



# ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

September 2016

### Special points of interest:

- [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](#)

## September's Meeting

**Join us Friday September 9th at 7:30, in the Holyoke Medical Center  
Auxiliary Conference Center .**

### 'CAN HOME SOLAR POWER AND HAM RADIO COEXISTS'?



Tony, K1KP will present a talk based on his recent QST article, 'Can Home Solar Power and Ham Radio Coexists'? In his talk, Tony will describe how modern solar power systems work, and why they can potentially cause radio interference to nearby hams. Tony will give a basic overview of the general RFI situation, explaining why his mitigation techniques can be effective. The techniques presented can be extended to other RFI situations.

Watch your email for more information about our up coming "Contest University Share the Knowledge" coming up later this month.

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](http://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



Welcome back to another season with HCRA. I hoped you've enjoyed your summer. Your board of directors and fellow members have been busy with implementing ideas, obtaining guest speakers, promoting amateur radio within the area, hosting classes and even "Sharing the Knowledge" by putting on classes dedicated to certain subjects taught by other members. It's going to be an excellent season.

## Renewal Time Is Here

Speaking of dues, it's that time of the year again. It's membership renewal time. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so now. It's only \$15 which help pay for HCRA related activities such as field day, education and more. Ends up being \$1.25 a month or around 4 cents a day. That's not bad considering the benefits. There are three

ways to pay your dues. You can fill out the attached application and send it to our post office box along with a check or money order made out to "Hampden County Radio Association". You can also pay online using either your credit card or paypal account or can come to any meeting or HCRA event. Thank you for your support.

## Elections

During our June 2016 meeting, the HCRA had it's annual elections. There has been a shift of some board members. Harold Woering (N1FTP) has stepped down as VP and is now our secretary. The VP slot is now held by Dave Fant (WM1B) who was the previous secretary. I would also like to welcome aboard Karl Krassler (KB1RXO) who volunteered for the At-Large position. We have an excellent group of directors who care about the club and amateur radio. However it's your club and depend on your feedback.

## New Raffle for 2016/2017

HCRA takes pride in having excellent items to raffle off. Lots of thought and discussion are put into the possible choices. We look at what the membership has to say, the demand, the "WOW" factor and of course the price. We also look at what's new and what's popular coming from the conventions such as Dayton and Boxborough. This year the Elecraft KX2 was released and it was very popular at the Dayton Hamvention. The KX2 is similar to the KX3 but smaller (almost HT size). It fit every criteria that HCRA was looking for. It's new, popular, in demand and it fits our budget. At the June 2016 meeting, the HCRA membership approved the idea and we've since purchased a KX2 along with an internal antenna tuner (match) and microphone. Just add your own antenna and power source and you are on the air. We started selling tickets at Field Day and I must say we are off to a great start. If you want to see the KX2 up close, please come to any HCRA related event. We've printed 250 tickets will be available at meetings or by contacting Harold Woering (N1FTP). The raffle will happen either at the MTARA hamfest in March 2017 or the following meeting after all tickets are sold.

## We Need YOU!

I personally feel that it's important to keep things fresh and exciting when it comes to our meetings and events. I am certain that most of you feel the same way. The board of directors depend on the membership for ideas and input. But more importantly we need you to help make it happen. We need you to step up, volunteer and make it reality. We also need others within the club to help out. You do not have to be a board member to help make HCRA a better club. I ask that if you have an idea, please share it at a meeting or to our board, but also help make it happen.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Bail (NT1K)  
HCRA President



# CONTEST UNIVERSITY

Saturday September 17th, 2016 - 9am  
Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center

Let's Make Contesting Fun!



KB1VWQ

# FIELD DAY 2016: A GREAT WEEKEND!



**JEFFERY BAIL NT1K**

In late June of 2016, HCRA returned to School Street Park in Agawam MA to participate in field day sponsored by the ARRL. Field day is considered to be the amateur radio related event of the year here in the US with up to 30,000 people participating with portable setups, at EOC's, club stations and even from their home. It's an excellent exercise in emergency communications as well a great social event for fellow amateurs and a way to promote the hobby to the general public.

This would be our 4th year at School Street Park. The town of Agawam and their Parks and Rec department have been making continuous improvements to the park which HCRA benefits from. The town of Agawam has been nothing but supportive of our club and efforts.

We planned for 6 station setup. This would put HCRA into a different category with less entries and it gives more people a chance to operate. With our 4 military style antenna towers, multi-band beams, wire antennas, triplexers and filters, we have no issue with 6 stations. In years past years at school street, we've worked out the issues with interstation interference by placing stations near or in between the towers they will be using.



KB1VWQ

A Field day wouldn't be right if we didn't try something new. This year we wanted to include Springfield Emergency Preparedness into the communications side of the event. We wanted to give 6 meter a try since it's been very promising.



KB1VWQ

Since we had access to the bandshell, We thought it would be nice to bring back food to Field Day. In years past we've decided not to go with a cookout because of the amount of near-by restaurants, no place to really gather around and the lack of volunteers. This year Allan Dove (AB1XW) volunteered to handle the grill.

A couple weeks before Field Day, Harold (N1FTP), Bob (K1YO), Larry (W1AST) and myself met up at the club trailer. We took everything out, organized containers, made sure antennas were in together and prepped it. We are now ready for field day. On Friday (June 24th, 2016), many HCRA members met up at the park and once the sprinkler heads/pipe were located, we went to work putting up towers and antennas. We've had some issues with placing the antennas on the towers. HCRA ended up purchasing a step ladder to help make things easier. The day was hot but we've had plenty of water on hand and the pizza was good. We've managed to get all the towers erected with antennas mounted in preparation for raising them on Saturday. We've had at least a dozen park goers stop by and asked what's going on. We stopped around 5pm. Some HCRA members stayed the night to watch over the equipment. We also had some fun and managed to make many DX contacts with the beam just 15 or so feet off the ground.



On Saturday we resumed setup. We raised the towers and the captains were getting their stations setup. Final SWR checks were done and we were ready for Field Day. Of course there were some issues along the way. What isn't a field day without some. A lot of it had to do with N1MM+ and the networking. However it was figured out and all the stations were talking to each other. 2PM was upon us and we started calling CQ right away. Instead of the rain like we had last year, this year we were battling the heat. Since school street is a new(er) park, shade is considered a luxury but we made due with the situation.

At around 4pm, Jim (KK1W) and Frandy (N1FJ) did a presentation on choosing and setting up a portable station. It attracted a decent amount of people and they did really well showing the many options available. It's certain that people left knowing a lot more about what goes into portable operating.

Following the presentation, HCRA conducted a VE exam for anyone willing to take a test at field day. Following the exam, Allan (AB1XW) was well on his way cooking burgers and dogs. He did an excellent job and everyone was fed... except for Jim (KK1W). A big thanks to Larry (W1AST) and Faye Krainson and George Zimmerman (KC1CXD) for providing extra snacks and food that lasted throughout the weekend.

Operations went throughout the night well into the morning. However the heat got to us and we were un-able to operate throughout the night. Operations appeared to start again around 7am with a run to Dunkin Donuts for the much needed coffee. Faye helped out by making everyone pancakes. We continued to operate until the very end.

Packing up proved to be quite difficult. There wasn't the amount of volunteers like we had in years past for tear down so it took much longer to pack up. We also had great difficulty with some screw anchors on the 40m SSB tower. The dry clay embedded dirt created a "pocket" that didn't allow us to easily unscrew the anchors. Combined with the heat, it made for an exhausting afternoon. We didn't leave the park until 4:30pm.

Overall Field Day was a success. Many people stopped by and we even managed to get on the WWLP TV 22 newscast. <http://wwlp.com/2016/06/26/ham-radio-operators-technology-before-the-digital-revolution/>

Excellent promotion for both HCRA and Amateur Radio. However it wasn't perfect. The heat was of course an issue and there was also many "little" things that happened that need to be addressed if HCRA is going to have a Field Day in 2017. We need more volunteers for both setup and tear down. We need more people dedicated for the entire event. We need a crew made up of multiple people that know the ins and outs of the towers and/or antennas. We also need a co-chair that knows exactly what goes where and could make decisions when they are needed. We need you!

HCRA members and guests ended up making approximately 2,822 contacts. 1058 CW contacts, 1743 SSB contacts and 21 digital contacts. We also made 1790 bonus points. HCRA is claiming 9592 points for 2016. That is 382 less than last year. A combination of heat, band conditions and not as many operators as years past had a role to play but the whole point of Field Day is to have fun. I hope that everyone that attended and volunteered had good time. It's not easy but I think it's worth it if we had fun.

Stats and more information about Field Day could be found on our website <http://www.hcra.org/field-day/field-day-2016/>

<http://www.hcra.org/fdstats/2016-ARRL-FD-WINY/>

Thanks to all who helped make HCRA field day possible. I hope to do this again next year and I hope to see you there with us!



**BUT IT WAS A LOT OF WORK!  
WE NEED YOU FOR NEXT YEAR!**

# MY DAYTON 2016 TRIP

LARRY KRAINSON W1AST

I have a friend that can decide to go someplace a few days before and then he makes his plans. I can't do that. I'm a planner and planning works for me in work, life, radio, scouting, everything. There's not much I do last minute. So, with that in mind, sometime in May of 2015, I started thinking about attending Dayton again in May of 2016. But that depended on a few things, like getting my son a car, so I didn't have to shuttle him between home, job and college in Brockport, NY which was usually on Dayton weekend.

I mentioned going to a few close friends as something to think about. Then started helping my son find a car, which we did in early July 2015. Things were good and my taxi dad days were over (or so I thought, more on that later).

Fast forward to October where NT1K, NF1G, KC1BDL and myself went to Nearfest in NH. I had already tossed the idea of Dayton to Chris (KC1BDL) and JJ (KC2FEV) and they were in. On the trip to and from NH, I brought up the subject to Paul, NF1G and he was hooked having never been. Also, George KC1V and I were chatting about it and he mentioned his friend Mike in Kansas (forgot his call). That made us a group of 6.

Fast forward again to late January to late February. JJ was taking care of the hotel as he got some good discounts and prices. My request was no smoking mandatory and a hot tub to soak in at the end of each day. He delivered on all counts.

May arrived and the excitement started to build especially since both Paul and I had good sized shopping lists as did JJ and Chris. What to drive was a topic for a while and we ended up with Pauls wifes Lexus RX350 suv. It was perfect, lots of room, very comfortable, lots of power and decent fuel economy. Except when packed with 4 guys bags, cooler and stuff, suddenly there wasn't lots of room. But we made due.

The plans were to leave on Thursday morning, May 19<sup>th</sup> and return Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. George was flying out, Mike was driving in from Kansas. As luck would have it, the night of the 18<sup>th</sup>, my son called and said he was in a car accident. He walked away safely, the car is totaled, please come and get me in Greenfield, I want to come home. This was 9:30 pm and I needed to get up at 4:30 am to get to Chris' for 6 am. I did my fatherly duties, got back home before midnight and stayed awake all night. I was not a driver the next day.

6 am came on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We left Chicopee headed towards Syracuse where we picked up JJ. That leg was 230 miles. Then the remaining 530 or so towards Dayton. We were blessed with good weather for the drive and the sun rising behind us, so it wasn't in our eyes. It was a 12 hour drive, but great company and a comfortable ride made the time go and before we knew it, we were 4 hours out. That's when the phone rang.

Mike and George were at the hotel. JJ had booked 3 rooms, next to one another with 2 beds in each room. But, that's not what Mike and George were given or what the hotel had actually booked for us. They had one bed rooms. Very unacceptable for all of us. JJ got on the phone and started with the hotel and worked his way to upper management. We made a rest stop but would not let him out to go until he "fixed" the issue. Even though he confirmed months before the correct room arrangements, the hotel changed them w/o notice. Not a good thing at all.

Finally JJ had things in hand and a suitable fix for all. He was allowed out for HIS rest stop!

Around 6:30 pm we pulled into the hotel, checked in, then went out for dinner. We caught up with Mike and George and all planned 9am to head to the hamvention, right after breakfast the next morning.

We got lucky and found 3 day parking right behind the Hara Arena. That meant no bus ride to and from parking, no long walks and anything purchased could be brought to the car immediately, so we didn't have to walk around with it! It worked great and we did park there all 3 days! A great \$20 investment!

If you haven't been to Dayton, it's like a hundred Boxboro's and Nearfests combined. Inside vendors were in different rooms. I believe this year they had over 500 inside vendors. Outside were hundreds of flea market purveyors. It was like a never ending

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## DAYTON 2016 CONT.

flea market with not only used stuff (I saw that at Nearfest, right?) but some new vendors too. Lots and lots and lots of stuff. Lots of walking. My activity tracker said I did over 13 miles the first day!

I wasn't too impressed with the flea market and hung around inside trying to find everything I wanted for my shopping list which included a new 6 band HF beam, rotor and controller, battery for portable operation, 100 feet of coax & rotor cable, a thrust bearing, smaller power supply for my KX3 and a few other smaller things. Paul was looking for a new HF amp, JJ tuner, and more, Chris a headset for his TS-590 and maybe more. A larger shopping list than we had room for in the vehicle for the ride home.

Our plans were to stay somewhat together since cell service was horrible in and around the arena. Texting just didn't work either and way too much RF for HT's. But we did get split up and eventually found each other again.

I used Friday as a talk to vendors day for beams. I had my comparison chart and a list of questions as did the other guys with their shopping lists too. I also had an interesting conversation with a vendor.

I was at the Pro Audio Engineering booth and had a question on the KX3 power supply he sells. I was wearing my HCRA log shirt and mid way thru his answering my questions, he looks at my shirt, points to the logo and said "I was a member of that club in the early 70's". That comment side tracked our power supply conversation and started a new one. I listed off hams I knew were around back then and he knew all of them. The I asked where he lived and he said Longmeadow! Now the world was getting real small and conversation to ham radio at Longmeadow High School, common people we knew. Then I noticed his last name and we figured out I went to school with his brother Chris and still chat with Chris on FaceBook. Sometimes the world is a very small place. His name was Howie Hoyt from Pro Audio Engineering and he is from the triangle of NC, which is the Raleigh area.

We finally regrouped and went back to the hotel for the day. Upon returning to our room, JJ and I found that the maid had never been there and had hung the no maid service on our door. We didn't care about the beds but did want fresh towels at least. A trip to the front desk and a conversation with a nasty manager (JJ had this duty) and finally we had fresh towels. Out to dinner we went and discussed the days events and our finds. Upon returning to the hotel, we converged at the hot tub for a very nice and well deserved soak.

Saturday we were up and ready and repeated Friday morning with breakfast and out the door for 9 am. Back to the same parking area and back to the Hara Arena. By mid day I finally decided on a new antenna and went with JK Antennas Navassa-5 plus the 6m add-on kit. That made it 12 elements and lots of aluminum. Since the beam cost me less than I planned originally, I splurged on a Green Heron rotor controller and Yaesu G-1000 rotor combo package (well spent). Two things down and in budget. A trip to HRO and coax, rotor cable and thrust bearing ordered which would arrive on Monday, before I did back home. Everything of mine was shipped. I also picked up a Uniden scanner and some little stuff such as a 2<sup>nd</sup> LNR Precision 10/20/40 end fed antenna. While I was making my purchases, the other guys were too. Paul bought a Acom amp, Chris a Heil headset, JJ a MFJ tuner. Pauls amp got shipped, the other guys had their purchases with them. They barely fit into the car! My activity tracker said I did 8 miles on Saturday!

I did bump into a few other HCRA members such as Bob; NQ1C and Steve; N1EOE during the Hamvention. I saw a few others I recognized from the Hartford-Springfield area too.



While at Dayton we also saw releases of some new equipment or pre-announcements of new equipment such as the Icom IC-7300, new Kenwood HT (not yet released), some ginourmous towers by Luso, the Elecraft KX2 and some others too. Kenwood, Icom and Yaesu had big displays as did many other vendors. All had some very cool stuff. Some of which are only dreamed about!



Sunday came and out the door we went back to Dayton for the last hours of the show. JJ picked up a scanner like mine, a few other incidentals were picked up. Since Paul and Chris were there for the first time, we went to The National Museum of the United States Air Force, at Wright-Patterson Airforce Base, and walked around there. It's an awesome museum. Even

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## DAYTON 2016 CONT.



though I had been there 5 times before, there is always interesting and new things to see. We left there and made our way to Young's Dairy restaurant where we had some fantastic food. We always stop here on Dayton trips as the food is delicious! Another 5+ miles of walking on Sunday.



We had a few issues with the hotel during our stay, but nothing prepared us for Monday morning. We were up early, only to find the toilets didn't flush. The showers didn't turn on. There was no water in the hotel. Not nice at all. Thankfully we were somewhat clean from our hot tub soak the night before. And I did a Wet Ones wipe down as did JJ. I'm not sure what the other guys did. We couldn't even brush our teeth (thank goodness for bottled water we had). These issues and others were a fight with Wyndham Hotels after the trip. They were not pleasant to deal with and refused any money back to us. We did get our licks in on social media though, But the hotel was not nice staff wise.

Packed and ready to go, George and Mike left the day before. We hit the road around 8 am and started the 760 mile, 12 hour trip back to Western Ma. Dropping JJ off in Syracuse and then just 3.5 hours home. I think I pulled into my driveway before the sun set on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I was both excited and tired. It was a great trip made even better by great friends and a great adventure! There is no Dayton 2017 trip for me as my son graduates college sometime in May. And his lack of car? I'm back to being taxi dad again. Just this week I have another 800 mile, 2 day round trip to make to return him to college.

How is the "stuff" I bought? Stay tuned to future Zero Beats for my reviews. But I'm VERY happy with my purchases!

**DON'T WAIT.**

**COMMUNICATE.**

**MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.**

FEMA AMERICA'S *PrepareAthon!* Ready<sup>®</sup>

**NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2016**

The graphic consists of four speech bubbles stacked vertically. The top one is yellow and says "DON'T WAIT.". The second is green and says "COMMUNICATE.". The third is blue and says "MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.". Below the bubbles is the FEMA logo and the text "AMERICA'S PrepareAthon! Ready". At the bottom is a dark banner with the text "NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2016".

## SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH.

FEMA has an excellent app for smart phones at both the Android Play Store, and the itunes store..

It has information about weather alerts,, How to prepare, disaster resources, and gives you a way to submit photos .

Download Today!

# CLUBLOG UPDATE

JEFFERY BAIL NT1K

HCRA looks for ways to get members on the air. In 2015, we tried a little competition to see who can make the most DXCC contacts in a calendar year. HCRA gave out awards to the top spots. It caused some competition and everyone involved seemed to have a good time. We've decided to give it another try in 2016. We're currently past the halfway point and there is room for people to advance.

When writing this Article (Aug 26th, 2016), Chris Scibelli (NU1O) is the current board leader in both overall unique DXCC contacts and band slots (Unique DXCC contacts per band). In second place is Paul Kelliher (NF1G) in uniques and Juergen Malner (NV1Q) in overall band slots. There is a tight race for 3rd and 4th place. Matt Willhelm (W1MSW) currently has 3 Band DXCC. With contest season coming upon us, it's still anyone's game. Plenty of competition for 160, 60 and 6 meters.

We have currently 24 people playing along. If you participate in electronic logging such as LoTW and eQSL.cc and you are an HCRA member, you can easily participate in the HCRA clublog competition. We have made a step by step guide for anyone that would like to participate.

<http://www.hcra.org/2015/01/04/hcra-is-now-on-club-log/>

Rank	Callsign	160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	NU1O ★	5	33	2	146	51	165	56	90	14	61	2	214	625	28 yrs
2	NF1G	0	1	0	30	18	88	139	96	58	28	0	195	458	1 yrs
3	NV1Q+3	4	51	0	66	17	125	40	113	15	72	0	180	503	37 yrs
4	KK1W+1	60	79	0	90	33	106	27	109	13	85	1	160	603	40 yrs
5	W1MSW	0	51	0	109	3	111	16	107	1	47	0	145	445	6 yrs
6	N1FTP	0	4	0	30	0	104	0	70	0	20	0	126	228	8 yrs
7	K1VOI ★	0	8	0	37	7	78	30	78	7	27	0	122	272	15 yrs
8	KX1X	1	30	0	59	4	66	10	86	0	57	0	115	313	19 yrs
9	AB1WT	0	14	0	29	0	68	57	42	10	15	1	111	236	2 yrs
10	W1AST+1	0	10	0	33	0	72	15	45	0	34	2	109	211	7 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
11	N1HM	1	4	0	22	0	72	20	36	4	10	0	104	169	1 yrs
12	K1NZ+1	20	50	3	79	4	50	9	43	0	10	0	103	268	5 yrs
13	AB1XW+1	0	5	0	43	0	78	0	67	0	9	0	90	202	4 yrs
14	WD1S+2	5	32	0	55	3	70	2	36	0	21	1	89	225	4 yrs
15	WN1E+1	0	4	0	36	0	50	7	68	0	15	0	85	180	25 yrs
16	N1AW	0	3	0	13	3	59	6	14	1	3	1	80	103	2 yrs
17	W1MJB	0	8	0	7	13	32	37	27	19	5	1	76	149	13 yrs
18	KB1VWQ	0	2	0	12	1	32	1	4	0	1	1	38	54	5 yrs
19	KC1BDF	0	0	0	4	0	21	0	0	0	1	0	22	26	1 yrs
20	WA1MOW	0	0	0	1	0	6	7	0	3	4	0	18	21	1 yrs
		160	80	60	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6			
21	KC1BTA	0	0	0	1	0	7	0	3	0	3	0	11	14	2 yrs
22	KB1VSX	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	0 yrs
23	N1MFL	0	0	0	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	4	7	4 yrs
24	NT1K+2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	4	6 yrs



**Hands-Only™  
CPR**



**1**  
Call 911



**2**  
Push hard and fast in  
the center of the chest.

Learn more at [handsonlycpr.org](http://handsonlycpr.org)



**American Heart  
Association**  
*Learn and Live*

# BOXBORO!

## 2016

September 9, 10, & 11

The ARRL New England Division Convention  
at the Holiday Inn, Boxborough

For ham radio operators or those interested in learning more about Ham Radio!



**PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT [WWW.BOXBORO.ORG](http://WWW.BOXBORO.ORG)**

at participating retailers, or at the door

DXCC CARD CHECKING ▪ LICENSE CLASS ▪ HAM RADIO (VE) EXAMS  
Free to paid Attendees: Screening of the Movie "Frequency" on Friday Night

Admission \$15.00 per person, Flea market \$10.00 per space. Tickets valid all days.  
Friday DX Dinner \$40. Saturday Banquet is \$40.  
"Whole Convention" package – Admission + both Banquets \$90  
Special discounts for groups that want to reserve a table at the banquet or DX dinner.

Ample free parking is available outside the flea market.

The Holiday Inn Boxborough, MA is located on Route 111 just off I-495 at Exit 28.  
Full details and maps are available on the official 2016 Boxboro! Web Site [www.boxboro.org](http://www.boxboro.org)

# DOTS & DASHES:

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

## SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE : HCRA'S CONTESTING CLASS

Matt W1MSW and Jeff NT1K will be hosting the HCRA's version of "Contesting College" this September 17th. If your new to Amateur Radio, or want to get started in contesting, this "Share the Knowledge" session is for you. Watch your emails for details.

## 9/11 NPOTA ACTIVATION AT THE SPRINGFIELD ARMORY

Dan KB1VWQ is looking ahead and trying to find 1st responders to work with him to make the Sept 11th activation at the armory a sort of POTA\*413/NPOTA 1st responders day at the Springfield Armory. Looking for Police, Fire, and EMS amateur radio operators to be on the air to help commemorate this tragic day. Operators on LoTW can use their OWN callsign. Operators NOT on LoTW will be using MY callsign to accommodate the NPOTA chasers. Contact Dan via email KB1VWQ@arrl.net if interested.

Editorial Comment: I myself plan on attending, to represent both LEO, and EMS. If you are a 1st Responder, please join us for this special day to honor not only the hero's lost on 9/11, but the hero's who 1st respond everyday!

## 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 wa1mow@arrl.net

## INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

This is a 'work-in-progress' guide to using [VOACAP \(Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program\)](#) - free professional HF propagation prediction software from NTIA/ITS, originally developed for Voice of America (VOA). This guide should get you well started with VOACAP. A more comprehensive discussion about the finer details of using the software can be found in George Lane's book [Signal-to-Noise Predictions Using VOACAP. A User's Guide](#). The book is now available on CD-ROM.

## AREA SWAPFESTS:

Sept	9-11	New England Convention	Boxboro, Ma	<a href="http://www.boxboro.org">www.boxboro.org</a>
	10	Ct Vintage Radio Museum	Windsor, Ct	<a href="http://www.vrcmct.org">www.vrcmct.org</a>
	11	Saratoga Cty Amateur Radio Hamfest	Saratoga, NY	<a href="http://www.k2dll.org">www.k2dll.org</a>
	18	Flea at MIT	Cambridge, Ma	<a href="http://www.w1mx.mit.edu/flea-at-mit">www.w1mx.mit.edu/flea-at-mit</a>
	24	NEARC Antique	Brookline, NH	<a href="http://www.nearc.net">www.nearc.net</a>
Oct	14-15	NEAR Fest	Deerfield, NH	<a href="http://www.near-fest.com">www.near-fest.com</a>

## SEPTEMBER'S CONTESTS:

Sep	10	Ohio State Parks on the Air	<a href="http://www.ospota.org/ospota">www.ospota.org/ospota</a>	Ph
		ARRL September VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf">www.arrl.org/september-vhf</a>	CW, Ph, Dig
	11	North American CW Sprint	<a href="http://www.ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf">www.ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf</a>	CW
	17	All Africa Inter. DX Contest	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>	CW, Ph, Dig.
		New Jersey QSO Party	<a href="http://www.k2td-bcerc.org/njqp">www.k2td-bcerc.org/njqp</a>	CW, Ph
		New Hampshire QSO Party	<a href="http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqso">www.w1wqm.org/nhqso</a>	CW, Ph, Dig.
		Washington State Salmon Run	<a href="http://www.wwdx.org">www.wwdx.org</a>	CW, Ph, Dig.
	18	North American RTTY Sprint	<a href="http://www.ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf">www.ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf</a>	Dig.
	19	144 MHz Fall Sprint	<a href="http://www.svhfs.org">www.svhfs.org</a>	CW, Ph
	24	CQ World wide RTTY DX Contest	<a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a>	Dig.
		Maine QSO Party	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/ws1sm">www.qsl.net/ws1sm</a>	CW, Ph
		Texas QSO Party	<a href="http://www.txqp.net">www.txqp.net</a>	CW, Ph, Dig.

# FOR SALE:

If you have a piece of Ham Radio equipment to sell, send photo and details by the 20th of the month, to [walmow@arrl.net](mailto:walmow@arrl.net). All submissions will be screened for appropriateness, and content. The decision to publish is at the discretion of the ZB Editor

MFJ 15 amp small power supply. Excellent Condition. Box and manual. Perfect for powering low power radios such as KX3, IC-703 and many others.

Model MFJ-44115.

<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-4115> for specs.

Your Price: \$40



Mosley TA-33 antenna. Needs some clean up work but could easily be a great antenna for someone. 3 elements, 14 foot boom. It was my main antenna for years and could be yours too. Mosley still sells the TA-33.

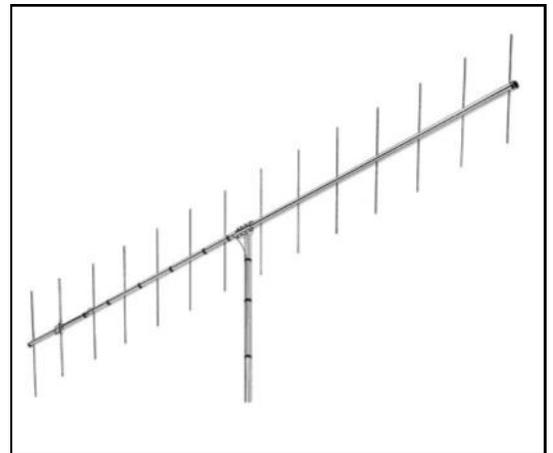
Here are the specs page: <http://www.mosley-electronics.com/pages/amateur/ta33m.htm>

Sells new for \$628 by Mosley. Your Price: \$150 or Best Offer.

2 meter, 14 element beam. Can be used vertical or horizontal. Works great.

<http://www.hy-gain.com/Product.php?productid=VB-214FM>

Your Price: \$60



**For Sale By Larry W1AST**

**w1ast@gmail.com**

**(413) 348-3289**

# 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

## 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

**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/>

## HCRA contact list

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VE Session Liaison, Dave Cote W1FAB

w1fab@arrl.net



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

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

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