



# Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. - our 46th ARRL affiliated year

Volume 2, No. 4

December 1993



December Meeting: Holiday Social and Show & Tell

**Happy Holidays!!**

## Board of Directors

### Officers

President	N1IJK	Barry Mason
Vice President	VACANT	VACANT
Treasurer	N1AEH	Greg Stoddard
Secretary	N1DUY	Jim Sebolt

### Directors

#### Expiring 1994

N1FOW	Mike Griffin
NR1L	Kevin Hilinski
K1MVR	Dave Olson
VACANT	VACANT

#### Expiring 1995

N1KBY	Jeff Hugabone
N1GVV	Adam Olson
WA1OHR	Everett Paluska
VACANT	VACANT

## Next HCRA Meeting

The next HCRA meeting will take place on Friday night December 3, 1993 and will feature the HCRA's annual Holiday social and show & tell. This meeting you will be permitted to bring in your favorite piece of gear, project, QSL card, etc. Whatever you would like to share with the membership you will be allowed to do so. We will also be offering some food and beverages for your enjoyment, so be sure to bring an appetite. This month the doors will open at 7:30 P.M. at which time the socializing will commence. We hope to see you there!

**Feeding Hills Congregational Church  
Route 57 & 187  
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts**

The next board meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday December 9, 1993 and will take place at Greg's QTH. If you are interested in attending, please ask Greg, N1AEH for directions at the next meeting. Remember, anyone can attend our board meetings.

**Coming in January:** Tentatively scheduled for January is a meeting on portable operations combined with hiking. A video / presentation will depict this meeting. This looks to be an interesting topic everyone should enjoy.

Also, don't forget about the January VHF Contest coming up soon. The next issue of Zero Beat will contain all the information you need to participate and help the HCRA, as well as the specific contest date. Don't forget about the HCRA's last year first place effort!

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## December Radio Factoids

**12/6/01-** Marconi begins trans-Atlantic test, Newfoundland. Marconi set up his receiving station at St. John's Newfoundland, listening for Morse signals sent by his station in Poldhu, England. Success came on December 12, when the letter "S" was copied. A 400 foot kite supported long wire was the antenna .

**12/11/21-** First shortwave trans-Atlantic msg. 1BCG. "1BCG", Greenwich, CT, constructed by E.H. Armstrong and fellow members of **Radio Club of America**, ran 1 KW on 230m. The transmissions were received in Androssin Scotland by Paul Godley, who was sent by the ARRL to conduct receiving tests. The significance of this accomplishment was that short waves were used. The feat was documented in **Scientific American** and **QST**.

**12/24/1818-** Birthday of James Joule, English physicist who studied the energy equivalences of electrical and magnetic forces.

**12/24/06-** Reginald A. Fessenden broadcasts from his longwave station at Brant Rock, MA of violin playing and scripture were perhaps the first radiotelephone signals ever heard. Fessenden's station employed the first "alternator", designed by GE's

### Future Meetings + Events

**December-** Friday December 3 - This month we will have the annual Holiday social and show & tell. Bring your friends and XYL as this is an informal night of fun. Bring your favorite toy and share it with the fellow membership. We will also have some holiday food to offer as well. Tech Corner will resume with a demonstration of HF operation. We will have two HF rigs equipped with antennas. You will be permitted to transmit as well as receive. It should be interesting to see the neat contacts that will be made from the church. This kind of operation will demonstrate that you do not need a huge antenna and a KW to get out. Currently we plan to have a simple radio and a sophisticated one so you will be able to compare and contrast the differences. Remember, the December meeting is always a giant Tech Corner with the show & tell. Be sure to mark this special event on your calendar. Hope to see you there!!

**December Tech Corner-** Demonstration on HF operation. (see above)

**December 9-** Board meeting at the Greg's house. Come join us for this upcoming board meeting. This is an excellent time to see what is involved in running the HCRA. The board meeting is open to all members. Don't hesitate to come. Ask Greg for directions at the next meeting. This meeting will take place Thursday December 9 at 7:30 P.M.

**December 11-** ARRL 10 Meter Contest 0000Z (48 hour contest)

**January 1994-** Friday January 7, 1994 - This meeting is tentatively scheduled to be about portable operations and hiking. The terms of the meeting have not been completed as of press time. However, it should be fairly exciting. See the next month's Zero Beat for more information.

**Field Day 1994-** It is not too early to plan for next year's Field Day. Last year many people did not attend due to the fact that they had already made plans. This year there is no excuse! We are giving plenty of notice. You can plan for Field Day now as the last full weekend in June at the Agawam High School.

# Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 482  
West Springfield, MA 01090-0482

## Application for Membership

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

New: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Listed: Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: (Circle your answer)

Studying    Novice    Technician    Tech+    General    Advanced    Extra

ARRL:    Life Member: \_\_\_\_\_    Member: \_\_\_\_\_

VE: (Circle answer)    Advanced    Extra    General    Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a VE, would you be willing to participate in the HCRA's VE program?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_    No: \_\_\_\_\_

List Family Members Here:

Regular HCRA membership is \$10.00 The cost of the membership is used for items such as Zero Beat, the meeting hall, and insurance. Additional family members are FREE at no additional cost. Just mark these people in the place marked above. If you are under 18 years of age, dues are only \$5.00. Please consider including a donation to help the HCRA in future endeavors. All donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Please fill out this form and make a check payable to the Hampden County Radio Association, INC. to the address listed above, or bring the form along to any club meeting. The HCRA appreciates your support.

Membership Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Old-Time Radio

## Ham Radio - a life-long hobby

James Riff, K9JSC - *WORLDRADIO*, October 1993

**A**s a young man my interest in electronics was satisfied when I first learned that I could talk to my school buddies without the use of a telephone, and I could build the equipment myself.

It all started when a friend loaned me a Model T Ford spark coil and said we could hear each other on our kitchen radios. One day after school I connected it to a short length of wire and a couple of flashlight batteries and sent out a few clicks out to my friend. We would set up schedules during school, and during lunch send a couple of dots and dashes, confirming our contacts later that afternoon in class. We soon learned that this was illegal, and we could be in trouble with the feds! We had heard that we could do this legally if we had a ham license. A quick trip to the public library gave us the address of the ARRL, and soon information began to arrive telling us how to be hams.

I was 14 years old that hot summer day of 1957 when I took the FCC test at the federal court house in Chicago. 1958 brought high school and many diversions that put ham radio on the back burner. Late in my senior year I found out that my high school had an Amateur Radio club and a

station on campus. During my study period I would work a few stations, and the thrill was back. Off to college, and again ham radio fell by the wayside while the rigors of college life took up all available spare time.

A new job was the assignment of my post-college life, and the solar cycle was favorable for pleasant DX contacts. Again I was reacquainted with my old hobby, and the pleasures of radio were again savored. Along came marriage and a family, and the ham gear was stored away while the kids grew up. From time to time I would listen to the 2M local repeaters on a short whip antenna, but no great interests were met. When the kids packed off to college and free time became extensive, I began to look again to the hobby of my youth, ham radio. A new antenna and HF transceiver were connected up just as solar cycle 22 assisted in making the DX a long lost thrill again. With the many new countries, and especially IOTA islands, a whole new world had sprung up before me.

Life, life the solar cycles, seems to perk up on some parallel schedule, for when I am 63 years old cycle 23 will be under way and hopefully I will be lucky enough to be around and enjoy the thrill. But then again, cycle 24 and 25 could be in reach if the good Lord is willing and the antenna holds up!

## Welcome New Members!!

The HCRA would like to welcome the following new members into our club. The HCRA appreciates your support. Thanks all for joining and be sure to say hello at an upcoming meeting!

**Don Lynch KA1YZV**

**Dave Bertagnolli N1EOZ**

**Phil Smith KA1MP**

**Dick Wolos K1KBQ**

**Jordan Koltz W1TOU**

## Renewing Information

This is just a little reminder that it is getting to that time of year again to renew your membership to the HCRA. Although, you may have noticed the warnings in the previous issues, it must be repeated as around 70 members have yet to renew. Please do so, some exciting things are lined up for the future. Enclosed you will find another application form that you can fill out and either mail it to the club's P.O. Box number, or simply give it to Greg at the next meeting with your payment. If you are overdue, you will notice a circle around your membership label. Please do not be alarmed if you have renewed and still find it circled. Some people that renewed last month have yet to be entered in the computer. If you have renewed, how about a HCRA membership as a Holiday gift? Simply mail in your enclosed application with your special person's name and address.

# December Meeting:

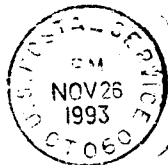
## The HCRA's Annual Holiday Social

# Friday Decmeber 3, 1993

## Food and Fun - Show & Tell Night

Editor: Kevin S. Hilinski NR1L

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 482  
West Springfield, MA 01090-0482



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