



Zero Beat



Our 55th Year

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

April, 2001

<http://www.hcra.org>

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

ARRL Membership Services Director

Wayne Mills, N7NG

will be this month's speaker. Wayne is a noted DXer, and will be here to speak about some of his past DXpeditions, as well comments on the state of DXing in Amateur radio, past and present, and future!

The Next HCRA meeting is Friday, April 6, 2001

Doors Open at 7:PM

Meeting Starts at 7:30 Sharp!

Hope to see you there!!!

**This issue of Zero Beat was also sent to the general membership of the
HCRA via e-mail --[NOW in COLOR!](#)**

If you would like to be included in our monthly e-mailings, see page 5 for details.

Visit our new website at: <http://www.hcra.org>

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President's



Corner

MIR—SK

In case you missed it, the Russian Space Station MIR was brought down to earth (crashed!) a few weeks back. Besides offering a great platform for space experiments for many years, the MIR station was the source of ham radio contacts over the last 15 years. Many QSO's both person-to-person and automatic packet (robot) transmissions were made from MIR. According to all the news agencies, the MIR crashed into the South Pacific ocean without incident on March 23, 2001. I understand ebay has some souvenirs for auction, but if you have a QSL from MIR, that beats ebay hands down.

But don't dismay, the new international space station, the ISS, will have ham radio on it and promises to be another great space based platform for out of this world contacts for years to come. Check out information about the ISS and ham radio at: <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

Wayne Mills, N7NG, is April Guest Speaker

Our April guest speaker is none other than noted DX'er Wayne Mills. Wayne will be speaking on some of his past DXpeditions and will certainly have much to say about the present and future state of DX and amateur radio.

Wayne is the ARRL's Membership Services Manager. He was first licensed in 1953 at age 10, served as Rocky Mountain Division DX Advisory Committee representative since 1996 and as chairman of the ARRL DXAC since March 1997. He also has served on the DXCC 2000 Committee. He is best known for his operating on DXpeditions over the past 15 years, most recently from the Chesterfield Islands TX0DX DXpedition.

Wayne holds BSEE and MSEE degrees from the University of California-Davis and owned a two-way radio communication sales and service business in Jackson, Wyoming.

Be sure to attend the April meeting for an interesting presentation.

PSK31 Interest Expands

Since Steve Ford's great presentation last month about PSK31, at least four or more HCRA members have tried out the new mode. Are you one of them? If not, why not give it a try? It might be just the thing to get you all charged up about the hobby again. And if you own a transceiver and a computer (what self-respecting ham doesn't?), you're all set to get on the air. The software is free, and even better, low power works just great. Activity is high, I have yet to look at 14.070 and not see at least one or two signals there, looking for a contact. CU on PSK31!

Field Trip

Larry has firmed up everything for an exciting June trip except lunch.

And I'm sure that will be taken care of real soon. What field trip you say? How about a trip to the National Weather Service in Taunton, MA, then lunch, then an interesting afternoon at the New England Wireless and Steam Museum in E. Greenwich, RI. Just \$27 covers the bus trip out, entrances to the events and if you're good the ride back home! All you need to worry about is how much you spend for lunch! For more information, contact Larry, WB1DBY at wb1dby@arrrl.net or see the flyer at <http://www.hcra.org> for additional information. The bus can hold 42 people, almost 30 have signed up so far. If you would like to go, get your name on the list soon to make sure you get a seat. This promises to be a fun trip.

Field Day

Final decisions are being made by both HCRA and MTARA concerning FD 2001. What is needed right now are for interested parties to come forward and help with event planning. Notice I sad event planning, not event doing. When June comes around, there are always plenty of hands willing to help out, but we need some folks to get the planning part completed before the actual event. So far Walt, WA1HHN, has offered to head up a FD committee and Ed, WT1W, and John, KX1X have also tossed their hat into the ring. We are still looking for a few more to help with the planning stage. In other words, we need you! If you would like to help out, please contact either Walt, WA1HHN, Paul, N1FI or myself and we will make sure you have a place on the committee. Unlike last year, we already have at least two possible sites confirmed, so one of the toughest parts is already done. The joint event was very successful last year, I'm sure we can do even better this year by building on our past successes and learning from last years mistakes.

ATV Repeater

Larry, N1URE (our webmaster) and Chet, W1HGJ have been working very hard to secure a site and put up an ATV repeater for the hams in the Pioneer Valley. They had almost secured a great site, high on a downtown Springfield building when the owners had other concerns and changed their mind. If you know of a nice site for a 440 MHz ATV repeater, why not contact Larry or Chet and let them know about it. They have some really cool equipment all set and ready to go, the only thing missing is a place to put the repeater. This ATV repeater will be fast scan and should not only be fun to ham with, but provide great coverage for local charitable events, etc. All help greatly appreciated.

73... Jim, KK1W

ON THE AIR

Please remember to join our Monday evening 10m Net

Join NCS Tom, N1MUV, On Monday nights, 7:30PM local for the

HCRA/W1NY 10m Net 28.375 +/- QRM



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HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

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Emergency Coordinator Dave Isham, KB1MU (413) 596-6605

HCRA Sponsors a New Venturing Crew

The Hampden County Radio Association has agreed to sponsor a brand new Venture Crew, which will have a focus on Emergency Preparedness, especially in the communications field.

We are looking for boys and girls, between the ages of 14 to 20 who are interested in learning about emergency communications to join our Crew. The crew's activities will be designed, planned, and implemented by the youth involved, under the advice and counseling of volunteer adults, and may include pedestrian fox hunting, field day, camping, and community service projects, among other worthwhile projects. The program limits depend on the enthusiasm and willingness of those involved.

No license required, but this is a great place to get help getting one!

If you know of anyone interested in joining this group, please contact John, kx1x, at (413) 532-7474 or by e-mail at kx1x@arrl.net.



Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Venturing is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth, adult leaders, and organizations in their communities. Local community organizations establish a Venturing crew by matching their people and program resources to the interests of young people in the community. The result is a program of exciting and meaningful activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, develop leadership skills, and become good citizens.





DX Clips

de
Jordy, W1JK

In my opinion the cheapest & most efficient operating aid one can buy is logging software (S/W). I have tried many over the years and presently own three programs. One is a DOS program by TomDandrea (Log EQF) and the other two are Windows systems. Log EQF is excellent S/W but suffers from the DOS Window limitation inherent in "Windows environments. My favorite, by far, is Log Windows by Creative Services Software Inc (CSS) . This program will be a prize in this month's Club Raffle; and, I urge the lucky winner to give it a try even if he/she is using other logging S/W. I have owned it for 5 years and knew the original developer...Ira Chavis. He is the quintessential S/W designer and possesses the requisite programming expertise as well as the rare capability to recognize what is practical, efficient and "user friendly". In case some of you think that I have a financial interest with Ira...rest assured I do not. In fact, Ira sold the S/W to another S/W development Co. 2 years ago and it languished in their coffers until it was acquired by CSS last year. They have updated it and provide support to registered owners. They, of course, have a Website for FAQ's, Downloads of updates, etc.

What does Log Windows do for you, the user?:

1. Log all your contacts with a very refined data base that provides you with Awards detail including IOTA.
2. Identifies stations you hear by Country and if this is a new Country displays the Band & Country or Band-Mode that you need for an award.
3. Controls Heath Intellirotor, Prosearch, Hy-Gain DCU-1 and Yaesu Antenna Rotors with an RS-232 port. Allows you to point your Antennas to the short path, long path or in a user defined direction for the station you are working. The Bearing is precisely calculated from your QTH.
4. Browse your Logbooks and define your own custom queries using the on-line Database Browser. This search device can be refined down to the most minute detail.
5. Query on-line Callbook databases or via CD ROM or copy CD database to Hard Drive for fastest search time. It handles all the popular commercially available callbook databases and automatically configures the S/W for each.
6. Allows you to update the official ARRL DXCC prefixes in your databases. CSS has arranged their DX call database to coincide with the exact order of presentation ARRL uses. This is an advantage that facilitates manual searches.
7. Allows you to import data (logs) from other Logging programs...handles most, if not all, competing programs and allows user adjustment of data inflow.
8. Hear voice synthesized DX spot alerts.
9. Filters DX spots from the Packet Cluster by band, mode or Country.
10. Interfaces with PC Pakkratt 2.X for Windows, Pacterm 98 and PKterm 99.
11. Controls your Transceiver via your Computer's Serial port.
12. See information displayed by your local Packet Cluster. The S/W changes the Frequency and Mode of your Transceiver to the frequency shown by your Packet Cluster...just "punch" the Mouse. You can also Telnet to DXclusters. The S/W allows you to limit the DX alert via Clusters to user specified call areas (up to 100). This is the ultimate approach to DX filtering . If you are looking for specific areas and want only those Spots announced, it is quiet except for your specific needs.
13. Of course it prints labels, logs and data by your specified criteria, etc.

If you are at all interested in trying this S/W "free" ,go to their Website at: www.cssincorp.com . I believe your time will be well spent.

LOOK FOR:

Maldives - 8Q: Tusti is QRV as 8Q7DD on 20M SSB around 1200z. QSL via W4WET.

United Arab Emirates - A6: A multinational team of 10 operators will be QRV from A61AJ's QTH in the CQ WPX contest. QSL to home call.

Uruguay - C6: Jorge, CX6VM will be QRV as CW6V in CQ WPX contest. QSL via W3HMK.

Balearic Islands - EA6: Gabriel, EA6AEQ will also be in Contest as AN6AEQ. QSL home call.

New Caledonia - FK: FK8HC & others will be Multi/Multi entry in the Contest as TX8G. QSL via op. instructions.

Liechtenstein - HB0: 5 ops. will be QRV as HB0/F6KQL until Mar. 26,including Contest. QSL via F6KQL.

Mariana Is. - KH0: Nob, JM1LRQ is QRV on CW all bands until Mar. 26 & in Contest. QSL home call.

Guam - KH2: Yoichi, JP1NWZ active as KH0XX/NH2 until Mar. 26 & in Contest as AH7X/WH2 all bands. QSL home call.

Luxembourg - LX: Group will be QRV in contest as LX5A. QSL via LX1RQ.

Fernando de Noronha - PY0F: Peter, PY5CC is QRV as PY0FM until Mar. 31. QSL via JA1VOK.

Vanuatu - YJ: Angelo is QRV as YJ0ABQ. QSL via I6BQI.

The Contest is scheduled for the weekend of the 24th..prior to you receiving this bulletin, but you should receive it before many cease operations. Have fun...this is a great opportunity to "play Radio".

See you next month.

De Jordy - W1JK

Get Your Zero Beat Electronically each month

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

- 1) *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.*
- 2) *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.*
- 3) 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 John, Kx1x, Dave, KB1MU, or Jim, WA1ZUH to be added to the eZB only list.

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Whats Happening???

On The Air

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic System (NTS) Net	146.94
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94
Mondays	19:30	HCRA 10m Net	28.375
Wednesdays	19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link)
	20:00	MTARA Swap net	
	20:30	MTARA Tech net	
Thursdays	21:00	Weather Net (ncs K1PAI Roger)	1 st Week of the Month 147.09 Every other week 147.000

Club Meetings & Testing Sessions

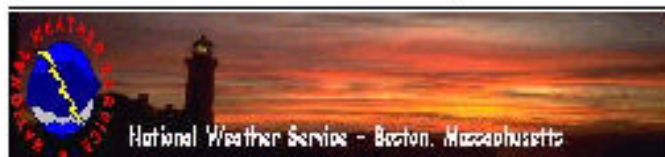
1 st Friday of the month	19:30	HCRA Club Meeting	Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
3 rd Friday of the month	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA
4 th Friday of the month	18:00	MTARA License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke
4 th Sunday of the month	19:00	NOBARC club meeting	Pittsfield MA (146.91 for talk-in)

Please forward additions and suggestions to: Stan Bates, n1inb seb@wca.com

(All times Local)

Bus Trip

Date: June 16, 2001



National Weather Service - Boston, Massachusetts

First Stop: National Weather Service

WHERE: We start with a 35 minute sound-and-picture show in the conference room. This show explains who we are, what operations occur at the Forecast Office, and how forecasts are prepared and sent. We then take a few minutes to answer any questions the audience may have. The participants then view our operations area; here, they see the various computer systems that we use to view satellite, radar, and computer forecast model data...as well as the systems we use to prepare and send forecasts and warnings.

HOW LONG: A typical tour takes 60 minutes. If there are a lot of questions, the tour length could go longer.

Time permitting, they will then walk through our "Weather Gallery". This has pictures from extreme New England weather of the past 60+ years.

Over 2500 people have toured our office during the past 3 years.

Second Stop: Lunch

We will be stopping somewhere for lunch. You are responsible for any costs for lunch as they are not included with the trip fee.

Third Stop: New England Wireless

and Steam Museum

The New England Wireless and Steam Museum is an electrical and mechanical engineering museum emphasizing the beginnings of radio and steam power. The museum honors engineers who achieved greatness and served the public good by analyzing and solving tough engineering problems.

In 1875 Rhode Island was the world center of the stationary steam industry. According to the American So-

Everyone is invited. It's not just for hams. Bring your wives and girlfriends. It will be a fun day.

Bus leaves approx 7:30 am & returns approx 6:00 pm

ciety of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) the New England Wireless and Steam Museum has the finest collection of Rhode Island made engines, together with the finest collection of original stationary steam engine drawings.

This museum preserves the original Massie coastal wireless station which was moved from Point Judith, Rhode Island. This station, built in 1907 to communicate with marine shipping, is the oldest surviving, originally equipped wireless station anywhere. It symbolizes the very start of the electronics industry - a Plymouth Rock of the radio, TV, cellphone, satcom, Internet, computer, CATscan and all the other marvelous creations of electrical engineering. The significance of the Massie station is enormous.

The museum's assembly hall is an 1822 neo-classic New England meeting house which, like the Massie station, was moved here to be saved from demolition. This charming building is available for weddings, christenings, club functions, corporate presentations, etc.

The museum shows rare early radio and steam apparatus - much in working order.



Cost per person: \$27 - this includes admission to the museum. The NWS is free.

Please make sure you write down your name, call sign, number of people attending and your home phone number on a note with your check.

Please make the check out to the HCRA and send it to: Larry Krainson WB1DBY, 100 Kenmore Drive, Longmeadow, MA 01106-2759.

Seats are limited - don't delay!



Skywarn Notes

de *Eric Tuller* *N1QKO*

Hello to all , this month I would like to pass along the Fujita damage scale and the Beaufort wind scale. The Fujita scale was developed for rating tornadoes based on their intensity. The Beaufort scale was developed by the British Navy to estimate wind speed.

FUJITA DAMAGE SCALE

F0	GALE TORNADO	WEAK	40 - 72 MPH
F1	MODERATE TORNADO	WEAK	73 - 112 MPH
F2	SIGNIFICANT TORNADO	STRONG	113 - 157 MPH
F3	SEVERE TORNADO	STRONG	158 - 206 MPH
F4	DEVASTATING TORNADO	VIOLENT	207 - 260 MPH
F5	INCREDIBLE TORNADO	VIOLENT	261 - 318 MPH

The Beaufort Wind Scale

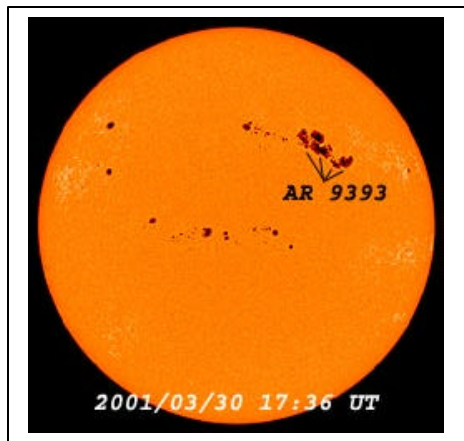
Beaufort#	mph	Observation
0	0-1	smoke rises vertically
1	1-3	smoke drifts slowly
2	4-7	leaves rustle
3	8-12	leaves and twigs in motion
4	13-18	small branches move
5	19-24	small trees sway
6	25-31	large branches sway
7	32-38	whole trees in motion
8	39-46	twigs break off trees
9	47-54	branches break
10	55-63	trees snap and are blown down
11	64-72	wide spread damage
12	73-82	extreme damage

I hope this information will be useful. A reminder that from 1 June to 1 November is Hurricane season.

Eric Tuller N1QKO
ET-n1qko@juno.com

Now Playing at the Star Nearest You: The Largest Sunspot in 10 Years!

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar 30, 2001 (NASA)--A huge sunspot, thirteen-times larger than the surface area of the Earth and growing, has now rotated with the Sun to face our planet. The sunspot, which is the largest of the current solar cycle, is also the largest to appear in a decade.



The area of the Sun, designated AR 9393, has been a prolific generator of stormy solar activity, hurling clouds of electrified gas towards Earth, producing four explosions, called flares, and spawning storms of high-speed particles in space.

The largest of the four flares occurred at 4:57 AM EST on Thursday, March 29, and was rated as an X-class flare, the most potent designation. The other three flares were rated M- class, second only to the X-class.

An eruption near AR 9393 hurled a cloud of electrified, magnetic gas towards Earth on Wednesday. This eruption, called a Coronal Mass Ejection may cause auroral displays and magnetic storm activity when it impacts the Earth's magnetic field sometime Friday.

Another Earthbound CME associated with the X-class flare was seen at 5:26 AM EST March 29 and is expected to arrive on Saturday.

"Sunspots with complex magnetic field structures like those in AR 9393 can generate big flares, and sure enough, we just had a powerful X-class flare from this area," said Dr. Joseph Gurman, at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, project scientist for the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) spacecraft. SOHO is one of a fleet of sun-observing spacecraft now tracking this region and its activity.

Sunspots are darker areas on the visible surface of the Sun caused by a concentration of distorted magnetic fields. The strong magnetic field slows the flow of heat from the Sun's interior and keeps sunspots slightly cooler than their surroundings, causing them to appear dark. The number of sunspots increases and decreases as the Sun's 11-year cycle of stormy activity rises and falls. Violent solar activity is believed to be caused by the release of magnetic energy, and powerful solar eruptions and flares often occur near the enhanced magnetic field of sunspots.

Solar flares, among the solar system's mightiest eruptions, are tremendous explosions in the Sun's atmosphere, capable of releasing as much energy as a billion megatons of TNT. Caused by the sudden release of magnetic energy, in just a few seconds flares can accelerate solar particles to very high velocities and heat solar material to tens of millions of degrees.

Coronal mass ejections are clouds of electrified magnetic gas weighing billions of tons, hurled into space at speeds of 12 to 1250 miles per second. Depending on the orientation of the magnetic fields carried by the ejection cloud, solar explosions cause magnetic storms by interacting with Earth's magnetic field, distorting its shape and accelerating electrically charged particles trapped within.

Severe solar weather is often heralded by dramatic auroral displays, but magnetic storms are occasionally harmful, potentially affecting satellites, radio communications and power systems.

Coronal mass ejections and flares can produce storms of high-velocity particles. The ejections are believed to produce longer particle storms than flares, storms that sometimes last for days, as they plow through the slower solar wind at supersonic speeds, creating a shock wave that accelerates electrically charged particles.

The SOHO project is an international cooperative program between NASA and the European Space Agency in the framework of the international Solar Terrestrial Science Program.

Movies and images of this solar activity will be broadcast today on NASA Television, which is broadcast on satellite GE- 2, transponder 9C, C-band, located at 85 degrees West longitude. The frequency is 3880 MHz, with vertical polarization and monaural audio at 6.8 MHz.

For more information on the sunspot, visit <http://www.spaceweather.com/> .—NASA

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

HCRA Board of directors Meeting – March 8, 2001

Held at Elizabeth Buller's (KB1CPZ) home

Present: Jim KK1W, Jorty W1JK, Greg N1AEH, Dave KB1MU, John KX1X, Betty KB1CPZ, and Stan N1INB

Member Reports:

Vice President: Raffle Results for Mar meeting netted \$1331.00, The prizes for the April meeting will be a software CD and a wall clock.

The proposed "tail-gate" party for the June meeting was discussed. Even though June will be warm, the field behind the parking lot may not be available. This field is used for local sports and usually very busy. With the restriction to the actual parking lot, it is quite possible that the number of "tail-gater"s would have to be restricted.

A deposit has been made on Dufresque Park, in the event the Field Day Committee decides to use this site.

Treasurer: Financial Report Our current balance is \$3030.00. The new PA system has been paid.

Secretary: The current membership stands at 78 Regular, .6 Family, 3 Life, 1 honorary, and 4 club/sponsor.

An error was discovered in the membership database as displayed on the HCRA web site. This error has been corrected and an updated roster is now displayed.

Program: The board expressed their contentment with the May speaker. All enjoyed the presentation and a large crowd was in attendance. The April speaker will be Wayne Miller from the ARRL. And in May Chet W1HGJ and Larry N1URE will make a presentation on ATV and the new ATV repeater

Zero Beat: Mar 26 is the deadline for ZeroBeat articles.

Membership: Betty KB1CPZ has sent information packets that include membership applications to 15 former members. Betty has also prepared packets to be presented to new Hams at the VE sessions.

At large: Les K1DNX presented some possibilities for HCRA QSL cards. A design was agreed upon and both QSL cards and eyeball cards will be ordered.

Technical: The swap table seems to be a success, with all items placed on the swap table at the March meeting being sold.

Old Business: The board is pleased with the progress on the ATV repeater. The board voted a cash donation towards the implementation of this repeater. The secretary will send a thank you note to Mr. Picknelly. The club will continue to look for better speakers for the new PA system. In the meantime those used at the March meeting will be used.

New Business:

With the June elections approaching, the board is looking for persons who are willing the run for any of the HCRA office.

Preparations for the June bus trip to National Weather Services in Taunton and then to The Wireless and Stem museum in East Greenwich, RI are well on the way. The price has not been finalized, but should be with in a week. About 20 persons have already signed up for this trip.

Respectfully submitted by Dave I sham KB1MU.

The next meeting of the
Hampden County Radio Association

Will be on Friday

April 6th, 2001

At 7:30 p.m. at the
Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Doors open at 7:00 PM

Hope to see you there!

In case of inclement weather, tune to TV Channels 22 or 40,
or the 146.94 repeater.

Meeting cancellation information will be given out by 6:00 PM.

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts
01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

This Friday, April 6th, 2001

Wayne Mills, N7NG

ARRL Membership Services Director

And noted DXer