

# ZEROBEAT

11-96

Hampden County Radio Association

Our 50th ARRL Affiliated Year

Issue 3

November 1996

## Next HCRA Meeting ANNUAL AUCTION

Where: Feeding Hills Congregational Church

When: Friday, November 1, 1996

Our annual Auction is back to its traditional time in November, and should prove to be another great one! Don't be surprised if it proves to be a little tight in the church, as we have advertised it in all the major magazines. Get there early! Doors open at 7:00 p.m., the auction starts at 7:30!

## HURRICANE FRAN

Packing winds in excess of 105 miles per hour, Hurricane Fran hit the United States along the Carolina shoreline near Cape Fear at about 10 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday, September 5. According to the Reuters news agency, ham radio operators in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, clocked winds in excess of 120 miles per hour in their reports to the National Weather Service. The Storm submerged beach towns, ripped steeples off churches and snapped trees into sticks as it roared through the Carolinas. At least a dozen people were left dead in its wake.

According to news reports, ham radio was a vital link in coordinating all aspects of this emergency. When the Shenandoah National park closed Skyline Drive in Virginia and evacuated visitors, ham radio carried a part of the message. Hams also assisted in the pullout of over a half-million tourists and residents ordered to evacuate the coast in North and South Carolina. More than 19,000 people packed shelters overnight, shelters

manned by volunteer workers, side by side with ham radio communicators.

Earlier in the day hams were put on alert as Hurricane Fran approached the southeastern coast. Much of the activity was on 75-meter SSB with South Carolina ARRL section manager Mike Epstein, KD1DS, activating an ARES and RACES net with the state SSB net working as a backup. The Georgia state emergency SSB net was on 3.975 kHz while the Virginia state emergency nets held forth on 3.910 kHz and 3.947 kHz, respectively.

Jerry Herman, N3BDW, reports that the Hurricane Watch Net was activated on 140325 MHz in coordination with the National Hurricane Center station, W4EHW, in Miami as the storm approached.

**One of the big casualties of Fran has been cellular telephones. In reality, cellular telephones are nothing more than a radio link to the wired telephone network. When the wires come tumbling down everyone tries to use their cellular phones. The remaining lines get overloaded and service goes away. That's where Amateur Radio takes over.** (Bold - ed.)

Regarding the National Weather Service, many hams put themselves at risk to keep their communities and the NWS informed of Fran's devastation on a local level.

*(reprinted from Worldradio, November, 1996)*

## ARRL seeks changes in RF safety rules

The ARRL will seek reconsideration of certain aspects of new RF exposure safety rules as they apply to the Amateur Radio service. The League's executive committee has authorized the filing of a petition for partial reconsideration of the Report

and Order in the FCC's RF safety Docket 93.62. The League will claim that the data used in formulating the new rules was flawed and therefore the action taken to create the rules is arbitrary and shortsighted.

*(reprinted from Worldradio, November, 1996)*

## Editor's Message

Greetings! My name is Barry, N1IJK, and this is the first issue of Zero Beat with me as taking over the reins from the Grand Poobah, Steve, WA1EYF. As we go through the year I would like to continue and expand on Steve's great reincarnation of Z-Beat. Along with the continuation of the regular columns, I would like to add columns of specific interest to the members of the HCRA and any others who read our monthly newsletter (you **Do** show Z-Beat to your non-ham friends, don't you?).

For example, take a look at this month's **TECH TIPS**. This column is for the dissemination of helpful technical, construction, or operating tips, as well as any simplifications of calculations you may wish to share.

Hey, when was the last time you wanted to buy a new piece of equipment and either couldn't find a good review, or didn't have time to look for them through your 200 year stack of QST, 73, or CQ?? Or maybe you don't want to have to get a degree in electrical engineering just to read the review? Look for "practical reviews" in future Z-Beats. I'm going to be asking for help from you, though - let me know what you like! We'll try to make a form type of review you can fill out and submit at meetings. Let's spread some info based on your experience. After all, don't you usually trust first hand knowledge from your friends more than a magazine article?? (Maybe not...we'll see!).

## TECH TIPS

The ideas and suggestions contributed to **TECH TIPS** by readers have not been tested by **ZERO BEAT** or by the HCRA and no guarantee of operating success is implied. Always use your best judgment before modifying any electronic equipment or item from the manufacturer's original specifications, and always use all appropriate safety precautions. No responsibility is implied by **Zero Beat**, the H.C.R.A., the editors of **Zero Beat**, or the contributors. Send any tips or correspondence with your name, call, address, and telephone number (required for publication of your tip or response to a tip) to:

### TECH TIPS

C/O Barry Mason, N1IJK  
36 Kenwood Terrace  
Springfield, MA. 01106

Subject to Board of Directors approval, perhaps we can award a small prize to the Best Tip at our Annual Banquet.

### TECH TIP #1

Is that old piece of coax any good? One way to check is to bend the coax into a small loop. If it doesn't spring back, it's possible the insulation has deteriorated, and should be thrown out. (This won't work with hardline!!!)

### TECH TIP #2

**GROUND THAT TRIPOD!** If you are using a tripod for a mast or vertical antenna on your roof, be sure to run a ground wire from the tripod to the electrical ground you use below. You want to reduce any chance of potential electrical buildup.

N1IJK

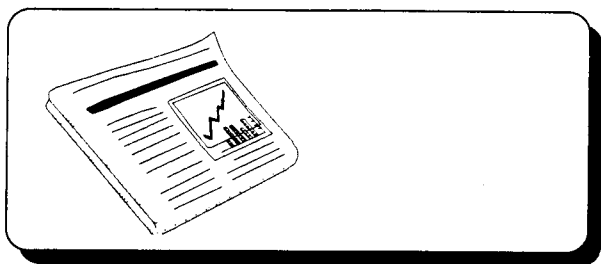
### TECH TIP #3

**WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU TO SEND #3 IN!**

## Vox Pop

(Dedicated to newsworthy items hopefully without insulting anyone.)

\*\*\*\* Norm, N1PF has lots of good stories to tell about ham radio. He kept us enthralled at the last meeting. \*\*\*\* Greg, N1AEH finally found his microphone but still won't use it! \*\*\*\* Extra Class licensees can finally change their call under gate 2 of the FCC program. Boy, if you thought you were confused before .....! \*\*\*\* Frank NC1I and family have acquired a small horse. We understand it's smaller than a quarter horse (more like a 1/8 horse .... or is that a 70 cm horse!) \*\*\*\* Former long time member Dick, W1QWJ is now back on 6 meters \*\*\*\* Any antenna fall during the latest windstorm? \*\*\*\* Fred, N1DPM is working on a new 1296 Mhz, 60 watt solid state amp. Could we see it sometime? \*\*\*\*



### Don't Forget.....

Ten-Ten International Net Fall CW Contest, October 26-27. (See October QST)

ARRL International EME Competition. (See September QST).

JA International DX SSB Contest, November 1-2. See November QST)

ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW. See November QST,

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## FOR SALE OR SWAP

JPS NIR-10 outboard DSP (digital audio signal processor) \$125 or BO.

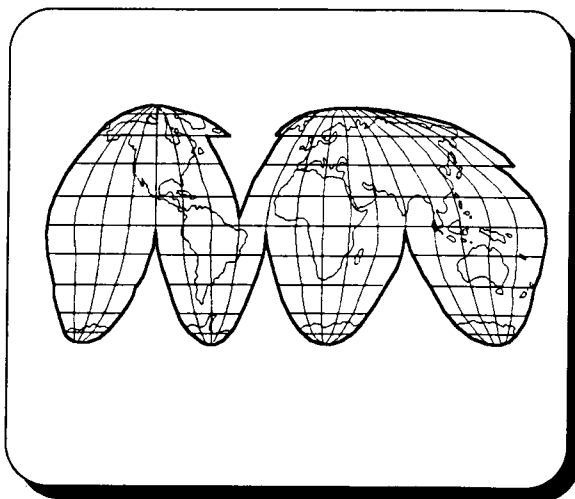
Drake C-Line station - R4C, T4XC, AC4, MS4 (rcvr has all extra filters, noise blanker, and full set of auxiliary crystals). Transmitter has DX Engineering Speech Processor. Also TC6, TC2 (6 & 2 mtr transverters) and many accessories. All cables and mic included. \$700 or BO.

18 Element 432 yagi \$50

12 element 2 mtr yagi, \$50

8 element 222 yagi, \$40

Call Fred N1DPM @ 413 786-7943.



## President's Message.....

It just seems like yesterday that I was sitting at the June Banquet and annual HCRA meeting, and now winter is almost upon us! And that means it's time for our fall auction where I hope to see many of you with your wares and money in hand.

As you know, I'm back in Western Mass. after spending a number of years in the Netherlands. (Where I earned the call PA3GCQ).... Some things have changed, and some things never seem to change. It's good to see a number of faces from the past, as well as a number of new ones. Please don't hesitate to say hi if you catch me at a meeting; I'm not very good at remembering everyone's names and calls, but I'm very interested in what you would like the HCRA to do for you.

Through the years the HCRA has had a number of ups and downs. People come and go, technology changes, and the whole art of amateur radio is always in a constant state of flux (flux- let's see, that's something on the advanced exam, no?!?!?!)

The board along with myself are working diligently at trying to define the future of the club. As any organization should do, we must define our goals and objectives, ensuring that they are meeting the needs of the membership. Your input is vital to our future... although the board is charged with running the club, the direction can only come from you, the members.

If you've got ideas, let's hear them! If there's something you don't like, let us know. And if we're doing something right, please tell us. You can always reach me via E-mail on WF1R@GCQ.NET... or share your feelings with any of the other directors.

73 and see you at the auction!

Bob, PA3GCQ/WF1R/ZL2GCQ

## HCRA AUCTION RULES

- ◆ Items must be electronic or PC related. No non-working TVs please.
- ◆ All items must be marked with the Call or first and last name if not a ham, of the seller.
- ◆ If the seller is not present, the call of the person bringing the item should be clearly marked.
- ◆ The HCRA retains 10% of the selling price up to a maximum of \$10. This means that if you sell an item for \$300 the HCRA only keeps \$10.
- ◆ Minimums are allowed but must be clearly marked on the item(s).
- ◆ You may bid on your own item, but if you win, you must pay the club the 10%.
- ◆ The Auctioneer has the right to combine items in the interest of time.
- ◆ All equipment, boxes, junk, etc. must be removed from the premises. No disposal facilities are available at the church.
- ◆ Doors will be open at 7:00 pm for the those selling in the auction. The equipment will be lined up and auctioned off in the order in which it was brought in the hall. If you wish to leave early, bring your stuff in early!
- ◆ Minimum increment will be 25 cents unless changed by the Auctioneer.
- ◆ Donations to the club will be happily accepted, but please be sure to clearly mark them!
- ◆ No disbursements of funds will be done until the auction is finished. You may request that a check be sent to you.
- ◆ **The decision of the Auctioneer is final!**

Call Steve WA1EYF @ 596-8216 if you have any questions.

**Don't Forget!!!!**

**December Holiday Social**

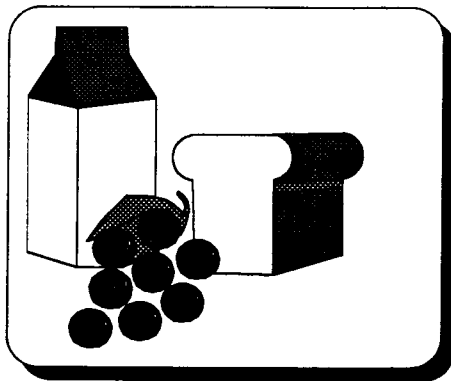
**Friday December 6**

**8:00 pm**

**Feeding Hills Congregational Church**

**Snacks and coffee/tea/soda will be provided**

**Bring your new rig or homebrew project to  
show off!**



# November Meeting

## Annual Auction

November 1, 1996, 7:30 pm, Feeding Hills Congregational Church  
(Doors open at 7:00 for sellers)

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**Forwarding and Address correction requested**

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