

ZERO BEAT

Our 52nd Year

January 1998

GUEST SPEAKER FOR JANUARY IS

TOM FRENAYE, K1KI, ARRL DIVISION DIRECTOR

Our Guest Speaker for our January 9, 1997 meeting will be the ARRL New England Director, Tom Frenaye, K1KI. Tom always has an interesting and informative program, so plan on attending!

Refreshments will be available. The meeting starts at 7:30, and the doors open at 7:00.

If the meeting has to be cancelled due to inclement weather, listen to Channel 40 and/or Channel 22, and the 146.940 (-) and 147.105(+) repeaters for details before 6:00 p.m.

** TRANSIENTS **

1. GET READY FOR THE HCRA WEEKLY 2 METER NET
 2. QUESTIONS? ASK OUR ELMERS!!
- (see page2)

A HAM'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By Gary Pearce, KA4AQ and the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, N.C., December 2, 1996.

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through two meters, not a signal was keying up, any repeaters.

The antenna reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech Pluses,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
By a signal with power,
It smoked a small diode,
And, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her 'phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX packet cluster,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

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President's Message

I would like to wish you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR, and hope everyone had a great holiday season.

I am sure everyone that attended the December club meeting was reassured the HCRA is alive and well. The entire leadership of the club is committed to keeping things going great guns. Again, I must stress it is important for the membership to show its support by attending the club meetings, expressing your ideas, and letting us know what activities you might like to see the club get involved with.

Some of the events we have scheduled are a club recognition dinner for May, to take part in the field day exercise in June, and to have the annual club auction in November. Also, we would like to see club participation in contesting to sharpen your operating skills and encourage license upgrades. Some other ideas that came up that we are working on is to have a weekly 10 meter and 2 meter club net which should give all of us a chance to get on the air and operate.

The January meeting will be of interest to all. We have as our Guest Speaker Tom Frenaye, K1KI, the ARRL New England Division Director. His presentation is sure to be of interest to all. Again, refreshments will be available with time for getting acquainted and fellowship.

I would like to remind everyone again the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. with the doors opening at 7:00 p.m.

CU there for a great evening.

73 de lrv, W6IS

**JOIN THE HCRA CLUB
NET ON THE 147.105
(+ offset) REPEATER,
STARTING TUESDAY,
JANUARY 12 AT 7:00
P.M.**

Meet the Vice-President

Walter J. Nero, WA1HHN

HCRA's new VP is not new to hamming. Walt has been licensed for thirty years. Walt's interests include contesting, and restoring and operating vintage radio equipment. In fact, while travelling on business, Walt often brings along a transceiver to work on!

Walt is President of his own firm, the HHN (now where have I heard that before??) Electric Company, located in Tolland, CT.. HHN Electric was established in 1968 as a supplier of transmission and communication equipment. Today, HHN serves the wire and cable, plastics, printing and paper handling, and general construction industries. It is a supplier of contractual labor services, control panels, maintenance services, and overall systems integration.

Walt has achieved Many VHF section awards, as well as WAC, DXCC, AND OTC awards.

Walt is planning a new antenna farm at his QTH, which overlooks the Hamilton Reservoir, in Holland, MA., which works in well with another interest of Walt's - hilltopping, although he says he uses the lazy-man's approach; no more ropes, backpacks or pitons!

Ask the Elmers!

Several members of the HCRA have volunteered to serve as Elmers to the Ham Community. So if you or someone you know (especially new Hams, or someone interested in becoming one) has a question or needs help, see these Elmers at the meeting Friday, or give them a call (not too early or late, please!).

BOB ARCHAMBAULT, KA1JDY
(413) 536-4578

AL DRAKE, N1CTQ (413) 783-8427

NORM FOREST, N1PF (413) 782-2026

WALT NERO, WA1HHN (413) 245-3746

PETER RUSSELL KE1DQ (860) 253-9872 (CT)

**It was 'way in the distance
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight element beam,**

And a little old driver
Who looked slightly mean
So I thought for a moment,
It might be Wayne Green.

**But no, it was Santa
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas
To clean up the bands.**

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

**While Mom and I hid,
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of Hamming
Knew just what to do.**

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSL's
For a start.

**He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, 'till
The station was grounded.**

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection

**He neutralized tubes,
In my linear amp....
(Never worked right before -
Now it works like a champ).**

A new low pass filter
Cleaned up the TV,
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

**He repaired the computer
That would not compute,**

**And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.**

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box,
"A new rig?", I thought!

**"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
it might be QRP!).**

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
That I worked Public Service?

**He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.**

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent,
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two months' rent!

**He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus...
73!".**

Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no goodbye.

**I ran back to the station,
And the pile-up was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.**

Oh, too late, for his final
Came over the air.
It was copied all over,
It was heard everywhere.

**The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a Ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX!".**

RACES ACTIVITY REPORT

On Saturday, December 6, 1997, Southwick Emergency Management RACES operators Pauline Dunlap, N1EVE, Keith Stromgren, N1MOC, and Charles Dunlap, K1II, operated from the Mobile Communications Command EM717 and a base station. All communications used emergency power. The mobile Emergency Operations Command vehicle was staged at the parking lot of the Edgewood Country Club in Southwick, using the call KB1CDL as Mobile Communications Command EM717.

Operations began at 1000 hours local time and lasted until 1200 hours Saturday morning. RACES communications were established and messages passed to Westfield and Granville Emergency Operations Centers as well as Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Area Headquarters in Belchertown. Also ARES and National Weather Service (NWS) and American Red Cross were communicated with. Frequencies used were 146.910 MHz (Mt. Greylock), 146.940 MHz (Mt. Tom), 146.970 (Paxton), 54.310 (Mt Wachusett), 146.490 and 146.51MHz simplex for local communications, and 3.937 MHz (75 meters) used for all Massachusetts coverage. Also, the State vhf frequencies were used to establish a communications link between EOC's for the Emergency Management Directors. Transmission was on both FM and SSB.

Comments: Weather and radio propagation was favorable. The radios in the mobile unit were too close to each other and need to be relocated and headsets used to prevent local audio interference. The operators were extremely busy even without local communications with fire, police, DPW, and local government to monitor. Emergency Communications with adjacent communities, MEMA, Skywarn NWS, ARC, using ARES and RACES proved to be very effective. There is need fore more trained radio

operators to compliment those already active. Having substantial preparation time and very favorable weather conditions should be considered in relating to an actual event. Bot having an EOC (under reconstruction) definitely hampered our effective communications operation capability.

Respectively submitted,

Charles Dunlap, K1II - KB1CDL
Emergency Management Director/
Races Director
Town of Southwick
EOS/ARES AEC Hampden County - West

(Looking for something new? Try Emergency communications. You're needed, an you can make a difference! - Ed.)

YOUR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Irv Slitzky, W6IS
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Albert Drake, N1CQT
Fred Gore, KA1TBS
Barry Mason, N1IJK
George Walsh, K1RBS

VE NEWS

NEW FCC FORM 610

Effective January 1, 1998, all Amateurs must use the newest FCC Form 610 (dated September 1997) when applying for an Amateur license, license upgrade, or license modification.

ALL PREVIOUS FORMS 610 (dated 11/93, 3/95, and 3/97) BECOME OBSOLETE AT MIDNIGHT ON DECEMBER 31, 1997!

The new Form 610 includes the new RF Safety certification for license applicants.

1998 ARRL/VEC Test Fee - \$6.35

The FCC has announced that, effective January 1, 1998, the maximum allowable reimbursement for an amateur operator license examination is \$6.35, up from \$6.26 in 1997.

ARRL VE teams may retain up to \$4.00 per person served in order to directly offset their VE team's necessary out-of-pocket expenses that were prudently incurred.

VE teams report these financial details with each test session using the ARRL/VEC *Test Session Report form*.

ARRL VE teams who do retain a portion of the test fees are to keep income and expense records for three years (ARRL policy).

Any questions can be directed to the ARRL/VEC at 1-800-927-7583, or by E-mail to vec@arrl.org.

Members Choice

Let us know what you think!

The Executive Board and Directors want to know what you would like to see in the future.

See us at the meeting, and give us a piece of your mind! If you know of a good speaker for the group, let us know.

Tech Corner

We would like to get Tech Corner going again, so if you have some knowledge about a favorite subject, and are willing to speak about it for 15 minutes or so, let Barry, N1IJK know. This is usually an informal talk given just before the meeting starts.

Don't be shy!

SWAP & SHOP

If you have equipment you would like to list for free, let Barry know!

The next meeting of the
Hampden County Radio Association
will be on Friday, January 9, 1998,
at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Our Guest Speaker is Tom Frenaye, K1KI

In case of inclement weather, listen to Cannel 40 or 22, and the 146.940 and 147.105 repeaters. Meeting
cancellation information will be given out by 6:00 p.m.

SEE YOU THERE!

Barry Mason, N1IJK, Editor
36 Kenwood Terrace
Springfield, MA. 01108

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