



Zero Beat



A Publication of the Hamden County Radio Association

<http://www.hcra.org>

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

Our 57th Year

April, 2003

Pocket Calculator

Guys

While they both are devoted vintage electronics collectors, one of Paul's collecting niches is handheld video games, while Jay likes picking up 70s and 80s calculator watches.

Sounds like an interesting meeting!!!



Next Meeting: 7:30 P.M, Friday, April 4th, 2003

On the Internet

<http://www.hcra.org>

Updated often to bring you timely
Amateur news and info

*Now, TWO sources
for Local Amateur
Information*

On the Air

146.46 Mhz

Announcements every 7 minutes
when not in use

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President's

Corner



This Month's Meeting The Pocket Calculator Guys

Jay and Paul are both Connecticut natives, attending the same junior high and high schools. Jay was working in commercial radio by 19 while attending UConn in Hartford, CT. However, he started in "radio" well before that. Paul and Jay hosted "pirate" shows while in school at a low power FM facility. Jay makes his living as an on-air personality for a commercial radio station in eastern Maine. While's there no secret in Jay's passion for electronics old and new, he's also an avid Red Sox fan and enjoys radio and television history. Jay's a licensed ham operator--his call sign is KB1HOW.

Paul attended college and studied stuff that in which neither he, nor you really have an interest. He became intrigued with computers and eventually returned to college to study them. He now works for a large company supporting UNIX environments. Paul is also in love with all sorts of electronics, but enjoys mountain biking, too. Paul's amateur callsign is KB1HGO.

While they both are devoted vintage electronics collectors, one of Paul's collecting niches is handheld video games, while Jay likes picking up 70s and 80s calculator watches.

Sounds like a pretty interesting meeting? You might want to check around the house for some older (and obsolete) tech items and either bring them along for Jay & Paul to identify or perhaps even donate to their collection.

Show & Tell 2nd Annual Event Another Winner

Last month was our second annual Show & Tell. If you thought you had seen everything at the last one I hope you didn't miss this one!



Ben Cain wins \$50

Entries this year ran the gamut from bandpass filters to QRP rigs, antenna insulators to antennas. All were exquisitely constructed and most seemed to work too! Just in case some were a bit too practical, Larry, N1URE was there to show (and demonstrate) a Tesla coil! It really made your hair stand on end!

When all was shown and told, six lucky people took home the prizes. In Novice class 1st place went to Ben Cain with a homebrew automatic power transfer box, 2nd place to Luke, KB1ISP with a homebrew 40M QRP transmitter and 3rd place to Jim who showed us how to make our own center insulators for dipole antennas.



Tom's bandpass filter

In the Expert category, Tommy, KA1MDA took home \$50 with a fine example of a homebrew 6 meter bandpass filter. Second prize went to Ed, WT1W who made an "antenna positioning system" from surplus components and third place was taken by Larry, N1URE for his 'hair raising' Tesla coil.

There were ten entries total and the judges had their work cut out for them throughout the evening. It was a fun event for all. Just think, you've got at least 330 days to work on next years project!

For more information: http://www.hcra.org/show_&_tell.htm.

Field Day Coming soon, to a field near you!



Next month's meeting will feature a super presentation by none other than the Field Day champions, N1FD! Sterling, AK1K and Brian, W2SUO will be making the trip south from New Hampshire to show HCRA just how they do it. Do what you might ask? Well, N1FD has previously had the #1 score in FD. How about 26,274 with a 26A station in 1998. Not bad you say? All I want to know is how they do it, especially 26 stations on the air at the same time!

If you are thinking about participating in Field Day again this year be sure to get you name in to the 'FD committee' ASAP. Station spots are going quickly, the park is reserved and we have lots of towers and antennas waiting to launch your signal across the bands! Be prepared for pile-ups and **LOTS** of fun!

The Great Start for 2003 KC1ZJ Donation Update

The HCRA board has struggled through the huge list of items donated last month by Jim, KC1ZJ. A number of transceivers and accessories were set aside for use by Venture Crew DX. Other items were chosen for use by HCRA, especially for Field Day. It was decided to sell the remainder and use the money to fund ongoing club initiatives.

The board decided some of the equipment should be offered to HCRA members at an attractive price before listing it on eBay. This would allow both the HCRA to benefit from the donation and our members to get a good deal at the same time. Look elsewhere in this issue for some really great prices on excellent equipment.

John, Kx1x volunteered to organize the equipment. In addition to sales to club members he will also be photographing and listing the items on. Irv, W6IS has made himself available to take the calls from club members during the sale period.

New England QSO Party May 3rd & 4th!

It's back again this year. The New England QSO Party starts Saturday May 3rd and promises to be even bigger and more fun this year. There are some rule changes so point your browser to: <http://www.neqp.org> and read all about it.



The HCRA will sponsor a plaque again this year for the highest score in Hampden County. Dave, KB1MU won the award last year, but let's not let him get away with winning again with only 37 contacts!

Jim & I should be roving again and hope to at least double our score (shouldn't be hard, we only had 30 Q's last year). Word has it that Steve, N1SR, without the aid of Dan will be expecting to double his score also. How about a challenge Steve?

See you April 4th at the meeting...

'73... Jim, KK1W

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and
Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

President

Jim Mullen, KK1W
(413) 245-3228 jmullen@rockys.com

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Irv Slitzky, W6IS
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(413) 596-6605 kb1mu@charter.net

HCRA DIRECTORS

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STATION TRUSTEES

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EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Dave Isham, KB1MU
(413) 596-6605 kb1mu@charter.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 listen)

146.46 simplex, 114.8hz PL

Kx1x, Node #7270,

S.Hadley, MA



Computer
Care

Larry Krainson

We Make House Calls!

Tel & Fax: (413) 567-3505
Pager: (800) 522-6606 Pin: 4133483289
Email: WB1DBY@ARRL.NET

Computer Sales & Service
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WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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Eastern Regional Mgr.
NIUC

224 N. Broadway
Salem, NH 03079
(603) 898-3750
1-800-444-0047

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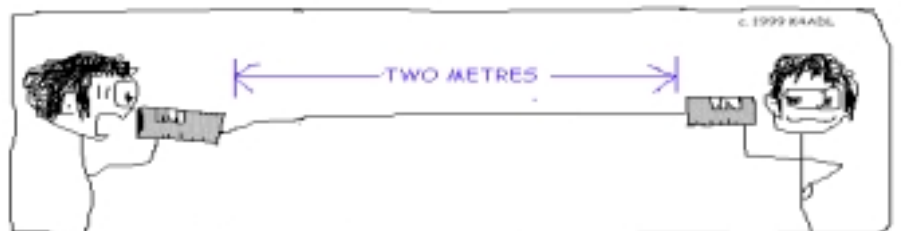
Wear it Proudly!
HCRA Name Badges

HAMPDEN COUNTY
JIM
WA1ZUH
RADIO ASSN.

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

OUR
SUPPORTERS
PLEASE



THE EARLY YEARS

By permission, k4adl --- <http://www.qls.net/k4adl/>

CONTEST CORNER

something almost every weekend!!!

Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 5-0500Z Apr 6 and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 6
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12-0359Z, Apr 13 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 13
TARA Spring Wakeup PSK31 Rumble	0000Z-2400Z, Apr 19
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 19-0400Z, Apr 20
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 19-1800Z, Apr 20
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 26-0159Z, Apr 27 and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 27
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 26-1700Z, Apr 27
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 3-0300Z, May 4 and 1100Z-2400Z, May 4
Indiana QSO Party	1300Z, May 3-0500Z, May 4
Oregon QSO Party	1400Z, May 10-0200Z, May 11
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 24-2400Z, May 25
Great Lakes QSO Party	0000Z, May 31-2359Z, Jun 1

Get On The Air (all times local)

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri 19:00	National Traffic System (NTS) Net	146.94 (WITOM)
Sundays 08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94 (WITOM)
Mondays 19:30	HCRA 10m Net	28.375
Tuesdays 19:30	Slow Scan TV (SSTV) Net	145.130 (PL 71.9hz) (KD1XP)
Wednesdays 19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link) (WITOM)
	20:00 MTARA Swap net	
	20:30 MTARA Tech net	
Thursdays 21:00	Weather Net	2 nd Week of the Month 147.09 All other weeks 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	KD1XP License Exams	Amherst Machine 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 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA
	http://www.mtara.org	
4 th Friday of the month 18:00	MTARA License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke
	Contact Dave, WA1DC, WA1DC@pipeline.com	
4 th Sunday of the month 19:00	NOBARC club meeting	Pittsfield MA (146.91 for talk-in)

HCRA ELECTIONS

Coming up in June
We need your help
*President, Vice President,
Treasurer, Secretary,
Director of Program, Director At Large
Director of Membership,
NEWSLETTER, Technical*
Contact any of the HCRA board members
If you 'd like to run for office

ROCKY'S



www.rockys.com

Color "Zero Beat" printing and mailing
made possible by a generous donation.

Remember them the next time you need
something from the
"Helpful Hardware Folks"

W1NY ON THE AIR

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!!!

Bus Trip

Saturday, June 7, 2003



Hampden County
Radio Association

The Submarine Force Museum, Library and Historic Ship Nautilus

The Submarine Force Museum, located on the Thames River in Groton, Connecticut, maintains the world's finest collection of submarine memorabilia. It is the only submarine museum operated by the United States Navy, and as such is the primary repository for artifacts, documents and photographs relating to U.S. Submarine Force history. The museum traces the development of the "Silent Service" from David Bushnell's Turtle, used in the Revolutionary War, to the modern Los Angeles, Ohio and Seawolf class submarines.

Upon leaving the museum, we will be stopping somewhere (to be determined) for lunch.



The Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut

Then we'll be heading back North to the Vintage Radio and Communication Museum of Connecticut. Some of the displays include: radio, television, motion picture, telephone equipment, amateur radio equipment, industrial equipment, as well as vintage advertising and memorabilia.

One of the displays recently completed at the museum is an operating ham radio station reflective of the 1960s-1970s. Now a group of museum volunteers who are also ham operators has formed a club, and hopes to obtain a station license and a "vanity" call sign that reflects the name of the museum.



Date: Saturday, June 7, 2003

Bus Leaves at 7:30 am

Bus Returns around 6 pm

Chartered Bus with restroom

There is room for 47 people, so it's first come, first served.

Cost per person: \$30 plus lunch

Please send a check made out to the HCRA and mail to:

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

Make sure your name, telephone number & email address are on your check.

Deadline: May 17th, 2003 - no exceptions!

Questions?

Contact Larry at: wb1dby@arrl.net

Everyone is invited including wives, spouses, friends, etc. It's not just for hams! We'll have a great time, come join us.



BSA Venture Crew 510

NE1C - New England's #1 Crew

BSA Venture Crew 510 is chartered by the Hampden County Radio Association

Visit Crew DX's 100% youth designed website:

<http://www.cel.net/scrwdx>



BSA VENTURE CREW 510 Contacts

Youth President
Adult Advisor
Adult Advisor

Brian Regan disturbinglycheesie8655c@hotmail.com
John Pise, Kx1x(413) 532-7474 kx1x@arrl.net
Dave Cain, AA1YW aa1yw@arrl.net

BSA VENTURE CREW 510 - CALENDAR

Saturday, March 29 th	Scantic Spring Splash Communications Help
Fri-Sat-Sun, March 28,29,30	WPX Contest at K1TTT Superstation, Peru, MA
Friday, April 4 th	Crew meeting/HCRA Meeting
Friday, May 2 nd	Crew meeting/HCRA Meeting
Friday, June 6 th	Crew meeting/HCRA Meeting
June 27, 28, 29 th	FIELD DAY
October 11,12,13 th	Ham Radio Demo at BSA Jamboree, MassJam, Falmouth, MA



**MORE
PICTURES
FROM
LAST
MONTH'S
SHOW
& TELL**

K1WVX,
Paul (left)
N1URE,
Larry (right)



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, KK1W, to be added to the eZB only list.

KD1XP Repeater Group News

KD1XP Repeater Group *Ham Radio testing session* will be Monday, April 21st, 2003 at 7 PM in Amherst, MA at Amherst Machine, Cowls Rd. All test elements given. Contact Richard, KD1XP at 413-665-2211 for details.

SSTV net Tuesdays at 730 PM
145.130 PL 123.0
Dennis, wb1ehd net control

Breakfast net weekdays at 630 AM
442.200 - PL 162.2 kd1xp/r Deerfield, MA

www.kd1xp.org

Breakfast Gathering
8 AM, First Saturday of each month
Sit Down Diner, Rte 9 Hadley
Talk in on 145.130 PL 123.0 repeater

Notice of Sale to Members

The Board of Directors of the Hampden County Radio Association has decided that the following items, donated by past Ham operator and past member of HCRA, Jim, formerly KC1ZJ, should be sold and the proceeds to benefit HCRA and its members. It was also decided that HCRA members should have a fair chance to purchase these items at a reasonable cost, before sale at public auction.

RULES:

Irv, W6IS, will accept calls between 6:PM and 8:PM each night between April 7th and April 11th, 2003, at 565-5222. No calls will be accepted before/after these hours/days. Please do not call except between these hours.

First Come, First Served at published price. No dickering.

Payment and pickup must be complete within 7 days of bid. Money Orders & cash only. Contact John, Kx1x, at 262-5249 to arrange payment/pickup.

Type	Manufacturer	Model Number	Description	Condition	Qty.	Member Price	Estimated Value
Accessory	MFJ	MFJ-931	Artificial RF Ground	Excellent	1	\$15.00	\$ 25.00
Amplifier	Advance Receiver Research	144 MHz.	144-148 MHz. Low Noise Amplifier	Good	1	\$50.00	\$ 75.00
Amplifier	Advance Receiver Research	440 MHz.	440-450 MHz. Low Noise Amplifier	Good	1	\$50.00	\$ 75.00
Amplifier	Mirage	B23	144-148 MHz. 30 Watt Amplifier	Good	1	\$15.00	\$ 30.00
Amplifier	Mirage	D1010	430-460 MHz. 100 Watt Amplifier	Good	1	\$75.00	\$ 125.00
Antenna Tuner	Yaesu	FC-757AT	Automatic Antenna Tuner	Excellent	1	\$75.00	\$ 100.00
Filter	Datong	FL3	Multi-Band Multi-Mode Notch Filter	Good	1	\$30.00	\$ 50.00
Microphone	Astatic	575M-6	Ceramic Amplified Microphone	Fair	1	\$20.00	\$ 35.00
Microphone	Astatic	D10	Microphone Head	Fair	1	\$20.00	\$ 35.00
Microphone	Astatic	Silver Eagle	Microphone Head and stand., Silver	Good	1	\$35.00	\$ 100.00
Microphone	Astatic	Silver Eagle	Microphone Head and stand., Silver	Good	1	\$35.00	\$ 100.00
Microphone	Yaesu	YM-47	Condenser Microphone	Good	1	\$15.00	\$ 25.00
Microphone	Yaesu	YM-50	Condenser Microphone	Good	1	\$15.00	\$ 25.00
Power Supply	Yaesu	FP-757HD	Power Supply	Excellent	1	\$75.00	\$ 100.00
Receiver	Golden Eagle	Mark IV	27 MHz. All Mode Base Station Receiver	Good, missing case	1	\$100.00	\$ 150.00
Selector	QSYer	FT-757GX	Frequency Selector Keypad	Excellent	1	\$35.00	\$ 50.00
Tape Recorder	Fostex	X-15	Multitracker Tape w/ instruction manual, power supply	Fair	1	\$35.00	\$ 75.00
Transceiver	SBE	Console V	27 MHz. All Mode Base Station Transceiver	Good, one modification	1	\$50.00	\$ 100.00
Transceiver	Yaesu	FT-650	50-54 MHz. All Mode Base Station Transceiver	Excellent	1	\$350.00	\$ 500.00
Transceiver	SHF Systems	SHF-1240K	1240-1300 MHz. Liner Transceiver Converter	Good	1	\$50.00	\$ 75.00
Transceiver	Kenwood	TR-751A	144-148 MHz. All Mode Mobile Transceiver	Excellent	1	\$275.00	\$ 350.00
						\$1,420.00	\$ 2,200.00

A GUIDE FOR REPORTING SEVERE WEATHER

Tornadoes / funnel clouds (be wary of look a likes)

Wall clouds, especially if they are rotating

Any hail (be specific to size)

DO NOT USE "MARBLE SIZE" TO DESCRIBE SIZE

Winds (40 mph or greater, estimated or recorded)

Damaging gusts (50mph or greater)

Trees and power lines down. Large limbs down

Structural damage to buildings, windows broken

Rainfall:

1 inch or greater in 1 hour

2 inches or greater storm total

Flash flooding:

Streams / rivers -also when nearing bank full

Coastal/ Street

PROCEDURES for calling into local net

I identify yourself with your call and name

Be BRIEF in your observation, I include:

WHAT was observed

WHEN it was observed

WHERE it was observed

I include direction & distance from a known location

Some things to remember during a net:

When calling from your town. Please specify if in Ma. or Ct.

Don't relay reports that you here on repeaters in other coverage areas

Don't relay information from the WEATHER CHANNEL

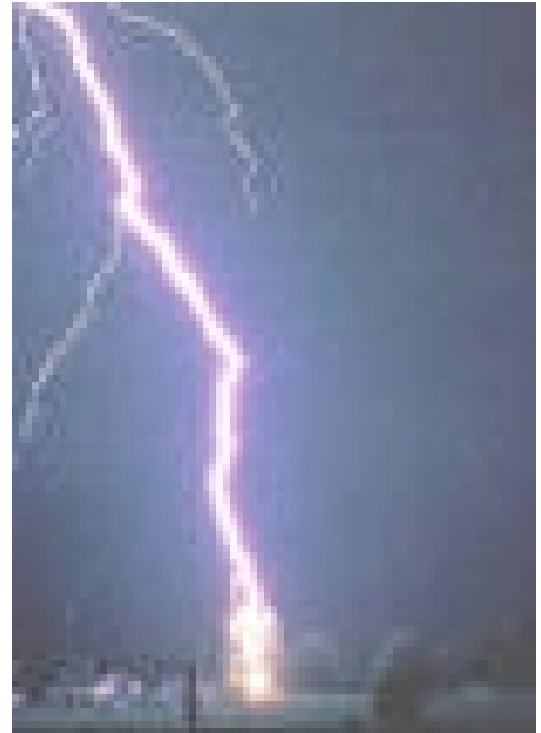
Don't relay information you here on a scanner

WE WANT YOUR OBSERVATIONS!

After the storm has passed your location. DO NOT tell net control the storm has passed. Please stay off the air so that reports east of you can be taken. We don't need a summary of what has already happened. Please remember your safety during severe weather!

Thank you,

Eric Tuller, N1QKO



SKYWARN

CLASS

05/17/2003

7-10 PM

Wilbraham Middle
School Auditorium
466 Stony Hill Road
Wilbraham, MA

ARRL and TAPR 22nd Annual

Digital Communications Conference

September 19-21, 2003 • Hartford, Connecticut



<http://www.tapr.org/dcc>

Information

Mark your calendar and start making plans to attend the premier technical conference of the year, the **22nd Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference** to be held **September 19-21, 2003**, in **Hartford, Connecticut**. The conference location is the **Marriott Hartford Windsor Airport** hotel. Updated conference information is available at <http://www.tapr.org/dcc>.

The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work, and present new ideas and techniques. Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results, and practical applications.

Topics include, but are not limited to: Software defined radio (SDR), digital voice, digital satellite communications, Global Position System (GPS), precision timing, Automatic Position Reporting System® (APRS), short messaging (a mode of APRS), Digital Signal Processing (DSP), HF digital modes, Internet interoperability with amateur radio networks, spread spectrum, IEEE 802.11 and other Part 15 license-exempt systems adaptable for Amateur Radio, using TCP/IP networking over amateur radio, mesh and peer to peer wireless networking, emergency and Homeland Defense backup digital communications, using Linux in amateur radio, updates on AX.25 and other wireless networking protocols.

Introductory and Technical Sessions

The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is for all levels of technical experience, not just for the expert. Not only is the conference technically stimulating, it is a weekend of fun for all who have more than a casual interest in any aspect of amateur digital communications. Introductory sessions are scheduled throughout the DCC to introduce new technical topics for beginners and experts alike.

This is a must attend conference for technically inclined amateurs. Now, more than ever, amateur radio needs this great meeting of the minds to demonstrate a continued need for our current frequency allocations by pushing forward and documenting our achievements. The ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference is the best way to record our accomplishments and challenge each other to do more.

Two-Day Conference, Saturday Banquet, and Sunday Seminar

Friday – Technical and introductory sessions will be presented all day Friday and Saturday. The DCC will also host the Seventh Annual APRS National Symposium with expanded coverage both days. APRS enthusiasts are highly encouraged to submit their presentations to be printed in the annual DCC proceedings.

Friday Evening Social – Join us for a Friday evening social get together.

Saturday – Technical and introductory sessions continue throughout the day.

Saturday Evening Banquet – Banquet with guest speaker (TBA). Concluding the evening will be a small awards presentation and prize drawing.

Sunday – The ever-popular “Sunday Seminar” topic is TBA.

Call for Papers

Technical papers are solicited for presentation at the 22nd Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference to be held September 19-21, 2003 in Hartford, Connecticut, and publication in the Conference Proceedings. Annual conference proceedings are published by the ARRL. Presentation at the conference is not required for publication. Submission of papers are **due by August 5th, 2003** and should be submitted to

Maty Weinberg, ARRL
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111

or via the Internet to

maty@arrl.org

Information on paper submission guidelines are available on-line at

<http://www.tapr.org/dcc/>

Countdown -- 3 short months to FIELD DAY
Its not too late to start planning – we promise it'll be WARM out
Want to help? Setup, operation, food service, teardown????
Contact any HCRA board member
June 27,28,29 -- Dufresne Park, Granby, MA

The next
Hampden County Radio Association
Monthly meeting
will be on Friday
April 4th, 2003

Pocket Calculator Guys

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,
check: www.hcra.org
or the 146.94 repeater.
*Meeting cancellation information will be
given out by 6:00 PM.*

Plans are already
under way for

FIELD DAY

THE WINY WAY
Dufresne Park, Granby, MA

June 27, 28, 29

There are plenty of
facilities to make this a family event:
fishing pond, swings, playscape, hiking, and more
No Excuses, You've Been Warned !!!



HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts
01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

The Next
H C R A Meeting
The
Pocket Calculator
Guys

Apr 4,
2003
Doors
Open
7:00
PM

