



ZERO BEAT

<http://hcra.org>

September 2017

Special points of interest:

Next Meeting:

*October 6th
DXLabs*

Dave Bernstein A6YQ

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

September's Meeting

Join us Friday September 8th at 7:30, in the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center .



When ARRL inaugurated their year long NPOTA event in 2016, it was a perfect fit to my favorite part of the hobby. I traveled and activated extensively throughout 2016, from the North Woods of Maine to Great Smokey Mountains National Park in Tennessee during 2016. When the event ended I really had to ask...what's next . That's when I discovered World Wide Flora and Fauna (WWFF). And since January 2017 have logged several activations with WWFF/ KFF and WWFF/VEFF in Vermont, New Jersey, Upstate New York and Canada.

2017/2018 HCRA Raffle

Yaesu FT-891 HF

For directions to The Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center:

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

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Win a FT-891

Tickets only \$10 each

Only 250 to be sold

**Drawing to be held at
the MTARA HamFest
March 10th.**



\$1000 package includes a Yaesu ATAS-120 antenna!

FROM THE SHACK

DAVE FANT WM1B



This is my first article as your HCRA President so I thought I would give you a little biography as to who I am. I first became interested in Ham Radio in the late 1950's at our High School Radio Club in Central Michigan. Unfortunately, we moved to Maine before I had a chance to obtain my ticket. Then College, Marriage and family took priority until the late 1980's when living in upstate NY I became involved with RACES with both of my daughters, all three of us earning our tickets. I was given the call sign KB2HPV and then KE2SN when I earned my Advanced Ticket. Then came my Extra and after moving to Massachusetts obtained my current call, WM1B while a member of HCRA.

I do not chase DX, nor take each contest as a challenge to be at the top of the pack. I very seldom will be found on 2Meters. Ham Radio is just one of my hobbies competing with camping, winters in Florida and enjoying my Grandson. I turn the radio on and if I hear someone calling CQ I will respond but do not attempt to break into a pileup, especially against the big guns. I enjoy contesting, but not as a single entry. I have worked with other members of the club in a multiple entry contest. I get as much enjoyment watching the other dig out the contact as I do. Occasionally you might hear me on W1AW which is always enjoyable. At home I run barefoot without an amp into a 5 band beam up 30 feet. Right now I am repairing my 5 band vertical which will add 40 and 75 M.

Enough about me. Where did the summer go? Seems as though we just finished Field Day and it is now time to begin gearing up for the Fall World Wide Contests.

I hope that you all had a chance to make some great contacts this summer, perhaps you had a chance to capture that DX that you needed or became involved in the new World Wide Flora and Fauna events. Many National Parks activation spots were listed on Facebook. I tried to contact the HCRA crew while they activated the Salem Maritime Memorial in Salem MA, unfortunately their signals flew overhead skipping right over my beam

Your BOD has been active getting plans set up for this year. Some exciting activities are being discussed and studied. As plans get developed you will hear about them at our monthly meetings. Larry W1AST, our Program Director has set up a great schedule of speakers for this year. You won't want to miss any of these.

The annual raffle is in full swing. At the September meeting find out if you will be one of the lucky ones to obtain a free ticket! This year a combination prize of a YAESU FT-891 and the ATAS-120A antenna should make these tickets go fast. Let's set a record and see if we can sell them all in time to have the drawing at the Holiday Party. What a great Holiday gift that would be !

Lots of activities going on. Be sure to step up and jump in to help. Our Technical Director, Bob, K1YO will kick off an exciting new activity at the September meeting. Be sure to be there to see what Bob has planned.

That's it for now - May your Bands be open and your QRM low.

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

GET WITH THE SET:

ARRL SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST (SET) FALL CLASSIC

The main weekend for the 2017 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is only a little more than a month away — Saturday and Sunday, October 7 and 8. The primary League-sponsored national emergency exercise is designed to assess the skills and preparedness of ARES® and other organizations involved with emergency and disaster response.

“Every local ARES team and/or ARRL Section will come up with their own scenarios and work with **served agencies and partner organizations** during the SET,” said ARRL Field Organization Team Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X, who pointed out that not all SETs will take place on the first full weekend of October.

“SETs can be scheduled at the local and Section levels and conducted throughout the fall season to help maximize participation,” Ewald said, “and ARRL Field Organization leaders have the option of conducting their SETs on another weekend if October 7 and 8 are not convenient.”

ARRL Field Organization Leaders — Section Managers, Section Emergency Coordinators, Section Traffic Managers, District Emergency Coordinators, Emergency Coordinators, and all of their Assistants and Net Managers — are among those tasked with developing plans and scenarios for this year’s SET, Ewald explained.

“The SET invites all radio amateurs to become aware of emergency preparedness and available training,” Ewald said. “ARES, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), National Traffic System™, SKYWARN, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) and other allied groups and public service-oriented radio amateurs are encouraged to participate.”

The object of the annual nationwide exercise is to test training and skills and to try out new methods. “It’s a time to work with partner organizations and served agencies to get to know them better and to determine their needs *before* an emergency or disaster strikes,” Ewald said. “Knowing whom to contact within partner groups with the planned procedures will help everyone accomplish their goals and succeed in their missions.”

Over the decades, ARRL has established strong working relationships with multiple organizations and agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, the National Weather Service, the National Communications System, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials- International (APCO-International), Citizen Corps, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD), REACT International, the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE), the US Power Squadron, and the Boy Scouts of America.

“Getting to know these organizations at the local, section, and state levels and how to work together for effective emergency and disaster response service are important,” Ewald said. “The annual Simulated Emergency Test provides the chance, and you and the radio amateurs of your community help make it happen.”

Source:ARRL

CANADA PROPOSES IMPLEMENTING A 60-METER BAND

An Industry Canada (IC) regulatory consultation (proceeding) aimed at implementing the changes from the 2015 World Radio-communication Conference (WRC-15) could lead to the allocation of a 60-meter band in Canada in addition to the five discrete channels that are congruent with those in the US. IC is seeking comments on this and other revisions that take WRC-15 into account.

"The consultation is the first step in the process for regulatory changes," International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 2 Area A Director George Gorsline, VE3YV, explained. "After the 60-day period, responses are tabulated, made public, and the regulator then determines how to proceed." Gorsline said there is no fixed schedule, and it could be "months or much longer" before any allocation changes are made. Even then, he added, Canada's Amateur Radio regulations would have to be updated to incorporate them before the new allocation would become available for amateur use.

As the Consultation notes, a number of countries have authorized, subject to various restrictions, operation by Amateur Radio licensees within the 5,250-5,450 kHz frequency range. "To date, no interference has been reported," IC said in the consultation. "Ultimately, a worldwide, secondary allocation of 15 kHz in the frequency band 5,351.5-5,366.5 kHz was made to the Amateur Service with an effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP) limit of 15 W" in most of Region 2. "The proposed changes to the Canadian Table [of Allocations] will allow Canadian Amateur Radio operators to assist in domestic and international emergency or disaster relief situations," IC said.

The regulator proposed retaining the five discrete channels already available to radio amateurs -- 5,332, 5,348, 5,358.5, 5,373, and 5,405 kHz.

In January, ARRL [petitioned](#) the FCC to allocate the same contiguous band -- 5,351.5-5,366.5 kHz -- to US radio amateurs with a 100 W PEP power limit, while also retaining the five discrete 60-meter channels that have been available for several years

Source:ARRL

ARRL FINALLY REALIZES STATUS QUO ISN'T GOING TO CUT IT

By DAN ROMANCHIK, KB6NU

An item in the July 2017 ARRL board meeting caught my attention. It notes that a committee of staff members was tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The August 3, 2017 issue of the ARRL Letter ran the following report:

“ARRL Chief Executive Officer Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, presented the report of six Headquarters staffers who had been tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and devising feasible solutions. Specifically, the committee addressed market research findings that have continued to reveal that only a small percentage of new hams join the League, and only about one-half of new hams actually get on the air.

“The committee began with the premise that ARRL must act in order to remain relevant going forward. It proposed instituting a Lifelong Learning Program to focus on developing a clear developmental path for all radio amateurs, from newcomers to established radio amateurs. The committee recommended the creation of new programs and services to increase the knowledge base of newcomers in order to get them active, as well as programs to keep experienced amateurs up to date with changing technology and practice.”

The board meeting minutes were a little more detailed:

“Mr. Roderick yielded the floor to CEO Gallagher who presented the report of a committee of staff members tasked with identifying the challenges facing ARRL and possible solutions. The members of the committee – Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF; Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Becky Schoenfeld, WBXY; Debra Jahnke, K1DAJ; Steve Ford, WB8IMY; and Sean Kutzko, KX9X, joined the meeting at 9:20 AM, to present this report. Their findings show the importance to ARRL of getting newly licensed hams actively on the air and how that relates to continued growth of the organization. In order to achieve that goal, the committee proposed developing a lifelong learning department, which would address the needs of all amateurs with the focus being on developing a clear knowledge path for all amateurs. They proposed creating straightforward programs and services to enhance the knowledge base of new amateurs as well as to enhance their sense of community within the hobby.

“Another recommendation involved refocusing the priorities of the emergency preparedness department to address the current trends in public service.

“A third recommendation was to improve the value proposition of membership. The committee proposed doing a survey, which would include test material that is targeted to the interests of newer hams. The content would include a strong emphasis on serving communities, agencies, and partners; digital communications, and human interest. Projects would be simple. The survey would obtain information on new ham’s interests and needs in the hobby. The survey would also try to determine the delivery system that might best meet the newcomer’s desire for receiving this type information (print, digital, messaging, etc). The test material is proposed to be delivered to recipients in fall 2017.

*“From the committee’s vantage point, **the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership** [emphasis is mine...Dan]. If we do not convey the need to change the paradigm, the ARRL’s relevancy will not move forward.”*

The good thing here is that the ARRL finally realizes that there are some serious problems. I’ve written about these in the past. I’ve challenged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of the licensed amateurs in the U.S (<http://www.kb6nu.com/arrl-membership-is-25-asking-too-much/>). I’ve also encouraged the ARRL to play a bigger part in emergency communications research (<http://www.kb6nu.com/go-big-go-early-go-fast-smart/>).

Unfortunately, it appears that the ARRL is approaching this issue in typical ARRL fashion. That is, working on these issues in their little cocoon in Newington and then issuing these statements as if they expect everyone to just fall in line. I quote, “From the committee’s vantage point, the status quo is no longer adequate: we need to have a vision of the future and convey it to our current membership.” That approach is doomed to failure. Any “visioning” or strategic planning that doesn’t get the membership involved right from the start just isn’t going to work.

The ARRL HQ staff just doesn’t have the horsepower to pull this off properly. The staff is already pretty bare bones, and they still have to publish QST every month, keep Logbook of the World running, process thousands of license applications, etc., etc. The only way this is going to be a fruitful effort is if they get members—and lots of them—involved in this process.

If you agree with me, please let your director know. Contact your director and tell him that you want to be involved. The status quo of having the HQ staff not working with the membership “is no longer adequate.” That’s how we got here in the first place.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

ARRL CONTEST RULE CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS

ARRL STAFF

Just ahead of the 2017-2018 contest season, ARRL has announced **rule changes and clarifications** to League-sponsored contests. These include an improved process for submitting logs and reporting scores. Unless otherwise noted, these changes become effective starting with the September VHF Contest.

“These changes reflect current ‘best practices’ in the contest community and help us improve the quality of the competition and reporting of results,” ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, said. “For example, getting the log data into log checking more quickly will allow us to post preliminary results online for nearly all contests.”

Log Submission

Log submission in the “General Rules for All Contests” has been simplified and revised. Individual contest rules will no longer include a log-submission section (with exceptions noted in the contest’s overview section). Here are the most important points.

- **Online log submission:** Except for the EME and 10 GHz and Up contests, electronic logs should be submitted through the web app. E-mail log-handling “robots” will continue to operate until they can no longer properly handle the logs without revision. They will then be deactivated and submitters redirected to the web app.
- **Log submission deadline:** Effective immediately, except for the 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest (2 weeks) and the EME and 10 GHz and Up Contests (30 days), the log submission deadline for ARRL HF contests will be 5 days from the end of the contest (this includes the IARU HF Championship). For ARRL VHF contests, the log submission deadline will be 10 days from the end of the contest. To accommodate any issues, an extension may be requested, explaining the necessity to the ARRL Contest Branch Manager any time before the submission deadline.
- **Logged frequency:** HF contest entries competing for awards as category leaders are encouraged to specify frequency with a 1-kHz resolution. This is standard practice for other top contests, and it assists with log checking.
- **Public logs:** The log used for log checking will be posted online for public inspection.
- **Paper logs:** These will continue to be accepted, but are only eligible for awards at the discretion of the Contest Branch Manager.
- **Log withdrawal:** Logs may be withdrawn up to 10 days following the log submission deadline.

Club Competition

The new toolset for clubs to comply with the Club Competition rules (**Section 8 of the General Rules for All ARRL Contests**) has been very well received.

ARRL CONTEST RULES CHANGE (CONT.)

Clubs must submit up-to-date eligibility lists before the contest to be included in the results. Only scores from members in a valid eligibility list will be counted toward the club score total. Members must reside and operate in the specified club territory (club circle or section) to contribute scores to a club total. Calculation of club scores will now be based exclusively on this information. No further waivers of eligibility rules will be granted. For more information and tools for submitting your club's eligibility list, visit the **Contest Club Competition — Club Eligibility Changes** page.

Log-Checking Penalties

Penalties for “zero-point” contacts, such as US-to-US contacts in ARRL DX, will not be assessed during log checking. Operators may continue to log and submit zero-point contacts. Submitting these contacts helps to ensure that full credit is given and that log checking is as complete as possible.

Remote Entries

Acting as the control operator for a **remotely controlled station** in the US or its possessions requires that the operator hold a US license and have sufficient privileges for all operation. CEPT/IARP reciprocal operating authority does *not* include remote control of a US station. If another operator acts as the on-site control operator, the entry must be in a multioperator category. The location for the entry will be the location of the station, regardless of where the operator is during the contest.

Operating Rules

- **Multiple in-band CQing:** Recognizing that amateur bands are generally full during contests, maintaining two or more frequencies to solicit contacts (i.e., “run”) on the same band and mode is prohibited. (The IARU HF Championship and the ARRL 10 Meter Contest prohibit this practice regardless of mode.)
- **Call sign and ARRL November Sweepstakes exchange:** The station's call sign must be sent as part of the exchange, i.e. “W1AW, number 123, Alpha, W9JJ, 79, Connecticut.”
- **US operators in Canada:** The reciprocal operating treaty between the US and Canada requires that the call sign be sent with the Canadian prefix following the call sign, i.e. “W9JJ/VE1,” not “VE1/W9JJ.”
- **Single Operator, FM Only:** Cabrillo QSO lines must specify FM as the mode for all FM contacts.

For more information, contact the Contest Branch Manager.

The advertisement features a teal background with white and red text and graphics. On the left, the 'Ad Council' logo is visible. The main text reads: 'Hands-Only™ CPR' with a red circle containing the number '1' and a red smartphone icon. Below this is 'Call 911'. To the right, a red circle containing the number '2' is above a red graphic of hands being pushed together. The text continues: 'Push hard and fast in the center of the chest.' and 'Learn more at handsonlycpr.org'. On the far right is the 'American Heart Association' logo with the tagline 'Learn and Live'.

AN ALTERNATE VIEW OF AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT

MARTY WOLL N6VI

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

GARY FIELDS, P.E., W1MOW

DISCLAIMER: These comments are my own, they do NOT represent the feelings of the Board of Directors, or of the association.

As many of you know, I have spent the past few years doing consulting work for both AT&T, and Verizon. My work for both these companies is in regard to tower siting, project management, and regulatory/company acceptance. In these duties, I interface quite often with the companies legal staffs. There are 3 Attorneys that I deal with on a regular basis, 2 are amateurs, (Both requested I do not list their calls.) and one works for one of the largest law firms in Washington D.C. that deals with the FCC. All 3 of these echo the feelings of Marty N6VI. Since the compromised bill was announced, they all stated that this was worst than nothing at all, and give a lot of power to the HOA's that they did not have before. It will make it a lot harder, and a lot of amateurs could lose their grandfathered agreements.

When I am not at home in New Hampshire, I live in a condo in Suffield, Ct. (Due to family needs.) My neighbor is the president of the condo association. While they have allowed me to install some antennas, (Because of my association with the town emergency services.) they have taken a hard stance with others. We have had numerous conversations over the past year discussing this issue. Prior to the compromised bill, they were very nervous, now they are extremely happy. They have been told by the CAI Association that this bill makes it very easy for them to reject, or not rule at all, on any antenna request, for any reason. Leaving the amateur no recourse than to go to court, costing them thousands in legal costs, which few can afford.

The people I have talked to express the feeling that the ARRL is pursuing this bill just to say they did something.

Now that I am a former ARRL Vice Director, I am free to speak my mind on this matter. As a long-time proponent of antenna rights, it is with great disappointment that I say I do not favor passage of HR-555. I should add up front, by way of disclaimer, that I am not an attorney.

I was a big supporter of the original Amateur Radio Parity Act - the PRB-1 version. The ability to put up outdoor antennas and the structures necessary to support them on your property is crucial to being an active Ham for many licensees. Since 2010 I have visited the offices of numerous elected officials, sent over a thousand e-mail messages, spent entire convention weekends generating letters from Hams to their elected representatives and spoken at countless club meetings to drum up support for this legislation. It's fair to say that I invested a major chunk of my time in support of the original Parity Act, and I certainly respect ARRL leadership for its persistence in seeking relief for all impacted Amateurs, whether League members or not. However, in February of 2016 the language that mirrored PRB-1 was removed from HR-1301 (now HR-555), and this is a critique of the result, not of the intent or effort.

Last year, ARRL found itself at odds with one senator over the bill and was required to negotiate compromise language with CAI, a national trade association of homeowner associations (HOAs) and similar groups. While I had some major misgivings at the time, I did not object to the compromise language because I believed it would help at least those Amateurs who live in homes with developer-imposed deed restrictions not within the purview of an active HOA.

Since that time, however, some high-profile, competent and very knowledgeable attorneys (all of them Hams but none associated with the ARRL Board) have evaluated the compromise language and found that it may do more harm than good. They have pointed out some serious shortcomings in HR-555 that significantly restrict how many Hams may benefit from its passage and that, if uncorrected, could actually diminish the rights of some Amateurs and grant the right to regulate amateur antennas to HOAs that do not now have that right.

What follows is an abbreviated description of the issues surrounding HR-555, the current version of the Parity Act. For those who want to dig deeper into the matter, I have a version I can e-mail you separately that include attachments containing (1) the original bill language, (2) the compromise language in the current bill, and (3) an analysis prepared by former FCC attorney and active Amateur Radio operator Jim Talens N3JT for the Potomac Valley Radio Club. Many of the points in Jim's critique were also made by Fred Hopengarten K1VR (author of Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur) at his presentation to the Legal Forum at the May 2017 Dayton Hamvention. Suffice it to say that the expert Ham-attorneys are NOT all lining up in support of HR-555 in its current form.

The original bill pretty much paralleled PRB-1, the Federal Preemption Statute. It required the FCC to revise its regulations to prohibit private deed restrictions that preclude or fail to reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communications or that do not constitute the minimum practicable restriction on such communications to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the private entity seeking to enforce such restriction.

On the other hand, the compromise bill that CAI insisted on does the following:

- 1) It grants HOAs the right to use aesthetics as a basis for antenna decisions, even to those associations whose rules do not now have any provisions concerning antennas. This grant of power to HOAs is unprecedented in Federal law, and it adds a right - as a matter of Federal law - for HOA's that has never been previously approved in Federal law. That right cannot be undone by state law.
- 2) It requires a deed-restricted Amateur to notify and seek prior permission from the HOA before installing any outdoor antenna, with no grandfathering for those already installed.
- 3) It does not establish a time frame within which the HOA must render a decision; an HOA can stall indefinitely and do so without adverse consequence.
- 4) It does not grant or guarantee to an Amateur the right to operate on the band(s) of his or her choice.
- 5) It permits but does not require the HOA to establish written rules regarding antenna size, type and location.
- 6) It does not establish or require an HOA administrative process for redress if an HOA denies a Ham's requested antenna. The decision of the HOA is final.

Under HR-555, if passed, Hams who have existing "stealth" antennas, even with the concurrence of their immediate neighbors, would now be in violation of Federal law and FCC regulations.

HOAs will be legally able to write their own rules with no objective criteria and no standards, and they will have the unrestricted power of Federal law to back them up.

The band(s) on which the Amateur wishes to operate need not be a consideration in any HOA decision; they could limit you to a small UHF whip a few inches long on your gutter and say that have accommodated Amateur Radio.

An HOA that previously existed only to conduct limited activities, such as maintaining roads, utilities and exterior landscaping, one that has never held any power to regulate Amateur Radio, would be granted the power to demand the removal of existing antennas and to demand that an Amateur seek its approval to install any Amateur antennas or supports. Imagine having moved into a neighborhood because the HOA had no regulatory power over Amateur Radio antennas, only to have Federal law now grant the HOA that power!

The compromise bill expressly disconnects itself from PRB-1. Unfortunately, that means that none of the Ham-friendly court decisions interpreting PRB-1 would be binding on an HOA.

It has been argued that the FCC, in writing the regulations required by HR-555, could eliminate some of the above risks. However, the FCC has opposed restricting the rights of HOAs for over thirty years, and I don't think it is prudent to count on the Commission to reverse itself and interpret the law in our favor. Neither can we count on CAI, having won the rights it demanded, to sit by and make no attempt to influence the post-enactment regulatory process in its favor. Wishful thinking to the contrary is hardly a sound basis on which to make our decisions.

Because of the aforementioned shortcomings of HR-555 and the likely adverse consequences of its passage, I cannot support it any longer. There may be a better path than the one the League is now pursuing; I don't know if we can ever get there, but I certainly don't want us to make things worse for a significant number of Amateurs or expose them to being found in violation of Federal law and FCC regulations. Please consider these points when you are asked to write letters of support for HR-555 to your legislators.

As an aside, I want to remind you that some licensees have been successful in selling the advantages of Amateur Radio-based disaster communication capability to their HOA boards. Offering benefits can be much easier and less costly than demanding one's rights.

Here is the ARRL response:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Regulatory/The%20Amateur%20Radio%20Parity%20Act%20FAQ.pdf>

Here is the CQ Amateur Radio White Paper:

http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_highlights/2017-cq/2017-08-cq/2017-cq-white-paper.pdf

Just Say No to H.R. 555/S.1534 by Fred Hopengarten, Esq., K1VR:

http://www.kkn.net/~n6tv/Just_Say_No_to_S.1534_v4.pdf

DOTS & DASHES:

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

TOP-LEVEL DOMAIN NAME '.RADIO' NOW AVAILABLE

The top-level domain (TLD) name ".radio" is now available to the radio industry and Amateur Radio enthusiasts, and is reserved for individuals and companies with active interest in the radio sector. The .radio TLD can be used for web and e-mail addresses and will be managed by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) with support from other world broadcasting unions. Visit the .radio domains registration site <http://www.register.radio/> to request a .radio domain.

INTERESTING HAM RADIO WEB SITE:

The [New England QRP Club](#) is a club dedicated to low power amateur radio in the New England area. They describe themselves as: "We are the QRP Club of New England. Part of our fun is meeting up at various places (NEAR-Fest is always one of the big events of the year), just to say hi and have a laugh. Another big part of our fun is eating together, whether it be at Goody Cole's BBQ, Brown's Lobster Pound, or Geno's Chowder House. And don't forget the first-Saturday-of-the-month gathering at China Yan in Dover, NH! Oh, and radios. We do radios. We design them, build them, and operate them in fair weather and foul." [Check out their New England QRP Afield contest on September 16th.](#)

AREA SWAP/HAMFESTS:

Sep 8/10	New England Convention	Boxborough, Ma	http://www.boxboro.org
Sep 9	Vintage Radio & Comm Museum	Windsor, Ct	http://www.vrcmet.org
Sep 10	Saratoga ARA HamFest	Balston Spa, NY	http://www.k2dll.org
Sep 16	Rhode Island FM Repeater Assoc Auction	Lincoln, RI	http://www.qsl.net/riafmrs/auction.html
Sep 17	Flea at MIT	Cambridge, Ma	http://www.swapfest.us
Oct 13/14	NEARFest XXI	Deerfield, NH	http://www.near-fest.com/
Oct 15	Flea at MIT	Cambridge, Ma	http://swapfest.us
Oct 22	Connecticut Convention/Nutmeg Hamfest	Meriden, Ct	http://www.nutmeghamfest.com
Oct 28	Tri-City Amateur Radio Club Auction	Gales Ferry, Ct	http://www.qsl.net/tricityarc

SEPTEMBER'S CONTESTS

Sep 2	Colorado QSO Party	http://www.ppra.org/coqp	CW, Ph, Dig
	RGSB SSB Field day	http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf	Phone
3	Tennessee QSO Party	http://www.tnqp.org/rules	CW, Ph, Dig
9	Ohio State Parks on the Air	http://www.ospota.org/ospota	Phone
	ARRL September VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf	CW, Ph, Dig
10	North American CW Sprint	http://ncjweb.com	CW
16	Iowa QSO Party	http://www.w0yl.com/IAQP	CW, Ph, Dig
	New England QRP Afield	http://www.newenglandqrp.org	CW, Ph, Dig
	New Jersey QSO Party	http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp	CW, Ph
	New Hampshire QSO Party	http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqso	CW, Ph, Dig
	Washington State Salmon Run	http://www.wwdxc.org	CW, Ph, Dig
17	North American RTTY Sprint	http://www.ncjweb.com	Dig
23	Maine QSO Party	http://www.qsl.net/ws1sm	CW, Ph
	Texas QSO Party	http://www.txqp.net	CW, Ph, Dig
28	RSGB 80-Meter Digital Autumn Series	http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf	Dig

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	- <i>Tentative</i> - Lightning Protection from Parker Willard of the Boston Lightning Rod Company	
March 2018	- Open	
April 2018	- HCRA Show & Tell	
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

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/>

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- 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
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