

12-92

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

## ZERO BEAT

December 1, 1992 Happy Holidays

Our 45th ARRL Affiliated year

Happy Holidays !!!



### Board of Directors

#### 1992 Club Officers 1993

President: Larry Lemoine N1BPE  
 Vice President: Fred Stefanik N1DPM  
 Treasurer: Greg Stoddard N1AEH  
 Secretary: Jim Sebolt N1DUY

#### 1992 Club Directors 1993

<u>Expiring 1992</u>	<u>Expiring 1993</u>
W1YCA Tyron Cote	K1WER Paul Geng
K1ITBS Fred Gore	NR1L Kevin Hillinski
K1QFE Bob Gutowski	W1ZGP Bob Leaver
N1GVV Adam Olson	K1MVR Dave Olson

### December Club Meeting - Holiday Club Social

Friday, December 4, 1992

7:00 pm sharp social begins



Feeding Hills Congregational Church  
 Rte 57 & Rte 187  
 Feeding Hills, Massachusetts



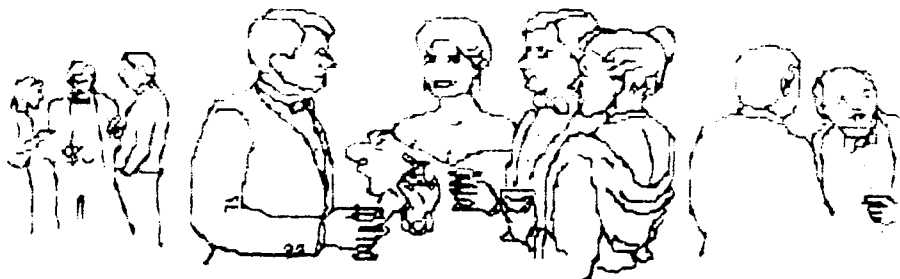
Please bring a unique/rare QSL card with you to share with other members. We are also adding a SHOW & TELL program, so bring anything you want to share with other members; such as kits, antique sets and unique antennas.

### What's Inside this issue . . . .

Article from Al Mason WC1H  
 Secretary's Notebook

President's Message  
 HCRA Flea Market Info

Editor's Corner



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We'll another great meeting. For those of us who attended the November meeting , the Auction was a huge success. Special thanks go to Steve, WA1EYF. A great performance as Auctioneer. In addition, over \$250. was added to the club Treasury, and we had one of the better turnouts of participants. Rumor has it sellers were seen in the parking lot as early as 4:30! One thing we must improve upon though is, the smokers in the club need to pick-up their cigarette butts. The church doesn't mind us smoking outside but they expect us to clean up after ourselves.

The December meeting is scheduled for Friday, 12/4. This is our annual Holiday Club Social, so bring the spouse. We'll have the usual spread including sandwiches, salad, cake and beverages. Bob Gutowski KA1QFE, has volunteered to be in charge of the program for the evening. Since last years program was so successful we are going to again ask each attending member to bring with them unique/rare QSL cards to share with members. We are also adding a SHOW & TELL Program, where members are encouraged to bring anything they want to share with members, such as kits, antique sets and unique antennas. Now lets not be bashful! We're also planning on having a 50-50 raffle.

Just a brief note on the January '93 meeting. Due to the holiday it will be on Friday Jan. 8. We are planning on having a VHF Contest speaker. More on it next month. Future meeting topics that we are trying to line up include ATV, DX-peditions and antennas.

Completed surveys, where are they? The Board really needs you're cooperation on this one. To date, we've received less than 20. Please get those back to us. For the cost of a stamp you can really make a difference in what the club plans.

Plans are firming up on the Flea Market. Bob W1ZGP, and Paul KA1WER are really on top of this one and are making excellent progress. The date is Sunday 4-18-93 at the Southwick Recreational Center. More info will follow as time nears. If you have any questions either call these guys or corner them at one the meetings.

The January VHF Contest is rapidly approaching. Two Board members Dave Olson K1MVR and Bob Leaver W1ZGP have agreed to coordinate the event. If you have any questions such as scoring, completing the logs, borrowing equipment or lending of equipment give them a call.

Finally, the monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday 12/10, at Dave Olson's QTH.

73's Larry

Third and final call for 93 renewal dues. If your renewal is not received by the December meeting, your name will be dropped from the mailing list, and you will have to reapply for membership and will miss at least one issue of ZS. Don't let this happen. Renew now.

The Board has voted to keep regular and household annual dues at \$10 thru Oct 93. You may pay Treasurer Greg Stoddard in person at the meeting, or mail a check to the HCRA PO Box address on the ZB cover page. Do not mail to our home addresses as that will cause delay.

If you have paid your renewal dues and the mailing label date has not changed, don't panic. The date changes are done in groups and the labels are printed in advance, so your new expiration date will not appear immediately. If you have paid, rest assured that you are still a member and will not be dropped from the Zero Beat mailing list.

Please take a moment to check the codes on your mailing label and verify the info which I use to prepare various reports. A description of the codes is below along with the current counts in each category. If any of your info has changed, please let me know about it.

WV1XYZ C V E A 123 M 10/91

(Count)	Call
210	(C) Class of Operator License
57	E = Extra
41	A = Advanced
37	G = General
66	T = Technician
9	N = Novice
32	(V) VE Accredited
27	V = VE Extra
5	V = VE Advanced
66	N = No
112	X = Not Eligible
16	(E) Emergency Communications
3	A = ARES
3	B = ARES & CD
10	C = CD (RACES)
194	N = No
140	(A) ARRL Member
12	L = Life
107	A = Individual
21	A = Family
70	N = No
	Data Base Record Number
211	(M) HCRA Member TYPE
2	L = Life
153	I = Individual
24	H = Household
31	F = Family in Household
1	E = Associate

Month/Year Membership Thru

## The Hacksaw Paddle

This project is a great way to introduce a beginner to automatic keying. However, don't let the low cost, simplistic design fool you. This paddle is comfortable to use, durable, and with practice, capable of sending CW at very high speeds. When you consider that a new commercial paddle can cost 80 dollars and up, this project becomes very attractive.

The paddle works by suspending an electrically grounded metal spring (the hacksaw blade) between two brass screws. One of the brass screws is for dots, the other is for dashes. By moving the spring from side to side and touching the brass screws, you complete a circuit. When connected to your rig through a keyer, this paddle will make CW much easier compared to a straight key.

If you are lucky enough to own a rig with an internal keyer, you're home free. If not, don't despair, you can build an automatic keyer inexpensively. The keyer kit I built for my first hacksaw paddle was made by Bel Tek. Their address is: P.O. Box 125, Beloit, WI 53511. The cost (in 1989) was \$9.95 plus \$3.00 shipping. With about \$10.00 for other parts from Radio Shack, this keyer was a great way to get into automatic keying while keeping the cost down. I am not sure that this company is still in business. I suspect that the only way to correspond with them is through the mail. Another company that sells keyer kits is Ramsey Electronics. They now have a kit advertised in QST for \$24.95 plus shipping. They also have a box to mount the keyer in for another \$12.95.

If you want to build a first class keyer, let me suggest the "CMOS Super Keyer 2", from Nov. 1990 QST. This memory keyer is packed with some great features. Send an SASE to Idiom Press, Box 583, Deerfield, IL 60015 for more information.

I used 3/4" oak for the base and mounting blocks of my hacksaw paddle. It is a very hard wood with an attractive grain, and it requires that you pre-drill all screw holes. Use the accompanying diagram to get the dimensions of the wooden pieces. When you pre-drill the holes for the brass screws, be carefull to drill these as straight as possible. You need to insure that the brass screws will line up with each other on the hacksaw blade. A drill press would make this easy, but most of us will have to rely on a good eye and a steady hand! When drilling this hole, pay close attention to the size of the drill bit. It has to be just slightly smaller than the thickness of the brass screws. The brass screws must have a snug fit because you will be setting the contact spacing by screwing them in or out of this hole.

Once you have cut the small mounting blocks to size, place them in position on the base and lightly trace their outline with a pencil. Refer to the diagram for exact placement of the blocks. Remove the blocks and drill the holes through the base using the tracings as a guide. Then using a "C" clamp or a vise, clamp the blocks back in place on the base. Pre-drill the blocks from the bottom, through the base, using the holes in the base as a guide. Be careful not to drill all the way through the blocks.

Next comes the heart of the paddle, the hacksaw blade. I used

a 12" standard alloy steel blade. Measure and mark the blade 4 1/2" from one end. Then, taking a pair of pliers, hold the blade with the jaws of the pliers on the 4 1/2" mark. Bend the blade back and forth until it breaks. Now, with some fine grit sandpaper, sand off any paint and rough edges until the metal is clean. 600 grit silicon carbide wet or dry sandpaper will make the sides of the hacksaw blade really shine. A finishing sander makes the sanding job easy, especially the rough edges. Doing it by hand is fine though, it just takes longer.

Now you can pre-drill the mounting holes in one end of the blade. After you pre-drill the hacksaw blade, you can use it as a template for the 2" mounting block. This will make sure the holes in the mounting block get drilled correctly.

After you have cut the pieces to size and pre-drilled them, you may want to sand the wood and put on a protective finish. Some wood stain and sealer will add a pleasing look to the hacksaw paddle when final assembly is complete.

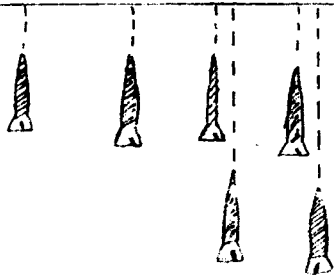
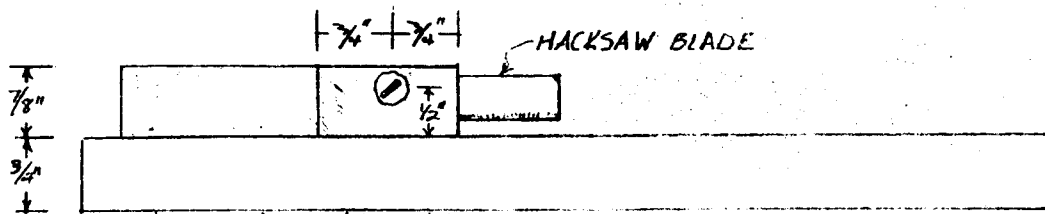
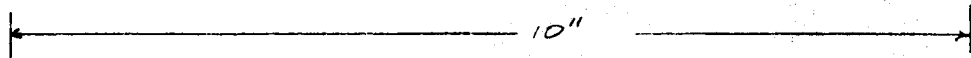
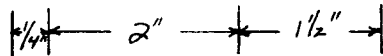
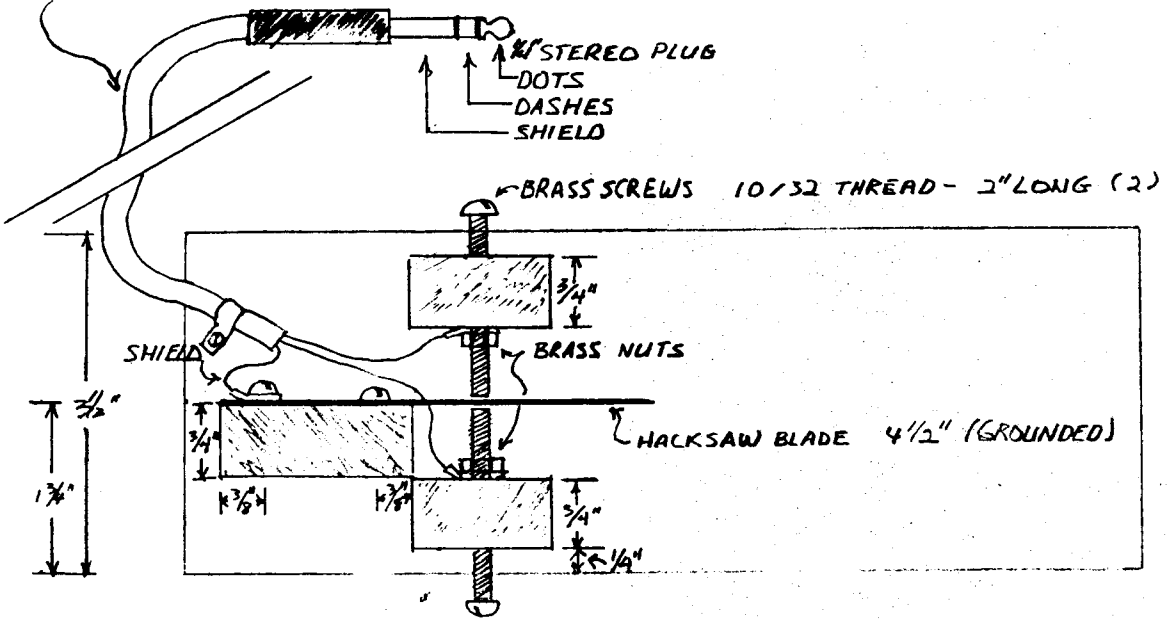
Now that the wood is finished, attach the blocks to the base with 1 1/4" wood or drywall screws. Then attach the hacksaw blade to the rear block with 1/2" wood screws. Now start the brass screws through the two middle blocks, but stop after they have protruded through about 1/4". Prepare about 3 feet of shielded cable, (2 wires plus the shield), by attaching a 1/4" stereo plug on one end, and ring connectors on the other end. (DOT Communications in Agawam, 786-4388, carries this cable.) Attach the shielded wire (ground) to the hacksaw blade with one of the 1/2" wood screws. Place the other wires on the brass screws, and follow those with brass nuts, but don't tighten them yet. Now you can screw the brass screws in toward the hacksaw blade to get preliminary spacing. Start out with about 1/16" spacing between each brass screw and the hacksaw blade. Hook up to your keyer and play around with the paddle to get the spacing just right. Don't forget to use a sidetone oscillator or a dummy load!!

That should complete the paddle. I have been using one of these paddles for about 6 months now. I like it every bit as much as the Bencher paddle that I have owned since I got my Novice license 4 years ago. I would like nothing better than to hear some of these paddles on the air in the near future. Best of luck, and if I can be of any assistance, feel free to call me at home, (413-774-3508), or on the 146.94 repeater in the evening.

Best of 73,

>>>> Al Mason WG1H <<<<

3 CONDUCTOR SHIELDED CABLE



1/4" WOOD SCREWS (6) PRE-DRILL AND COUNTERSINK

**Hamden County Radio Association, Inc.**

**Annual Flea Market**

Amateur Radio

Computer

Electronics

Sunday, April 18, 1993

Southwick Recreational Center Southwick, Mass.

**Featuring Lentini Communications of Newington**

Doors open for General Admission at 9:00a.m.

Doors open for vendors only at 6:00a.m.

**Amateur Radio VE Exams for all classes of licenses**

Registration between 9:30a.m. - 10:00a.m.

VE exams begin promptly at 10:00a.m.

Your VE Liason for this event is Yorke Phillips K1BXE

Pre-registration is requested please call Yorke at:

Phone (413) 566-3010

General admission is \$ 3.00

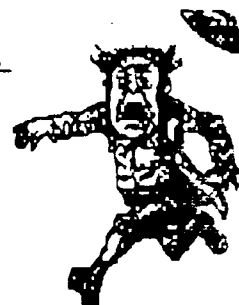
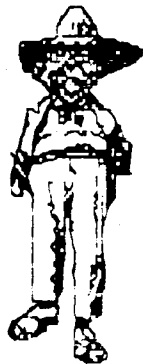
Vendor Tables are: \$ 10.00 reserved in advance which includes 1 admission

\$ 13.00 each if available at the door including 1 admission

Tailgating will be offered at \$ 6.00 a car

Various Door prizes will be given

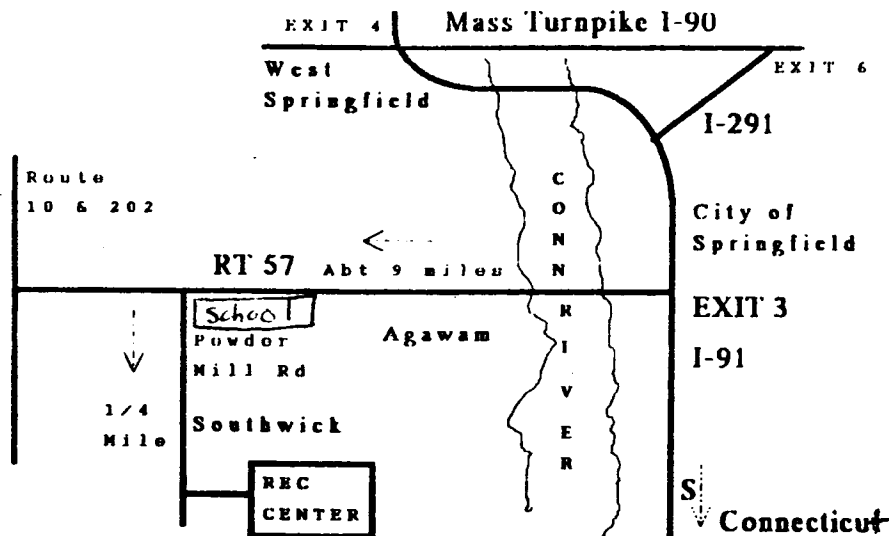
**Ruffle prize will be the NEW Yaesu FT 530 Dual Band HT**



For More Information contact:

**Paul Geng KAIWER**  
114 Riviera Drive  
Agawam, Ma 01001  
(413)789-2334

**Bob Leaver WIZGP**  
58 Mountain Road  
East Hartland, Ct. 06027  
(203) 653-0715  
please no calls after 10:00 p.m.



=====  
To advance order tables, send \$ 10.00 per table to either of the above individuals.

Also please return this order form with your check in the total amount.

Number of tables requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Name : \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 10.00 per table X 10 Call sign : \_\_\_\_\_

Total due for Reservation \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number : ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Advance orders for tables must be received prior to April 10, 1993

Note: Vendor entrance in rear

Editor's Note . . . . .

Just a small note to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. Make sure to attend the Holiday social, it looks like it will be a great time for everyone. I hope you have been pleased with the past issues of Zero Beat. If you have any suggestions that you feel could make the newsletter even better, please feel free to give me a call or send me a note with your suggestions. As always I am in need of articles for print in the newsletter. Please send them in either 3.5" disk in wp51 format or camera ready typed format to me by the 15th of the month. Thanks and have a great new year!!!

Chuck Daley NIJJF  
560 Franklin St. Extension  
Agawam, Mass. 01001  
(413)786-9978

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 482  
West Springfield, Ma. 01090-0482

Address correction requested

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[REDACTED]