



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 58th Year

December, 2003



HOLIDAY PARTY

December 5th, 2003

Members & a guest free, non-members \$15 donation

Menu:

- Tossed Salad
- Meatballs
- Chicken Champagne
- Ziti and Broccoli
- Red Roasted Potatoes
- Rolls
- Dessert
- Soda
- Coffee

A special treat awaits you and a guest at our annual holiday party. This year's party will feature food prepared by Pajer's Market and will offer up a great selection of home cooked Italian food. Drinks, appetizers, salads and desserts also included. Great raffle prizes and a interesting presentation by Dave, KB1MU covering the history of HCRA. Dinner starts at 7:00 PM at our regular meeting place.

Don't let the menu fool you, if you want to bring your 'special creation' for others to enjoy please do so. I've never met a ham who didn't enjoy someone else's cooking!

Happy Holidays from HCRA!

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President's Corner



HCRA Holiday Party—2003

Spend a relaxing evening with friends.

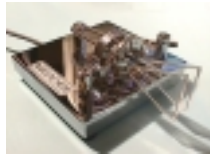
This month is our traditional Holiday Party. As always you can expect to spend a very nice evening eating, drinking and chatting with other hams. HCRA will be supplying all the food, drink and entertainment you will need to make it a great evening. All you need to do is show up and have fun!

But.. Do you have a favorite dish or desert you would like to share with everyone? Bring it along, it will add some diversity to our menu! I think I will start slaving behind the hot oven now so I can have a culinary delight for everyone on December 5th! (translation: I wonder what Gus & Paul's will be featuring!).

And... don't forget a special presentation from Dave, KB1MU. Dave will have a visual presentation of HCRA history, including an interesting event in the early 1950's. Put your thinking cap on and come prepared to discuss some other HCRA "historical moments" after Dave's presentation.

Plus... great raffle prizes as always. Just in time for the holidays you could win a beautiful Bencher Chrome Paddle. Wouldn't that look good under the tree?

So... be sure to mark your calendar and set aside Friday evening, December 5th for a good time. Look elsewhere in this issue for the tasty menu that Andy has arranged.



Bencher Chrome Paddle

Get Ready for ICOM School

The February Meeting will be held January 29th!

We have a special club meeting scheduled for February 2004. It's so special we need to hold the meeting a week early! Please make note of the new date so you won't miss a very interesting meeting.



Through the efforts of Larry, WB1DBY and Alex, N1EBU of Lentini Communications HCRA will bring the ICOM school to our club meeting. Ron Renteno from Icom will be on hand with a relaxed, thought provoking seminar devoted to the latest in Icom gear and ham radio technology. Renteno will have a PowerPoint presentation, demonstrate some radios and take your questions. I'm sure Ron will also have some insight into the exciting future of ham radio equipment. Icom has always been an industry leader with such radios as the IC-706, the PCR1000 and now the new IC7800. I wonder what else this innovative company might have on the drawing board?

Because of Ron's tight schedule it's necessary to move the meeting from our usual Friday, February 6th to Thursday, January 29th. We are attempting to secure our usual meeting place at the Congregational Church for the meeting. Meeting time will be at 7:00 for Ron's presentation immediately followed by our regular business meeting. This promises to be a very interesting meeting so bring along a friend. Stay tuned for more info as it becomes available.

Next Month's Meeting

Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF

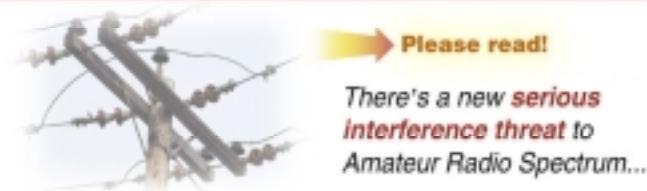
ARRL New England Division Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF is our first speaker of the new year. An active member of the ARRL and a Volunteer Counselor, Raisbeck is also a past president of the Billerica Amateur Radio Society. Mike Raisbeck was first licensed in 1961. He and his wife Susan, WN1V, live in Chelmsford, MA with their sons Andrew, KB1DEF, and Daniel, KB1DFJ.



Raisbeck, who serves with New England ARRL Division Director Tom Freneye, K1KI, feels that protecting the ability of Amateurs to practice the hobby in the future will also require a great deal of effort. "Many good things are being done by the League," Raisbeck says. "The staff at Headquarters provides wonderful support for these activities, but it is the job of the Board and the membership to provide the drive that will make them happen." Raisbeck's talk Friday evening will most likely focus on BPL but expect to hear about CW testing requirements and other FCC happenings of importance to us all. Don't forget to bring along some good questions for Mike after the presentation. With the ARRL January board meeting just around the corner this is a great opportunity to voice your opinions about how you want the league to represent you in the coming year.

This promises to be a very interesting evening with a subject matter that will be important to all active amateurs. Please plan on attending and bring a friend. As always everyone is welcome at an HCRA meeting. Expect the usual great company, good conversation, coffee & donuts and great raffle prizes. Meeting time is 7:30 PM with Mike taking the stage around 8:00 PM. I look forward to seeing everyone there—lets hope for better weather than last year!

An Important Message for all hams!



Graphic courtesy ARRL web

Are YOU Ready for a Fight?

Let's get together and defeat this serious threat.

The issue of BPL and it's potential effect on the pursuit of our hobby continues to be the major battle ground facing amateur radio. Until it's won expect to see it up front in every issue of Zero Beat. The only way we will overcome the FCC and the utility companies is to become educated about the threat and take action to stop it.

Ed Hare, W1RFI made a great presentation at MTARA last month concerning BPL and we have invited him to HCRA so all our members can be informed of the threat. Until Ed clears his schedule and gets a date set why not visit: <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/> and learn for yourself.

The ARRL needs your financial support as well for this fight. Please look at: <https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/>. After reviewing all the information you make the choice to do what is best for our hobby. Your support is absolutely necessary to keep BPL out of your neighborhood!

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and
Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

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HCRA Name Badges



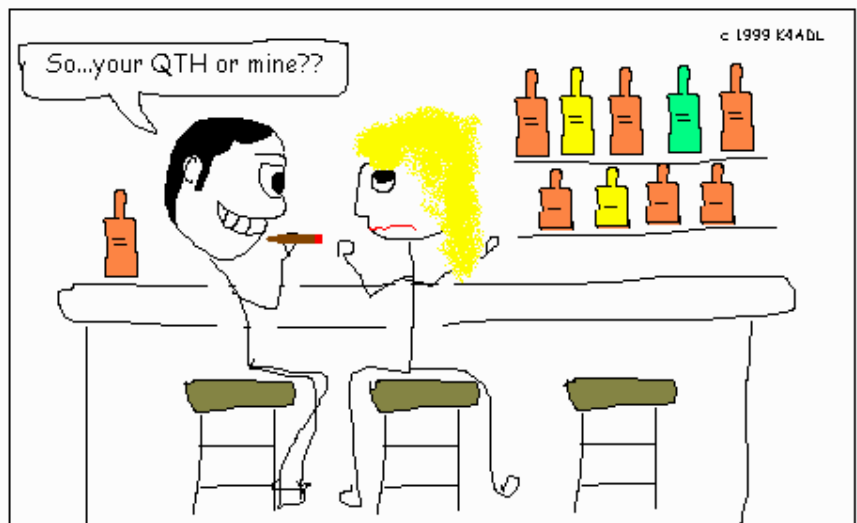
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SUPPORTERS
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<http://www.qsl.net/k4adl>



WHY HAROLD RARELY GETS LUCKY AT THE SINGLES BAR

CONTEST CORNER

something almost every weekend!!!

ARRL 160m Contest 2200Z, Dec 5 to 1600Z, Dec 7
PSK31 Death Match 0000Z, Dec 6 to 2400Z, Dec 7
TARA RTTY Melee 0000Z-2400Z, Dec 6

ARRL 10-Meter Contest
0000Z, Dec 13-2400Z, Dec 14

RAC Winter Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Dec 27
Stew Perry Topband Challenge
1500Z, Dec 27-1500Z, Dec 28
Orig. QRP test CW 1500Z, Dec 27-1500Z, Dec 28
ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z, Jan 3-2400Z, Jan 4
Kid's Day Contest 1800Z-2400Z, Jan 3
N Amer QSO PartyCW 1800Z, Jan 10-0600Z, Jan 11

North American QSO Party SSB
1800Z, Jan 17-0600Z, Jan 18
(work NE1C, QRV in VT)

ARRL January VHF Sweeps
1900Z. Jan 17-0400Z. Jan 19

For Sale:

<u>Mfg</u>	<u>Part</u>	<u>Description</u>
Yaesu	FT-817	QRP rig
LDG	Z-11	QRP antenna tuner
W4RT	OTT	One Touch Tune
W4RT	OPP	One Plug Power (1800mah battery pack)
Maha	C777	Battery Charger
Exp. Spectrum Systems	Time Machine	CW Filter 500hz
Pyramid	4A	power suply
Anderson	Quick Connect Cables	
W4RT	FT-817	Pack-It Reference (2nd Ed. Book)

All in excellent condition with user manuals, original boxes and registration cards. \$800

Contact: Larry - WB1DBY at wb1dby@arrl.net or 413-567-3505 (answers Computer Care) or at the meeting

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
Tuesdays 19:30	Slow Scan TV (SSTV) Net	145.130 (PL 123 Hz) (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 (All other weeks 147.000)
	19:30 WMa Emergency Simplex Net	Starts on 146.94
	20:00 WMa Emergency Simplex Net	145.130 (PL 123 Hz, use PL for both duplex & simplex)

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 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!!!

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

Last chance to get ready for this one!

Now is the time to mark your calendar and set aside time between December 12th and 14th to have fun working the ARRL 10 Meter contest. The HCRA did great last year, scoring almost one million points. It's a great goal to shoot for, even with the bands not quite as good as 2002. The key is to get as many club members as possible to participate. More participation will mean a better score no matter what the sun tosses us.

Speaking of solar activity you would be amazed at how often the bands are open but there is no activity. I hooked up with Lauro, IK4GRO the other day on what seemed to be a dead 12 meter band. In less than five minutes we worked not only 12 meters but 15 and 10 meters, all with S-9 signals. There were no other signals on 10 when we went there, but it was wide open. A classic case of everybody listening. That's the good thing about a contest, at least you know there will be people actually 'transmitting' for a change!

The contest starts at 0000 UTC December 13th and ends at 2400 UTC December 14th. Unless I've messed up my Zulu times again, that translates to starting off on Friday, December 12th at 7:00 PM EST and ending Sunday evening the 14th at 7:00 PM. To read all the official ARRL rules go to: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2003/10-meters.html>. Logs can be submitted on paper, but if you want to be lazy there are a many programs that can do your logging for you. One of the best, CT, is now free and can be downloaded at: <http://www.k1ea.com/program/index.htm>.

The bottom line: a great, fun contest; easy to work; high power not necessary and you get to sleep because it's rare indeed that 10M is open into the night. All this and a chance to work some new states or countries. What could be better—see you there!

Auction Aftermath

Auction 2003—another great one!

Well, another HCRA auction is under our belt and it was a great one again. Well over 100 people came together in Feeding Hills, MA to buy, sell and have a great time. Lots of equipment changed hands, memories were rekindled browsing the old gear and both buyers and sellers left satisfied when it all ended at 10:30 PM

Thanks to a lot of generous donations and many motivated buyers the auction brought \$888 into the HCRA treasury. This money will be used to fund our holiday party, field day and other events throughout the year. Thanks everyone for your support.

What's an auction without a raffle? I don't know because we had a super raffle again this year. I think this was the first year we had all three prize winners present at the drawing. Congratulations to Greg, N1MMT, I hope he enjoys his new Yaesu FT8900. Bill, KB1IGL went home with a Maha charger & batteries and Paul, W1EPG left with a Bencher power distribution center.

Special thanks should go out to Erik and Andy for getting to the hall early and starting the setup. Then Brian & Jeff showed up to help haul tables and shuffle the items down to the auctioneers. Eric, KB1JVI pinch hit as an auctioneer and the whole group got everything cleaned up and put away before 11:00—wow!

Norm kept the donuts and coffee coming for the hungry crowd and Dave spent most of the evening making sure everyone had a chance to purchase a raffle ticket and Greg and Barry kept the financial part on track. Again, a perfect example of how easy a big event becomes when everyone pitches in. Everyone at HCRA appreciates your efforts. I can't wait until next year to do it all again. In case you're wondering, next years auction will be held on November 5th, 2004. See you there!

Happy Holidays



NOTICE !!!



*FEBRUARY's HCRA MEETING
WILL BE IN JANUARY*

Reserve Thursday, January 29th, 2004, 7pm for what promises to be a very exciting HCRA meeting. Please note that the availability of this special speaker forces us to have our meeting one week and a day earlier than usual.

Ron Rateno from ICOM will be visiting our club and showcasing some of the new products that ICOM will be releasing soon. Ron will also have a presentation and be answering questions.

Please spread the word for this special HCRA event.



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>

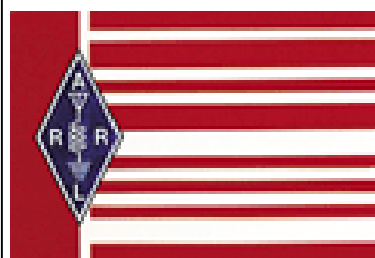


BSA VENTURE CREW 510 Contacts

Youth President	Luke Dyson	luke@penguinia.net
Adult Advisor	John Pise, Kx1x (413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net
Adult Advisor	Dave Cain, AA1YW	aa1yw@arrl.net

BSA VENTURE CREW 510 - CALENDAR

December 5 th	Holiday Party/HCRA Meeting
January 2 nd	HCRA/Crew meeting 6:30
January 16,17,18	NAQP- Crew Campout - QRV in VT



Venture Crew 510
Was awarded a \$1,000 grant
on October 21, 2003, from the

ARRL's

Victor C. Clark Youth Incentive Program

BSA Venture Crew 510 is an ARRL Affiliated Club



On the Internet

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146.46 Mhz -- PL 114.8

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See www.hcra.org

Next Month

Mike Raisbeck

K1TWF

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 19, 2004 at 7 PM in Amherst, MA at Amherst Machine, Cowsls Rd. All test elements given.

We hold a breakfast gathering every first Saturday of the month at: Bickfords Resturant, 180 North King St., Northampton. We start to gather in around 8:00 A.M. and stay till around 9:15 A.M.

Breakfast net weekdays at 630 AM442.200 - PL 162.2 kd1xp/r Deerfield.

www.kd1xp.org

For any of the above, contact Richard, KD1XP at 665-2211 or kd1xp@kd1xp.org or on the 145.130 PL 123 repeater

HCRA board Meeting

November 13, 2003

Held at the home of Irv Slitzsky, W6IS

Members present: Jim KK1W, IrvW6IS, Larry WB1DBY, Peter, K1II, Norm, W1BMK, John, Kx1x, Greg, N1AEH, Dave, KB1MU, Andy, KB1FVL and Mike, KB1FWN

Vice President W6IS:

Irv will take care of the raffle and door prizes for December meeting.

Treasurer N1AEH:

The current club balance is \$4657.54. The auction earned \$888.00. The auction raffle took in \$427.00, which was a slight profit above the prize and overhead costs. An additional \$250.00 from the Tailgate Party was received.

Secretary KB1MU:

Membership total at present:

Courtesy	6
Family	13
Life	3
Prospect	6
Regular	80
Not renewed	31 (2003 members not yet renewed.)
Venture Crew	11

Members from 2003 who have not renewed will be contacted.

Program WB1Z:

The new QSL cards have been ordered and we are awaiting delivery.

Membership W1BMK:

Norm will purchase a new coffee pot for the club use at meetings; etc Norm is also looking for help for the "coffee" duties. This is a simple task, and would not interfere with your enjoying the meeting. (Let's go people!) Norm will head up a group to visit the Westfield Fairgrounds and evaluate its possibilities as a field day site

ZeroBeat KX1X:

Cutoff date for submission for the December edition is November 28.

Technical K1II:

Peter is setting up a web site to keep students informed about classes and other info.

At Large WB1DBY:

No progress on future special event stations

Venture Crew:

JOTA operation from Moses Scout Reservation in Russell went well. The crew will be participating in the NAQP from VT and the WPX contest at K1TTT's location.

Old Business:

The remaining KC1ZJ equipment will be sold on E-bay soon.

A donation has been made to QSL.NET. (This is the host for the HCRA reflector.)

New Business:

Mike Gruber W1MG has asked some hams to help with a special event station to be run in April 2004. The board agreed that publication of this request would be made using all the club publications. (Web site, newsletter, and reflector.)

A check to reserve the Dufresne Park for 2004 field day will be sent to the town of Granby.

Respectfully submitted Dave Isham KB1MU

The next
Hampden County Radio Association
Monthly meeting
 will be on Friday
December 5th
Holiday Party
 & the History of HCRA
 by Dave, KB1MU

meal begins just before 7:00 p.m. at
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Doors open at 6:00 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.*

The Hampden County Radio
 Assn. Board of Directors
 wishes you and
 your family a
 Happy and Safe



**Holiday
 Season**



*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
 Kx1x, Node #7270,
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HCRA
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PLEASE HAND CANCEL

<p><i>ANNUAL HCRA</i></p> <p><i>Holiday Party</i> <i>& the History of HCRA</i> by Dave, KB1MU</p>	<p>Dec 5th, 2003 Doors Open At 6:00 pm</p>
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