



ZERO BEAT

A Publication of the
Hampden County Radio Association
<http://www.hcra.org>

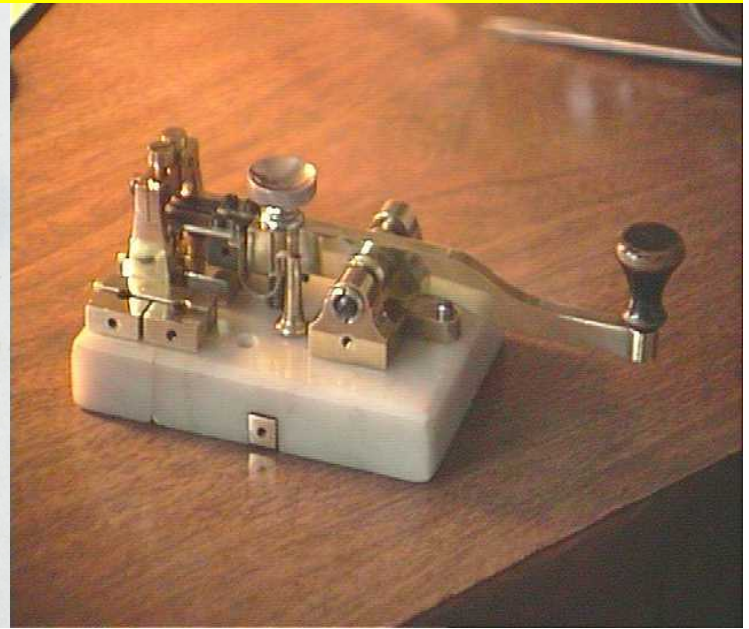


APRIL 2008

Next Meeting:

Friday, April 4, 2008 at 7:30pm

Guest Speaker: Harold Kramer, WJ1B



Harold Kramer, WJ1B, will be visiting us with his CW key collection. Here's a brief biography:

Harold Kramer of Cheshire, CT joined the ARRL as Chief Operating Officer in February 2005. Harold was the Vice President for Business Development and Education at Connecticut Public Broadcasting, Inc. in Hartford. He holds an A.A.S. degree in Electronic Technology from The University of Hartford and a B.A. in English and M.A. in Education from the University of Connecticut. On the Amateur Radio side he is a lifelong ham with his principal focus on emergency communications, an ARRL Life Member and the former Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator for Cheshire, CT. His FCC assigned call sign is WJ1B. He is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Hartford where he teaches an introductory course in electricity and electronics.

HCRA Board Meeting: March 11, 2008

Members present: Larry WB1DBY, John KI1A, Ed KB1NWH, Dave AA1YW, George KC1V, Jim KB1JVF, and Dave KB1MU

President- Jim Harrington KB1JVF

Show and Tell went well, with seven presenters, 5 novice, and two experts.

No progress on possible events such as: information booth at the fly-in operated by the new Pioneer Valley Military and Transportation Museum, an information booth at the Great New England Airshow

Vice President- Dave Cain, AA1YW

Dave is working on raffle prizes.

Treasurer- George Collins KC1V

Club balance as of March 11 was \$5050.68. The March raffle netted \$186.00. The Feeding Hills Church has been paid for the use of the hall. Other expenses paid include, HRO gift certificates (show and Tell), and raffle prizes. for Jan and at least Dec meetings.

Secretary- Dave Isham KB1MU

The 2008 Annual Report for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been filed. One new member has been processed, and two complaints of "no ZeroBeat" are being investigated. Current membership status is:

Courtesy	7	
Family	27	
Life	2	
Prospect		3
Regular	103	
Venture Crew	2	
Total	145	

At Large- Ed LaCombe KB1NWH

Ed and Larry WB1DBY have been working to setup a "Get On The Air" class. This class would help new hams (or inactive Hams) learn the procedures and equipment involved in simple VHF repeater operations.

Ed has agreed to take over the currently vacant position of Membership Director.

Program- Johnny Lenville KI1A

John is working on speakers for the months of May and June. If any members have speaker suggestions, feel free to mention them to John.

Technical- John Stark, N1JIO

Not Present

Membership- Ed LaCombe KB1NWH

Newly appointed.

ZB Editor- Larry Krainson, WB1DBY

Report- Content needed for ZeroBeat

Old Business

The 20-meter Telrex beam needs to be replaced. George KC1V will investigate replacing this antenna.

New Business: Future Planning.

Currently no new business

HCRA 10m Net

Join NCS, Tom Doyle (n1muv),
each Monday night at 7:30 PM (local) on

28.375 MHz

Get the latest local word, join good friends,
take part in good conversation each week!!!
Anyone can join in, don't be shy!!!

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 Kx1x, Node #7270, South Hadley, MA.

For a list of IRLP nodes and other IRLP information, go to:
<http://www.irlp.net/>

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 Johnny, Ki1A at
Ki1A@comcast.net or (413) 543-9367

Zero Beat Contributions: Anything of interest is welcome.

Please submit your ideas, articles and more to
wb1dby@comcast.net. Thank you,
Larry, WB1DBY, Zero Beat Editor

*Questions, Comments, and Suggestions
Can Be Directed To:*

HCRA OFFICERS

President

Jim Harrington, KB1JVF
(413) 862-3230 jldhjr@verizon.net

Vice-President

Dave Cain, AA1YW
(413) 569-6801 aa1yw@arrl.net

Treasurer

Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
(860) 668-5143 gstoddard@rcn.com

Secretary

Dave Isham, KB1MU
(413) 596-6605 kb1mu@charter.net

HCRA DIRECTORS

At Large

Ed Lacombe, KB1NWH
(413) 250-3137 kb1nwh@comcast.net

Program

Johnny Lenville, KI1A
(413) 543-9367 ki1a@comcast.net

Membership

George Collins, KC1V
(860) 749-2701 kc1v@arrl.net

Zero Beat

Larry Krainson, WB1DBY
(413) 567-3505 wb1dby@comcast.net

Technical

John Stark, N1JIO
(413) 747-8169 n1jio_qrp@yahoo.com

STATION TRUSTEES

W1NY Trustee

Don Johnson, W1UPH
(413) 566-3560 w1uph@arrl.net

WB1Z Trustee

Jim Mullen, KK1W
(413) 245-3228 kk1w@charter.net

IRLP Trustee

John Pise, Kx1x
(413) 532-7474 kx1x@arrl.net

"Get On The Air Class" - Sign Up Now

The HCRA is taking signups for a new class starting sometime this spring.
It's called the: "Get On The Air Class"

It is aimed at new hams that need some extra help getting on the air after earning their ham license. But it is open to ANYONE who wants to participate. If you've been off the air for a while and want to get back on, then this is the jumpstart that you need.

The class will be held over 3 to 4 nights and spread out over 3 to 4 weeks.

Subjects that might be covered:

Making a 2 meter contact (maybe IRLP too)

Building a wire antenna

Making a HF contact

Spare day - other ideas?

Each class will be hands on. The two making a contact class will have EVERYONE in the class on the radio and chatting with other hams.

If you know of someone who is interested (maybe you?), please have them email or call on of the following hams:

Larry - WB1DBY: wb1dbby@comcast.net or (413) 567-3505

Ed - KB1NWH: kb1nwh@comcast.net or (413) 250-3137

73,

The Hampden County Radio Assn.

www.hcra.org

Public Service

If any one is interested in helping out with Public Service events,
there is the Westfield Half Marathon on April 6th.

The Westfield Half Marathon starts and ends at
the Westfield boys and girls club.

Public Service events are a good way for HAMS to practice our operating
skills and use our radios under unusual conditions

Mark you calendar for July 4th and
the East Longmeadow "4th of July parade".

Other events that have NOT been confirmed for 2008:

May: Hadley Road race sponsored by KD1XP
August: Jumbo Tanzania road race in Longmeadow
September: MDA walk in Springfield
October: Monroe Trail race sponsored by KD1XP

I should be receiving the date and location for this years SKYWARN
training class in the next couple of weeks.

If you're interested in helping with an event,
contact me on the 146.94 repeater
or e-mail at N1QKO@ARRL.net

Quarter Century Wireless Association April Meeting Announcement

Pioneer Valley Chapter 183 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) April meeting will be held at CJ's Restaurant, 371A Wilbraham St, on Route 20 in Munson/Palmer April 19, 2008 at 12:00 Noon. These meetings are a luncheon meeting, and cost \$12.50 (tip & tax included) per meal (Chicken, Beef, or Fish) including salad, desert and Coffee or Tea. The guest speaker will be Mr Jerry Lesniak. Subject will be "Walking with the Penguins" regarding his recent trip to Port Lockray, Antarctica. All are welcome, QCWA Members as well as Non-members, including wife and children. Reservations are required. For additional information or Reservation please call W1BMK, Normand Gregoire, 413-567-5782. Reservations must be received no later than 15 April 2008."

The Presidents Corner from Jim KB1JVF

Spring! An awful lot of people have been waiting for the end of this long winter. Here I thought hams did all their best work over the cold months! All those QSO's, towers to put up and take down, antenna's to erect and or repair! Almost makes you hate to see the end of winter and the lazy days of summer.

Our Show & Tell was a success! 5 beginner's and 2 experts showed their wares. Some neat projects were displayed. The expert winner Gent WA1CQF had another beautiful Amp. That's 3 projects I've see of his and all are just a work of art. Now the other project a QRP meter is something I need and was just as well built. Beginners winner was Pat KB1OAP and an antenna he had to build due to antenna restrictions were he lives. He came up with quite an antenna that filled all the needs and was beautifully built. We announced that the BOD had created a new prize class for next year, for a project built with parts from our junk boxes at the November Auction! Stay tuned for more information on this one, and lets try to get 2 years in a row for a Show & Tell extravaganza!

Another month has gone and our new April meeting will be on April 4th. Our featured speaker is Harold Kramer WJ1B. He's an expert on Keys. Not into CW then just appreciate this is what started the amateur radio hobby. Or appreciate that they are like tools and some are specialized for the job and the operator. Harold wears a few other hats; he is also the COO of the ARRL. That in its self should be a full time job. On top of this he is the Publisher of QST! We should have no end of interesting things to talk about.

I would also like to remind you that anyone that has a Technician's, General or higher Licenses can tune into the HCRA sponsored 10 Meter net on Monday nights at 19:30 Local. 28.375 Mhz is where you'll find them.

I know it's early but I'm still planning Field Day and we are going to need a Band Captain for 20meter CW. Keep it in mind.

The first Badges went rather smooth. 4 down and we'll try 4 or 6 more at the next meeting. I'll be at the meeting early for those that want to buy one of the new badges.

I hope you'll come to the next meeting. My trip should be over by then and maybe I can bring back some warmer air.

73 from Jim KB1JVF

Skywarn Training Schedule

The following is a SKYWARN Training Schedule update for 2008. The following training sessions have been confirmed. See links below for updates as well as the schedule as posted at the link listed below:

http://www.wx1box.org/mod.php?mod=userpage&menu=8&page_id=1

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/box/skywarnTraining.shtml>

Training Schedule is listed below:

Thursday May 1st, 2008 7-10 PM: WFSB-TV Channel-3, 333 Capital Boulevard, Hartford, CT

Sponsored by WFSB-TV and Hartford-Tolland County Connecticut SKYWARN. Directions: I-91 exit 23 West Street/Rocky Hill. If you're on I-91 southbound, turn left off exit ramp. If you're on I-91 northbound, turn right off exit ramp. Proceed in right lane and go past the Marriott. Take immediate right onto Capital Blvd. (Right lane must turn right). Channel 3 is on the left after a curve.

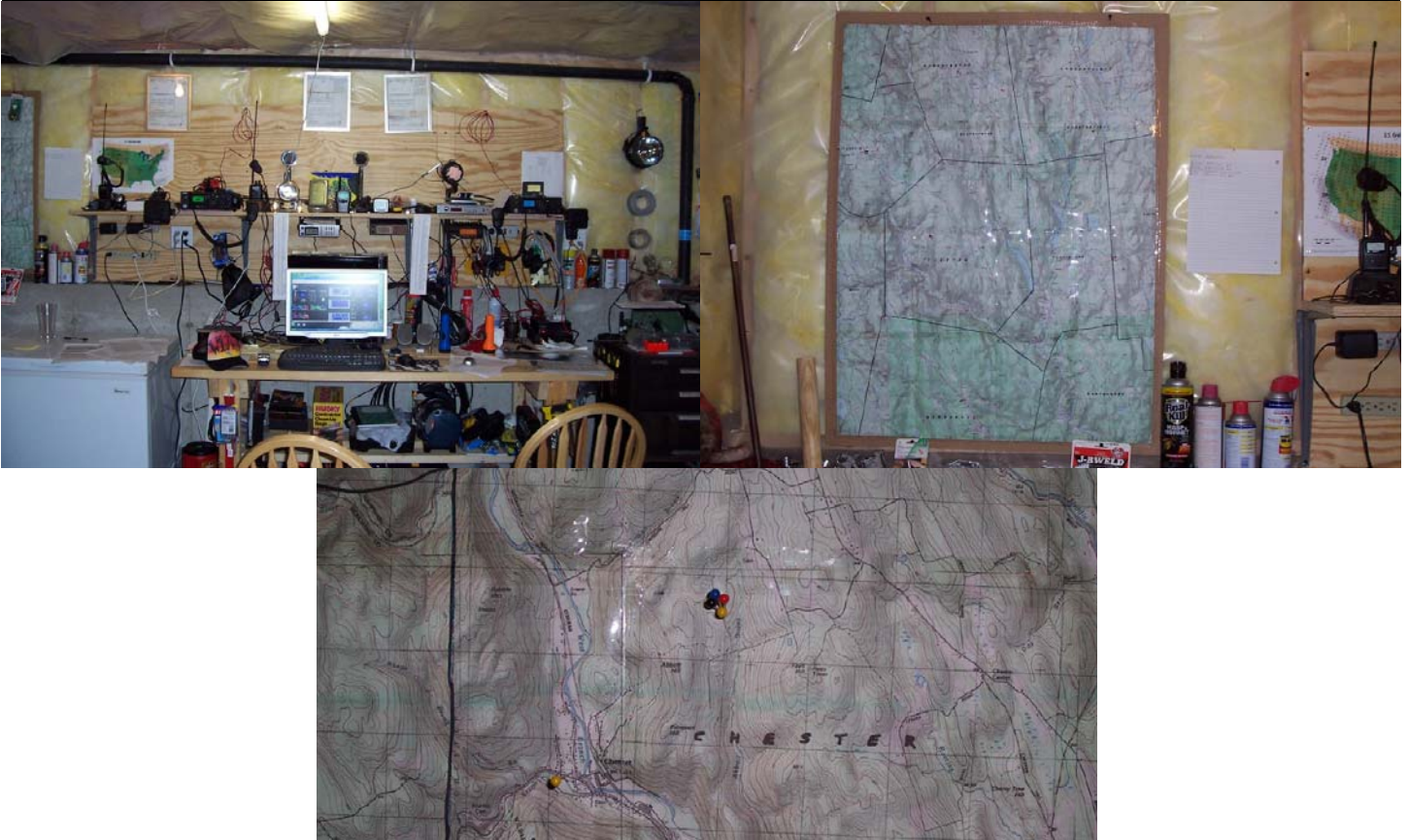
Wednesday May 7th, 2008 7-10 PM: WWLP-TV Channel 22, One Broadcast Center, Chicopee, MA: Sponsored by WWLP-TV and Western Massachusetts SKYWARN

All sessions above will be taught by forecasters. Additional sessions will be taught by Amateur Radio SKYWARN Coordinators and will be added to the schedule as they are confirmed.



HCRA Ham Shacks

John—W1JWN



Here is the description. Top shelf on left is KB1PLU's Ft -60 , then the speaker for the Yaesu 897 on 75 meters next to that going right. On top of the 897 is my Rigblaster USB plug and play. Then there is my Ft - 60. Then my guest speaker award from the Red Cross. Behind that is my D-104 mic, continuing right is my Oregon Scientific WMR 100A weather station.

Then my Radio Shack Public Alert Radio which survived the house fire and was found in the rubble by my daughter KB1PLU and her cousin. Then my burnt D-104 mic from the house fire. Then my ACCU-RITE rain gage. Then the MFJ-1278 TNC. Above is the 3" pvc pipe for my coax coming in. Then my other Yaesu 897. Then the speaker for that radio.

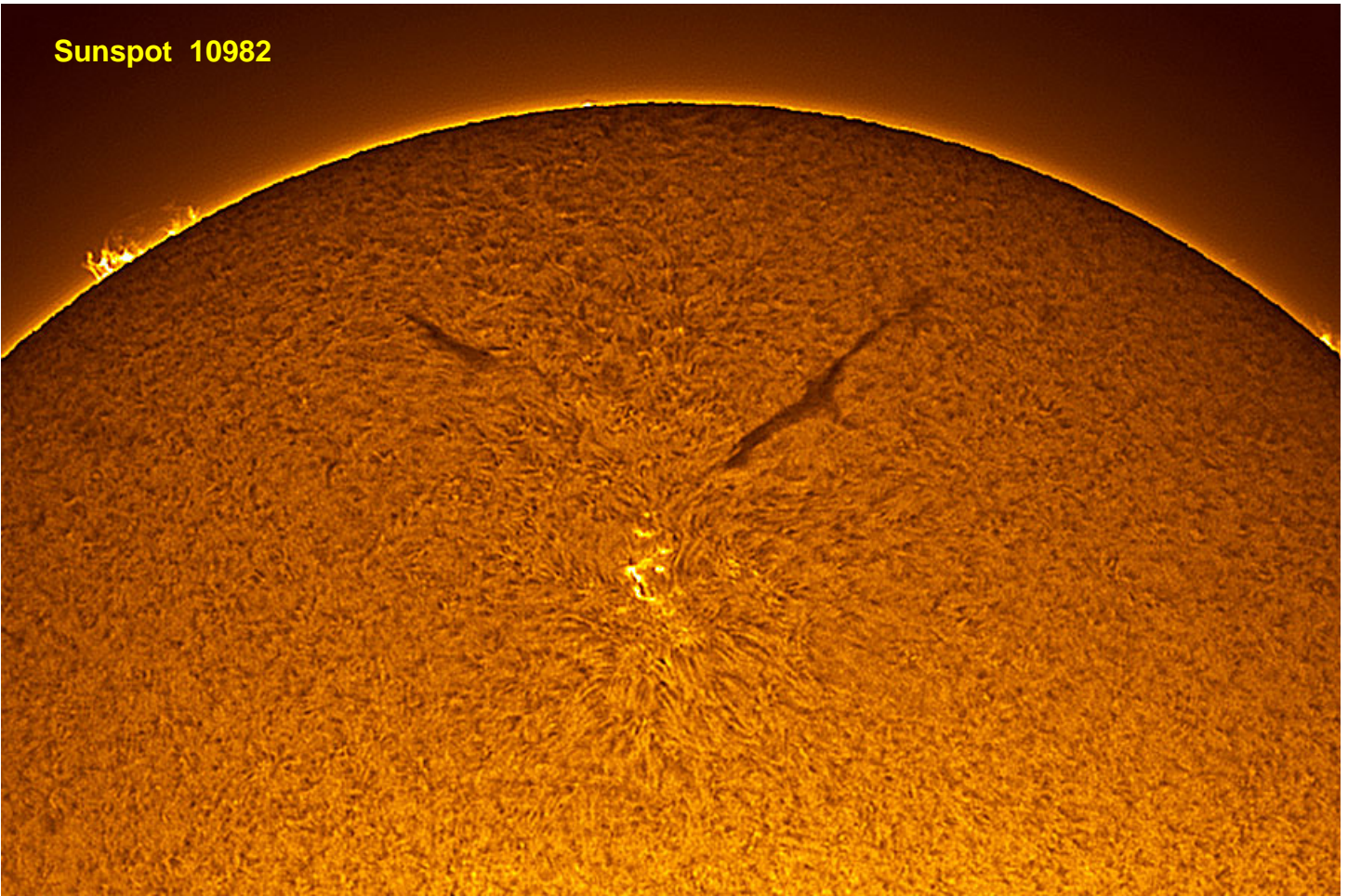
Under the shelf in the center left is a radio shack pro 433 scanner programed with all fire frequencies. To the right of that is my Radio Shack Pro 2051 programed with all police frequencies. To the right is my Yaesu Ft 2800 which is connected to the MFJ-1278 TNC for packet. I have frequency lists for each scanner hanging on each side. Then on the table is my 19" flat panel monitor for my business/Ham radio computer that I built.

I use this for both my home business and running digipan and my weather station. I use the Virtual Weather Station software and Weather Display software too. The Virtual Weather Display is running on the screen but the flash is covering it up.

Then I have a map of the hilltowns that KB1PHW made for me. I am placing colored pins on the map to show where I can reach different repeaters from different locations in the hilltowns. The pin picture is a close up of the pin location of my home in Chester and one location in the center of Chester.

John W1JWN

Sunspot 10982



Sunspot in the Old Solar Cycle

Credit & Copyright: Greg Piepol

Explanation: A new cycle has begun on our Sun. Over the past year, the Sun's magnetic field has reset and now a new 11 year period is beginning. Pictured above in a specific color of light emitted by hydrogen is sunspot 10982, one of the last sunspots of the old solar cycle. The two dark lines visible just above and to either side of the bright sunspot are cool filaments held aloft by the Sun's magnetic field. Hot and cold regions are shown as regions of relative light and dark, respectively. A solar cycle is caused by the changing magnetic field, and varies from solar maximum, when sunspot, coronal mass ejection, and flare phenomena are most frequent, to solar minimum, when such activity is relatively infrequent. Solar minimums occurred in 1996 and 2007, while the last solar maximum occurred in 2001.

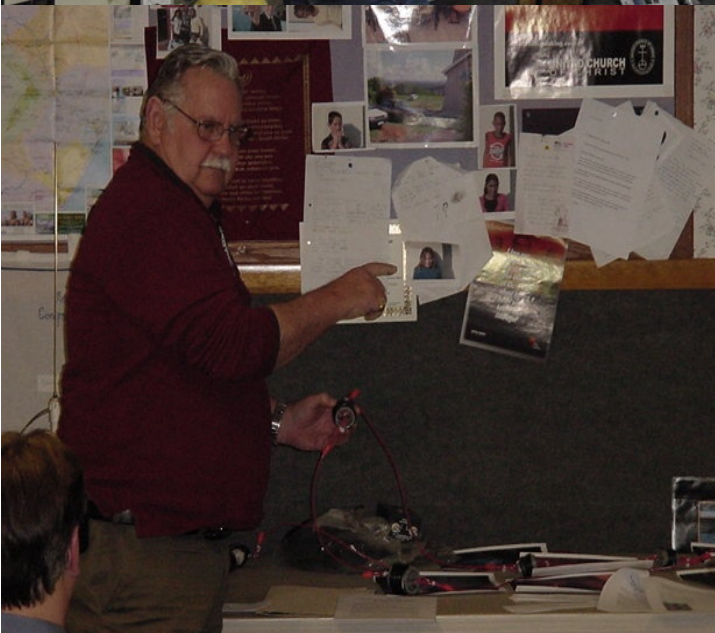
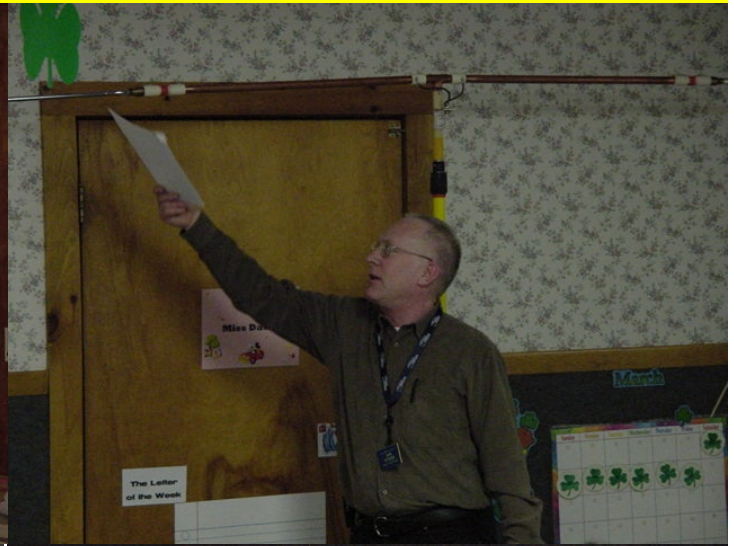
The Donna Halper January Meeting



Did You Ride the Segway at the February Meeting?



Creative Projects from Show and Tell in March



Training Announcement

FUNDAMENTALS of SEARCH and RESCUE

Office of Emergency Management, Paul A. Topolski, Director, 31 City Hall Avenue, Gardner, MA 01440, Office: (978)632-5600 Fax: (978)632-9045, Home: (978)632-9432 Mobile: (978)697-5531, E-Mail: ptopolski@gardner-ma.gov



The Gardner Office of Emergency Management is offering a six week, twenty four hour training course for people interested in woodland search and rescue. As a result of lessons learned during a search mission in July of 2007, identified was the need for trained searchers and search team leaders. This course is intended for volunteers who would like to participate on a search mission in a safe and organized manner.

During the course students will learn varied subjects from search management, ethics and legal aspects as well as search techniques. There is a heavy emphasis on searcher safety and preparedness. This is very much a hands-on course to include eight hours of field training. This is a rain-or-shine course so be prepared for inclement weather.

While there will be some light orienteering with map and compass, the course will emphasize the use of hand held GPS receivers in search and rescue. If you own a GPS receiver you must learn how to enter way-points into your unit, mark way-points while en route and read your lat/long position. Ownership of a receiver is not required for the course, however if you already own a GPS or are considering purchasing one this course is an opportunity to get some practical training.

The prerequisite for the course is FEMA self study course IS-100 Introduction To Incident Command. Please visit the FEMA web site for details <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100.asp>. Students must provide appropriate clothing for outdoor woodland hiking safety, appropriate footwear and weather related clothing. Classroom materials include notebook and writing implements. Students are not required to purchase any books for the course. Optional but highly desired equipment is a compass and a USGS 1:25,000 topographic map of Fitchburg, Mass. USGS maps are readily available at most sporting goods stores. Also desired is a Family Radio Service (FRS) two-way radio.

If you are a licensed Radio Amateur please bring a 2-meter FM radio with sufficient battery power for the four hour operation. At the conclusion of the course participants will receive a certificate of completion from the City of Gardner Office of Emergency Management. At this time there is no national certification available for this course. For questions regarding this course please contact Gardner OEM Director Paul Topolski at ptopolski@gardner-ma.gov

For a map to NCCI use this link: <http://mapshare.delorme.com/Consumer/V.aspx?p=1sgf015k>

Meeting Location:

Meetings are held at the
Feeding Hills Congregational
Church, 21 North Westfield
Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

The church is located
across from a Pride gas station.

Parking is in back of the church.
Access is HP accessible.

Talk-in is available on the 146.94
repeater.

Next Meeting:

Friday Night

**April 4th
at 7:30pm**



The Hampden County Radio Association
P.O Box 562
Agawam, MA 01001



PLEASE HAND CANCEL