

HCRA Zero beat Jan. 2006

January , 2005



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



This Month's Meeting

Radio Controlled Aircraft

Ham Radio & Radio Control,
a blending of hobbies...
with Bob LaFlamme from NCRCC



Welcome to Zero Beat!

Hello Everyone! I hope everyone's holiday was excellent. We have an excellent program this month so don't forget to make it. Just remember to take an alternate route since there is bridge work going on!

73's

Eric aka KB1JVI

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President's Corner

Happy New Year

We have a big year ahead for HCRA

What a year is in store for us at HCRA. We have a great schedule of speaking engagements, Show & Tell, the Tail Gate party and Field Day, all happening within the first six months. Pretty cool, huh?



First up this year will be our January meeting. We have something unique for you this month. Bob LaFlamme from the Northern Connecticut Radio Control Club will be visiting us in January. Bob is president of NCRCC and will be showing us how exciting the hobby of radio control aircraft can be. R/C flying is a great pastime that continues to advance in technology every year. You can utilize your amateur radio license to advantage in R/C since very few fliers have amateur licenses. When flying there is a much better chance there won't wait because someone is on 'your channel' when it's time to fly!

Bob will be bringing along a few 1/4 scale (*translation - BIG*) aircraft for you to see and I'm sure will provide a lot of information to entice you into trying something different this year. There is also a wide selection of smaller electric aircraft that are easy to fly, don't require a 40 acre plot and won't break your piggy bank. Be sure to attend the January meeting and of course, bring along a friend.

As always at an HCRA meeting, in addition to a great speaker, will be a nice raffle, coffee & donuts and the best 'ham company' around.

Show & Tell

Time is getting short - is your project ready?

What are the chances you will go home with a \$50 Gift Certificate to HRO this year? Pretty good if you take some time and get your 'Show & Tell' project finished in time for the March meeting.

For those of you new to this event it is essentially a forum where you can 'show' off your latest creation and 'tell' the folks in attendance all about it. As in the past there will be two categories to help even out the competition. The Novice category will be for entrants new to the construction hobby and the Expert class... I guess the word expert says it all!

In addition to wowing your fellow hams with your building expertise the winner in each class will go home with a \$50 gift certificate to HRO for their efforts. Isn't that something to make spending a few hours in the shop hunched over a hot soldering iron all worthwhile?

Your entries will be judged by a panel of 'experts' appointed from the crowd. The project will be rated on creativity, usefulness and overall construction quality. The panel will be tasked to rate them all on a ten point scale, then the scores will be combined and a winner announced. We will be using a slightly different way to add the scores this year that will remove the sway a high scoring judge can cause. After all, fair is fair! Computer programmer, no problem. You don't have to 'build' an actual item, computer code and programs are also eligible to compete.

Last year's 'Show & Tell' had a few competitors but listening to the scuttle butt on the local repeater seems to point to a lot more entries this year. I know for sure Jim, K1JAW and myself will have at least one entry each and I've heard talk of others too. Past Show & Tells have had entries ranging from historic transmitter replicas, home brew antenna insulators, band pass filters, emergency power supplies, pneumatic antenna launchers and rig control programs, just to name a few. What is your project going to be this year?

Holiday TOY Drive

Thanks for your donations!

Here's a picture of your generous donations just before being packed and shipped to the Salvation Army. In the background are your board members - but why are they smiling? Because they (would you believe it?) were *playing* with the toys. Grown men, I guess we know why ham radio is so attractive now, don't we?



A picture of Christmas joy for the children of the Gulf

ARRL Ten Meter Contest

Here's a quick recap

Who says ten meters is dead during this part of the solar cycle? If you turned on your radio over the weekend of December 11th and 12th the activity was tremendous! Although you couldn't work the entire world from your shack a small beam and some perseverance would net you many contacts to new countries and almost every state! There were weak openings into Europe on both days and the North/South propagation was excellent.

I heard a few HCRA members on the air and having fun. George, KC1V and Les, K1DNX were pounding away at CW and Earl, KD1UU and John, K1VOI were working them on phone. It looks like we may have done better as a club than we did last year. I was able to put in a bit more time this year, but the real surprise was late Saturday evening. I returned home from having dinner with friends, fully expecting the band to be deader than the proverbial doornail. Not so, I'm guessing a sporadic-E opening was in place and signals to the South were S-9 plus until well after midnight. In the space of an hour and a half I made almost 100 contacts! Absolutely amazing!!! I think we more than doubled our club score this year.

I got back home on Sunday evening around 5:00 PM and was hoping for a repeat, but that was not to be. The next two hours were spent eking out a paltry twenty or so contacts but hey - I still had Saturday night to look back on.

I hope some of our new members had a chance to take a stab at operating. The 10M contest is a good first contest. Not a lot of high pressure and always the possibility of a great opening. Visit our web page to see the HCRA results so far at: http://www.hcra.org/arrl_10m_2005.htm

See you at the meeting!

73... Jim, KK1W

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

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We Make House Calls!

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www.wemakehousecalls.biz

Computer Sales & Service
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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 or (413) 245-3228

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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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

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



Jacket Features: Windbreaker with nylon outer and cotton liner inside. Heavy nylon zipper, club logo on left chest with name and call on right chest (if desired).

Sizes: S, M, L, XL are \$29.00 each
XXL are \$31.00 each
XXXL are \$32.00 each

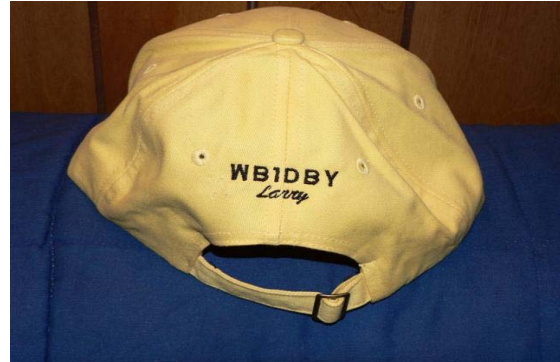


Short Sleeve Polo Shirt: Stone gray with club logo on left chest and call and name on right chest.

Sizes: S, M, L, XL: \$19.00 each
XXL: \$21.00 each
XXXL: \$22.00 each

HCRA CLOTHING

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Hat: Bright yellow with large club logo on front. Back has call and name. Hat has adjustable strap and fits all sizes.

Logo Only \$8.00

Logo with name and call on back: \$11.00

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!

Many placed orders at the Holiday Party in December. Now you have another chance. A second order will be placed after the January meeting.

If you won't be there and want to look sharp with the HCRA clothing, then **send a check payable to S & S** to:

Larry Krainson — WB1DBY, 100 Kenmore Drive, Longmeadow, MA 01106-2759.

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.

Orders must be in *before January 9th, 2006*. A deposit of at least 50% of the items you are ordering is required with the balance due upon delivery. All items will be delivered at the February meeting. If you are not there, then I'll contact you and make other arrangements for delivery.

For those that ordered in December, your order is in and will be at the January meeting. If you want them before the January meeting, please contact me to arrange pickup. See you then. 73's, Larry—WB1DBY

**HCRA Board Meeting
December 8, 2005**

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

Members present: Jim KK1W, Greg N1AEH, Dave KB1MU, John KB1LTC, Jim KB1JVF, Eric KB1JVI, John Kx1x, and Irv W6IS.

All in attendance deemed the Holiday Party a success. There was plenty of good food and good friends. The Eagle Scout ceremony was enjoyable, and congratulations to John Cain KB1 FTX on his achievement of Eagle Scout rank. The Ham Jeopardy game seemed to be a large hit. Gary AA1UE was again the winner. He will receive one year's membership for this achievement.

Vice President W6IS:

Due to time conflicts, there may be some shuffling of speakers for the Jan and Feb meetings. Irv has confirmed Bob LaFlamme for the January meeting. February is still open.

Treasurer N1AEH:

Current balance is \$4626.30. The raffle grossed \$252.00. Thanks to all who help monthly with these raffles. It does help with meeting place expenses.

Secretary KB1MU:

The current roster:	Courtesy:	9
	Family	24
	Life:	1
	Prospect:	31
	Regular:	102
	Sponsors:	1
	Venture Crew:	1

Program Kx1x:

Monthly meeting programs, except for February, are all set through September 2006. John will be contacting Steve Ford as a possibility for the February speaking engagement

Membership KB1LTC:

John is still working to contact all un-renewed 2005 members.

ZeroBeat Editor KB1JVI:

Deadline for January ZeroBeat is Dec 20. Hopefully the E-ZeroBeat addressing problem has been solved. Anyone who does not receive his or her copy of ZeroBeat (Electronic or USPS) should notify either Eric or Dave.

Technical N1JIO:

The licensing class held at Cooley Dickinson Hospital is complete. . Exams were held Dec 6 with 9 students passing their test. Of this one passed the general test, and one who passed CW also.

At Large KB1JVF:

Working with Eric KB1JVI on preliminary plans for Field Day.

Venture Crew Not Present:

Old Business:

The HCRA will participate in the ARRL Ten Meter contest to be held Dec 10/11. Please refer to the ARRL web site for details. Any club member can participate. Be sure to list "Hampden County Radio Assn." as your club affiliation. The tri-fold brochure has been updated and copies are being prepared for the VE sessions.

New Business:

Eric KB1JVI has agreed to be Field Day Chairman. Jim KB1JVF and John KB1LTC will be his assistants..

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Isham KB1MU Secretary.

On the Internet

<http://www.hcra.org>

Updated often to bring you timely Amateur news and info

Next Meeting:

Friday, January 7th, 2006

IRLP Node #7270

146.46 Mhz -- PL 114.8

A free service of HCRA

See www.hcra.org

Get Your Zero Beat Electronically each month

HCRA members can receive their monthly club newsletter in any or all of three ways!

First Class Mail, just like you always have. This costs HCRA approximately 75 cents per copy. This is one of the benefits of your membership with HCRA.

E-mail. If you would like to get on our e-mail list, just write eZB@hcra.org from the account that you wish to receive your copy from, and request that you join our list. HCRA respects your privacy and will not under any circumstances give your e-mail address to ANYONE.

WWW.HCRA.ORG. Our new web site carries the latest copies of Zero Beat. Just click and read.

NOTE 1: You will need Adobe Acrobat® installed on your computer to read electronic copies of Zero Beat. Just click the button on the WWW.HCRA.ORG website, and follow the directions to get your FREE copy of Adobe Acrobat®.

NOTE 2: There is a cost savings to the HCRA if you receive your Zero Beat electronically only. If you prefer to NOT receive your newsletter by First Class Mail, please contact Eric, KB1JVI, Dave, KB1MU, or Jim, KK1W, to be added to the eZB only list.

Get On The Air

(all times local)

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic Sys (NTS) Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Mondays	19:30	HCRA 10m Net	28.375
Wednesdays	19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link) (W1TOM)
	20:00	MTARA Swap net	
	(right after SWAP net)	N1RLX Memorial Simplex Net	Starts on 146.94, then moves to a simplex frequency
Thursdays	21:00	Northern CT Weather Net	146.79(-) PL 82.5 (except 2 nd week, on 147.000)

Club Meetings & Testing Sessions

1 st Friday of the month	19:30	HCRA Club Meeting	Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
3 rd Monday of January, April, July, and October			Amherst Machine KD1XP License Exams Amherst, MA
			Contact Richard, KD1XP, 413-665-2211 or 145.130 Repeater http://www.kd1xp.org
3 rd Friday of the month	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building

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

53.350 (-) PL 71.9 Amherst, MA
145.130 (-) PL 173.8 Amherst, MA

442.200 (+) PL 173.8 Deerfield, MA (near Greenfield)

443.700 (+) PL 71.9 Belchertown, MA

The next ham radio testing session will be on Tuesday December 6th. The new address is

*117 North Plain Road
Sunderland, MA*

*ALL test elements given. Contact Richard,
KD1XP at 665-2211 for details*

*Breakfast meetings every first Saturday of the month
at Bickfords in Northampton.
Talk in on the 145.130 repeater.*

Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Assn.

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
will be on Jan. 20th
Meeting topic: Understanding and Using Digital
Modes



QCWA Pioneer
Chapter #183

Schedule of
Events

Meeting January 21st, 2006 -- 11:30AM

CJ's Restaurant, Rte. 20, Palmer, MA

**The Hampden County Radio
Association's next meeting
FRIDAY, January 6th, 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 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

Items for sale

By Larry - WB1DBY

1. Rig Blaster Nomic - \$35.00 – barely has 10 hours of use. Excellent Condition.
2. MFJ – 1112 DC Power Distribution Panel - \$20.00 – mint condition, never used.
3. Kenwood MC-60 desk mic - excellent condition, original box. \$75.00

Contact: Larry – WB1DBY at 413-348-3289 or
wb1dby@comcast.net for more info.



HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts 01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL



www.hcra.org

Tips For Measuring Snowfall

During a snow storm, please report every 2 inches of new snowfall and if an inch of snow falls in an hour time span. Please pass on as a final report: Report any snow / sleet / freezing rain if not in NWS forecast.

The following are a few pointers and hints for accurately measuring snowfall. First, you will need a measuring device. A simple 12 inch plastic ruler is fine. (Hopefully, you will not need to use a yard stick this year!) The next step is to find a location in which the snow is least affected by drifting. A good place is the side of the house which is sheltered from the wind. The last step is to simply stick the stick in the ground and take a reading. Please measure the snow to the nearest quarter of an inch.

A couple of other suggestions are to take the average of a couple of readings since snowfall depths can vary greatly. Also, it is best to measure snow on a flat surface such as a patio or a board rather than the grass. The grassy surface can yield inaccurate readings, since it can hinder the snow from actually settling to the ground, especially if the flakes are large.

By: Copied from the web from Diane Innes