



Our 56th Year

Zero Beat

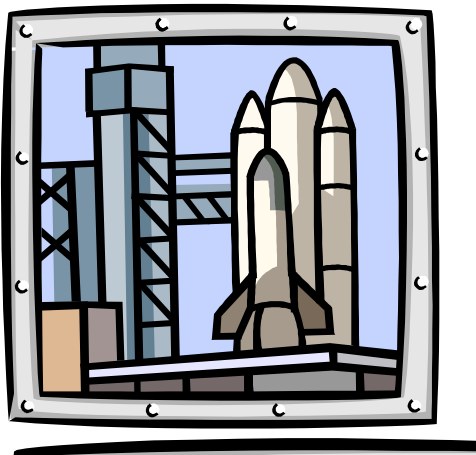


A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

<http://www.hcra.org>

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

April, 2002



Join Us on

Friday, April 5th

for the next

Hampden County Radio Assn. Meeting

Our Guest Speaker will be

Mike Lantzakis

Mike will be talking about the Space Shuttle,
the space station, and the
next generation space shuttle

Friday evening at the Movies

Come early to see an ARRL video on
SAREX, Shuttle Amateur Radio
Experiment

Doors Open at 7:PM



For Up-To-Date HCRA News and Information, remember to visit the HCRA Club Website

<http://www.hcra.org>

If you haven't been there TODAY, then it has probably changed since the last time you visited!

In this months edition

President's Corner.....	Page 2
HCRA Contact Sheet	Page 3
Many Reasons to Get On-The-Air	Page 4
eZB	Page 5
SkyWarn Criteria & Classes	Page 5
Notes from Venture Crew 510.....	Page 6
Show and Tell Results	Page 7
HCRA Annual Officer Elections	Page 8
June Meeting, Tailgate Party	Page 8
HCRA Board Meeting Minutes	Page 9

President's

Corner



New Contest Comes to New England

A new contest is coming this May. Called the New England QSO Party (NEQP) it replaces the individual state QSO parties of past years. The new contest combines all those into one BIG QSO party. It will be held the first weekend of May. The dates this year will be May 4th and 5th. Tom Frenaye, K1KI and Bob Hess, W1RH have been instrumental in getting this new one going. It looks like a fun contest and one that even has rover possibilities to activate the rarer New England counties.

They are looking for clubs to sponsor a special plaque for top scorers. The HCRA board has decided to sponsor a plaque for "highest score in Hampden County" Wouldn't it be nice if that plaque ended up in an HCRA members shack this year?

For more information about the NEQP contest, detailed rules, lists of New England counties with maps and ham population, point your browser to: <http://www.neqp.org>. Let's all get behind this "New England" contest and help make it a winner.

Field Day 2002



I know, seems you saw this same thing, in the same place last month. Well, not to worry, you'll probably see something about Field Day 2002 from now until the September issue!

So what's new this month you ask? What's new is the outpouring of volunteers to participate with this year's Field Day. For a detailed list, go to:

<http://www.hcra.org/Fieldday.htm> and see how many have already made commitments to the event. But don't despair, there's room for lots more. The worst that can happen is we get so many volunteers we need to add stations. Is that a bad thing?

We're going to be at Dufresne Park again this year, but expect a lot changes and additions. Two new towers, more beams, more digital modes, networked logging and perhaps even a fancy Saturday night meal are in the works. So don't wait until the last minute to toss your hat into the ring. The earlier you let us know the better we can plan to make this Field Day a 'field day to remember'! Anyone want to start your "anti-rain dance" now? That's one thing we could really use help with!

Contact any HCRA board member or anyone on the FD list and we will be sure to find a place for you!

To eQSL or not to eQSL...

Since this club is quite involved with HF, DX, contests and awards I'm wondering what you think about the ongoing battle between the ARRL and eQSL. There seems to be a bit of divergence between the ARRL's and the ham communities opinions of this important issue. I'd like to know your thoughts and even more importantly, if you have a strong opinion either way about the issue. It would be good to communicate those opinions to the ARRL. We can't expect the ARRL to act in our behalf if we don't relate our thoughts and opinions BEFORE decisions are made. I will be asking this question at this



month's general meeting and am very interested in your opinions. For more information see the articles at www.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/03/07/100/?nc=1 and www.eqsl.cc/qslcard/DXCCInfo.cfm

The IRLP Project

Things are progressing rapidly on this front. The interface card has been ordered, the site is secured, the PC has is on line and ready to go. Gary, AA1UE, generously donated \$50 at the last club meeting towards our purchase of a link radio. The link radio is about the last item left for us to purchase and that donation will go a long way in helping to make it happen. Soon the interface card will be received & installed, the radio hooked up and software loaded. At that point we should be up an running! And yes, you really will be able to 'talk around the world' with your HT, almost like you used to read in old science fiction novels!



Nodes have been added in the last few weeks in the US, Australia and South Africa and more are coming on line daily. Get ready to have world wide communications, radio to radio, no matter what the solar flux index is today. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

Anyone who would like to get involved with the project, whether helping with software, antenna installation, radio interfacing - whatever. Just contact John, Kx1X or myself and we will gladly make you a part of this interesting project.

This Month's Guest Speaker



Mark Lantzakis, WB1HKE from Hamilton Sundstrand will be here April 5th. Mark is a long time employee and will be discussing the challenges of designing equipment for the shuttle, space station and second generation launch vehicles. Mark will have a multi-media presentation including a mock-up of a space suit. If you're interested in space, show up early and bring your curiosity! In addition, there will be an ARRL video running detailing ham in space and SAREX missions.

Plan on being at the next meeting to learn all about the USA's contributions to humanities expansion into space.

As always, in addition to a great presentation, there will be coffee & donuts, great raffle prizes and a fun get together with all our members. See you there!

June Tail Gate Party (& Bake Sale?)

Don't forget June 7th. It's a very important date. Not only is it our annual elections, but also the 2nd Annual HCRA Tail Gate party. In addition, I've heard talk of a bake sale. Last year's was fun, and with the new parking lot, lots more spaces and still free admission for buyers this year's should be even better. (sellers only \$5/space) See Dave, KB1MU to reserve a spot or volunteer to help.

Until next month... '73...Jim, KK1W



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HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

President	Jim Mullen, KK1W	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com
Vice-President	Larry Smith, K1ILZ		kilzncet@aol.com
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH(860)	668-5143	gstoddard@rcn.com
Secretary	Dave Isham, KB1MU	(413) 596-6605	kb1mu@charter.net

HCRA DIRECTORS

At Large	Larry Krainson, WB1DBY	(413) 567-3505	wb1dby@arrl.net
Program	Irv Slitzky, W6IS	(413) 565-5222	w6is1@juno.com
Membership	Norm Gregoire, W1BMK		normgreg@aol.com
Newsletter	John Pise, Kx1x	(413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net
Technical	Stan Bates, N1INB		

STATION TRUSTEES

W1NY Trustee	Don Johnson, W1UPH	(413) 566-3560	(let it ring) wluph2@juno.com
WB1HOF Trustee	Jim Mullen, KK1W	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Emerg Coord	Dave Isham, KB1MU	(413) 596-6605	kb1mu@charter.net
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BSA VENTURE CREW 510

Youth President	Andy Jensen, KB1FVL		andypj2@aol.com
Adult Advisor	John Pise, Kx1x	(413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net
Adult Advisor	Dan Shea, N1OE		WBEagle87@aol.com
Adult Advisor	Biff Simpson, AA1DI		biff@map.com

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ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • DENVER, CO • OAKLAND, CA
PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR • SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA

CONTEST CORNER

Missouri QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 6 to 0500Z, Apr 7 and 1800Z to 2400Z, Apr 7
TARA Spring Wakeup PSK31 Rumble	0000Z –2400Z Apr 20
Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 20 to 0400Z, Apr 21
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 20 to 1800Z, Apr 21
Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 27 to 0159Z, Apr 28 and 1200Z to 2159Z, Apr 28
Nebraska QSO Party	1700Z, Apr 27 to 1700Z, Apr 28
Indiana QSO Party	1300Z, May 4 to 0500Z, May 5
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5 and 1100Z to 2400Z, May 5
Nevada QSO Party	0000Z, May 11 to 0600Z, May 12
Oregon QSO Party	1400Z, May 11 to 0200Z, May 12
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 11 to 1200Z, May 12
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 11 to 0300Z, May 12
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 25 to 2400Z, May 26

Get On The Air

(all times local)

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic System (NTS) Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Mondays	19:30	HCRA 10m Net	28.375
Tuesdays	19:30	Slow Scan TV (SSTV) Net	145.130 (PL 71.9hz) (KD1XP)
Wednesdays	19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link) (W1TOM)
	20:00	MTARA Swap net	
	20:30	MTARA Tech net	
Thursdays	21:00	Weather Net	2 nd Week of the Month 147.09 Every other week 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, <i>April</i> , July, and October		KD1XP License Exams	Amherst Machine Amherst, MA
		Contact Richard, KD1XP, 413-665-2211 or 145.130 Repeater	
		http://www.kd1xp.8k.com	
3 rd Friday of the month	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA
		http://www.mtara.org	
4 th Friday of the month	18:00	MTARA License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke
		Contact Dave, WA1DC, WA1DC@pipeline.com	
4 th Sunday of the month	19:00	NOBARC club meeting	Pittsfield MA (146.91 for talk-in)

W1NY ON THE AIR

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!!!

Get Your Zero Beat Electronically each month

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

- 1) *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.*
- 2) *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.*
- 3) *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 John, Kx1x, Dave, KB1MU, or Jim, KK1W, to be added to the eZB only list.

SKYWARN CRITERIA

de Eric, N1QKO - Asst. Skywarn Coordinator, WMA
Here are the criteria that we will be looking for
this summer
when a SKYWARN net is activated.

A GUIDE FOR REPORTING SEVERE WEATHER

Tornadoes / funnel clouds (be wary of look a likes)

Wall clouds, especially if they are rotating

Any hail (be specific to size)

DO NOT USE "MARBLE SIZE" TO DESCRIBE SIZE

Winds (40 mph or greater, estimated or recorded)

Damaging gusts (50mph or greater)

Trees and power lines down. Large limbs down

Structural damage to buildings, windows broken

Rainfall:

1 inch or greater in 1 hour

2 inches or greater storm total

Flash flooding:

Streams / rivers -also when nearing bank full

Coastal/ Street

PROCEDURES for calling into local net

Identify yourself with your call and name

Be BRIEF in your observation, Include:

WHAT was observed

WHEN it was observed

WHERE it was observed

Include direction & distance from a known location

Some things to remember during a net:

When calling from your town. Please specify if in Ma. or Ct.

Don't relay reports that you here on repeaters in other coverage areas

Don't relay info from the WEATHER CHANNEL

Don't relay information you hear on a scanner

WE WANT YOUR OBSERVATIONS!

After the storm has passed your location. DO NOT tell net control the storm has passed. Please stay off the air so that reports east of you can be taken. We don't need a summary of what has already happened. Please remember your safety during severe weather!



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

A series of local Skywarn training for the area has been announced. As more are confirmed we will post them right here.

Place:

Southwick, MA 06 April 2002 Sat.
Town Hall Offices Auditorium 1200 to 1500 EST
454 College Highway Ma. (host Southwick Emerg.
Rt 10 U.S. 202 Southwick, Ma. Managmnt Agency)

Place:

American Red Cross 23 April 2002
NH West Chapter House 1830 to 2130 EST
Court Street
Keene, NH

Place:

Red Cross Chapter 25 April 2002
Carriage House 1900 to 2200 EST
1800 Elm St.
Manchester, NH

Place:

Walpole, MA 09 May 2002 Thursday
Walpole Town Hall 1900 to 2200 EST

Place:

Warwick, RI 28 May 2002 Tuesday
Tollgate High School (Cafeteria) 1900 to 2200 EST
05/28/2002 7-10PM Tollgate High School (Cafeteria)



BSA Venture Crew 510

NE1C - New England's #1 Crew

BSA Venture Crew is chartered by the Hampden County Radio Association



Visit Crew DX's 100% youth designed website: <http://www.qsl.net/crewdx>

Crew and Canoes, notes from Venture CrewDX de Kx1x

This month, Venture Crew 510 returned to an active schedule with three events: CoSponsoring a table at the Mount Tom Amateur Repeater Association's Flea Market, conducting a net during the Simulated Emergency Test (SET), and a public service event at the Scantic Spring Splash canoe race.

Along with HCRA, members handed out information and talked up the club and crew to anyone who would listen. Crew T-shirts were also sold. Thanx to Steve (KB1GHC), John (KB1FTX), Allan (KB1HUM), Jeff (KB1GJR), Brian, and Dave (AA1YW) for their help with this event.

The crew formed a net, and relayed information back to the strategic coordinators during the SET held on March 23rd by ARES and RACES. Steve, KB1GHC, was net control for the NE1C crew net. Others will take turns in coming SETs as NCS, a good training effort for if/when a real emergency requires trained communicators.

On Saturday, March 30th, Venture Crew DX participated in their first of many public service events, the Scantic Spring Splash, a canoe race on the Scantic River. Along with other area hams, the crew members helped with administrative coordination using their communication skills, HTs, and the 147.000 repeater. John, KB1FTX and Erik, KB1FSU helped man the starting line, while Crew President Andy, KB1FVL, and Mike, KB1FWN, played a safety role at the start of the rapids near the finish line. Allan, KB1HUM, and Steve, KB1GHC, spotted and reported canoes and kayaks, and called ahead to warn those at the finish line of coming racers.

In keeping with their worthwhile and energetic schedule, the crew will be participating in a Skywarn class, and will be encouraged to check into SkyWarn nets, as appropriate.

Once again, I would like to thank the membership of the Hampden County Radio Association for their invaluable help, encouragement, knowledge, and acceptance, without which BSA Venture Crew 510 (DX) would not exist. The future of our great hobby rests in the hands of the youth. You, the membership of HCRA are doing your part to keep the future bright! We look forward to your continuing help, and look forward to your continuing to share the wealth of your knowledge.

'73 de John, Kx1x, Proud Advisor of CrewDX

BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

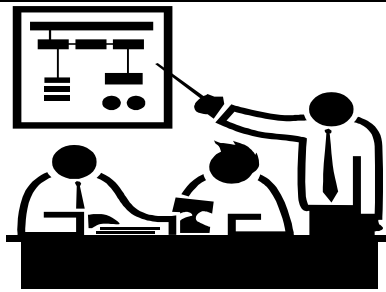
4/5	HCRA Club Meeting/ Crew Meeting ½ hr. (7:PM)
4/6	SkyWarn Class, @ 12:NOON, Southwick Town Hall Offices Auditorium
4/25	Crew Meeting, Pioneer Valley Council Office, 7:PM
5/3	HCRA Club Meeting
5/23	Crew Meeting, Pioneer Valley Council Office, 7:PM
5/31, 6/1&2	Webelos Woods Weekend-- W1W Special Event Station at Camp Moses
6/21,22,23	Field Day '02



On the left, KB1HUM, KB1GHC, and KB1FTX work the table at the MTARA flea market.

On the right, crew members pose for a picture after a public service event at the Scantic Spring Splash canoe race.





What a success!



I'd like to thank everyone for making the 1st Annual HCRA Show & Tell a fantastic success. We had many entries, eight of which competed for prizes in the novice and expert categories. Winners in the Novice category were Ernie, KB1FFK garnering first place with his demonstration of homebrew indoor antennas, John, KB1FTX with a home built skeleton sleeve J-Pole antenna took second place and Mike, KB1FWN got third place with a demonstration of SETI@home.

In the expert category Juergen, DK1TM/W 1 took home first place with a nicely written and well documented program for controlling an FT-817, followed closely by Chet, W1HGJ with a homebrew and professionally built spectrum analyzer. Third Place went to Peter, KI1I for a nicely constructed repeater controller.

I would also like to offer a special thanks for the hams who brought items to show but because of time constraints offered to wait until next year and bring them out again. Thanks folks, it did turn into an long but fun evening and your good natured decision is yet another example of why our meetings are so much fun.

George, K1ANX had a well prepared showing of BC-348's, one a Russian copy, that really drew a lot of interest and Ed White had a neat 1920's transmitter he just constructed last month! All in all it was a great time, plenty good enough to warrant a 2nd annual event next year!

APRS WX NET / Citizen Weather Observer Program

The Hams commitment to public service is well known for helping to coordinate responses to severe weather. One such contribution is the APRSWXNET/Citizen Weather Observer Program (CWOP) which routinely relay meteorological observations to the National Weather Service. The data is sent to Forecast Systems Laboratory (FSL) in Boulder, CO, and used to improve surface analysis and short term forecasts. It would be great to get some data from Massachusetts to help with the limited data in Central New England.

I provide some links for their information:

1. APRSWXNET CWOP Info and Registration Page on FINDU Server: <http://www.findu.com/citizenweather/>
2. CWOP Info Page at the National Hurricane Center (NHC): Free APRSWXNET Lite link on page used to send data

<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/CWOP-Main.html>

3. FSL MADIS MESONET Display Page: Choose APRSWXNET Data to see CWOP observations

<http://www-frd.fsl.noaa.gov/mesonet/>

4. CWOP Quality Assurance Page: <http://www.peakpeak.com/~kb0tvj/>
5. FINDU Server Graphical CWOP Plots: My observations depicted
<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=CW0351&last=36>

If you have any questions, please contact me,
Dave Helms, CW0351
<http://dhelms.mystarband.net/wx.html>

HCRA 2002/2003 Annual Election

The June meeting is the one that next year's officers and board members are elected for another term. If you would like to be considered for a position within the HCRA, please notify any board member with your desire. We entertain any and all people for any position, pursuant to the HCRA Constitution.

Here is a list of proposed members desiring election or re-election for the upcoming year:

Position	Nominee
At-Large	Larry Krainson, WB1DBY
Program	
Membership	Norm Gregoire, W1BMK
Technical	Stan Bates, N1INB
ZeroBeat Editor	John Pise, KX1X
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
Secretary	Dave Isham, KB1MU
Vice President	Irv Slitzsky, W6IS
President	Jim Mullen, KK1W

Thanks to Larry, K1ILZ for stepping in and filling the VP position for the remainder of the year. Irv has decided to seek the VP position next year, leaving an opening for a program director. Do you think you have could help the HCRA out with this position?

Many of the members running for re-election would be happy to vacate or change positions to allow a new face and new ideas to join. It's been said many times, any club is only as good as the desire and activities of its members. The HCRA is growing and exciting for exactly those reasons. If you feel you can help with this growth, let us know now and we will get you on the slate.

Thanks and don't forget to show up at the June meeting to vote your choice for 2003. de Jim, KK1W

Buyers
Free Admission!
Cheep!




TAIL GATE PARTY

June 7th !!!

Clean out the garage now!

- Set-up at 5:30 PM • Lots of bargains!
- Starts at 6:00 PM • Coffee & Donuts!
- Ends at dusk • Selling Space \$5



Raffle Prizes
Good Deals
Bake Sale

For more details and a map, visit us on the web at:
<http://www.hcra.org/auction.htm>

Contact Dave, KB1MU, for details - 413-594-6831 or kb1mu@charter.net



Being held at:
Hampden County Radio Association
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
21 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Just North of Dunkin' Donuts at the intersection of routes 57 and 159.
Talk-in on the 146.94 repeater

RULES:

Amateur radio or computer related items only.
Seller space only \$5

FREE ADMISSION

If it doesn't sell - you bring it home!

CQ FIELD DAY
W1NY FIELD DAY
June 21, 22, 23, 2002
Dufresne Park, Granby, MA



HCRA is looking for operators, setup helpers, tear-down operators, cooks, and whatever else you'd like to help with!

We will be at Dufresne Park in Granby, MA, again this year. Dufresne Park is a family oriented park, with fishing (stocked pond), playscape, hiking, and overnight camping. (and modern, indoor facilities)

If you can help with 1 hour, 48 hours, or any number in between we can use your help! Please contact Larry (WB1DBY) with band requests, or any other board member for information.

HCRA board Meeting Mar 7 2002

Held at the home of Irv Slitzky W6IS

Members present Irv W6IS, Larry K1LZ, Larry WB1DBY, Norm W1BMK, Jim KK1W, Dave KB1MU, Mike KB1FWN, Stan N1INB, and John Kx1x.

REPORTS:

Vice President K1LZ: The board agreed that the HCRA inventory list should be posted on the club web site.

Treasurer N1AEH: Not present

Secretary KB1MU: The mailing address of the club call W1NY has be changed to the club PO Box. This will make the handling of QSL's easier. Don Johnson, W1UPH, will continue to be the trustee.

Current club membership is 99 Total. The breakdown is as follows.

Regular	76	
Family	10	
Venture	10	
Life	3	
Courtesy	7	(Courtesy are non members such as ARRL officials and area clubs.) These are not counted as members.

Program W6IS: With help from Larry WB1DBY, Irv will try to get some biographical info on the April speaker. Irv will obtain the prizes for the April raffle.

Membership W1BMK: Norm has sent letters to the area newly licensed amateurs, but no inquiries have been received back.

ZeroBeat Kx1x: Cutoff date for articles is Mar 23.

Technical N1INB: Stan will be responsible for the design of new QSL card and eyeball cards.

At Large WB1DBY: Plans are progressing on the Mt. Washington, etc bus trip. Larry is waiting for a return call from the weather observatory personnel

Venture crew. KB1FWN The venture crew will be helping with the club table at the MTARA Flea market. Also in their plans is communications for the Scantic Spring Splash canoe race.

Old business: IRLP project. The interface hardware has not yet been ordered. A computer has been donated by Carole WA1LGU. John, Kx1x has installed the linux software. The club has received a total of \$140.00 in donations for this project. There is a possibility this system may be operational as early as late April.

New business: Dave KB1MU has agreed to chair the June Tailgate party.

Field Day Plans for this event are progressing. A plan for antenna placement will be generated. A replacement boom for the club owned 15 meter monoband beam will be obtained. Ernie KB1FFK has agreed to help with this task. An acknowledgement from the Granby Selectmen has confirmed our reservations for Dufrense Park. As expected the rates for the field will be \$25.00 per day higher this year.

A preliminary slate of officers for the next year was discussed. Most officers will remain in their current position. Irv W6IS will run for Vice President. This will leave an open space for a program director.

Respectfully submitted David W. Isham KB1MU

This month:

Hampden County Radio Association's

Club Meeting will be on Friday

April 5th, 2002

At 7:30 p.m. at the

Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Doors open at 7:00 PM

Hope to see you there!

In case of inclement weather, tune to TV Channels 22 or 40,
or the 146.94 and 147.105 repeaters.

Meeting cancellation information will be given out by 6:00 PM.

HCRA

P.O. Box 562

Agawam, Massachusetts

01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

This Month's Meeting, Friday, April 5th:

*Space Exploration and Experimentation
Past & Present*