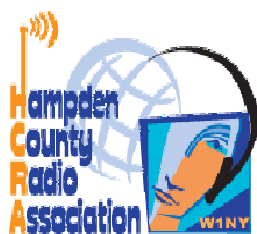


HCRA Zero beat Feb. 2006

February , 2006



**Meetings Held at: Feeding Hills
Congregational Church
21 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA**

This Month's Meeting



Donna Halper

Donna L. Halper is an experienced media historian, with expertise in the history of broadcasting. She was a radio announcer and music director for 13 years, a consultant for more than 20 years. She has also done free-lance writing for a number of magazines, newspapers and academic journals.

Join your fellow hams in a journey back in time with Donna Halper. Ms. Halper will be discussing broadcasting of yesteryear with a focus on local broadcasting. It's been a long time since we have explored this subject and I know you won't want to miss it! Don't forget to bring a friend - this is one meeting you won't want to miss.

Welcome to Zero Beat!

Greetings everyone! We are now having a 10 page ZB! That means more articles, and info for you to talk about on the air about. We have an excellent program this month, so don't miss it!

73's

Eric aka KB1JVI

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President's Corner

February Meeting

Donna Halper, Media historian

We have an excellent and different presentation for this month's meeting. Journeying all the way from Boston to be with us tonight is Donna Halper. Donna is a broadcast media historian with a wide and varied background in AM broadcasting. Here's a brief bio:



Donna L. Halper is an experienced media historian, with expertise in the history of broadcasting. She was a radio announcer and music director for 13 years, a consultant for more than 20 years. She has also done free-lance writing for a number of magazines, newspapers and academic journals. Currently, Ms Halper is an adjunct professor of Journalism at Emerson College in Boston and is also pursuing a PhD at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst. Her most recent book is "Invisible Stars: A Social History of Women in

American Broadcasting," and her essays about popular culture and media history can be found in encyclopedias as well as on a number of web-sites. Ms Halper is a contributing editor of the Boston Radio Archives and her most recent articles can be seen in such publications as Radio Guide and Radio World.

Donna is looking forward to speaking with our group and will be bringing along a few 'surprise' items to show us about Springfield area broadcasting of yesteryear. She will have on hand some memorabilia of radio's Golden Age as well as some video to share with us. This promises to be an evening to remember and a great one to bring along a friend or family member. It isn't often we are able to host a speaker of Donna's caliber so don't miss this one!

First prize in tonight's raffle will be a copy of Ms Halper's latest book, "Invisible Stars". As always at an HCRA meeting; coffee & donuts and the best 'ham company' around.



Code/No Code = No Action!

Our Government inaction again

Here's a question. If your boss gave you something to review, approve and release how long would it take? A month, six months, a year? How about a year and a half to two years? That's the kind of speed and response our hobby had been receiving from the FCC on a number of NPRM's and requests from ARRL and others over the last two years.

In 2004 the ARRL asked the FCC to consider 're-farming' of the now underutilized Novice Band segments. Parts of that request were released in an NPRM released in June 2004. That's two years folks. It has been released, comments made and has sat on desks ever since! Last fall the League submitted to the FCC a restructuring suggestion for an entry level license and dropping the code for General class licenses. This was stripped down and released as an NPRM in the fall of 2005. This has been out for comment and is now waiting for action. Word is we 'might' see action on this by the end of this year. I ask you, "how can it take so long?". If we approached our jobs in the private sector with the same 'can do' attitude we would be out of a job quickly, I'll tell you that!

If you feel the FCC should act just a little faster I would suggest dropping a note to your congressperson. It's not too much to ask that our government employees actually work on our behalf, is it? As the guy on TV always says, "It's your money". Well it is our money and we don't seem to be getting our value. The future of our hobby is in their (FCC's) hands, lack of action does nothing to help the growth of amateur radio.

Show & Tell

Only one month to go - are you ready?

Now is the time to put the finishing touches on this year's project - the clock is ticking! March Madness visits HCRA is another way to look at it. Over the years we have had some interesting, innovative and sometimes 'dangerous' entries but not to worry. Everyone has always gone home from the Show & Tell meeting without injury (so far!) The picture in this month's column is from S&T 2004 with Walter showing off his antenna while standing behind a few of the other entries.

For those of you new to this event it is essentially a forum where you can 'show' off your latest creation and 'tell' the folks in attendance all about it. As in the past there will be two categories to help even out the competition. The Novice category will be for entrants new to the construction hobby and the Expert class... I guess the word expert says it all!

Your entries will be judged by a panel of 'experts' appointed from the crowd.

The project will be rated on creativity, usefulness and overall construction quality. So get your projects wrapped up for March 3rd. Who knows, you may be the one returning home with a \$50 prize!



Show & Tell projects from 2004

JOEL HARRISON, W5ZN

ELECTED ARRL'S 14TH PRESIDENT

From the ARRL Letter, January 20th, 2006

ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, of Judsonia, Arkansas, will be the League's president for the next two years. He'll succeed Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who chose not to run for a fourth term in the uncompensated, volunteer post. Gathering in Windsor, Connecticut, for its annual meeting, the Board voted 10 to 5 to choose Harrison over ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, the only other nominee. Harrison, 47, said he believes Amateur Radio is looking at a different society--and pool of potential licensees--in the 21st century than in the past. Harrison said the ARRL's initiative to create an improved entry-level license also will be among his top priorities as he assumes office. "It is imperative for the Amateur Radio Service that we have an entry-level license that provides a wide variety of privileges for an individual to get into radio and learn a little bit about all of it," Harrison said, adding that the League believes this approach will keep new licensees interested in ham radio. Saying that the Technician ticket "is not attracting or keeping newcomers in its present configuration," the ARRL has asked the FCC to consider modifying the Technician license to provide limited HF phone, data and CW privileges. Harrison also says he will promote the League's Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306) to have the FCC regulate Amateur Radio allocations by bandwidth. "Right now we do that by mode, and we're one of the few countries in the world that does that," he pointed out. "We need to change that and move forward with this initiative of regulation by bandwidth instead of mode."

Good luck to our new president!

'73... Jim, KK1W

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Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

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IRLP Trustee

John Pise, Kx1x



Larry Krainson

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OUR
SUPPORT
PLEASE

WE NEED YOUR SUGGESTIONS

We are asking for your suggestions and ideas for future HCRA meetings. The recent success of HCRA has been, in part, because of its interesting and timely key speakers and topics.

If you can help, please contact John, Kx1x, (413) 532-7474
kx1x@arrl.net

Have you tried IRLP yet?

IRLP is the Internet Radio Linking Project, connecting radios over the Internet. With your 2m radio, you make contacts all over the world.

HCRA sponsors an IRLP node, in South Hadley, MA.

It is there for your use, please give it a try

(at least turn it on and listen)

146.46 simplex, 114.8hz PL

HCRA CLOTHING



Jacket Features: Windbreaker with nylon outer and cotton liner inside. Heavy nylon zipper, club logo on left chest with name and call on right chest (if desired).



Size and type	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
Windbreaker	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$31.00	\$32.00
Short Sleeve Polo Shirt	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$21.00	\$22.00



Short Sleeve Polo Shirt: Stone gray with club logo on left chest and call and name on right chest.



Hat: Bright yellow with large club logo on front. Back has call and name. Hat has adjustable strap and fits all sizes.

Logo Only \$8.00

Logo with name and call on back: \$11.00

Look good while wearing the newest club wear! Shirts, jackets and hats all customized with your name and call and the new HCRA club logo. You'll be the envy of others at hamfests, club events, emergency communication events and more!

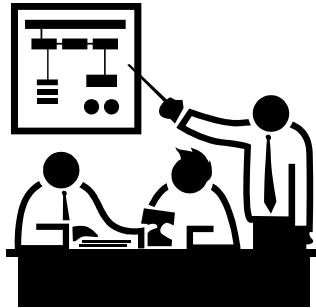
Many placed orders at the Holiday Party in December. Now you have another chance. A second order will be placed after the May meeting. Orders of six or more may be placed at anytime with a deposit.

If you won't be there and want to look sharp with the HCRA clothing, then **send a check payable to S & S** to:

Larry Krainson — WB1DBY, 100 Kenmore Drive, Longmeadow, MA 01106-2759.

Please list the quantity of each item and the size ordering. Also, PRINT Your NAME and CALL neatly to prevent mistakes. Send your phone number & email so you can be contacted when ready.

A deposit of at least 50% must be made at time of order, with the remaining balance paid upon delivery.



&

**HCRA's Sixth Annual**

Show & Tell

What's a "show & tell"? It's a chance to show off your latest creation and win some nice prizes to boot. It's the feature part of our March meeting and is always a lot of fun! You've still got a lot of time to prepare, so read on...

To enter, show up with your project, explain it and wait for the judges decision. There will be Novice and Expert classes. All entries will be judged by an independent panel of electrical engineers from MIT, RPI and Radio Shack :) Entries will be judged on originality, construction quality and usefulness. So, bring your home brewed whatizit, your latest software creation, new mobile mount, portable PSK31 station, Tesla coil, etc. and "show & tell" everyone about your handiwork.

First prize in each category will be a \$50 gift certificate to HRO

The judges reserve the right to banish 'dangerous' demonstrations to the parking lot in the name of member safety!

The following is the current SKYWARN training classes for 2006. For updates please go to <http://users.rcn.com/rmacedo/trsched.htm>

04/22/2006 Noon-3PM WNEC, Sleith Hall Room 100, 1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA

04/27/2006 6:30pm-9:30pm American Red Cross, New Hampshire West Chapter, 83 Court St., Keene, NH

05/04/2006 7pm-10pm Walpole Town Hall, Walpole, MA

05/09/2006 7pm-10pm Glastonbury Town Hall— Academy School Wing, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT

05/20/2006 Noon-3pm Concord Academy, 166 Main Street (Rte. 62) , Concord, MA

**HCRA Board Meeting
January 16, 2006**

Held at corporate boardroom of Rocky's ACE Hardware, Springfield, MA.

Members present: Jim KK1W, Greg N1AEH, Dave KB1MU, Jim KB1JVF, Eric KB1JVI, and Irv W6IS.

Vice President W6IS:

All enjoyed the Jan presentation by Bob Laflamme. The ¼ scale models drew the greatest admiration. Feb speaker will be Donna Halper. She is a broadcast historian, and has written a few books on this subject.

Treasurer N1AEH:

Current balance is \$4833.70. \$369.00 was deposited as proceeds from the raffle and renewals during the Jan meeting.

Secretary KB1MU:

The current roster:	Courtesy:	10
	Family	25
	Life:	1
	Prospect:	31
	Regular:	108
	Sponsors:	1
	Venture Crew:	1

Program Kx1x:
Not present.

Membership KB1LTC:
Not Present.

ZeroBeat Editor KB1JVI:

Deadline for January ZeroBeat is Jan 20. The board discussed possible improvements to the newsletter layout.

Technical N1JIO:
Not Present.

At Large KB1JVF:
Working with Eric KB1JVI on preliminary plans for Field Day.

Venture Crew:
Not Present.

Old Business:
No open items.

New Business:
The Feb speaker has been obtained. (See VP report.) The new Section manager Ed Emco W1KT and the new Section Emergency coordinator John Ruggeri N2YHT will present at the Feb meeting.

A donation of \$100 was approved for qth.net, the provider of our mailing list.

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Isham KB1MU Secretary.

Join us each week on the HCRA 10m Net!

Join NCS, Tom Doyle (n1muv), each Monday night at 7:30 PM (local) on 28.375 Mhz (+/- QRM)
Get the latest local word, join good friends, take part in good conversation each week!!!

Anyone (with HF privs) can join in, don't be shy!!!

KD1XP Repeater Group News

www.kd1xp.org - main website
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RLX - e-mail list
53.35 - PL 71.9
145.130 - PL 173.8 DCS 155
442.200 + PL 173.8 DCS 155

Ham radio testing sessions will be given on the 3rd Monday of January, April, July, and October.

It is held in Sunderland MA. All test elements are given, go to the KD1XP website for directions Ham radio testing giving anytime upon request at any time, contact Richard KD1XP at 665-2211.

Breakfast meetings every first Saturday of the month at Bickfords in Northampton. Talk in on the 145.130 repeater.



QCWA Pioneer
Chapter #183

Schedule of
Events

Unknown at time of publishing

If you would like to see your notice here, please e-mail the editor, Eric, KB1JVI at kb1jvi@arrl.net



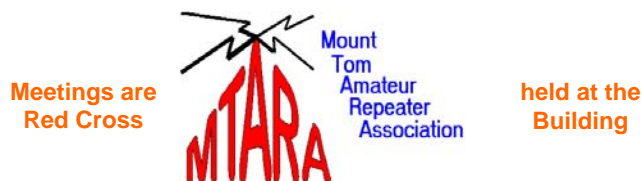
Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Assn.

www.mtara.org

Info Net, Wednesdays at 7:30 PM local
146.94 (-) or 147.000 (+) with Joe, NA1X, NCO

The next meeting of the MTARA
will be on Feb. 17th

Meeting topic: Understanding and Using Digital
Modes



**The Hampden County Radio
Association's next meeting
FRIDAY, February 3rd, 2006**

Doors open at 7 p.m., Meeting
begins at 7:30

**Feeding Hills Congregational Church,
Feeding Hills, MA**

In case of inclement weather, check:
www.hcra.org or the 146.94 repeater.
Meeting cancellation information will be given out by 6:00

Items for sale

By Larry - WB1DBY

1. Rig Blaster Nomic - \$35.00 – barely has 10 hours of use. Excellent Condition.
2. MFJ – 1112 DC Power Distribution Panel - \$20.00 – mint condition, never used.
3. Kenwood MC-60 desk mic - excellent condition, original box. \$75.00

Contact: Larry – WB1DBY at 413-348-3289 or
wb1dby@comcast.net for more info.

The Hampden County Radio Association has a glorious and proud history. This history is recorded on the pages of our newsletter ZeroBeat. I would like to share this history with all the HCRA members. To start this history lesson, I have chosen page one of the Jan 1957 issue. This page gives you some insight to the participation of the HCRA in the Jan VHF Sweepstakes. (Incidentally the HCRC did go on the win that gavel.) I hope you enjoy this history. If you have suggestions on the area's to cover let me know.

Thank You

Dave Isham KB1MU.

Z E R O B E A T

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Vol. 10, No. 1

Jan. 1957

President: Mac McKeraghan W1HRV Treasurer: Leo Brodeur W1VNE
 Vice Pres. Bob Little W1WLE Clerk: Norm Forest W1STR
 Bob Little Editors: Norm Forest
 Bob Gordon W1KUL Publishers: Tom Barrett W1KUE

V. H. F. CONTEST JANUARY 5TH AND 6TH, 1957

Starts Sat. at 1400 E.S.T. -- Ends Sun. 2400. Everyone in the club get on 50 mc. or higher so we will have first place club score in the country. We must win over the Hartford County Radio Club or forever lose the gavel. The set-up is that the first club to win three times will keep it. We won the first year, Hartford won it the second and third years. Soooo, lets try our best and then some.

Following is a list of club stations, as far as could be found, that will be on. Make sure you contact every one of them!!!!

Station	Freq.	Location	Station	Freq.	Location
W1ALL	144	Southwick	W1KUE	144.35	Springfield
W1AWW	144	Springfield	W1KUL	144 - 50	Springfield
W1IANF	145.22	Monson	W1MNG	144 - 50	Agawam
W1BHI	144	Agawam	W1MOK	144	Willimansett
W1BCI	50.73	Longmeadow	W1NIRK	144	Westfield
W1BXB	144 - 50	Agawam	W1NLE	144	Springfield
	220 VFO		W1NY	144 - 50	Wilbraham
W1CJH	144	Holyoke	W1OBO	144 - 50	Agawam
W1COD	144	Indian Orchard	W1OY	144 - 50	Springfield
W1CSP	144.5	Holyoke	W1PHU	144 - 50	E. Longmeadow
W1DGA	144.65	Wilbraham	W1QWJ	144	Springfield
W1DHA	144	Holyoke	W1RFU	144.13 -	Wilbraham
W1DOL	144	Westfield		50.07-220.01	
W1ESA	144	Wilbraham	W1ROY	144.34	Springfield
W1EVZ	144	Holyoke		50.25	
W1FAB	144 - 50	Chicopee	W1RRX	144.54	Holyoke
W1HDM	144.99	Wilbraham	W1RWV	144 - 50	Springfield
W1HRV	144 - 50	Easthampton	W1SRB	144.48	T'ville, Conn.
W1HUN	50.34	Southampton	W1STR	144.17 -	Springfield
W1HYO	50	Springfield		50.5	
W1IDJ	144 - 50	Springfield	W1SWJ	144.16 -	Westfield
W1IOL	145.34	Wilbraham		145.34	
W1JIZ	145.08	Monson	W1TTL	144	Indian Orchard
W1JRO	144 - 50	Springfield	W1TXI	144	W. Hartford, Conn.
W1JWV	144	Wilbraham	W1TXS	144 - 50	Springfield
W1JUS	144 - 50	Springfield	W1UBD	144 - 50	Indian Orchard
W1KFO	144 - 50	Hampden	W1UKR	144 - 50	Springfield

The Road Back by KB1JVF

Club: 3a) a group of people united for a common purpose. *

Association: 1) an association or being associated. 2) fellowship, partnership. 3) an organization, society, etc. 4) a mental connection between ideas, etc. *

The Hampden County Radio Association is a club. We come together once a month to share ideas and common interests. Yes a good speaker increases the crowd. On the first Friday of every month we meet as a group of friends. Do friends ever have a falling out? I've never had one that didn't. It's the act of forgiving and getting back together that strengthens the bond of the friendship. Do we have a need for this?

Last year HCRA sponsored Field Day 2005 at Dufresne Park in Granby Ma. Long before this we had a falling out as a club. Some of our members complained that we had lost the Fun out of Field Day. There was another objection to not allowing Special Interest Groups(SIGS)

In our Club we have a diverse membership. We have members that are contesters, rag chewers, pro-CW, anti-CW, experimenters, and "appliance operators". We run the gamut. Sometimes in a strange way: One of our members likes the best radio with the best antenna for the best signal. Sounds like more than one member? True. This one does contests, we have others that like the same thing but not with the same zeal. One feels impinged upon.

I have issues with ARRL and Field Day. When I was a young Ham, I spoke of Field Day as a Contest. Did I get told that it is a disaster exercise not a contest. BUT it's listed in the contest sections, has the competition of a contest. Heck 80% of the people on the air at 3: A. M. tell you "Good Luck With the Contest!" So is it or isn't it? ARRL reminds us we are to have fun.

That's the balance I feel we lost last year before Field Day. It's a hard job. To keep 100+ members focused on doing the best job. The best radio, best antenna, best signal, will also get you the most points not necessarily the most fun. Against the camaraderie that we have setting up the equipment, cooking, camping, talking, and coming together to learn how to get your message through the mass of radio signals on during the 24 hours of Field Day. All of our members feel pride with the announcement of our placing high against the rest of the country. Balance, too much pressure on the Contest (I'll use the word) and people walk, too much "Fun" and the point of the emergency drill is lost. We did work hard to establish the balance last year at Field Day. I feel we did a good job at getting back on track.

This is another year and another Field Day. So we are starting early to get everything back together for the greatest Field Day ever. The strange thing for all this the people were the movers and shakers; our board members, former board members, and spark plugs. Out of all of this turmoil only one was lost. All the rest are still with the club, most still working hard to make the HCRA a better organization. Now can we sit talk and get the club back so we can have the best of both worlds?

I write this under the heading of a board member, but these are my words, my feelings, and in no way the view of the board. I can't see such a great body of people, the HCRA divide when we have a good time together, break bread together at Christmas little ground needs to be given on more than a issue to two. But I'm sure being Ham's we can talk it out.

I missed the "Safety Officer" telling us not to point the air cannon at the building, and the look on his face as Dave dropped the mast 4' at a kerchunk. The wizard of digital that shows up to save the day when no one can figure why the station doesn't work as planned. Our CW lover who comes in, sets up, does his thing and normally does a good job at it. The guy that seemed to be every where move mountains knows everyone suddenly went messing. HCRA members need to work together for a better club, a better Field Day 2006.

*Webster's New World Dictionary and Thesaurus, 2nd edition, Copyright 2002

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts 01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL



www.hcra.org

Your help is requested!

The Marathon Amateur Radio Communications team is seeking volunteers for the 2006 Marathon. Amateurs are needed to staff three primary teams, targeted for the Start Area, Course/Route, and Finish Area. These teams will provide coordination for public safety and medical related functions at the event.

If you are interested in volunteering
Contact N1MUV or KB1MU and please visit

<http://www.amateur-radio.net/marc>