

APRIL 2009

Hampden
County
Radio
Association



ZERO BEAT

<http://www.hcra.org>

Next Meeting:
Friday April 4th at 7:30pm

A Tour of 

**A On Site Tour of Channel
22 WWLP**

Directions:

- 91 North to exit 12
Route 391N
- Exit 3 for Rt. 116 /
Chicopee Street
- Turn left onto Chicopee
Street (bottom of ramp)
- Turn left into Channel 22
Studio building



NOTE:
WE ARE NOT MEETING
AT THE CHURCH IN APRIL.
NO ONE WILL BE THERE!!!

From the Shack...

Something different for April

The April meeting features a guided tour through Channel 22's broadcast studio in Chicopee, MA. Have you wondered what it looks like from the inside? Had a hankering to stand in front of the green screen like Brian Lapis and Shiri Spear? Want to see firsthand the technology required in a state of the art television studio? Then this is the meeting you don't want to miss. We will meet at the regular time, 7:30 PM but at the studio, **NOT the church!** Depending on the number of members showing up tonight there may be more than one tour. In the spirit of keeping it simple we won't be offering the usual coffee & donuts this evening.

This is a meeting that everyone in the family can attend. Those not interested in the technology (is that possible?) can still appreciate seeing their favorite local TV station from the inside, something that not everyone has a chance to do, that's for sure. Special thanks go to Bob McCormick, W1QA, IT director of Channel 22 for arranging the tour.

So remember, we will meet at 7:30, April 3rd, at the Channel 22 broadcast studio, 1 Broadcast Way in Chicopee this month. **We WILL NOT meet at the church.** Don't be the HCRA member to confirm their first MQE?

What does 28.412.58 mean to you?

No this is not the April fools 'Easter Egg' hidden in this month's issue. (who knows what our editor has in store?) but a real question. Any idea? Here's a hint, it is related to the mention of an MQE above, do you know now? Well, it is a little bit of HCRA history that started with WB1Z (SK), ex N1RUT. Jim was a very active amateur and HCRA member and operated on 10 meters a lot in the early evenings. The usual frequency was 28.425 MHz and Jim, I and maybe another half dozen local hams popped in on a regular basis. One evening while talking with Jim I was experiencing some QRM from a distant QSO. Yes, we actually had sunspots back then! So I asked Jim if he could QSY to 28.415 as it sounded open to me. Jim moved to the new frequency but he started hearing some interference from a nearby electrical source. So I started dialing down, moved around a bit because I have something in the house making noise and when I got to 28.412.58 and the

frequency sounded clear. Say no more, this became the new frequency of the 'moron net'. Why the moron net? Well, who but a moron would pick such an easy frequency to remember?



Over the next few years it became part of the net's mantra that in order to check in you had to 'become a moron' that week by doing something outstandingly moronic! Here's an example. Have you ever shown up at a hamfest and wondered why it seemed very poorly attended? Then you realize it is next Sunday, not today! Yes, I've done that. Cambridge is a nice place to visit but it would have been more fun if I was there when the MIT flea market was actually being held! That my friends is an event that qualifies you for admission to the Moron Net! We eventually shortened the name to MQE, **Moron Qualifying Event**. I think elsewhere in this month's Zero Beat there may be an additional example of an MQE but if not, how about sending in yours? Or better yet, who is up for pulling up the old net by it's bootstraps and getting some activity going on 10 meters. What could be more fun than sharing the weeks MQE's with your fellow hams?

How about we try it this April 6th, immediately following the regular HCRA 10 meter net. We can meet on the proper frequency, 28.412.58 (don't be a moron and call on 28.375!) and share our latest MQE's for all to enjoy. Laughing at ourselves is a good way to end a stressful Monday from the workplace. I promise I will be there and I'm sure I'll have a few recent MQE's for everyone to enjoy. I'll also have anecdotes from the past, focusing on WB1Z's contributions (MQE and regular) to the net and to HCRA as well. There is a reason that we now hold Jim's old call as a club call and it will be nice to share that with others.

Now don't forget!

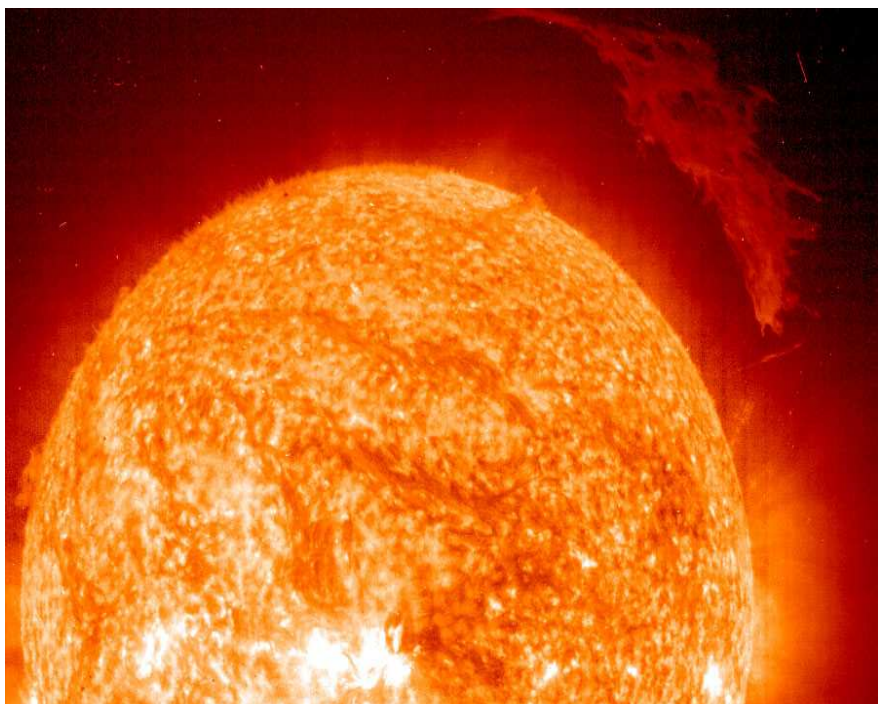
We will be meeting this month at the Channel 22 Broadcast Studios, not the church.

See you there, bring a friend if you want and enjoy an interesting evening.

'73...
Jim, KK1W

Upcoming New England Flea Markets

11 April	Montreal PQ	MARC @CanLegion	\$5@9 \$10/T@8	James	514 697 7205	W+
18 Apr	Manchester NH	NEAntqRC @BingoCtr	\$10@7:30\$3@8:30	Charlie	603 898 4821	F
18 Apr	S Portland ME	PAWA @AmLegion		Bryce	K1GAX 207 799 1116	A+
19 April	Cambridge MA	FLEA at MIT		Nick	617 253 3776	F
		Third Sunday April thru October				
26 April	Lindenhurst NY	GSBARC		Walter	KA1RGI 631 957 0218	W
26 April	Lagrangeville NY	MtBARC @Tymor Pk		James	K2JIM 845 427 2702	A
1,2 May	Deerfield NH	NearFest @FG		Mike	K1TWF 978 250 1235	W
9 May	Lindenhurst NY	GSBARC		John	W2HCB 631 669 6321	A
9 May	Rensselaer NY	EGARA	Thomas KC2FCP 518 272 1498	A		



A Prominent Solar Prominence from SOHO

Credit: [SOHO](#) - [EIT Consortium](#), [ESA](#), [NASA](#)

Explanation: What's happened to our Sun? It was sporting a spectacular ~ but not very unusual ~ solar prominence. A [solar prominence](#) is a cloud of solar gas held above the Sun's surface by the Sun's [magnetic field](#). In 2004, NASA's Sun-orbiting [SOHO spacecraft](#) imaged an [impressively large prominence](#) hovering over the surface, [pictured above](#). The [Earth](#) would easily fit under the hovering [curtain](#) of hot gas. A quiescent [prominence typically](#) lasts about a month, and may erupt in a [Coronal Mass Ejection](#) (CME) [expelling hot gas](#) into the [Solar System](#). Although somehow related to the Sun's changing [magnetic field](#), the energy mechanism that creates and sustains a [Solar prominence](#) is still a topic of [research](#).

Zero Beat Contributions: Anything of interest is welcome. This is YOUR Newsletter.
It's not interesting without YOUR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS.

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

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/>

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!!!

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 Jim, KK1W at
kk1w@arrl.net or (413) 245-3228.

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

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Open—your name here!

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Spring time is a time to shake off the winter blues and get outdoors. Getting out of the house and into the sun always seems to improve my disposition significantly. Yes, even if it means getting away from the radio in my basement! But that doesn't mean that I have to give up radio.

QRP offers me the opportunity to do what I like such as hiking (in moderation), and being out with nature enjoying the sounds, and sights wherever possible. Although I can no longer run five miles with a backpack as I could in the service; heck, I would have trouble hiking five miles with no backpack in sneakers, flat ground on a cool day with the wind at my back!! But that doesn't mean that I can't hike - so I do, but in moderation. I like the challenge of finding someplace new, setting up my equipment, and operating. I welcome visitors asking questions, and I try to take pictures of the new views that I find.

Our license allows us to design, build, test, and operate with a decent amount of power. No other license offers such liberties. However, with today's technology, it is difficult to find a design where you can still drill holes into a chassis, and work without magnifying glass. Enter QRP!

QRP designs and kits abound for the newcomers and the more proficient alike, and at reasonable prices. Many kits are modular so that you begin with a functional base assembly, and add on features as finances and time permit. My K1 falls into this category.. Add a makeshift desk made from a legal sized clipboard, and a folding chair that doubles as a backpack, and I'm ready to go and be comfortable when I get there.

I like the social aspect of radio and usually rag chew - a lot! QRP allows me to do it all - building, operating, and getting out in nature. I also get to meet other people doing what they like best. Our commonality is that for that moment, we have no commitments, no stress, just pure relaxation in a friendly environment.

So if you are up for the challenge of doing something a little different. Grab your HT and camera, and consider taking a hike (or drive up a hill) and look around. You might find the perfect location to do a little radio operating, and just maybe, find the thrill of QRP. Who knows, you might also find one of us there already. Why QRP?because !

Ham Radio Licensing

Condensed Course

Get your Technician Class ham radio license.

There is a course starting on April 7th
at the Moose Family Center, 244 Fuller Road, Chicopee, MA.
There will only be four meeting dates for the course.

Tuesday, April 7th 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Tuesday, April 14th 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Saturday, April 18th 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Testing for the Technician license will be on
Sunday, April 19th at 9:00 AM

Cost is \$0 for the course, open to
everyone—no age requirement

The ARRL Technician License Manual
is suggested, \$25

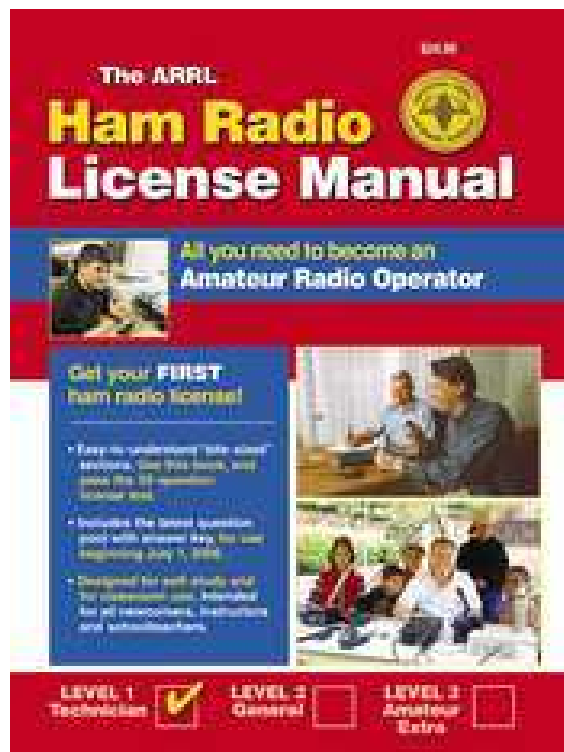
No advance reservations required

Order a book by writing

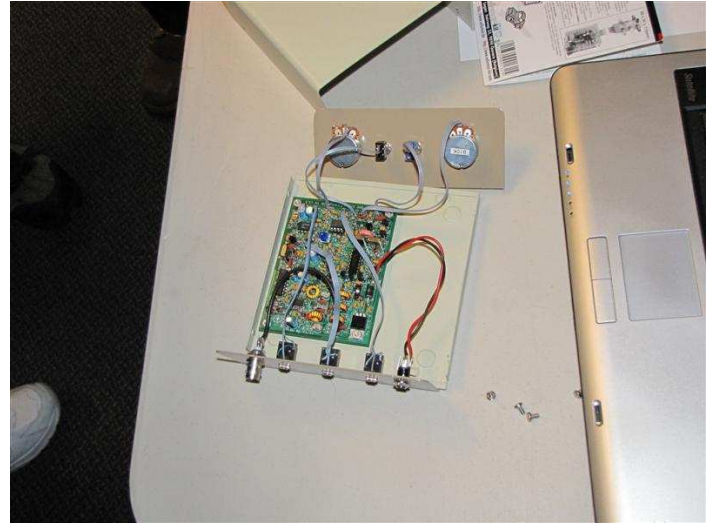
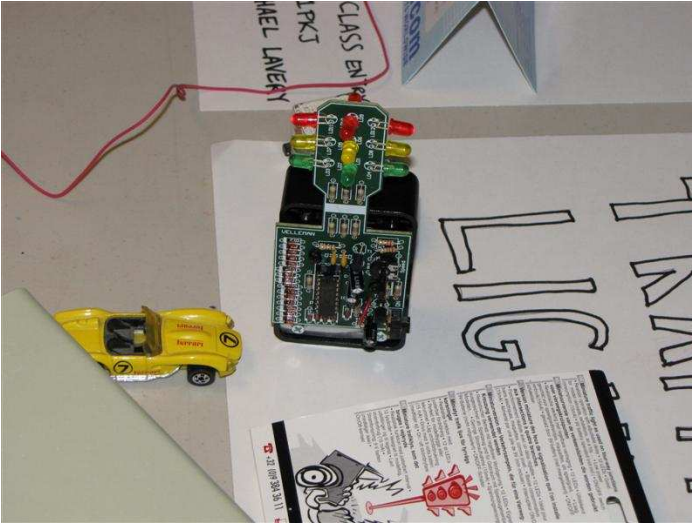
kx1x@arrl.net

Or by phone, 413-262-5249

(John Pise, Kx1x)



Show and Tell







CQ WW WPX
Venture Crew DX (510)
At K1TTT
March 27-29, 2009



KB1PQW: Jake



KB1NSN: Jake



W1MOK: Kyle



KB1RIE: Eli & KB1RNT: Matt



Crew DX in Action



K1KAA: Mike



KB1PQU: Chris



W1IM: Blake



W1IM & KB1PQU



W1IM: Blake logs another qso

Meeting Location:

***WWLP Channel 22
in Chicopee.***

***Read inside for
directions
Parking is in back***

**Next Meeting:
Friday Night**

April 4th, 2009

7:30 PM



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



PLEASE HAND CANCEL