

HCRA Zero beat Oct. 2005

October, 2005



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



This Month's Meeting

Working K2BSA at Jambo '05

Join Mike, KB1FWN and John, Kx1x as they relate their adventures working on the K2BSA staff at the National BSA Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia

Welcome to Zero Beat!

Greetings everyone! This month is a little bit slower than last month, and hopefully the USPS will not delay this issue of ZB. Please let me know if there are any problems receiving it, as many people have told me well after the meeting that they did not receive their copy. There is also a copy on the website for viewing.

73's

KB1JVI Eric Richardson

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President's Corner

Jambo 2005!

Two of HCRA's own tell about their adventure



HCRA's October meeting will feature not one but two guest speakers. Join us this coming Friday and get ready to hear how amateur radio plays a big part in the Boy Scouts of America Jamboree. Our very own Mike, KB1FWN and John, Kx1x were part of K2BSA/4 at Ft. A.P. Hill this year. Mike and John will have an interesting audio/video presentation of the excitement of Jamboree. As I'm sure many are aware, John and Mike were invited to Virginia this

year to help with instruction and station operation. John has been very active in all aspects of scouting for many years. Mike, an active scout and also a member of Venture Crew DX (510) was one of the youngest scouts ever to be part of K2BSA. I'm sure this will be an interesting presentation.

October is also 'Sign-up month'. Renew by the end of the evening and you could go home the lucky winner of an Icom HT. Also on hand will be our usual raffle, coffee and donuts and the best group of hams in the Pioneer Valley. Tech Corner will be off this month, returning after the auction. Don't forget to bring a friend, everyone is always welcome at an HCRA meeting.

Ham Radio & R/C Airplanes?

Electrics are stealing the show!



NEAT Fair - 2005

frequencies to use then amateur frequencies? Many of the serious flyers have become hams so they can take advantage of the ham bands. These bands offer better immunity from interference and less crowding than the standard channels.

Now on to the meet. Hams should really be interested in how the R/C hobby is progressing towards electric power instead of fossil fuel. Ten years ago electric R/C aircraft were usually underpowered gliders that flew reasonably well but to many were unexciting. Walking into the NEAT show the first aircraft I saw in the sky was performing a precision aerobatics routine as well as any gas powered plane I had ever seen. During the day I witnessed airplanes with wingspans from 12 inches to 12 feet, helicopters and even a flying boat (an actual boat, not a plane with floats!). All performed extremely well, didn't pollute or require cleaning after landing and most of all were extremely quiet.

Behind all these advances in performance are many things. Motors have improved with many flyers using electronically controlled brushless motors. Battery technology has increased dramatically with NiMH and now LiPO (Lithium Polymer) batteries are delivering power densities unheard of just five years ago. Add to that new aircraft design and changes in construction materials and you have a hobby that's changing as rapidly as our ham radio hobby does. Here's a hobby you don't need to study for another test, is fun, gets you out of the house but still gives you reasons to spend time in the shop too. The advent of ARF (Almost Ready to Fly), the new slow 'Park Flyers' that are easy to learn, withstand abuse and can be flown in a small field make learning to fly R/C airplanes more fun than ever. Prices are dropping too, so what are you waiting for???

Are You Ready for an Auction?

It's time to get your stuff together.

November 5th heralds the return of the HCRA auction. Our annual auction, like Field Day, is one of HCRA's signature events. It has continued to grow every year. The auction offers a great opportunity for sellers, buyers and our club to have our homegrown eBay.



the perfect place to acquire the necessary parts for your Show & Tell project next year. On the auction block you will find everything you could think of and then some. Looking back on past auctions, here's a few items I remember: amplifiers, amplifier kits, transceivers, boxes of tubes, software, computer stuff, oscilloscopes, boxes of parts, more tubes, boat anchor radios, test equipment and tons of other stuff too. Most of all, tons of fun for everyone involved.

HCRA has been very fortunate to fund our club the generous donations given to us at the auction. If you have something you're just too embarrassed to put your call on, donate it HCRA. We're not proud and don't mind selling it for any price. If you know of anyone wanting to get rid of some old radio stuff in the basement ask them to call me. Like the popular slogan of a rental car company, "We'll pick it up!"

Here's the rules (simplified). You mark your stuff, bring it to the auction we sell it and keep 10% (up to \$10 max). It doesn't sell, you bring it home. Simple enough?

So now's the time to start putting aside all the stuff you've accumulated since last year and bring it out November 4th. It's OK to bring the same stuff you bought last year too! Please mark your treasures with your name & call (if you have one) and a minimum selling price and we do the rest.



Another highlight of the auction is the raffle prize. It's always a nice one, and this year it's even better. For a donation of \$1 (or a book of six for \$5) you could go home the lucky winner of a Yaesu VX-7R tri-band HT or other great prizes.

The Grand Prize

Anyone that would like to help with set-up or organization of the 'products' on auction night please give me a call or drop me an email. As Kx1x would say, fun is.... The HCRA auction

Last Chance to Win

Renew or join before the end of tonight's meeting.



Don't forget, it's renewal time at HCRA. As we've done in past years, renew by the end of Friday's meeting you will be put in the drawing for a chance to win an Icom IC2-TH HT worth \$100. It's our way of saying thank you for your promptness. When you renew early we save money on efforts trying to get you back. Everyone becomes a winner! A handy application form is printed in this month's Zero Beat or you can download and print one from our web site.

See you at the meeting!

'73... Jim, KK1W

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

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www.wemakehousecalls.biz

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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

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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

“Please allow me to introduce myself...”

from Membership Director- John, KB1LTC

Hello to all!

Now that the club meetings have begun, I'd like to introduce (or re-introduce) myself to you. My name is John Lenville (I'm the guy with the hair and my friends call me Johnny), and I'm the new Membership Director here at the Hampden County Radio Association.

It's my job to attract new members to our club as well as introduce our hobby to new prospective hams. Now don't miss-understand me, it's not that our membership numbers are low, it's just that we could always use, and would certainly welcome more members. Not to mention, as many of you have said yourselves, we (the ham community) need more, younger amateurs to pass the torch on to.

Obviously, I can't do all this by myself. So I'm asking for your help. Almost everyone knows someone who might be even just a little bit interested in what Amateur Radio is all about, right? Especially if they really knew the role that Amateur Radio played in the Hurricane Katrina disaster! I know I don't need to mention all the facets and features of the hobby because you already know... That's why you became a ham! Explain some of the great things that can be done through Amateur Radio to someone who's not a ham. Spread the word! All of us hams like to talk about the hobby and ourselves anyway (I know I do!), so bring it up at the social event you might go to. Put an ARRL, BPL or some other ham-related bumper sticker on your car. Don't like stickers on your car? Then how about a Field Day or other pin on your coat? Sooner or later someone is going to ask about it! Invite someone over to your shack and show him or her what it's like to operate and how exciting it is to make a DX contact! You get the idea.

Also, if every member of the H.C.R.A. brought a friend with them to just one meeting, I'm quite confident that it would spark some more interest, and possibly result in more members. Therefore, I challenge each of you to bring at least just one friend to at least just one meeting sometime this season and show them that we aren't quite as geeky as they think! (Hi-Hi)

Well, thanks for listening and if anyone has any suggestions, please don't hesitate to let me know!

73! John Lenville – KB1LTC

Grand Raffle Prize

Yaesu VX-7R

Tri-band HT w/extended RX



AUCTION

November 4th !!!

Turn your old 'stuff' into

- **Set-up at 6:30 PM**
- **Auction starts at 7:30 PM**
- **Win a Yaesu VX-7R HT!**
- **Coffee & Donuts!**
- **Lots of bargains!**



Contact Jim, KK1W, for details - 413-245-3228 or kk1w@arrl.net

Auction held at:

Feeding Hills Congregational Church
21 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Just North of Dunkin' Donuts at the
intersection of routes 57 and 187

Talk-in on the 146.94 repeater



AUCTION RULES:

Amateur radio or computer related items only.

Mark all items with name/call and minimum acceptable bid.

Items without minimum will sell at any price!

10% of selling price goes to the HCRA.

**HCRA Board Meeting
September 15, 2005**

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

Members present: Jim KK1W, Greg N1AEH, Dave KB1MU, John KB1LTC, John N1JIO, Jim KB1JVF, Eric KB1JVI, John Kx1x, and Irv W6IS.

Vice President W6IS:

The "missing" coffee pot is actually at the church, and has been there since after Field Day.

Raffle prizes for Oct, Nov, and Dec are all set.

The club inventory list has not been updated recently. KB1MU will distribute copies of the current list to all board members and individuals who have equipment on the list.

Treasurer N1AEH:

Current balance is \$2825.00. The monthly raffle grossed \$218.00

Secretary KB1MU:

The current roster:	Courtesy:	8
	Life:	1
	Prospect:	22
	General members:	148
	Sponsors:	1
	Venture Crew:	8
count.)	Not yet renewed members (included in general membership	67

Dave will; file the state required annual report online.

In an attempt to reduce club expenses, all members who checked "both" and have valid e-mail addresses will be sent ZeroBeat by e-mail only.

Program Kx1x:

Speakers are all set through Jan 2006, and have possible speakers for remainder of the year.

Membership KB1LTC:

The board decided that the ARRL membership bonus program was not an advantage to the club. It would require another person to keep the records, and little financial

Dickinson Hospital. Second set will be in mid Feb in Longmeadow

At Large KB1JVF:

The special event station at Westfield Air show went well. Due to antenna restrictions total contacts were low, but all had a good time. Jim's info table was a large hit, despite many encounters with wind gusts.

Venture Crew:

Not present.

Old Business:

The Special Services Status of the HCRA has been renewed. This is required every second year.

New Business:

Big E

Due to the fact that the club can obtain no more than four tickets per day, it was decided to not participate in the Big E as a club. Members are invited and encouraged to participate as individuals.

Holiday Party chairman, John Kx1x has volunteered to chair the annual holiday party. During the party we will have a ceremony celebrating KB1FTX's achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout.

The HCRA will be participating this year as a club in annual Ten Meter Contest.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Isham KB1MU Secretary.

On the Internet

<http://www.hcra.org>

Updated often to bring you timely Amateur news and info

Next Meeting:

Friday, September 9th, 2005

Have a great Summer!!!

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, Steve, N1SR, 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 162.2 Deerfield, MA (near Greenfield)

443.450 (+) PL 173.8 Leyden, MA (near Greenfield)

The next ham radio testing session will be on Monday, October 17th. 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

Meetings on the

3rd Friday of the Month, 7:30

Red Cross Building, Cottage St., Spfld

Next Meeting, unknown as of press time

**Meetings are held at the
Red Cross Building**



QCWA Pioneer
Chapter #183

Schedule of
Events

Meeting October 8th - 11:30AM

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

Speaker: Mr. Guy McLain, Director of the CT Valley
Historical Museum

Subject: History of Transportation in New England

Guests welcome.

Contact: Pat Smith, N1CET (413) 566-3966

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

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

**The Hampden County Radio
Association's next meeting
FRIDAY, Oct 7th.**

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

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.

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

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts 01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL



Special Service Events

Head of the Charles Regatta

Times are: Friday, Oct. 21st, noon-6:30pm

Saturday, Oct, 22nd, 8am-6:30pm

Sunday, Oct, 23rd, 7am-5:30pm

Please contact Jeffrey Arnold, at RWJeffA@comcast.net with your name, call sign, home address, home phone and cell phone number, day available, land or water station, and jacket size.