

# HCRA Zero beat May 2006

April , 2006

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

### This Month's Meeting

#### Larry Wolfgang—W1RB from the ARRL

Larry will show a few projects that he has built over the years from Handbook and QST projects, with a few "kits" thrown in for good measure. He'll talk about some of the club projects and small companies that are currently offering kits for various projects. He will discuss parts sources and mail-order suppliers.

Larry will show a simple tool kit, as well as an example of a temperature controlled soldering station that he would use when building a project. He will have at least one "under construction" project to demonstrate the basic principles of installing components on circuit boards and soldering techniques.

And of course the usual HCRA fare present at every meeting; coffee, donuts, a great raffle (a Magellan GPS unit worth almost \$150) and the best ham company to be found.

### Word from the Editor

Greetings everyone! We have an 10 page ZB this time. I would like to thank Richard Stewart for volunteering to be the cook for this year's Field Day. Richard is currently in the Ham Class, and as of the time of printing, getting ready for testing. I am still looking for operators for FD 2006, so if you have some free time, feel free to drop on by and help out! Good luck to everyone operating during NEQP!!

73's

Eric aka KB1JVI

#### In this month's edition

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# President's Corner

## May Meeting



Larry, WR1B

Larry will show a simple tool kit, as well as an example of a temperature controlled soldering station that he would use when building a project. He will have at least one "under construction" project to demonstrate the basic principles of installing components on circuit boards and soldering techniques.

WR1B is the author of the "Now You're Talking", the license manual you probably used to obtain your first amateur license. He recently has taken over as editor of QEX, the ARRL's bi-monthly publication devoted to equipment design and construction. This should be an interesting meeting for old and new hams alike. Larry will show the newbie how much fun it is to build your own equipment and maybe rekindle the building spirit in our more 'seasoned' amateurs.

See you there!

## Special Raffle Prize!

*Never get lost again!*

Need another reason to attend this Friday's meeting? How about a chance to win a Magellan GPSr unit. We've been holding this prize for the right moment, and this is it. With as little as a one dollar donation for a raffle ticket you could leave with a new GPSr. A great way to begin having fun outdoors this summer.

Have you ever thought of trying geocaching? This fun variation of a scavenger hunt is played worldwide (and right in our area too) with nothing more than a computer and a portable GPS receiver (GPSr). Quite a few of our members are into this fun game. Dave, WN1E has found over 200 hidden stashes since last year. Dave, KB1MU, Earl KD1UU, Ann, N1RJJ and myself have been having fun for a few years now playing. Thanks to Larry, WB1DBY who got us all hooked a couple of years back. Geocaching is also a neat way to learn about local history and see things in the area you have driven by many times but never noticed. To learn more about geocaching point your browser to: <http://www.geocaching.com> and let the fun begin.

So come on down to the meeting, enjoy Larry's presentation, learn how to build your own equipment, sign up for Field Day, and maybe go home with a portable GPS receiver worth over \$130. Oh yeah, don't forget to volunteer for a position on the board - it will be the best decision you made all year!



## Field Day - 2006

*Less than two months until the fun begins!*

Are you ready for another interesting, fun filled weekend in June? I hope so, because June 24th and 25th is going to be here before you know it. Mark your calendar now, tell the family you'll be busy that weekend and contact Eric,

KB1JVI to find out how you can join the fun.

New to amateur and don't exactly know what Field Day represents? Here are some facts. Field Day is an exercise in emergency communications that happens the last full weekend of June. Amateur operators set up remote locations (remote from their home stations), erect portable antennas and try to contact as many other amateur radio stations as possible within a 24 hours period, using emergency power. Is there more to it than that, you betcha! Field Day is the right way to show the general public how amateur (your hobby) can serve the community in times of emergency. It is a chance to get together with your fellow hams and learn about many areas of ham radio you may never have seen before. There's usually good food too, just in case your interested.

Field Day is a perfect chance to operate on modes and bands you may never have used. You can operate on these bands even if your present license doesn't allow it because there will be control operators present.

For HCRA Field Day is one of our signature events. Although not a contest points are awarded for every contact. Our club has placed in the top ten nationwide in our class for many years in a row. Wouldn't you like to help us do it again this year? This is the perfect chance for our new members to join the fun and learn at the same time.

Eric, KB1JVI is the Field Day coordinator this year. This is his second year with the job and his first going solo. I'm sure he really would like your help and participation to help him achieve his goals.

Every year new members come forward and contribute in ways they never felt possible. It doesn't take a lot, every little bit helps. A team effort all the way. The cooks, the antenna erectors, the publicity, the signs, the operators, the audience and of course the public. What are **you** waiting for?

## The June Tailgate Party

*Back again for another fun year.*

The tailgate party returns again to our June meeting. This fun event is the perfect way to pick up some parts to start building one of those projects Larry, WR1B will be telling us about tonight. Don't want to buy, then start cleaning out the shack and bring all that valuable stuff down to the party. For a mere \$5 you can fold down your tailgate (assuming you have a pick-up truck) or a table (please, bring your own), sit back and sell your stuff.

The organizer of this fun event is Dave, KB1MU. Please contact him for more information at: 413-596-6605 or email to: [kb1mu@arrrl.net](mailto:kb1mu@arrrl.net)

Admission is free for buyers and of course you don't need to be a club member to attend. After the tailgate party there will be a brief business meeting, Field Day sign-up and of course the annual elections. Don't miss this very important and last meeting of the year.

*See you at the meeting...*

*73... Jim, KK1W*

## HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

### HCRA OFFICERS

#### **President**

Jim Mullen, KK1W

(413) 245-3228 [jmullen@rockys.com](mailto:jmullen@rockys.com)

#### **Vice-President**

Irv Slitzky, W6IS

(413) 565-5222 [w6is@arrl.net](mailto:w6is@arrl.net)

#### **Treasurer**

Greg Stoddard, N1AEH

(860) 668-5143 [gstoddard@rcn.com](mailto:gstoddard@rcn.com)

#### **Secretary**

Dave Isham, KB1MU

(413) 596-6605 [kb1mu@arrl.net](mailto:kb1mu@arrl.net)

### HCRA DIRECTORS

#### **At Large**

Jim Harrington, KB1JVF

(413) 862-3230 [jldhjr@verizon.net](mailto:jldhjr@verizon.net)

#### **Program**

John Pise, Kx1x

(413) 532-7474 [kx1x@arrl.net](mailto:kx1x@arrl.net)

#### **Membership**

Johnny Lenville, K1A

(413) 543-9367 [K1A@comcast.net](mailto:K1A@comcast.net)

#### **Newsletter**

Eric Richardson, KB1JVI

(413) 283-6351 [kb1jvi@arrl.net](mailto:kb1jvi@arrl.net)

#### **Technical**

John Stark, N1JIO

(413) 747-8169 [n1jio@earthlink.net](mailto:n1jio@earthlink.net)

### STATION TRUSTEES

#### **W1NY Trustee**

Don Johnson, W1UPH

(413) 566-3560 [w1uph@arrl.net](mailto:w1uph@arrl.net)

#### **WB1Z Trustee**

Jim Mullen, KK1W

(413) 245-3228 [jmullen@rockys.com](mailto:jmullen@rockys.com)

#### **IRLP Trustee**

John Pise, Kx1x



Larry Krainson

**We Make House Calls!**

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Cell: 413-348-3289

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[www.wemakehousecalls.biz](http://www.wemakehousecalls.biz)

Computer Sales & Service  
Training & Support

Upgrades & Repairs  
Wireless & Networking

**Wear it Proudly!**  
HCRA Name Badges



Only \$6.00. Available for order at any club meeting, or call or drop an email for immediate service!  
Show the world you belong to the oldest club in the Pioneer Valley.

Jim, KK1W

[jmullen@rockys.com](mailto:jmullen@rockys.com) or (413) 245-3228

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OUR  
SUPPORT  
PLEASE

## WE NEED YOUR SUGGESTIONS

We are asking for your suggestions and ideas for future HCRA meetings. The recent success of HCRA has been, in part, because of its interesting and timely key speakers and topics.

If you can help, please contact John, Kx1x, (413) 532-7474  
[kx1x@arrl.net](mailto:kx1x@arrl.net)

### 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

# HCRA CLOTHING



Fleece Quarter Zip Pullover: 14 ounce Polyester (very soft) Fleece with non-pilling face. Heavy duty nylon zipper. Two side-seam pockets. 1" elastic cuffs and waistband. It comes in sizes S - 3XL. The price with call/name and club logo is \$27 (\$29 for 2XL or 3XL).



Fleece Vest: 100% polyester (very soft) Fleece. Full-zip front. Front zip hand-warmer pockets. Open bottom with drawcord hem. Embroidered Columbia logo on right chest. It comes in sizes S - 3XL. The price with call/name and club logo is \$31 (\$33 for 2XL or 3XL).

Size and type	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
Windbreaker	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$31.00	\$32.00
Short Sleeve Polo Shirt	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$21.00	\$22.00
Fleece Quarter Pull Over	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$29.00	\$29.00
Fleece Vest	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$33.00	\$33.00

Look good while wearing the newest club wear! Shirts, jackets and hats all customized with your name and call and the new HCRA club logo. You'll be the envy of others at hamfests, club events, emergency communication events and more!

If you are interested please send a check payable to **S & S Computer Embroidery** to:

Johnny Lenville — K11A, .98 Pinevale St, Indian Orchard, MA 01151

Please list the quantity of each item and the size ordering. Also, PRINT Your NAME and CALL neatly to prevent mistakes. Send your phone number & email so you can be contacted when ready.

A deposit of at least 50% must be made at time of order, with the remaining balance paid upon delivery.

**HCRA Board Meeting  
April 13, 2006**

Held at corporate boardroom of Rocky's ACE Hardware, Springfield, MA.

Members present: John N1JIO, John K11A, Jim KK1W, Greg N1AEH, Dave KB1MU, Jim KB1JVF, Eric KB1JVI, John Kx1x, and Irv W6IS.

**Vice President W6IS:**

Meeting went well. Prizes all set thru June.

Treasurer N1AEH:  
Current balance is \$4149.85. The raffle grossed \$134.00.

Secretary KB1MU:  
The current roster:

Courtesy:	9
Family	28
Life:	1
Prospect:	36
Regular:	117
Sponsors:	1
Venture Crew:	1

Program Kx1x:  
Speakers are all set until Dec 2006  
May            Larry Wolfgang, WR1B

Membership K11A:  
John continues to recruit old members back into the club. One method, an electronic copy of ZeroBeat will be mailed to all former for whom we have e-mail addresses. Note!, the membership list is the biggest it has been in the last 10 years.

**ZeroBeat Editor KB1JVI:**

Deadline for May ZeroBeat is April 20.

Technical N1JIO:  
Current class is going well. Test will be in two weeks from this date. Some class members have already passed test and are licensed.

At Large KB1JVF:  
Working on publicity for Field day.

Venture Crew:  
Membership list needs to be updated. Only one member has a current application in the club database.

Old Business:  
Still awaiting confirmation of our reservation at Dufrense Park

New Business:  
The club needs a volunteer to oversee the sales of the clubs new clothing line.

Field day: We have a volunteer for cooking at field Day. Eric is still looking for more operators.

**Open items from floor:**

The club is considering a "Show Your Colors" meeting for next year. All members would wear their "HCRAwear.

A General/Extra licensing class is being considered. If you are interested let a board member know.

Consideration is being given to a new PA system for the church.

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Isham KB1MU Secretary.

## 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!!!

## KD1XP Repeater Group News

www.kd1xp.org - main website  
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RLX - e-mail list  
53.35 - PL 71.9  
145.130 - PL 173.8 DCS 155  
442.200 + PL 173.8 DCS 155

*Ham radio testing sessions will be given on the 3rd Monday of January, April, July, and October.*

*It is held in Sunderland MA. All test elements are given, go to the KD1XP website for directions Ham radio testing giving anytime upon request at anytime, contact Richard KD1XP at 665-2211.*

*Breakfast meetings every first Saturday of the month at The Route 9 Diner in Hadley .  
Talk in on the 145.130 repeater.*

## Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Assn.

[www.mtara.org](http://www.mtara.org)

Info Net, Wednesdays at 7:30 PM local  
146.94 (-) or 147.000 (+) with Joe, NA1X, NCO

The next meeting of the MTARA  
Unknown at the time of this printing

Meetings are held at the Red Cross Building



QCWA Pioneer  
Chapter #183  
Schedule of  
Events

"July 22, 2006 is the Annual Pic Nic for the QCWA at Mount Tom Reservation. Members from Twin State Chapter, Yankee Chapter, Nutmeg Chapter as well as our Pioneer Chapter will be attending. Bring you ham-burgers, hotdogs, or anything you wish to eat. Be ready for a great time!"

*The Hampden County Radio  
Association's next meeting  
FRIDAY, May 5th, 2006*

Doors open at 7 p.m., Meeting  
begins at 7:30

Feeding Hills Congregational Church,  
Feeding Hills, MA

In case of inclement weather, check:  
[www.hcra.org](http://www.hcra.org) or the 146.94 repeater.  
*Meeting cancellation information will be given out by 6:00*

If you would like to see your notice here, please e-mail the editor, Eric, KB1JVI at [kb1jvi@arrl.net](mailto:kb1jvi@arrl.net)

## Help Wanted

The HCRA board of directors will be looking for a replacement secretary, on or about June 2, 2006. This presents an excellent opportunity for a dedicated amateur to contribute to an enthusiastic and growing club. Experience not a requirement, and former secretary will train, if desired. Computer knowledge is a plus, but not a requirement. For further information, contact Dave Isham KB1MU at 413-596-6605 or [kb1mu@charter.net](mailto:kb1mu@charter.net).





# New England QSO Party

**The 2006 New England QSO Party is coming up in a few weeks - May 6th and 7th.** We'd appreciate it if you would pass along a reminder to club members that the NEQP is a lot of fun and encourage them to get on and make some QSOs! Last year we had hundreds of participants and 300 sent in logs. Full information is on the NEQP web site --> <http://www.neqp.org/>

## Basic NEQP rules information:

**Object:** NE stations make QSOs with anyone; non-New England stations work stations in New England

**Times:** May 6/7 - Saturday from 4pm until 1am Sunday, and again from 9am until 8pm on Sunday (20 hours)

**Bands:** 80-40-20-15-10 meters - activity concentrated near 3875 7280 14280 21380 28380 on SSB and 3540 7035 14040 21040 28040 on CW

**Exchange:** New England stations give signal report and county/state; others give signal report and state/province/country

**Categories:** QRP, low power, high power, multi-operator, mobile

**Scoring for New England stations:** One QSO point per SSB QSO; two points for CW/digital QSOs, multiple total QSO points by the number of states, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries worked.

**Logs:** send to logs@neqp.org or to NEQP, P O Box 3005, Framingham MA 01701

**Full rules** - see the NEQP web site --> <http://www.neqp.org/rules.html>

Certificates will be sent to anyone making 25 QSOs or more, plus there are 30 plaques available to top scorers.

Thanks in advance for helping is to spread the word!

-- Tom/K1KI for the NEQP Committee

## New Flash!

### HCRA will be QRV with two club calls for NEQP 2006!

HCRA will be fielding **TWO** club station efforts this year for NEQP. The team of Johnny, K11A and Eric, KB1JVI will be activating the W1NY/P call from the Quabbin Reservoir in Hampshire County. I understand they will be using a good antenna from this portable location. I'm sure with your help they will put W1NY at the top of it's class for 2006.

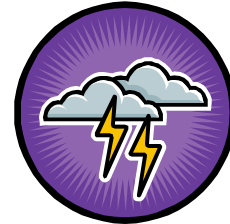
Steve, N1SR and myself will also be QRV for this year's NEQP using the other club call, WB1Z. This will be the first year activating Jim Allen's old call for NEQP. As of this writing we don't know what class we will operate other than it won't be 'multi-operator' mobile! Hopefully you will work WB1Z or W1NY in this year's NEQP. Need help getting active in the contest? Drop me an email at [kk1w@arrl.net](mailto:kk1w@arrl.net) and I'll offer what help I can to get you 'On the Air!'

Thanks and good luck in NEQP,

Jim, KK1W

# Personal Lightning Safety Tips

1. Plan in advance your evacuation and safety measures. When you first see lightning or hear thunder, go to a building or a vehicle. Lightning often precedes rain, so don't wait for the rain to begin before suspending activities.



2. IF OUTDOORS...Avoid water. Avoid the high ground. Avoid open spaces. Avoid all metal objects including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors power tools, etc.

Unsafe places include underneath canopies, small picnic or rain shelters, or near trees. When possible, find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck, or a van with windows completely shut.

If lightning is striking nearby when you are outside, you should :

A: Crouch down. Put feet together. Place hands over ears to minimize hearing damage from thunder.

B: Avoid proximity ( minimum of 15ft.) to other people.

3. IF INDOORS... Avoid water. Stay away from doors and windows. Do not use the telephone. Take off head sets. Turn off, unplug, and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools, & TV sets. Lightning may strike exterior electric and phone lines, inducing shocks to inside equipment.

4. SUSPEND ACTIVITIES for 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder.

5. INJURED PERSONS do not carry an electric charge and can be handled safely. Apply First Aid procedures to a lightning victim if you are qualified to do so. Call 911 or send for help immediately.

Brought to you by the National Lightning Safety Institute, 303-666-8817  
please reprint and distribute this message.





# HCRA wants YOU!



## Update!

This year three people will be leaving our board this year. I'd like to say thanks to the following for their hard work over the past years, it is through their efforts our club is what it is today:

**John, Kx1x.** John has been a key person in our board for many years, holding down and doing a fine job as Zero Beat editor for all but this past year when he took over as program director. John's enthusiasm for ham radio and the Boy Scouts was the driving force behind our Explorer 510 group, or as most of us know it, Crew DX. John will be leaving the board to pursue a PhD in computer science. Thanks John for helping us get to where we are today with hard work, positive attitude and a commitment to bringing youth into our hobby.

**Dave, KB1MU** will be stepping down for this Secretary's position to attend pressing home and work matters. For the past years Dave has been instrumental in keeping our member database up to date, collecting the mail, running the raffles, filing our applications with the state and producing monthly minutes of the board meetings. Somehow in all this Dave also finds time to work the Titanic Special Event station, manage the Tail Gate party, work at the Big-E and participate whole heartedly in Field Day. Thanks Dave for all your efforts over the years.

**Irv, W6IS** will be leaving the Vice President position to chase even more DX! Irv is the ham who stepped forward many years ago when the HCRA was almost dissolved and said, "Hey, I'll take over as president and grow our club!". That was the start of the re-birth of HCRA. From barely 25 member to over 110 our growth can be attributed to Irv's dedication and desire to make our club the best in the Pioneer Valley. Every one of our members owes Irv a big thank you, without his efforts almost 10 years ago we would not have the fantastic club we enjoy today. Thanks Irv and enjoy your time off, you deserve it!

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June is election month at HCRA, the time when your board of directors presents the membership with a recommended slate of officers for the 2007 season. Over the past five years your board has seen little change and has worked hard to try to create events and programs that will satisfy the present membership as well as attract new members. With over 110 members this year they have been successful.

This year is no different, elections will be in June and the board is working right now to develop a slate of officers to carry on the tradition. What is different this year is the board will see one of the largest changes it has had in recent years. Departing permanently from the board will be your program director, secretary and vice president. I will remain on the board but will be stepping back from my position as president. What does this all mean to HCRA?

It means it is time for a few of our over one hundred members to step forward and fill the vacuum. As the club has grown it is really easy to sit back and enjoy the activities and events. Wouldn't it be fun to actually shape the your club's direction for the years to come? How about the good feeling of giving something back to the club that has been a part of your life and your hobby over the last few years? It's not difficult, all that's required is a passion for HCRA and amateur radio and a few extra evenings a year. What do you get in return? The good feeling of continuing the HCRA tradition that all members enjoy.

We're not asking for a lifetime commitment, simply a few folks to raise their hands and say, "yeah, I'd like to do that". It's that simple. If you feel you would like to keep our club at the forefront of amateur radio in the Pioneer Valley please contact any board member and let's talk. It all starts with the desire to do good, a trait all of our members have demonstrated over the years.

Jim, KK1W

HCRA  
P.O. Box 562  
Agawam, Massachusetts 01001

**PLEASE HAND CANCEL**



Your help is requested!

**No special events known at the time of this printing.**