

# ZERO BEAT

Our 52nd year

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

May, 1998

## May Meeting - A Day At The South Pole

May Speaker - Larry Skilton, K1IED

The next meeting of the Hampden County Radio Association will be on **Friday evening, May 1st,** at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church.

This month's speaker will be Larry Skilton, K1IED, speaking on operating at the South Pole. Get to the meeting early to get a good seat!

### **DON'T FORGET THE NET!**

The H.C.R.A. invites all Amateurs and those interested in becoming hams to tune into our weekly nets -

Monday night, 7:30 p.m. on 10 meters, 28.375 +/- QRM;  
and Tuesday nights, 7:30 p.m. on 2 meters, 147.105 MHz, +600kHz.

*Stop in and let us know what you have to say!*

*Bring a friend to our next meeting -  
You'll both be glad you did!*

## June Sneak Peak - ICOM NIGHT at the HCRA!

Don't miss out - plan to be there!

We've kick-started the HCRA and have had some great meetings. We've attracted new and old member alike to attend our meetings. And we plan to close the meeting year with something just as special. Check out the particulars at the May meeting, and clear your social calendar for June 5th!!

### **Tech Corner**

This month.....

'Naaa....we're not going to tell you.

Okay, here's a hint:

It's got something to do with  
**Chet, W1HGJ,**  
and a "surprise gizmo"!

Remember, Tech Corner starts right after  
doors open at 7:00!

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

## A CHANCE TO SHARPEN YOUR OPERATING SKILLS

Yes, Field Day is fast approaching and it's a great time to get out there, enjoy the great outdoors, get on the air, and have lots of fun. At the same time, sharpen your on-the-air skills! HCRA needs you, so come on out. All you have to do is give your name to me or any of the club officers and you're on the way to fun land.

The recent AMATEUR RADIO CLASS taught by Yorke Phillips K1BXE has been completed, and all participants taking their test at the VE session resulted in the following:

Arthur Brunell passed Tech Plus and 20 wpm CW

Norman Ford passed Tech

David Pace passes Novice

Thomas Nutting passed Element 2

Michael Pace Passed Element 2

The following VE's participated:

Larry Smith K1ILZ

Yorke Phillips K1BXE

Don Johnson W1UPH

Betty Philips WB1FIQ

George Walsh K1RBS

Congratulations to all!

The HCRA board accepted the resignation of club director Fred Gore, KA1TBS.

The board voted to fill the vacancy with Larry Smith K1ILZ. Larry is a long time member of HCRA and will positively be a great asset to the board and club.

Welcome aboard Larry!

The guest speaker for our May meeting will be Larry Skilton, K1IED, presenting a day at the South Pole ( you may want to bring a warm jacket Hi Hi ). This promises to be a very exciting evening. Hope to see you all there .

73 de IRV W6IS

## HCRA OFFICERS

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IRV SLITZKY W6IS

VICE - PRESIDENT  
WALTER NERO WAIHNN

TREASURER  
GREG STODDARD N1AEH

SECRETARY  
JIM SEBOLT N1DUY

AL DRAKE N1CQT  
CHARLES DUNLAP K1II  
BARRY MASON N1IJK

### HCRA DIRECTORS

STEVE NELSON WA1EYF

DON MISH N1JOI  
PETER RUSSELL KE1DQ  
GEORGE WALSH K1RBS

## ASK THE ELMERS !

Below, you will find a list of our Elmers. If you have a question that can't wait, give them a call (not too early or late, please!). If you would be interested in helping someone as an Elmer, let us know at the meeting. See Irv or Barry.

### HCRA ELMERS

BOB ARCHAMBAULT, KA1JDY (413) 536-4578

AL DRAKE, N1CQT (413) 783-8427

NORM FOREST, N1PF (413) 782-2026

WALT NERO, WAIHNN (413) 245-3746

PETER RUSSELL, KE1DQ (203) 253-9872

## Questions, Comments, or Notices for ZERO BEAT, or the HCRA?

Contact:

Irv Slitzky, W6IS, (413) 565-5222 Barry Mason, N1IJK, (413) 747-7010

HCRA, PO. Box 562, Agawam, MA, 01001-0562

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# EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

BY K1II, HCRA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Hurricane / Flood in 1955, East Coast Power Grid Failure in mid 1960 ( all but Holyoke Water Power! ), Bradley Airport Tornado, recent blizzards and ice storms.....

Is this a memory quiz? Does history repeat itself? I could go on, but what is being stressed is that radio amateurs need preparation for emergency communications. From past experience and encountering MURPHY'S LAW during Field Day events the following questions for basic emergency communications are asked. **Do you have a communications emergency kit ? If so, in it do you have:**

**FLASHLIGHT, extra batteries and bulb**

**SPARE FUSE ASSORTMENT**

**WIRE NUTS, ELECTRICAL TAPE, DUCT TAPE**

**VOLT- OHM METER**

**COAX CONNECTOR ADAPTERS (UHF barrel, UHF to BNC, UHF to N, etc.)**

**COAX with connector to make emergency 1/4 wave ant. by stripping braid back**

**JUMPER WIRE with alligator clips**

**BASIC TOOLS**

**SPECIFIC REQUIRED ITEMS for your particular XCVR or HT**

**AA / NICAD or 12 volt source batteries**

**MAGNET MOUNT ANTENNA**

This is by far not a total checklist, but a basic start for communications operation when an emergency/ disaster strikes. All ARES and RACES trained operators should have a complete deployment kit. A strong recommendation for all amateurs is to obtain the ARRL published **ARES FIELD RESOURCES MANUAL** ( \$5.00 and well worth it ), to participate in Public Service events and to enjoy operating in this year's Field Day on June 13 and 14th. Not only is it fun and nurtures our self- esteem, but it sharpens our communications operating skills.

As a reinforcement to the emergency communications readiness need, the States of Alabama, Florida, Virginia, and Tennessee, have very recently been devastated by tornadoes with little or no warning. Are you the proverbial ostrich with it's head in the sand believing it ain't gonna happen or don't wanna hear about it and don't care? Or are you emergency communications ready and trained, prepared to serve your immediate family and others in time of need?

Charles Dunlap, K1II

HCRA Emergency Communications

AEC Hampden County West and OES

Southwick RACES Dir.

# THE HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

PO. BOX 562  
AGAWAM, MA. 01001-0562

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Call sign \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Reinstated \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Is this a listed number? YES NO  
(PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR ANSWERS BELOW)

License Class: None Novice Technician Technician Plus General Advanced Extra

ARRL: MEMBER LIFE MEMBER

ARES MEMBER YES RACES MEMBER YES

VE: YES NO EXTRA ADVANCED GENERAL EXPIRATION \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a VE, would you be willing to participate in HCRA's VE program? YES NO

Please list any family members that are licensed Amateur Operators:

\_\_\_\_\_

Regular HCRA membership is \$10.00. The cost of membership is used for items such as ZERO BEAT, and the meeting hall. Additional family members are FREE. Just list their names in the space provided 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 (we are considered a non-profit organization). Please fill this form out and make checks payable to the HCRA and send it to the address above, or bring the form along to any Club meeting, The HCRA appreciates your support!

**The next meeting of the  
Hampden County Radio Association  
will be on Friday, May 1, 1998  
at 7:30 p.m. at the Feeding Hills Congrega-  
tional Church. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.  
Tech Corner starts at 7:10.**

**This month's meeting:  
A Day At The South Pole!**

**SEE YOU THERE!**

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

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

