developer of a popular antenna analysis software (8)	16	A diode is named after him (8)
28	Father of information theory (7)	18	Mass and energy are equivalent (8)
29	Astronomer at odds with the church (7)	20	Satellite orbits coordinates named after him (6)
31	Coined the two types of charges positive and negative (8)	21	One of the three inventors of the transistor (8)
32	First communication across the Atlantic (9)	23	Noise due to thermal agitation (7)
33	Experimentally showed the existence of radio waves (5)	25	Genius Serbian-American (5)
34	Unit of inductance (5)	27	Radio pioneer. A type of antenna is named after him. (7)
		30	Link between electriciy and magnetism (7)
		31	Unit of capacitance (7)

Clublog update: Clublog can be accessed at https://clublog.org/league.php Signup is free, and there are a number of ways to lookup information. Give it a try.



This is the clublog with open dates—basically a history from the start of each persons log. As you can see, many of the top members have many years on the air.

Info from 5/21/20

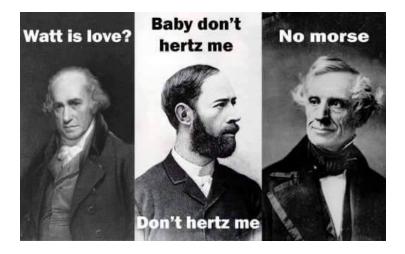
This is the clublog for 2020. You can see a different order of participants. But also some newer Hams getting active—awesome!

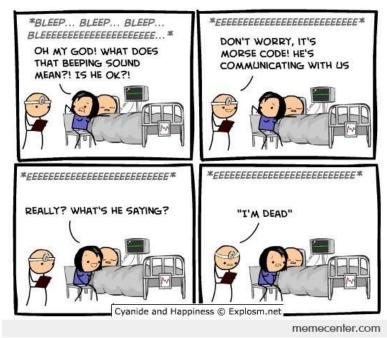
A bit ah humah ;-)

shamelessly collected from the internet - CW jokes this month











DOTS & DASHES: Things I can't think where to put, but are interesting.

INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

https://ksarrl.org/deeplink/ This site has about everything. It's a link clearinghouse of all things Ham by the Kansas section of the ARRL. Ad free, (although some links contain ads) it can be quicker than google at finding things, as you won't have to scroll through the ads that google produces.

<u>https://www.kflg.net/</u> This is Aaron's page—from FCARC. He has a good bit of info on his webpage, and it deserves sharing. Some of it is his homebrew stuff, some is from others. But it is a good resource, from a local ham that shows an inquisitive mind, and some interesting things.

INTERESTING "EVENT"

June 6-7—Museum Ships Weekend

Multiple ship locations (I listed submarines below) will be operating to commemorate historic ship museums. Search the bands, as many will be on the air. Some of the big ones (Battleship NJ) have cancelled due to Covid restrictions, but there should be others. Good wallpaper certificates to start your collection ahead of Harold's (N1FTP) presentation in January!!

UPCOMING CONTESTS (just a few...)

<u>June</u>

June 13-15 June VHF Contest www.arrl.org/june-vhf grid sq 50 and up Various QSO Party—KY / WV Lots of fun! June 20 ARRL Kids Day name/age/qth/color www.arrl.org/kids-day June 27-28 **ARRL Field Day** class / section www.arrl.org/field-day

Many more contests listed at: http://www.arrl.org/contests or https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html

Don't forget special event stations— http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations These are fun contacts, usually with a special QSL card or certificate.

Special Event Station

June 1-11	Dog Island IOTA NA-085/EL79	http://www.arrl.org/Events/view/143220
June 6-7	USS Nautilus SSN-571	https://www.qrz.com/db/n1s/
June 6-7	USS Cobia SS-245	https://www.qrz.com/db/nb9qv
July 1-7	13 Colonies	http://www.13colonies.us/

Local happenings / Nets

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: <u>HCRA 10m Net</u> 28.375

Tuesdays: 1930-2000: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - Hampshire

County Emergency Net

 $\textbf{Wednesdays:}\ 1930: \textbf{MTARA Info}\ net\ 146.94, \textbf{PL}\ 127.3-\textbf{W1TOM/R}$

- 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: 1930: <u>HCRA New Ham Net</u> 146.715, PL100—W1BR repeater, Holyoke. A friendly net with HCRA members and newer hams practicing net communications.

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

Tuesday & Friday 1100: <u>HCRA Wellness and Check in net</u> 146.715, PL100—W1BR

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

Club meetings & VE sessions Please

contact site / organization to ensure it will meet.

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, <u>150 Brookdale Dr. Springfield, Mass</u>. (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

Second Monday of the month 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield Community College, East Bldg. Rm 110 (no meetings held in July, August, December—check website) http://www.fcarc.org/

HCRA contact list

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W1NY trustee, John N1JIE n1jie@arrl.net WB1Z trustee, Vanessa W1IRL w1irl@arrl.net





Here is your exciting copy of Zero Beat!

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