

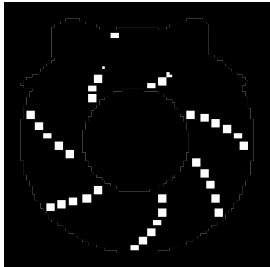
Zero Beat



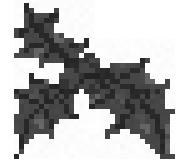
Our 55th Year

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

December, 2000



*You are Cordially Invited
to attend the Annual
Hampden County Radio Association
Holiday Pot Luck Dinner*



Ed Spelicy, retired airline pilot, will speak after the dinner

Doors open at 6:30

Dinner starts at 7:PM sharp!

Hope to see you there!!!

This issue of *Zero Beat* is the first issue to be sent to the general membership of the HCRA via e-mail.

If you would like to be included in our monthly e-mailings, see page 7 for details.

Visit our new website at: <http://www.hcra.org>

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President's



Norm, W1BMK at WB1HOF—2000

Corner

Lot to write about this month, and all great stuff too. Let's dig right into it.

If you haven't checked out our new web site, log onto your computer after reading this issue of Zero Beat at <http://www.hcra.org>. John has done a great job of getting up a web page, with animation and now (ta da!) Zero Beat. Not bad for just two short months of work. Remember the checkbox on this years application? You know, the one that asked if you would like Zero Beat distributed electronically? Well the time has come and we will be distributing the December issue both via US Mail and email to those who requested it. Take the time to let John or the the board know your thoughts about electronic distribution. If all goes well we will go just electronically to some members starting in January. You'll get you issue quicker and the club will save postage and printing costs.

Enough suspense, it's time to talk about the auction. By any and all measures, this years auction was an outstanding success. It looks like all the good things came together. The raffle prize was exciting, the advertising worked, lots of people came to buy and sell, the HCRA got some GREAT donations, and the weather was excellent.

How could we go wrong? We couldn't! By the time it was all over at 11:00 PM, the HCRA had over 125 people buying and selling all kinds of stuff. It seems every year this auction gets better and better. Lots of really good stuff (and some shall we say "junque") changed hands that evening. From the looks on most peoples faces everyone left happy. It was definitely the place to come for a bargain and a good time.

How did we do? The HCRA made over \$1500 on the auction and donations, raffle and coffee and donuts. Money sorely needed to keep the HCRA solvent and functioning well into 2001. I want to stress this auction was only such a great success because of your support, and the board is looking for your thoughts on what direction you think the HCRA should take with this profit. Expanded Field Day, summer picnic, fox-hunts, educational support? You make the call, it's your club and your money.

A special thanks to all the members and non-

members alike that donated their time, energy, equipment and hard work to make this event a success. The list is long, my memory ain't what it used to be, but you know who you are. Let's do it again in 2001!

The next meeting on December 1st is our annual Holiday Party and promises to be as much fun as ever. Ed Spelicy, the PanAm pilot who got caught by a thunderstorm power failure back in June has agreed to come back for a second try. Hopefully the lights will stay on this time, but if not, we should have lots of holiday candles to light the hall. Betty, Norm, Larry, Pat, Irv and Marilyn have been working hard making table decorations, getting raffle prizes and coordinating food efforts. If you're planning on attending and haven't spoken to Betty yet, please give her a call. She's putting a lot of effort into this event and can even make it better with your input. I hope to see you there this coming Friday evening. Don't forget your list for Santa, I hear he might be coming by. You have been good, haven't you?

Here's a news flash. The biggest amateur satellite ever was launched last week. Phase III D, now known as AO-40, and is flying high! The latest word is it may be available for limited use in just a few weeks. Hopefully our own Gary, AA1UE, will be speaking to us soon and fill us in on this and other satellite adventures just waiting for you to try out. Stay tuned for more info from space.

The movie "Frequency" is now in the video stores. Ann & I watched it this evening. It's a well done movie with a nice ham radio theme. Be prepared for the usual time travel paradox! Check it out one of these cold winter evenings, I think you'll enjoy it.

The ARRL is still talking CW and it's stance. It's been added to the board agenda for January. If you have any opinions about whether CW should or should not be a requirement for HF licensing, let your ARRL representative know your views. The League is our best voice for amateur radio, but they need to know the desires of their members to be most effective.

'73 & Happy Holidays! - Jim, WA1ZUH



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Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

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WB1HOF Trustee	Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com
WM1FD Trustee	John Pise, KX1X	(413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Emergency Coordinator Dave Isham, KB1MU

ON THE AIR

Please remember to join our Monday evening 10m Net

Join NCS Tom, N1MUV, On Monday nights, 7:30PM local for the
HCRA/W1NY 10m Net 28.375 +/- QRM

ARRL 160m Contest (CW) -- 2200z Dec 1 to 1600z Dec 3

ARRL 10m Contest -- 0000z Dec 9 to 2400z Dec 10

RAC Winter Contest -- 0000z to 2400z Dec 30

Kids Day Contest - 1800z to 2400z Jan 6

ARRL RTTY Roundup - 1800z Jan 6 to 2400z Jan 7

NAQSO Party (CW) -- 1800z Jan 13 to 0600z Jan14

NAQSO Party (SSB) - 1800z Jan20 to 0600z Jan 21

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes - 1900z Jan 20 to 0400z Jan 22



DX Clips

de

Jordy, W1JK

I am writing this month's column while on vacation sitting at poolside. I chose a subject that is quite frustrating to all & that I have personally dealt with in a prior year - Telephone RFI.

With the advent of Cable TV, most of us were no longer troubled by TVI; but, telephones come in a variety of models & neighbors can be difficult to deal with.

The cures for telephone RFI are fairly easy to understand & implement. The main problem is really a "personal matter". No matter how tactful & diplomatic you are, the neighbor does not want to hear that it is not the fault of your transmitter. They only know that it is nonexistent when you are not operating. I can tell you from my own personal experience that demonstrating you do not cause RFI to your own telephones fails to impress them. In my case I have 7 phones including several 90MHZ cordless units. One wired unit had RFI & I replaced it with an EMI resistant phone. Incidentally, the worst offenders are AT&T units.

OK - that said-let's "cut to the chase". What do you do?? The following is an abbreviated presentation & is not intended to supplant the FCC's Interference Handbook or ARRL's Handbook by Ed Hare (aptly called W1RFI).

1. reduce your power - many times RFI is evident only with the Linear Amp.
2. Try a "common mode choke" on the feedline. See the ads in QST.
3. "clean-up" your own home first. You will learn from the experience & become more sensitive & understanding of your neighbor's position.
4. Do not work on your neighbor's telephone system!!
5. Diplomatically ask your neighbor to use your phone while you are operating. He may not admit it, but he will come to understand that the solution is on his end.
6. Try your EMI resistant phone at your neighbor's home. If the RFI is eliminated you may have a fast & simple solution. But don't be surprised if your neighbor balks at spending the \$25 - \$35 for one.
7. If the EMI resistant phone has RFI - then the telephone repair people must be contacted. They may need to replace their lightning arrestor - a common source of RFI. They can act like Diodes & rectify the RF. Remember, once RF is detected & turned into Audio, it can't be filtered out. It is at the same Frequencies as the desired Audio. The telco has some experts at identifying the source of RFI. It can get in at the outside line area or in the Internal house wiring - particularly if your neighbor wired in his own tel. extension. Other sources are home Alarm system controllers & answering machines.
8. It is worth trying commercially available in-line filters. I have an extra one that I used in diagnosing a neighbor's problem. My personal experience indicates that the EMI proof phone will work when the In-Line filter will not! The cost differential is slight.
9. If the local Tel repair man lacks experience & training in RFI, refer him to your ARRL section tech coordinator. Sometimes the Mfr. of the Equipment(eg.answering mach,etc) must be contacted. Remember AC line connected devices are more prone to RFI.
10. Finally, I have found that being neighborly & offering a modular in-line filter not only transforms an adversarial neighbor into a "friend" ,but serves as "proof" to other non-cooperative (the majority unfortunately) neighbors that the problem must be cured in their homes. It is certainly worth the time & effort to cure RFI rather than curtail your operations as so many Hams do.

HAPPY & HEALTHY HOLIDAYS TO ALL.

LOOK FOR:

3W - Vietnam: 3W8LI from Saigon on 10M SSB between 0130 & 0230Z.

5R - Madagascar: 5R8FL on SSB on 20M between 14190 & 14200 after 0230Z. 5R8FU on 10M around 28497 1530-1830Z. QSL via SM0DJZ.

5X - Uganda: CQWW DZ CW contest on 10 & 15M. QSL to SM6CAS.

D6 - Comoros: EA3BT & EA3WL on Dxpediton between Jan 13 -28. Op = 10-80M QSL via EA3BT.

S2 - Bangladesh: S21YH on 15M around 21241 at 1230Z. S21YJ on 20M SSB around 14178 after 0215Z. QSL via SM4AIO.

5H - Tanzania: Ralph, 5H3RK is active on 30 & 20M after 0330Z.

EMIKY - Antarctica: Paul is QRV on 14260 between 0130 & 0230Z. QSL via UT7UA.

Excerpt taken from the
**NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL**

Mock quake tests radio readiness

■ The Massachusetts
Emergency Management
Agency and 200 amateur radio
operators participate.

BOSTON (AP) — New England
isn't known as earthquake country.

But amateur radio operators and
state emergency management offi-
cials want to be prepared in case the
Big One hits the region, knocking out
critical communications systems.

The Massachusetts Emergency
Management Agency and two ama-
teur radio-operator organizations
conducted a simulated emergency
test yesterday to ensure that life-sav-
ing communications channels re-
main open during an emergency.

"In any type of emergency situa-
tion, but especially in an earthquake,
we lose telephone land lines, and
when they go down, cell phone traf-
fic increases so you can't get
through," said Peter Judge, spokes-
man for the state emergency man-
agement agency. "That's when ama-
teur radio operators come in to give
us the instantaneous communi-
cations we need."

The state and the radio operators
do these drills every year, but an
earthquake was chosen as the emer-
gency for yesterday's test because
they can strike unannounced and

cause widespread damage, Judge
said. More than 200 amateur radio
operators participated, said Steve
Schwarm, eastern Massachusetts
coordinator for Amateur Radio
Emergency Services.

Contrary to popular belief, New
England could get hit by a major
earthquake.

The region gets from three to six
earthquakes that can be felt every
year, said earthquake expert John
Ebel, director of Boston College's
Weston Observatory.

This year has been more active
than usual, he said. A 2.2-magnitude
earthquake was centered in Moul-
tonboro, N.H., just two weeks ago.
The last earthquake in Massachu-
setts was a 3.3-magnitude temblor
centered in Russell in late August.

A 4.7-magnitude earthquake near
Laconia, N.H., in 1982 was the biggest
in the region in 20 years, Ebel said.

The Radio Amateur Civil Emer-
gency Services (RACES) and the
Amateur Radio Emergency Services
(ARES) provided the communi-
cations and responded to mock emer-
gency situations.

"We are asking people to do ev-
erything from looking for a downed
plane to checking the bridges in
their town," said Tom Kinahan, the
state's RACES coordinator.

QCWA wants FCC to "grandfather" hams who lost privileges in 1967 & 1968

In 1967 & 1968 the ARRL supported the "incentive
licensing" restructuring. Now is the opportunity for the ARRL
to go back and help undo a grave mistake and injustice.
Unfortunately, many, many old timers that were affected by the
1968 decision are now silent keys but those that are still alive
can be given back that what was taken from them!

When the FCC announced its license restructuring decision
just about a year ago, one of its main concerns was that no
currently licensed hams would lose any privileges. That was not
the case in 1968, when the FCC enacted "incentive licensing."
Thousands of General, Conditional, and Advanced Class hams
lost operating privileges as the HF ham bands were carved into
subbands for different license classes. Many hams are still upset,
and now, the Quarter Century Wireless Association says the
FCC should give back those privileges to any hams who lost
them, and who haven't upgraded in the intervening 32 years.

In a petition for rule making filed late October, QCWA asked
the FCC to require VE's to grant credit for Element 4 -- the
Extra Class written exam to anyone holding a pre-1968
Conditional, General, or Advanced Class license. This would
essentially allow those hams an "instant upgrade" to Extra
without taking an additional exam. The group admits there are
"at most a few thousand amateur operators" who would benefit
from the proposal, but it says its primary goal is
"a prompt ending of the injustice being suffered by those within
its constituency."

More information on the petition is available at: <http://www.qcwa.org/press.htm>

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In Appreciation

As we all are aware, the success of organizations like the Hampden County Radio Association depends on the generosity of its members. These members donate services, time, equipment, and money. We all know of people who are always helping setup and cleanup at meetings, willing to serve on the Board of directors, and always volunteer equipment for special events. But those who donate financially are seldom recognized. The Hampden County Radio Association Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the following members who have donated financially to our club.

Rob Roy, N1ABJ
Larry Krainson, WB1DBY
Ivo Sitsky, W6IS
Tom Doyle, N1MUV
Eric Tuller, N1QKO

Dan Lynch, KB1CLY
Gary Thomas, AA1UE
Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH
Steve Monahan, W3SM
Edwin Putnam, K1UE

Al Drake, N1CQT
Tim Lynch, N1MOD
Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
Chet Kruczek, W1HGJ
Larry and Pat Smith, K1ILZ and N1CET



Emergency Coordinator's Corner Documentary Results of the 2000 Simulated Emergency Test WMass Section

de KB1MU, Dave Isham



“THIS IS A TEST THIS IS A TEST An earthquake has been reported in central new England. This has cause loss of both electric power and land line telephone service.” Thus began the 2000 West Mass Set. Due to the power loss the Mt Tom 34/94 repeater (main communications link in west Mass) has become inoperative. All emergency traffic must be conducted on simplex frequencies.

Simplex operations were conducted on 146.49. Contacts were made with stations in most parts of western Mass Particularly missing were the hill town in west Hampden county. Links were also made to 40 meters for the section-wide linkup. A packet operation was also conducted. This could be best described as a learning experience. Some technical difficulties were encountered. Two connects were made thru the WITOM node. (by some quirk of fate, power was still available on this part of Mt. Tom.)

Since a TEST shows both weakness and strengths, the 2000 SET can be considered as success. The key phrase is “learning experience.”

73 and keep those batteries charged.. de KB1MU

(editor's note: See detailed SET results, next page)

Whats Happening??? **On The Air**

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic System (NTS) Net	146.94
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94
Mondays	19:30	HCRA 10m Net	28.375
Wednesdays	19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link)
	20:00	MTARA Swap net	
	20:30	MTARA Tech net	
Thursdays	21:00	Weather Net (ncs K1PAI Roger)	1 st Week of the Month 147.09 Every other week 147.000

Club Meetings & Testing Sessions

1 st Friday of the month	18:30	HCRA board meeting	Feeding Hills Congregational Church
	19:30	HCRA Club Meeting	21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
3 rd Friday of the month	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building
			506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA
4 th Friday of the month	18:00	License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium
			Beech St., Holyoke
4 th Sunday of the month	19:00	NOBARC club meeting	Pittsfield MA (146.91 for talk-in)

Please forward additions and suggestions to: Stan Bates, n1inb seb@wca.com

(All times Local)

DETAILED WMA SET 2000 Results

11/04/00

W/MA. SET 2000

TIME 09:30 - 11:15 am

ARES NET PIONEER VALLEY

NET CONTROL N1MUV, ASST.SEC W/MA. ARES
KB1MU, AEC HAMPDEN CTY
LOCATION AM RED CROSS SPFLD MA.
FREQUENCY'S 146.49 simplex.....146.94 direct
SCENARIO EARTHQUAKE IN CEN/WMA. TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS & POWER
FAIL THROUGHOUT AREA CELLULAR PHONE SYSTEM OVERLOADED
REQUESTS FOR ARES ASSISTANCE FROM AM.RED CROSS IN W/MA..

\EOC'S CONTACTED:

WC1AAR BELCHERTOWN MA. (MEMA RACES REGION 3
KB1CDL SOUTHWICK MA.
N1FI WESTFIELD MA.
K1NBS BRIMFIELD MA

KB1ERQ LEEDS MA. VA HOSPITAL
LIASON TO ARES HF NET K1YO SOUTHWICK MA.
RELAY STATIONS. KA1VWW HOLYOKE MA,
WC1AAR BELCHERTOWN MA.
TRAFFIC - msg.#1R to K1VSG 146.49 via 40m
msg.#2 test to NET 146.49 mhz.
msg #3 test to KITS packet
msg #4 test to WC1AAR SOUTHWICK MA.
N1SR BELCHERTOWN MA.
N1WGX BELCHERTOWN MA.

Following a RACES call up net on 146.94 Mt Tom, the repeater was shut down for the remainder of the exercise. Radio communications area wide operated on 146.94 direct. The ARES net came up on 146.49 simplex operating from ARC chapter in Spfld.Ma. A emergency packet operation was set up & operating on the Mt. Tom node 145.05 from this location. Packet msgs. were received by stations in Westfield & Belchertown. Experienced technical problems with return msgs. to Spfld.station. Voice net went very well Good participation in Hampden Cty Relay stations N1SR & KA1VWW assisted with weak signal stations. Net Control linked early in exercise with EOC'S in Southwick, Westfield, Brimfield & MEMA / RACES EOC Belchertown. Southwick EOC very active with additional local emergency exercise ongoing.

Plan to expand packet operation in future exercises. KB1MU plans improvements on portable packet system. Liaisons stations to ARES HF net worked well KB1ERQ VA Hospital, WC1AAR & K1YO had 40 & 75 mtr. contact with ARES/RACES net. Members of Amateur community involved.:

N1MUV	KB1MU	K1II	KC7LW	N1SR	N1FI	K1ISS
KITS	AA1UE	N1WGX	K1NBS	K1YO	N1EVE	N1MOC
N1WHA	KB1FLI	KB1CWQ	W1BMK	KA1VWW	K3OQ	K1PZS
N1PMB	WA1NTL	N1IMB	WB1DBY	KA1TDL	KB1FFK	

Thank you to all who participated in the exercise

73/ Tom Doyle N1MUV ASST.SEC W/MA. ARES

Get Your *Zero Beat* Electronically each month

Starting with this edition of *Zero Beat*, HCRA members can receive your 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, WA1ZUH to be added to the eZB only list.

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors meeting Nov 9, 2000

Held at the home of Greg Stoddard N1AEH

HCRA Officers present were Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH, Greg Stoddard, N1AEH, Dave Isham, KB1MU, Stan Bates, N1INB, Jordy Koltz, W1JK, Betty Buller, KB1CPZ, John Pise, Kx1x, and Irv Slitsky K6IS.

MEMBER REPORTS:

Vice President: Raffle at auction earned \$390.00. Jorty is looking for suggestion on future raffle items.

Treasurer: The total deposit after auction was \$2120.00, \$1192.00 from auction, Remainder from raffle. The profit from raffle was \$334.00. HRO has paid for **ZeroBeat** advertisement. Current account balance \$3728.00.

Secretary: Currently we have 64 paid members. An effort will be made to contact former members who have not renewed, both by phone and mail. The membership database has been updated to include all paid members. The Dec issue of **ZeroBeat** will be e-mailed to those who requested this. An announcement will be made at Dec meeting concerning the **ZeroBeat** e-mail. Both to uncover any problems and to encourage others to try e-mail.

Zero Beat: The deadline for the Dec **ZeroBeat** will be Nov 22. All info must be in John's hands by that date.

Special Event Station: The Hall of Fame operation went well and certainly was a success. About 400 contacts were made during the two days of operation. Jim WA1ZUH will send a thank you letter to the Hall of Fame and note that we would like to repeat this operation next year. QSL cards for the HOF operation must be designed and printed.

Technical: Stan is looking for volunteers to participate in the "show and tell" session prior to the meetings.

Program: Speakers are now in place from now through the new year. Many potential speakers for the remainder of 2001 have been contacted.

Web Page: The board congratulated John on the great job he has done with web site development.

QSL Cards: A preliminary design of the HCRA "eyeball QSO" was reviewed. It was decided to make a few minor changes and proceed with purchasing.

Club Storage: It was decided to purchase a portable bulletin board with stand. This would be used as a display during the monthly meetings. The club will also obtain some storage containers. These will be used to store club materials at the church between meetings.

December Holiday Meeting: Betty KB1CPZ will chair the December Holiday Meeting.

73 de KB1MU David W. Isham

Swap & Shop

Classifieds available FREE to members of HCRA if space is available. Radio and Computer related equipment only, please.


I have four sections of Rohn #6, and a top section of Rohn #20, all in great shape, for sale. If it moves because of this ad, I'll be glad to give 10% to HCRA. I'll take a very reasonable offer. I need the space.

If you have a HF radio for sale, please let me know. I am looking for a quality something for me. My 430S is getting old.

Jim, W1EQO ussailis@equinox.shaysnet.com

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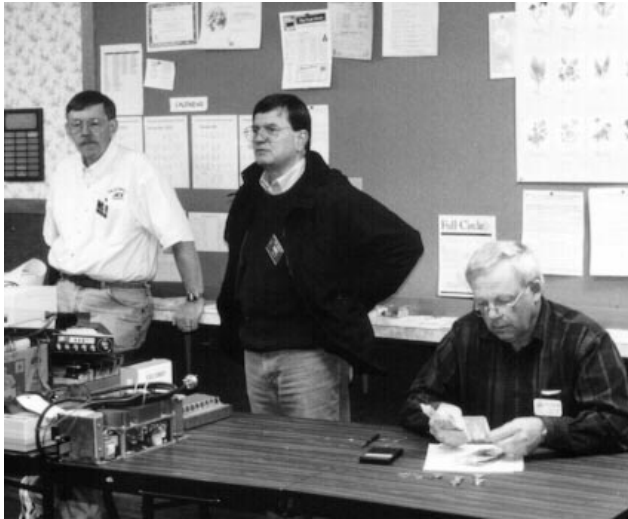
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ZeroBeat Photo Scrapbook: Auction 2000

Photos courtesy N1MUV



Chief Auctioneer, Jim, WA1ZUH, listens as Rick Lindquist, N1RL, ARRL Sr News Editor, gives a few words at the opening to Auction 2000. Greg, N1AEH, HCRA treasurer, does what all good treasurers do, he's counting the \$\$\$\$.



Yet another fine piece of ... er, ..., equipment is up for grabs as the "other Auctioneer Jim", WB1Z, looks for yet another bidder. Irv, W6IS, and Jim, WA1ZUH, decide which "stuff" will be up for bid next.



At last count, over 125 people attended this year's auction.

Thanks to all who bought, sold, and supported the HCRA Auction 2000.



The next meeting of the
Hampden County Radio Association
Will be on Friday

December 1st, 2000

At 7:00 p.m. at the
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Doors open at 6:30 PM

Hope to see you there!

*In case of inclement weather, tune to TV Channels 22 or 40, or on 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

**HCRA Annual
POT LUCK DINNER**

Ed Spelicy, a retired airline
pilot will be our guest speaker.

