

HCRA Zero beat Nov. 2005

November, 2005



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



This Month's Meeting

THE AUCTION!!

Hear ye! Hear ye! It is auction time!

Gather your belonging to be sold and your money to spent! Help the club and help get rid of your stuff.

Details in this issue!

Welcome to Zero Beat!

Greetings all! Another slow month. This issue is a little bit smaller, due to it being a slow month. If you want to write an article, feel free to e-mail it to me at kb1jvi@arrl.net . Don't feel shy about it, just as long as it's ham radio related.

73's

KB1JVI Eric Richardson

In this month's edition

President's Corner	2
Sponsor and contact list	3
AUCTION!	4
HCRA Board Meeting Minutes	5
Announcements	6
Announcements	7
Special Service Events	8



President's Corner

Only a few days until?

The HCRA Auction of course!

eBay has nothing on us! This Friday is the HCRA auction. Our own, homegrown version that is much more fun. Why battle it out online when you can do it in person this weekend?

Selling: There are only a few days left to get your treasures ready for sale. I would suggest you do the following to maximize your profits:

1. Clean up your stuff. Dig up any instruction manuals, accessories and boxes. Get it into shape as if you were the buyer, not the seller. You wouldn't want to bid on some dirty HT without the accessories or instructions even if it did work, would you?
2. Mark your item(s) clearly with your name & call. If you have a minimum price you would like to receive mark that on the tag also.
3. Use tags/labels that won't fall off your stuff as it's moved through auction line. Anything that has no markings will be treated as a club donation during the auction.
4. Gather your small items and box them together. Don't expect the auctioneers or the buyers to wade through a box of 25 cent items - there simply isn't enough time. *(the auctioneers reserve the right to combine items if you don't so save please save us the time).*
5. Please pick up items that are not sold immediately so they don't block up the flow of the auction.

Buying: Not much to do here but bring money! OK, here's a few tips:

1. Bring money (oops, I already said that) but it bears repeating. You can't buy without money!
2. We will accept checks with proper identification, and there is an ATM just around the corner.
3. Please pick up and pay for your item when it is sold.

Everyone: Have FUN! - this is always a great night!

HCRA has been very fortunate to fund our club the generous donations given to us at the auction. If you have something you're just too embarrassed to put your call on, donate it HCRA. We're not proud and don't mind selling it for any price. If you know of anyone wanting to get rid of some old radio stuff in the basement ask them to call me. Like the popular slogan of a rental car company, "We'll pick it up!"

Another highlight of the auction is the raffle prize. Wouldn't you like to go home the lucky winner of a Yaesu VX-7R Handi-Talkie? Here's the low-down on the prize:

The **Yaesu VX-7R** is a triple band (6M, 2M & 440 MHz) HT with extensive receive coverage, and leading-edge features. It even transceives with 300 mW on the 220 band. Power output on 6 meters, 2 meters and 440 MHz is 5/2.5/1/0.5 watts. It receives the AM and FM broadcast bands, shortwave (AM), VHF and UHF TV audio, VHF Air and public service frequencies. The VX-7R features a rugged magnesium case with rubber bumpers and gaskets. It clearly sets the standard in ruggedness, versatility and water resistance and can be yours with the purchase of a raffle ticket during the auction. An ARRL Antenna book and a 25A power supply are the 2nd and 3rd prizes. Good luck!!!

TOY Drive

Let's join forces with the ARRL to make this holiday special

Here's a chance to make this holiday season a happy one for victims of the recent hurricanes. The ARRL has joined forces with the Salvation Army to make this the best ARRL Toy Drive ever. Here's an excerpt courtesy of the ARRL web site:

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 28, 2005--In the wake of unprecedented hurricane devastation in the Gulf Coast region, the ARRL has announced it will again sponsor a toy drive to brighten the holidays for youngsters left homeless or displaced as a result of the storms. Country singer and ARRL member Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, has agreed to serve as the honorary chairperson for the 2005 toy drive. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, is urging the Amateur Radio community to pitch in.

"Last year, hams from all over the country brought smiles to children during the holidays," Haynie said. "We made a lot of friends, and we did a lot of good. No one expected that we would need to do it again so soon, but this year's hurricanes have changed the plans of a lot of people."

So how about it, why don't you bring an unwrapped toy to the HCRA auction this coming Friday, November 4th? The club will gather them and deliver them to the ARRL in HCRA's name. This will save you the trouble of packing and shipping. I'll bet we can gather up a carload of toys for hurricane victims, don't you? Don't forget to attach a QSL card to your donation when you bring it to the auction.

ARRL Ten Meter Contest

Another club competition - December 10th & 11th.

Are you ready for another stab at the 10 meter contest again this year?

Why not? There's nothing much else going on, it's cold outside and it's way to early to go Christmas shopping. This will be the fourth consecutive year our club has participated in the contest. With the solar cycle near the bottom we may not make the 2002 scores but I'm sure we can easily best last year's 35,956 points made by the five participants. This is down from almost one million points in 2002! See - I know we can beat last year.

The really cool thing about this contest is you can compete on an individual basis and your score also counts for the club. Kind of like having your cake and eating it too. Check out the rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/10-meters.html> and HCRA's past performance at: http://www.hcra.org/arrl_10m_2004.htm.

HCRA Holiday Party

Coming your way on December 2nd.

Get ready for another great Holiday Party at HCRA. Planning is now underway for a fun event at the church on Friday evening. John, Kx1x, is planning it as we speak. Expect the unexpected this year, along with some nice raffle prizes and a repeat of 'Ham Jeopardy' - last year's fun event. Brush up on your ham trivia and win a free year's membership to HCRA.

John has some new wrinkles for the party this year, but I can't reveal them this soon. What I know is there will be a special event for one of our members, lots of door prizes, great food and good company. It's a perfect way to spend a quiet evening with your friends before the pressure of the holidays really hits. The party is very early this year because this December is a five Friday month so mark your calendar correctly.

See you at the meeting!

'73... Jim, KK1W

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

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IRLP Trustee

John Pise, Kx1x



Larry Krainson

We Make House Calls!

Tel & Fax: (413) 567-3505

Cell: 413-348-3289

Email: WB1DBY@ARRL.NET

www.wemakehousecalls.biz

Computer Sales & Service
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Upgrades & Repairs
Wireless & Networking

Wear it Proudly!
HCRA Name Badges



Only \$6.00. Available for order at any club meeting, or call or drop an email for immediate service!
Show the world you belong to the oldest club in the Pioneer Valley.

Jim, KK1W

jmullen@rockys.com or (413) 245-3228

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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

Grand Raffle Prize

Yaesu VX-7R

Tri-band HT w/extended RX



AUCTION

November 4th !!!

Turn your old 'stuff' into

- **Set-up at 6:30 PM**
- **Auction starts at 7:30 PM**
- **Win a Yaesu VX-7R HT!**
- **Coffee & Donuts!**
- **Lots of bargains!**



Contact Jim, KK1W, for details - 413-245-3228 or kk1w@arrl.net

Auction held at:

Feeding Hills Congregational Church
21 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Just North of Dunkin' Donuts at the
intersection of routes 57 and 187

Talk-in on the 146.94 repeater



AUCTION RULES:

Amateur radio or computer related items only.

Mark all items with name/call and minimum acceptable bid.

Items without minimum will sell at any price!

10% of selling price goes to the HCRA.

**HCRA Board Meeting
October 13, 2005**

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

Members present: Jim KK1W, Greg N1AEH, Dave KB1MU, John KB1LTC, John N1JIO, Jim KB1JVF, Eric KB1JVI, John Kx1x, Mike KB1FWN, and Irv W6IS.

Vice President W6IS:

A list of raffle prizes for the remainder of the year (Through June) was distributed to all board members. The club inventory has been updated. A copy will be posted on the club web site.

Treasurer N1AEH:
Current balance is \$3476.00. The monthly raffle grossed \$159.00

Secretary KB1MU:
The current roster:

Courtesy:	8
Life:	1
Prospect:	18
Regular:	80
Sponsors:	1
Venture Crew:	0
Un-renewed 2005	40

Dave has filed the required state annual report online.

Program Kx1x:
Speakers are all set through Dec 2005. Openings exist for the months of Jan, Feb, and May. Any club member who has suggestions for a speaker is encouraged to contact John Kx1x. There is a potential list of speakers including Steve Ford, Larry Wolfgang, Chuck Wyrick and a local R/C club. John is working on slotting them into the open months.

Membership KB1LTC:
John is working on various methods to encourage HCRA membership. One plan is the "Bring a friend" scheme. Members are encouraged to bring a friend to an HCRA meeting. As always, any club member who has suggestions is encouraged to contact John KB1LTC

ZeroBeat Editor KB1JVI:

Deadline for November ZeroBeat is Oct22. Eric and Dave are working on a method to simplify the addressing problem for E-ZeroBeat. Anyone who does not receive his or her copy of ZeroBeat (Electronic or USPS) should notify either Eric or Dave.

Technical N1JIO:
The fall license classes are going well, with 17 students. The February session may not be held at Wolf Swamp School, but at the High School, due to staffing problems at the school.

At Large KB1JVF:
Jim noted that many former HCRA members had expressed an interest in re-joining the HCRA. Jim did supply the necessary application.

Venture Crew KB1FWN:
The Venture Crew held its elections. The new slate of officers is:

President: Mike KB1FWN
Vice President Santiago Bustos III
Secretary Open
Treasurer Open.

The Crew continues to be active in contests. WPX will be the next contest.

Old Business:
The Big E operation was a fair success. The names of many potential hams were gathered. Unfortunately most of these were out of the HCRA membership area. This list will be circulated to various interested clubs and the ARRL.
Holiday Party planning is proceeding.
The HCRA will be participating this year as a club in annual Ten Meter Contest. Even though the band is not expected to be in great shape, the contest seems to draw hams out of the woodwork. So it will not be a record-breaking contest, it will still be enjoyable.

New Business:
The club will mail postcards to all members as reminders of the upcoming auction. A copy of the HCRA tri-fold was given to all board members to review and update. Jim, KK1W, will submit the changes to Larry for updating.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Isham KB1MU Secretary.

On the Internet

<http://www.hcra.org>

Updated often to bring you timely Amateur news and info

Next Meeting:

Friday, September 9th, 2005

Have a great Summer!!!

IRLP Node #7270

146.46 Mhz -- PL 114.8

A free service of HCRA

See www.hcra.org

Get Your Zero Beat Electronically each month

HCRA members can receive their monthly club newsletter in any or all of three ways!

First Class Mail, just like you always have. This costs HCRA approximately 75 cents per copy. This is one of the benefits of your membership with HCRA.

E-mail. If you would like to get on our e-mail list, just write eZB@hcra.org from the account that you wish to receive your copy from, and request that you join our list. HCRA respects your privacy and will not under any circumstances give your e-mail address to ANYONE.

WWW.HCRA.ORG. Our new web site carries the latest copies of Zero Beat. Just click and read.

NOTE 1: You will need Adobe Acrobat® installed on your computer to read electronic copies of Zero Beat. Just click the button on the WWW.HCRA.ORG website, and follow the directions to get your FREE copy of Adobe Acrobat®.

NOTE 2: There is a cost savings to the HCRA if you receive your Zero Beat electronically only. If you prefer to NOT receive your newsletter by First Class Mail, please contact Eric, KB1JVI, Steve, N1SR, or Jim, KK1W, to be added to the eZB only list.

Get On The Air

(all times local)

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic Sys (NTS) Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Mondays	19:30	HCRA 10m Net	28.375
Wednesdays	19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link) (W1TOM)
	20:00	MTARA Swap net	
	(right after SWAP net)	N1RLX Memorial Simplex Net	Starts on 146.94, then moves to a simplex frequency
Thursdays	21:00	Northern CT Weather Net	146.79(-) PL 82.5 (except 2 nd week, on 147.000)

Club Meetings & Testing Sessions

1 st Friday of the month	19:30	HCRA Club Meeting	Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
3 rd Monday of January, April, July, and October			Amherst Machine KD1XP License Exams Amherst, MA
			Contact Richard, KD1XP, 413-665-2211 or 145.130 Repeater http://www.kd1xp.org
3 rd Friday of the month	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building

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

53.350 (-) PL 71.9 Amherst, MA
145.130 (-) PL 173.8 Amherst, MA

442.200 (+) PL 173.8 Deerfield, MA (near Greenfield)

443.700 (+) PL 71.9 Belchertown, MA
www.kd1xp.com, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RLX>

The next ham radio testing session will be on Monday, October 17th. The new address is

*117 North Plain Road
Sunderland, MA*

*ALL test elements given. Contact Richard,
KD1XP at 665-2211 for details*

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

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

Meetings on the

3rd Friday of the Month, 7:30

Red Cross Building, Cottage St., Spfld

Next Meeting, unknown as of press time

**Meetings are held at the
Red Cross Building**

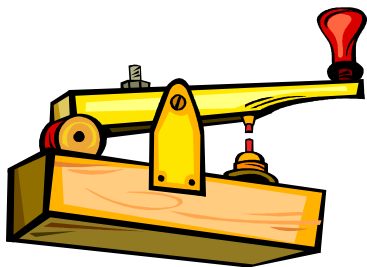


QCWA Pioneer
Chapter #183

Schedule of
Events

Contact: Pat Smith, N1CET (413) 566-3966

Meeting January 21st, 2006 -- 11:30AM
CJ's Restaurant, Rte. 20, Palmer, MA



**The Hampden County Radio
Association's next meeting
FRIDAY, November 4th.**

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.

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

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts 01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL



Special Service Events

No known special service events scheduled.

If you want your event announced here, please e-mail
kb1jvi@arri.net and it will be placed here.