



Zero Beat



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

Volume 2, No. 3

November 1993

Next HCRA Meeting

The next Hampden County Radio Association meeting will take place on Friday night November 5, 1993 and will feature the HCRA's annual auction. This has been an extremely popular event in the past and it would be great to see a big turnout. Remember, every purchase made will allocate 10% of that particular purchase to the HCRA. Come and support the club by purchasing that long awaited piece of gear. This year's event will again be held at the church, the site of the normal Friday meetings. For directions see below. Steve Nelson, WA1YEF will once again be the auctioneer. For complete rules and starting time, see page 2 of this issue. Hope to see you there!

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

The HCRA would like to welcome **Barry Mason, N1IJK** as our new president. Congratulations, Barry!

Coming in December: The HCRA's Annual Social

Board of Directors



Officers

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

Directors

Expiring 1994		Expiring 1995	
N1FOW	Mike Griffin	N1KBY	Jeff Hugabone
NR1L	Kevin Hilinski	N1GWV	Adam Olson
K1MVR	Dave Olson	WA1OHR	Everett Paluska
VACANT	VACANT	VACANT	VACANT

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Happy Thanksgiving! - See you at the auction

President's Message

Hello! I hope your autumn is progressing well. May your leaves be of bright colors, and may they fall in your neighbors yard! Now's the time to make any last minute adjustments to your antenna and feed line system before old man winter sets in. Just remember to be extra aware of safety with the increased winds and wet, slippery conditions of the season.

Now is also the time to start organizing possible indoor radio projects to keep busy during the winter. (did I leave any time in this schedule for work???) While you are either planning or finishing a project, remember our December social and show & tell meeting.

And speaking of projects, I am trying to re-institute the Technical Corner. If you have something a little different you've built whether it is a kit radio, an antenna matching unit, a QRP rig, or a compact portable antenna, and you wouldn't mind talking about it, let me know. You do not have to have a college lecturer's experience, we would just like to see it, and know why you decided to build it and how. As a reminder, the club is sponsoring a license class. We have about 20 people in the class, so anything no matter how basic would be welcome to demonstrate the Tech Corner. Of course the mini spread spectrum portable unit I'm sure ^{you're} working on would also be welcome! If you can help, please see me at the next meeting.

Speaking of the next meeting, I hope to see everyone at the November meeting for the annual club auction. It's always fun, and remember, every sale helps the club, so bid high.

Just one last thought before I go. The board of directors is using your suggestions from the Zero Beat survey. We are working on some very interesting topics and meetings for the coming months, so make sure you don't miss a meeting!

73, Barry N1IJK

Shuttle Rebroadcast Update: The current shuttle mission was to be broadcast. However, due to health reasons, Joe WA1OCK was unable to handle this mission by himself. If you can help with the shuttle rebroadcasts, contact ████ the board.

Rules for the November Auction

HCRA CLUB AUCTION

Friday, November 5, 1993

Feeding Hills Congregational Church

6:00pm : Setup and Inspection

Auction Starts: 7:00pm

The HCRA takes 10% off the final selling price. Minimum should be clearly marked on the item by the seller.

The auctioneer has the right to combine items in the interest of time. The decision of the auctioneer is final.

All equipment, boxes, junk, etc. must be cleared from the church by either the buyer or the seller. No disposal facilities are available at the church.

All items must be marked with the call (or first and last name, if not a ham) of the seller. If the seller is not present, the call of the person bringing the items should also be clearly marked.

Donations to the club will be gladly accepted. They should be clearly marked as such.

Items will be auctioned off on a first come, first served basis. The items closest to the auctioneer (first in the door) will be put up first. Members of the board of directors will be in attendance to assure that all items are placed in the proper order.

The club treasurer (Greg, N1AEH or his representative) will record the final selling price and calculate the club percent. No money will be disbursed during the auction itself. Individuals will receive payment for items sold only after the auction has been completed, at the next meeting or by prior arrangement with Greg.

Items to be auctioned must be related to amateur radio, electronics or computers. Please! No television sets unless they are in working condition.

If there are any questions, please contact Steve Nelson at (413) 596-8216. 73 Steve, WA1EYF Auctioneer

Editors Note: I apologize to all members for this issue we had equipment problems and we were unable to print some pages on the laser printer. My dot matrix also had the problem of cutting the bottom of the page. Hope to have the problem fixed for December. Happy Holidays! 73, Ken N1AL



November Radio Factoids

11/2/20- First commercial radio broadcast station KDKA, licensed in 1920. With growing interest in Frank Conrad's Amateur broadcasts from "8XK", and seeing the success of the Detroit News earlier that year, Westinghouse applied for a full commercial broadcasting license and resolved to broadcast the election results on this date. The callsign KDKA was received only days before the broadcast (Conrad's amateur station was ready as backup) and commercial radio broadcasting was born.

11/5/35- Armstrong demos FM at I.R.E. meeting, NY, 1935. This meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers in New York city included the first "public" demonstration of FM. When Armstrong tuned in the signal, a clear voice spoke out of the unnatural silence, "This is amateur station W2AG at Yonkers, NY, broadcasting on FM at the frequency of 2 1/2 Meters." The audience was as amazed at the VHF frequencies employed as at the superb clarity of the sound. The technical superiority of FM was established beyond question, but its road to economic success was long and difficult.

11/25/23- First trans-Pac. short wave QSO UTHG-JUPU. Although there was never any official acknowledgment, this contact between UTHG (signing U for U.S.) in Tacoma, WA and the station signing "JUPU" Tokyo was probably legitimate, and would be the first full spanning of the Pacific, and also the first radio contact between the U.S. and Asia.

Future Meetings & Events

November- Friday November 5 - As always, the November meeting is reserved for an extremely popular event in the past, the annual auction. The rules are announced on page two of this issue. Doors open at 6:00 P.M. and the auction will start sharply at 7:00 P.M. The auction is always a fun time for all. It is an excellent opportunity to purchase that long awaited tube, or socialize with fellow Hams. Please pass the word. Anyone can attend our auction, you do not have to be an HCRA member. Steve Nelson, WA1EYF will once again be the auctioneer.

November 11- Board meeting at the Olson's house. Come and join us for the 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. Ask the Olson's at the next meeting for directions. The meeting is this Thursday November 11 at 7:30 P.M.

November 6- ARRL SS CW Contest 2100Z (30 Hour Contest) See QST for more info

November 20- ARRL SS Phone Contest 2100Z (30 Hour Contest)

November 27- CQ DX CW Contest 0000Z (48 Hour Contest)

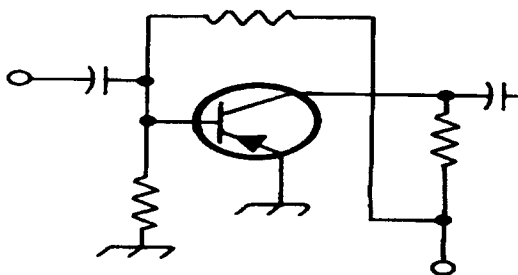
December- Friday December 3 - The December meeting will again be the HCRA's annual social and show and tell. You will be permitted to bring your favorite radio toy and share it with the membership. Keep reading Zero Beat in the future for information all of of the HCRA's upcoming events. Also as the cold weather approaches, look for information on the HCRA's cancellation procedure to keep you informed.

1994- The meeting topics for the specific months have not been finalized yet, but be sure to look for meeting topics about home safety, radio astronomy, AMSAT, and more! In '94 we may also gather a group for pizza after the meetings.

An All Band kW Tuner (for \$50 or less using Flea market parts).

This latest economy tuner is the result of my fondness of wire antennas and feedlines. My present radiator is a horizontal delta closed loop with 180 feet, on each of the three sides making it a full wave on 160M. It is fed at the nearest apex, south of the E/W side depending on where I operate from. The feeder is "open" wire balanced and may consist of 60 feet or 120 feet of 600, 500, or 300 ohms. The tuner to be described below is quite tolerant and works well 160 thru 10 meters. This huge wire delta also works on six and two meters, but on these bands the tuners are individual variometry types as shown in my H + K article on page 76 in the May 1993 QST.

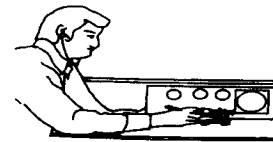
A schematic of the tuner is shown in the brief account I wrote of the award-winning set up for 160 meters in ZB of March 1992. In the L part of the "EII" consists of two sections often seen at Flea Markets, run by the HCRA and the Mount Tom radio clubs. The 1st section at the coax input end is a ceramic hollow form with its exterior cross section forming an octagon with grooves holding the #12 enameled wire firmly in place. The form is 6 inches long by 2 1/2 inches in diameter and holds 31 turns. There are three rows of taps I soldered to make each turn available as needed for the 6 position ceramic switch. The other section of the L is a small 2 kW, 4 microhenry rotary inductor that cost \$15. These inductors are in series and are connected so that the non-used turns are shorted. The capacitor is a dual section husk with kW spacing and an estimated 175 pf. per section. The use of both is made for the 160, 80, and 40 meter bands. Beginning with the 30m band, all the higher frequencies including 10 meters can use only one section for better band spread, and may require only the roller inductor with pos. 6 shorting out the entire tapped coil. This tuner will be brought to the show and tell meeting in December for a closer look.
73, Art W1KK



Continuous Wave

AA6WQ Mike Gafferty

LAWS OF CW AND QSO'S



Reprinted from *WORLD RADIO*, October 1993

1. The most difficult words to copy are always the most important words.
2. Your mind will more likely go blank if the other operator begins to ask a question.
3. The more important the call sign you wish to respond to, the more likely you will forget to turn on the VOX.
4. If you set a schedule with another operator, you will find a QSO on that frequency at the appointed time.
5. Just when you think you have a clear space to send CQ, someone tunes up on that frequency.
6. When you want to impress a more experienced operator, you run your letters together.
7. If you hear a CQ right when you turn on your rig, you are more likely to send a response quickly if your antenna is down.
8. AA6WQ's Corollary #1 of QRM: If any frequency can have QRM, your frequency will have it.
9. AA6WQ's Corollary #2 of QRM: The QRM will disappear as soon as your QSO is completed.
10. AA6WQ'S Corollary #3 of QRM: If one operator suggests you QSY because of interference, his directions will be covered by QRM.

11. AA6WQ's Catch-all Corollary: If something can interfere with your QSO, it will.

12. When you are about to copy the central thought of the QSO, that is the time someone comes in to the shack with an important question.

Continued on Page 5

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:

____ Studying ____ Novice ____ Technician ____ Tech+ ____ General ____ Advanced ____ Extra

ARRL: Life Member: _____ Member: _____

VE: Advanced: ____ Extra: ____ General: ____ Expiration: _____

If you are a VE, would you be willing to participate in the HCRA's VE program?
Yes: ____ No: ____

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 a free place on this form. 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 above, or bring the form to any club meeting. The HCRA appreciates your support.

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

Continuous Wave (cont.)

13. It is easier to blame poor copying on QRM, QRN, and QSB than on lack of experience.
14. The less experience an operator has, the more likely he will wait until the QSO is finished to tell you that he can't copy you.
15. The probability of misspelling near the end of a word is directly proportional to the length of the word.
16. Speed is essentially a question of spacing.
17. AA6WQ's Corollary #1 on Ears: Both sending and copying are done with your ears.
18. AA6WQ's Corollary #2 on Ears: You will never send faster than your ears will allow.
19. AA6WQ's law #1 of CW humor: Licensed radio amateurs and children are the only ones in our culture allowed to laugh at their own jokes first. Hi. Hi.
20. AA6WQ's law #2 of CW humor: The number of "HIs" sent by a brass pounding comic varies inversely with how funny the joke was.
21. Some days the fist just won't do what it is supposed to do. The other days it is the keyer's fault.
22. The more involved an operator gets with CW the more likely he or she will forget where to plug in the microphone.

ZB Classified

WANTED: Used 2 meter HTs in good working condition for new hams. Contact Steve Nelson, WA1EYF at (413) 596-8216.

FOR SALE: Office Desk: Locking painted metal 30 x 60" standard office desk with one file drawer and 4 smaller drawers. Has wood grain formica top. Great for equipment. \$35.
Contact Steve Nelson, WA1EYF at (413) 596-8216.

If you would be interested in seeing a classified each month, tell your friends and respond! Please be free to mail them free of charge by the 15th of each month to: Kevin Hillinski, 17 Pilgrim Drive, Tolland, CT 06084

Welcome New Members!

The HCRA would like to welcome the following new people into our club. The HCRA appreciates the support. Thanks all for joining and we hope to see you at upcoming meetings. Don't be afraid to say hello!

Carol Gawle WA1LGU

Ken Dion KD1KU

Stan Bates N1INB

Doug Allan N1IND

Daniel McKay KB1AWP

Time To Renew!!

Well you heard it before and you will hear it again, it it now time to renew! Please do so, if you have not done so already. The HCRA is a great organization with many exciting topics planned for the future. For only \$10 a year you can support our club to help cover the operating costs that such an organization as ours incurs. The HCRA is also a great place to socialize and make friends. See the upcoming meetings for info on future events.

Help Wanted

We on the board are seeking your help! The following positions have vacancies or they may need additional help besides us on the board. If you are interested in helping with any of these positions, even you only can help slightly, it would be greatly appreciated. Although we realize certain members do not want to become involved, (which is just fine, a lot of people are busy or uninterested) there must be some of you out there that might be interested, we really need you! If you are interested there are several options available. First, you can attend the next board meeting and let us know. (The board meeting time and location is listed under future events) Second, you can see Barry, N1IJK our new president or any board of director at one of the upcoming meetings. Finally, you may call Barry at (413) 747-7010 and let him know. Here are the positions:

Vice President, Director (2 vacancies), coffee and doughnut person, (several people can work together on this) Flea Market committee, and help with Tech Corner. We also could use help cleaning up after the meetings.

November Meeting:

The HCRA's Annual Auction

Ham Radio, Computers, and Electronics

Friday November 5, Doors Open
at 6:00 P.M., Set to begin At 7:00

Editor: Kevin S. Hilinski NR1L

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.
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West Springfield, MA 01090-0482

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