



Zero Beat



A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

<http://www.hcra.org>

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

Our 57th Year

December, 2002



Happy Holidays
Happy Holidays
to all our members from

The Hampden County
Radio Association



Good Friends, Good Food, Good Conversation
At our annual Holiday "Pot Luck" Dinner
7:00 PM, Friday, Dec. 6th

Bring your own dish or dessert
HCRA will also supply a hot & cold buffet

After dinner, guest speakers **Steve Schwarm, W3EPE**
and **Rob Macedo, KD1CY** will discuss the participation
of amateurs in last year's 911 tragedy.

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Information

On the Air

146.46 Mhz

Announcements every 7
minutes when not in use

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President's



Corner

Holiday Party

Plan on attending the HCRA's annual holiday party this month. It's the same date and place as the usual meeting. The only difference is the addition of a nice holiday meal to go with a really great presentation. This year's party will combine a little old and a little new. As usual, "pot luck" reigns supreme. Do you have a favorite dish you would love to share with your fellow hams? If so, cook it up and bring it to the party. What better way to say "thanks" to your friends at HCRA. Can't cook, not to despair. This year the HCRA will also be sponsoring a hot/cold buffet from a local caterer. So bring your favorite dish or dessert and come prepared to have a nice evening with your friends at HCRA.



This month's guest speakers are Steve Schwam, W3EPE and Rob Macedo, KD1CY. Steve and Rob will discuss the participation of amateurs in the 911 tragedy last year. Both are very active in ARES and they will share with us what amateur radio did during the crisis and how we can prepare ourselves to help our communities whenever catastrophes happen, whether natural or otherwise.

What better way to end 2002 with a nice meal, visit with your friends and enjoy an interesting presentation. Don't miss out, December 6th is the date. Plan on arriving around 7:00 to allow ample time to enjoy your dinner and the presentation.

We have a winner !

November marked another successful auction for the HCRA. When the dust settled, the last of the items auctioned off, the hall cleaned and just a few leftover boxes were placed in the dumpster it was almost midnight! Over 100 people attended, and the bidding moved very rapidly during the evening. There was a **LOT** of items to bid on! As usual, the HCRA auction is a great place to get some incredible deals on equipment and accessories for your amateur radio station. Where else could you outfit an entire test bench for under \$100?

The generous donations of equipment benefited the club greatly. Many people unselfishly marked items as "club donations" but a few deserve special mention. Chet, W1HGJ offered up a whole carload of test equipment, radios, ATV stuff and cabinets full of components. Steve, N1PVX donated a beautiful Drake 2B receiver with speaker and accessories. These two donations alone probably netted the HCRA well over \$300, money that will be a big help as we get ready for FD 2003! A big "thank you" from HCRA, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

This year's grand prize was a Yaesu FT-817. Interest was high and almost one thousand tickets were sold by the time the drawing was held at 9:30 Friday evening. Rick, N1WGX from Higganum, CT was the winner of the FT-817. He wasn't present at the auction and boy did he sound excited on the telephone when I contacted him Saturday morning! He purchased his ticket at the Big-E in September. While speaking with him he mentioned he's doesn't yet have HF privileges. Now he has a good reason to upgrade! It was an enjoyable telephone conversation and I'm sure he will have a lot of fun with his new toy. Second prize winner was John, Kx1x and the third prize winner went to Les, K1DNX. Without a doubt, the raffle and the auction were both great successes. But, we couldn't have done it without the support of all the hams in and out of the area who came, bought, sold or donated and had a great time doing it. Your interest and enthusiasm are what makes it all happen. A special thanks to each and every one of you for your support.

Contesting — Why ? ? ?

Are you one of those that disdains contests? Go ahead, it's OK to admit it. I was like that too, but now... Because of the likes of Kx1x, the Venture Crew, N1SR and a few others I've been spending (wasting?) a lot more of my weekend time lately on contests. Too what advantage you might ask?

Well, did you ever hear people say you can get your WAS (Worked All States) in a single weekend during the ARRL Sweepstakes? I remember hearing that, but to me it was highly doubtful. Last weekend was Sweepstakes. With a moderate effort and working about one half the contest I worked 49 states. (Are there any hams in Iowa?) and it really wasn't that hard. A great way to spend a few hours and get some nice wallpaper for the shack.

So, last week Steve starts on me about CQWW CW. No way I say, I've got stuff to do around the house, Thanksgiving is just around the corner and besides, those CW ops are WAY too fast for me. But.. (you knew that was coming, didn't you?) I just had to give it a try. Again, without a lot of time spent I worked 68 countries in not too many hours. And managed to get the stuff done around the house also, who would have believed it!

If you want to add to the wallpaper in your shack, contest weekends are the time to do it. When else will you hear so much activity, and have a great opportunity to work stations that very often are only on during contest. Additionally, there are contests that can be "club" events. Everyone in the club can work from their home stations and the scores are combined for the club score. The December ARRL 10M contest is just around the corner. Do we want to have an HCRA entry?

Dan Henderson, N1ND is our January speaker.



Dan is the Contest Branch Manager for the ARRL. A ham for approximately 31 years now, Dan says his parents enrolled him in an Amateur Radio class as a "bored high school kid." He got his first (of several) Novice licenses in 1971 (he was WN4YMV and WN4QQN among others; as one ticket expired, he'd retake the test and get another). "I didn't own a microphone for the first 18 years I was licensed," he said.

After Dan's presentation I'm sure you'll have lots of questions to ask Dan. The "logbook of the world", Cabrillo file formats, contest rules, etc. That's going to be on January 3rd, 2003. In addition to Dan's presentation expect the usual; great crowd, friendly faces, raffle prizes and coffee & donuts.

Classes starting soon

Peter, K1I is putting the finishing touches on Technician classes for early next year. Watch Zero Beat and the HCRA web page for times and dates as soon as they are released. If you know someone looking for local classes, tell them to hold on, they should be starting sometime in February. Classes are one of the most important things we can do as an organization to help expand our hobby. Please be ready to offer your support when Peter asks for your assistance.

Happy Holidays!

'73... Jim, KK1W

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and
Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

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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 #727,

S.Hadley, MA



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OUR
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CONTEST CORNER

ARRL 160-Meter Contest (CW only)

PSK31 Death Match

TARA RTTY Sprint

ARRL 10-Meter Contest

RAC Winter Contest

North American QSO Party, CW

North American QSO Party, SSB

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

Minnesota QSO Party

Delaware QSO Party

North American Sprint, Phone

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB

2200Z, Dec 6 to 1600Z, Dec 8

0000Z, Dec 7 to 2400Z, Dec 8

1800Z, Dec 7 to 0200Z, Dec 8

0000Z, Dec 14 to 2400Z, Dec 15

0000Z to 2400Z, Dec 28

1800Z, Jan 11-0600Z, Jan 12

1800Z, Jan 18-0600Z, Jan 19

1900Z, Jan 18-0400Z, Jan 20

1400Z-2359Z, Feb 1

1700Z, Feb 1-0500Z, Feb 2 and 1300Z, Feb 2-0100Z, Feb 3

0000Z-0400Z, Feb 2

2200Z, Feb 21-1600Z, Feb 23

New IRLP Node in Worcester, MA

IRLP node #818 in Worcester 146.430 MHz, PL 114.8 Hz Open to ALL without access/prefix codes.

This node will be part of a linked repeater system between Holland and Worcester *after* I move out to the 413 area code in a few months Rob, N1NTE

(Perfect for consistent, clear 2m QSOs to Worcester from our IRLP Node in South Hadley!!!)

Get On The Air

(all times local)

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic System (NTS) Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
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) (W1TOM)
	20:00	MTARA Swap net	
	20:30	MTARA Tech net	
Thursdays	21:00	Weather Net	2 nd 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 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)

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!!!

Winter SkyWarn, de Eric, N1QKO

HIGHEST PRIORITY REPORTS:

- 1) Damaging wind gust of 58MPH or greater.
- 2) Flooding of streams rivers and urban areas causing damage to be impassable. Also ice jam flooding .
- 3) Two inches or rain in a 12hour period.
- 4) Heavy icing causing damage.
- 5) Snow reports in approximately two inch intervals and especially when the storm has passed.

OTHER PRIORITY REPORTS:

- 1) Any changeover in precipitation type(i.e.: snow rain. Rain to ice to snow).
- 2) Any type of thunderstorm in progress.
- 3) Rainfall in excess of one inch per hour.
- 4) 1st. three inches of snow.
- 5) Snow fall totals when the storm has passed.
- 6) Rain when frozen precipitation forecast.
- 7) Stream or roadway flooding.
- 8) Blowing and drifting snow closing roads.

Because of the major Ice storm that went through northern New York and Canada several years ago, emphasis will be given to ice accumulation . If you can measure 1/3 inch of ice on grass, branches, or a radio antenna, etc....

Please let me know so that I can forward this to N.W.S. Also please pass along total snow fall reports after a significant storm. I'm Usually monitoring the local repeaters so please give me a call with your reports.

Winter Precipitation

Snow FLURRIES - Light snow falling for short durations. No accumulation or light dusting is all that is expected.

SHOWERS - Snow falling at varying intensities for brief periods of time. Some accumulation is possible.

SQUALLS - Brief, intense snow showers accompanied by strong, gusty winds. Accumulation may be significant. Snow squalls are best known in the Great Lakes region.

BLOWING SNOW - Wind-driven snow that reduces visibility and causes significant drifting. Blowing snow may be snow that is falling and/or loose snow on the ground picked up by the wind.

BLIZZARD - Winds over 35 mph with snow and blowing snow reducing visibility to near zero.

SLEET: Rain drops that freeze into ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet usually bounces when hitting a surface and does not stick to objects. However, it can accumulate like snow and cause a hazard to motorists.

FREEZING RAIN: Rain that falls onto a surface with a temperature below freezing. This causes it to freeze to surfaces, such as trees, cars, and roads, forming a coating or glaze of ice. Even small accumulations of ice can cause a significant hazard.

What Makes a Winter Storm?

COLD AIR: below freezing temperatures in the clouds and near the ground are necessary to make snow and/or ice.

MOISTURE: to form clouds and precipitation. Air blowing across a body of water, such as a large lake or the ocean, is an excellent source of moisture.

LIFT: something to raise the moist air to form the clouds and cause precipitation. An example of lift is warm air colliding with cold air and being forced to rise over the cold dome. The boundary between the warm

and cold air masses is called a front. Another example of lift is air flowing up a mountain side.

WINTER STORMS ARE CONSIDERED DECEPTIVE KILLERS

BECAUSE MOST DEATHS ARE INDIRECTLY RELATED TO THE STORM

People die in traffic accidents on icy roads.
People die of hypothermia from prolonged exposure to cold.

FROSTBITE

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by that tissue being frozen. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately! If you must wait for help, slowly rewarm affected areas. However, if the person is also showing signs of hypothermia, warm the body core before the extremities.

HYPOTHERMIA: LOW BODY TEMPERATURE

Warning signs - uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion.

Detection - Take the person's temperature. If below 95F (35C), immediately seek medical care! If medical care is not available, begin warming the person slowly. Warm the body core first. If needed, use your own body heat to help. Get the person into dry clothing, and wrap them in a warm blanket covering the head and neck. Do not give the person alcohol, drugs, coffee, or any hot beverage or food; warm broth is better. Do not warm extremities (arms and legs) first! This drives the cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure.

WIND CHILL

The wind chill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by combined effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature. Animals are also affected by wind chill.





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.qsl.net/crewdx>



BSA VENTURE CREW 510 Contacts

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Adult Advisor	Dan Shea, N1OE	<i>WBEagle87@aol.com</i>
Adult Advisor	Biff Simpson, AA1DI	<i>biff@map.com</i>

BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

Fri, December 6 th	Crew Meeting/HCRA Meeting ARRL HQ Tour / W1AW Operation
Friday, January 3 rd	Crew Meeting/HCRA Meeting
Fri/Sat/Sun, January 17,18,19	North American QSO Party / ARRL VHF Contest QRV in VT
Fri/Sat/Sun, March 28,29,30	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB, QRV at K1TTT, Peru, MA

Congrats to our new Crew DX officers, elected last month: President: Brian Regan, KB1IGM, Vice-President Kate Cain, KB1GDG, Secretary: Andy Jensen, KB1FVL, Treasurer: Jeff Coopee, KB1GJR. Congrats to our new Crew Emergency Coordinator, Steve, KB1GHC, and our new Contest Administrator, Mike, KB1FWN. Also, congratulations to Jeff Coopee, KB1GJR, on completing requirements for AMATEUR EXTRA class. Congrats to Kate Cain, KB1GDG, who joined the VE team at the last VE session in Holyoke.

HCRA Board Meeting November 7, 2002

Held at the home of Irv Slitzky W6IS

Members present Jim KK1W, Irv W6IS, Norm W1BMK, Dave KB1MU, Greg N1AEH, Jim WB1Z, Peter KI1I, John, Kx1x, and Mike KB1FWN.

Vice President W6IS: The HCRA equipment list has been updated.

Treasurer N1AEH: Current balance is 3804.70 Auction netted \$688.00. \$574.00 of this was club donations. The Big raffle netted \$422.00 during the auction. The total amount received for the big raffle was \$836.00.

Secretary KB1MU: Copies of the updated roster were given to all board members. Thank you letters will be sent to the two large equipment donors for the auction. Dave will mail reminder notes to 2002 members who have yet to renew.

Program WB1Z: Dec: meeting Holiday get-together. Speakers will be Robert Macedo KD1CY and Steve Schwarm W3EVE.

Jan: Don Henderson, N1ND from the ARRL Contest Branch.

Feb: John Stark N1JO will speak on computer control of radios.

April: "The Pocket Calculator Boys"

May Sterling, AK1K and Brian, W2SUO from the Nashua Amateur Radio Club speaking on the subject of the NIFD "multi-multi" field day operation.

June: Tailgate Party and annual elections.

Membership W1BMK: Norm will assemble packets for use at VE session. These packets will include a tri-fold brochure, membership application, and a welcoming letter from the club president. Jim, KK1W will complete the president's letter and forward to Norm.

Technical KI1I The Licensing classes are progressing. The course (pending availability of classroom) will be held from Feb 11 2003 through Mar 15. The course will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 for eight weeks. Peter will contact Larry, WB1DBY to confirm the classroom availability.

ZeroBeat Kx1x: Cutoff date for articles in the Dec issue will be Nov 22.

At Large WB1DBY, Not present. Mike KB1FWM volunteered to finish the design of this years QSL cards and print them. He will get input from both Jim, KK1W and Steve, KB1GHC for the design..

Venture Crew The election of officers has been held. The new officers are:

President, Brian Regan, KB1IGM Vice President, Kate Cain, KB1GDG

Secretary, Andy Jensen, KB1FVL Treasurer, Jeff Coopee, KB1GJR

Emergency Coordinator, Steve Zemanek, KB1GHC

Old business: The new WINY QSL card will be completed during the month of December.

New business: As can be seen in the Treasurers report, the auction was again a success. Items to be considered for next years auction were: Arrange item for sale into a better flow towards the auction table, Improve audio in the rear of the hall, and start earlier with the setup.

A field day committee has been setup.

The HCRA status as a Special Services Club has been updated by Jim KK1W.

The December meeting will be a "supplemented" potluck holiday party. Irv volunteered to look into the "supplemental" sources. The Club will supply some additional food items. We will have two speakers as listed above.

Respectfully Submitted Dave Isham KB1MU

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, January 20th, 2003 at 7 PM in Amherst, MA at Amherst Machine, Cows 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

How We Won CQWW-CW Dan Sullivan, AA1TE djs13@hotmail.com

I bet no one knew that the boys at Kx1x won CQWW-CW? We definitely did. I can almost assure us a spot in the CQ Contesting Hall of Fame now. Imagine that, hysterical evidence will demonstrate that for one fine hour the boys at Kx1x can say they won a CW contest. It wasn't easy I assure you. No CW contest goes without its minor problems, but we were so sure we would win our division we celebrated Friday night and gave the rest of the people in our division a head start! Yes, Sir we did.

Steve, N1SR, John, Kx1x and myself along with Jim, KK1W, Dave, WA1DC, and Jim, WB1Z all sat around patting ourselves on the back for a job soon to be well done indeed on the Friday before the contest. After that celebratory moment John and I retired to the shack to assure us an easy win. Steve had to get a few odds and ends so he would be a few minutes late, after all who was in a rush? We were going to kick butt just like the old WINY days. Once Steve arrived we set up the rest of the shack at John's and quickly had a tough grueling fight on our hands. Murphy and his twin brother had contrived a computer conundrum and a solar A index to stymie us in our efforts. We would prevail but it wasn't easygoing. Steve and John battled Murphy to a triumphant, yet exhausting win for the soul of the computer network. Then KK1W and I would have to battle the elements of physics and space weather on 20m and 40m CW. The conditions were rough, the going difficult, the CW measured in Baudot, but fight on we did, lest we sully the memory of that valiant of breeds: The Contesting Ham! Off and on thru the night until it was time to rest we battled. The battle was joined and KK1W and WA1DC came by to see us and help out with encouragement. So we didn't have a code reader. So we couldn't copy at 50 wpm. So we all were clueless about why of all night s to have a few pints we chose the night of a CW contest. We still took turns working thru the DX on the band. The next day after the much-needed rest Steve fought on again during the day as I would at night. John had opened the shack and began to slay the computer demons that inhabited the packet spotting network laptop once more. Central Europe, Eastern Europe South America, North Africa, Japan, Quebec and Suffield, CT the DX came streaming in. Watching our score approach 10,000I felt sure that if nothing else we would win our division with ease. Sunday again Steve fought on, brave and unafraid.

Leading the way thru the ether of HF with vengeance. Not a JA got past. Not a South African could hide Not a competitor was heard in our division who could even come close to us that day. Conditions were ripe, the mega-stations desperate for points, and the rest of

the ham community nipping at their heels for scraps. Yet, fight on he did until it was time to accept the fruit of our joint labors: the closing bell. At the end of the day we had amassed: 103 QSO's, 64 Countries, 49Zones for 25,086 points!

More then sextuple our nearest competitor according to our alternative-logging program.

Well that is the tale of how we won CQWW- CW2002. Some of you might ask what was the most important factor in our win? I would say sheer stupidity. Others ask what is the final say in the shack for the professional CW operator? I would offer WB6NOA code tapes for review of uncertain dot and dash combinations. One might even ask what division we competed in? The "South Hadley, Multi-Single, Low Power, haven't done a CW contest in 20 years, Can hardly copy 20 wpm on a good night, Sent with a straight key or keyboard" Division!

This month:

*Hampden County Radio Association's
Annual "Pot Luck Dinner"*

will be on Friday

December 6th, 2002

At 7:00 p.m. at the
Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Doors open at 6:30 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.*



Please have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!

HCRA

P.O. Box 562

Agawam, Massachusetts

01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

<i>Good Friends, Good Food Good Conversation</i>	Dec
H C R A	6 th ,
<i>Annual Holiday</i>	2002
<i>"Pot Luck" Dinner</i>	Doors Open 6:30

