

# Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association

April 2014

## K1YO to discuss Yagi basics at HCRA April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting



Please join us for our April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting where our Technical Director, Bob/K1YO, will give a presentation on Yagi antenna design and help us “gain” a better understanding of how these directional beams work. Since Bob is our main presenter for the evening, there will not be a regular tech corner. However, we still

encourage you to arrive early, pick up a donut and coffee and socialize before the meeting gets started.

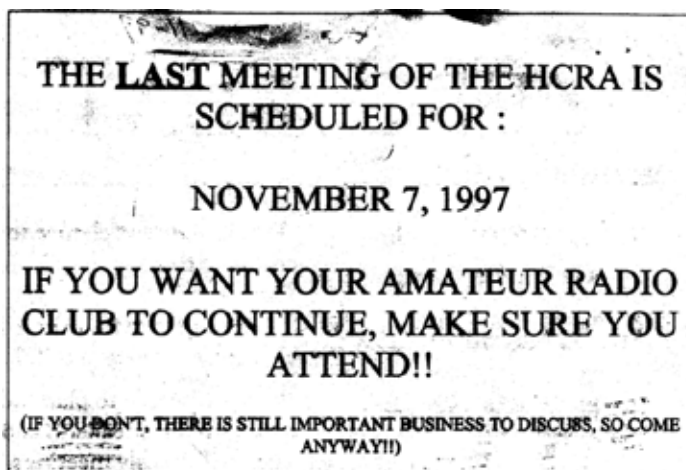
As usual, we will be discussing regular club business and future events, taking membership renewals for 2013/2014, and taking deposits for the WRTC equipment that the club is selling at a discount to members.

Meeting starts at 7:30PM. Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center 575 Beech St. Holyoke MA, 01040 Please see [www.hcra.org/meeting-location](http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location) for more information.

73,

Matt W1MSW

**The image below is from the November, 1997 issue of Zero Beat. Let's not let history repeat itself! See pages 2, 3, and 4 inside.**



## Planning is underway for 2014 ARRL Field Day June 28-29<sup>th</sup>

(Matt/W1MSW) June seems so far away doesn't it? It will be here before we know it, and with June comes ARRL's Field Day. To make sure we avoid any accidental busy

summer weekend double bookings, make sure to mark your calendar NOW!

The HCRA field day committee has begun discussing logistics so we can have another great year at our newer



site located at School Street Park in Agawam. We're looking forward to applying everything we learned from last year. Look for better



station layouts, less coax and probably even faster deployment. Of course none of those things can happen without lots of help from everyone.



Start thinking about what you want to do for Field Day this year. Requests for volunteers will start rolling out in a month or so. We will also be scheduled to give a presentation at the June



meeting on best practices for logging field day contacts and an overview on N1MM logging software. In the meantime check out ARRL's Field Day webpage for more information on the event: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

*They say a picture is worth a thousand words...*

# HCRA 2014/2015 Election Slate

## OFFICERS

- President - ???
- Vice President – Ed/KB1NWH
- Treasurer - ???
- Secretary - ???

## DIRECTORS

- Zero Beat Editor - ???
- Membership – Rich/N1KXR
- Technical – Bob/K1YO
- Program - ???
- At-Large – Jeff/NT1K

*Get the picture?*

## ***Will HCRA's 2013/2014 Season be its last?***

### ***Do you appreciate gravity of our present situation?***

June is fast approaching and we've been looking for volunteers to join the board for next season with little success. Only Jeff/NT1K has stepped forward to fill the opening at the 'At Large' position. Everyone else seems to be waiting for some other person to do the job.

Let me share with you what almost happened to HCRA seventeen years ago. The club was unable to fill the requisite board positions at the close of the 1996/1997 season. A meeting was held in November 1997 and it was put before the membership on hand the choice of gathering enough volunteers to run the club or disbanding the club. Thankfully Irv/W6IS raised his hand, volunteered to be president and was able to convince enough folks to come forward and fill the other open positions. I'm sure many of you were at this meeting. If not for Irv and his efforts that evening on November 7, 1997 we wouldn't be having this conversation today in 2014.

It appears we're once again faced with the same problem. Unless we fill our election slate the board will have no other option than to replicate the decision of 1997. Is this something you think should happen to HCRA? Do you want our June 2014 meeting to be the last?

I urge you to consider what a few hours of your time can do for the entire amateur radio community in the Pioneer Valley. Think of all the new hams that joined our ranks, the operating events like Field Day in which we've all participated, the exposure of new technology, the operating skills we've learned with our programs and of course the friendship and fun of our fellow club members over the last seventeen years. Is the way our club should come to an end? Now is not the time to say, "Ah, let someone else do it?" What if there isn't someone else?

It isn't hard and is immensely rewarding – have we convinced you yet? Interested? Talk with us at the April meeting. Don't delay, time is running short!

Jim/KK1W

# FROM THE SHACK

## Yagi Antennas – the why and how

Bob/KIYO is beaming about his presentation this Friday...

Tech Corner is expanding this month. Bob will be on hand for a ‘full blown’ presentation about Yagi antennas. Learn how they work and why YOU should have one at your shack.

As usual Bruce will be supplying our coffee & donut fix, Frandy will have the White Elephant table and you’ll get to swap DX stories with your friends. (You HAVE friends, right?) See you there!



## White Elephant Table at April’s Meeting

Score a 15m beam from the HCRA FD antenna stash!

Once again the White Elephant table will be open for business. Have something you want to sell (or even give away)? Bring it down prior to the meeting and place it on the table. If you’re going to wander around it’s a good idea to put your call and asking price on the item(s) so prospective buyers can find you!

HCRA will have a special bargain for you Friday night. We’re starting to clear out some of our ‘Field Day’ overstock and will have not one, but TWO, 15 meter beam antennas. Special member price for each is \$25. If you can’t use the antenna I’ll bet the aluminum is worth more ☺

## WRTC Equipment Sale Update

Don’t forget, if you bought WRTC equipment we need your payment prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>!

As of April 2014 most of the equipment has been sold. Rather than publish yet another WRTC Purchase Agreement here’s what’s left:

- 1 Rohn 25G rocket top with mast and rotor bracket @ \$100
- 2 Yaesu G-450A rotors with 125’ of cable @ \$175
- 4 Folding Tables @ \$25
- 6 Folding Chairs @ \$10
- 1 Lamp @ \$5
- 1 Fan @ \$5

All balances are due on or before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Please make an effort to pay us at the next two meetings or mail your payment into HCRA at:

HCRA  
PO Box 562  
Agawam, MA 01001-0562

Any questions on balance due or how to pay should be addressed to Dave/AA1YW or Jim/KK1W.

## Field Day 2014

Mark your calendars for June 27, 28 and 29.

KB1NWH and W1MSW are working hard to put together another great Field Day this year. Right now they’re looking for band captains, someone to help with N1MM networking and anyone looking to have a good time playing radio at School St. Park in Agawam, MA. Want to add your name to the list? The easiest way is to sign up at an upcoming HCRA meeting. It’s too much fun to miss!

73...

Jim/KK1W

## It’s your Zero Beat!



I couldn’t publish *Zero Beat* without the help of members providing articles and pictures. Send ideas, comments, pictures, articles to N1FJ@arrl.net!

Zero Beat does not have to be fancy with pictures. You don’t need inDesign or Publisher; Word will do. If you are willing to put together a simple letter to go out to our emailing list a few days before each meeting, please contact me or another member of the Board of Directors.

73,

Frandy, N1FJ

## How about some nice wallpaper for your shack?



You can do well with a modest station, as proved by Larry/W1AST’s (formerly WB1DBY) 10 Meter Contest winning First Place in the Single Operator/Mixed Mode/Low Power category. Put some time in the shack and enter your score when the contest is over. Who knows, you might win some “wall enhancement”!

---

# ZERO BEAT

---

Is this the Last Issue ????

November 1997

---

## The Last HCRA Meeting - Will You Be There?

Friday, November 7, 1997

You could be at one of the biggest events of the last 52 years - or at one of the smallest!

We are going to hold a meeting at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, our usual meeting place, the first Friday of November.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether or not the HCRA will continue to survive as a club.

**YOU NEED TO ATTEND IF YOU WANT OUR CLUB TO CONTINUE!**

The time for the meeting will remain the same, 8:00 p.m., with the doors opening at 7:30 p.m..

This is your last chance to continue to support **YOUR** Amateur Radio Club. We need people to be in charge of running the club.

We need people to plan the dates, obtain speakers, and run the monthly meetings.

If you want to take advantage of the meetings and social events, come to the this month's meeting November 7 and give some of your time to your club.

If no one steps forward, the HCRA will disband.

**HCRA needs you.**

If you don't help now, there will no longer be a HCRA.

## ***LAST CALL FOR WRTC 2014 VOLUNTEERS!***

This year we raise the curtain on WRTC2014! After two excellent rehearsals we're ready for the big event. We've learned a lot over the last two years and we're ready to put on a great show for our contestants this July. Are you ready to join us in 2014? [Editor's Note: see <http://www.wrtc2014.org/> ]

Here's the preliminary calendar of events:

**May 31:** Training day at Milara in Milford, MA beginning at 8:00 AM. Two towers will be assembled, erected and taken down, along with some tent assembly. This is a great opportunity for new folks to get their hands around (literally) the operation.

**July 5 and/or July 6:** Visit the Medfield site. Prepare and layout the sites.

**July 9 and July 10:** Set up the four stations with a completion time no later than 5:00 PM on July 10. Starting now we will need one person at each site on a 24/7 basis. Camping on site will be OK. If you want to bring a rig and play radio prior to Friday that's fine too.

**July 11:** We will need a few folks to pick up the contestants, referees and their equipment in Westboro and transport them to Medfield. We may also need to provide transportation for some or all of the teams back to Westboro this evening and again at daybreak Saturday morning.

**July 12:** The contest starts at 8AM and runs for 24 hours. During this time we need one or two people per site. Your job will be to keep the generator running, stay out of the operators' way and handle any passersby inquiries.

**July 13:** Tear down the stations after the contest ends at 8AM. Transport the teams/referees back to Westboro. Pack up the four HCRA stations purchased and head for home!

We know it isn't possible for everyone to volunteer for all five days of the event, nor is that probably the best use of manpower. If you can work one day or all five your help is greatly needed and appreciated. Our job is to get everyone together, work out a calendar that fits your availability and skill set, then make it happen. If you know of anyone that would be excited to join us get them in touch with us - the sooner the better. We can't have too many people. I'm sure if we have more than needed a nearby site like Wrentham could probably use the help.

That's it for now. Please let me know your thoughts and schedule availability. This is going to be a great time for all involved. We may never have the chance to spend time with the best operators in the world. Let's all pull together and make HCRA's effort for WRTC 2014 one to be remembered for years to come.

Thanks and let's talk at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on how *YOU* can help out,

Jim/KK1W

# Local happenings

(All times are local time)

**Sundays:** 0845: Western Mass Emergency Net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

**First Monday:** Southwick Regional RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

**Mondays:** 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

**Tuesdays:** 1930-2000: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - Hampshire County Emergency Net

**Wednesdays:** 1930: MTARA Info net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - includes NTS Net

2000: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

2000: MTARA Simplex Net - starts on 146.94 - PL 127.3, then goes to 146.42 direct (simplex) Usually starts immediately following the swap net.

**Thursdays:** 2100: Weather Net (Roger, K1PAI Net Control), 1st Thursday of every month: 147.090 MHz, All other Thursdays: 147.000, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

**Fridays:** 1200: BB's (Brown Baggers Luncheon)

Munich House

13 Center Street

Chicopee, MA 01013

Expect between 6 and 12 attendees every Friday. Good food, great company!

## Club meetings & VE sessions

**1st Friday of the month** 7:30 PM, HCRA Club Meeting, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech St. Holyoke MA 01040 (no meetings held in July or August.) <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

**3rd Friday of the month** 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, Springfield, Mass. (no meetings held in July or August)

**4th Friday of the month** 6:00 PM, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, Mass. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET). Contact: David Cote, [w1fab@arrl.net](mailto:w1fab@arrl.net)

**Third Monday of the month** 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield High School (no meetings held in July or August) <http://www.fcarc.org/>

**4th Monday of February, May, August, November** 7:00 PM, FCARC VE Exams, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Northfield <http://www.fcarc.org/>

Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

- QST Magazine
- Members-Only Web Services
- Technical Information Service
- Member Discounts
- Outgoing QSL Service
- Continuing Education
- ARRL as an Advocate
- Regulatory Information Branch
- Public Relations for Amateur Radio
- ARRL Field Organization
- ARRL-sponsored contests
- Operating Awards
- Local Clubs
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- Hamfests and Conventions
- Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program

<http://www.arrl.org/membership>



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

## HCRA contact list

President, Jim Mullen KK1W (413) 237-4666

[kk1w@arrl.net](mailto:kk1w@arrl.net)

Vice-President, Ed LaCombe KB1NWH (413) 250-3137

[kb1nwh@comcast.net](mailto:kb1nwh@comcast.net)

Treasurer, Dave Cain AA1YW (413) 569-6901

[aa1yw@arrl.net](mailto:aa1yw@arrl.net)

Secretary, (*vacant*)

At Large, John Pise KX1X (413) 532-7474

[kx1x@arrl.net](mailto:kx1x@arrl.net)

Newsletter, Frandy Johnson N1FJ (413) 584-9005

[n1fj@arrl.net](mailto:n1fj@arrl.net)

Programs, Matt Wilhelm W1MSW (413) 336-4701

[w1msw@arrl.net](mailto:w1msw@arrl.net)

Membership, Rich Wheeler N1KXR (413) 584-3372

[n1kxr@arrl.net](mailto:n1kxr@arrl.net)

Technical, Bob Meneguzzo K1YO (413) 896-4879

[k1yo@comcast.net](mailto:k1yo@comcast.net)

Skywarn Liaison, Eric Tuller N1QKO (413) 967-3869

[et-n1qko@juno.com](mailto:et-n1qko@juno.com)

VE Session Liaison, Dave Cote W1FAB (413) 575-2950

[w1fab@arrl.net](mailto:w1fab@arrl.net)