

Our 42nd ARRL affiliated year
Special Service Club

Serving Greater Springfield, MA

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Remarks from the President

Your "board" is now working on the December program. As you requested in the recent questionnaire, it will be a social fest similar to last December's meeting. Larry, N1EPE will be the meeting host.

Greg N1AEH is working on summarizing the questionnaire, putting it in a form which is readable and understandable. At the last board meeting we received 22 more forms through the HCRA mailbox, so the summary is not yet available. Look for it in a future issue of Zero Beat.

At the next meeting we plan to introduce all the board members. We want you to know them and what they do for the club.

We still need helpers for the novice training program. We have a number of students but we need interested people to help. Contact Ken, N01M if you would like to lend a hand.

As of this writing, Congress is considering a bill which would charge \$30 for each form 610 transaction. Write your Senator and Representative. Let them know how you feel.

See you at the December meeting, de Yorke, K1BXE

[ed. Thanks to quick action on the part of Greg, we have the questionnaire results in this Zero Beat!]

December Meeting

The December meeting will again me a Christmas Social. Larry, N1EPE will be providing the goodies—A cake, chips&dip, and other munchies.

We will also be providing table space for "show and tell" again this year. If you've got an item you'd like to show off—your latest homebrew, that fancy new rig you just bought, or anything else that you think others in the club might like to see, give Bob, NQ1C a call at 737-8503 and we'll make sure there is a table for you. We're planning to have the club's packet BBS running during the meeting so you can see what goes on at the BBS end of things. Any other "show and tell" items would be greatly appreciated by all attendees, I'm sire.

The meeting will be held on December 1st (Friday). Doors open at 7:30PM, and you can start socializing as soon as you arrive! Have a good time and Merry Christmas!

Questionnaire Results

The club recently sent out a survey. There was a very favorable response as 55 surveys were returned. Following are the results by grouping and I should note that some participants left questions unanswered.

Next meeting will be Friday, December 1st, 8:00PM at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church

There is no board meeting in December

Next VE exam will be Wednesday, December 6th, 7:00PM at the Agawam High School

Club Officers

President—Yorke Phillips, K1BXE
Vice President—Stan Hilinski, KA1ZE
Treasurer—Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
Secretary/Clerk—Jeanette Platanitis, KA1MEW

Board of Directors

Jim Sebolt, N1DUY
Larry Lemoine, N1EPE
Steve Nelson, WA1EYF
Cliff Junkins, WIUWX
Ed Goldberg, WA1PLS
Fred Stefanik, N1DPM
Frank Potts, NC1I
Bob Lafleur, NQ1C

General information—The average age was 51 and of those, there were 25 extras, 12 advanced, 8 tech, 8 general, and 2 non-licensed.

November Auction—29 attend, 16 usually attend, and 2 do not. 39 purchased items and 15 did not. 14 sold items and 39 did not. 45 wanted to continue the auction, 1 did not, and 8 were not sure.

December Christmas Social—23 attend, 12 usually attend, and 15 do not. 13 would rather have a regular meeting and 34 would not.

June Banquet—20 attend, 10 usually attend, and 25 do not. 18 like the banquet at the church, 17 would rather a weekend barbecue, 11 prefer a restaurant, and 3 would rather a planned speaker.

Zero Beat—54 read it every month and 1 does not. 40 find it interesting and 14 find it sometimes interesting. 4 would like more packet items, 3 wanted more articles on propagation and contests. Other various interests were construction, antennas, DX, and VHF/UHF.

Meetings—12 attend all meetings, 17 attend most, 15 a few, and 6 do not attend any. 28 attend for the commraderie, and 16 for general information from speakers. 5 enjoyed the VHF meetings. Satellite and DX meetings were runnerups. 19 wanted more mix & mingle, 17 did not. 25 wanted more demonstrations and 17 were happy as it is now. 7 wanted more videotapes, 26 were happy as is, and 6 do not like videotapes. 5 wanted more topics on antennas, 6 wanted more DX, and the rest wanted packet, homebrew, and troubleshooting. 13 are willing to help with demonstrations and 17 are not.

Packet—12 use the bulletin board, 4 occasionally, 8 never, and 22 don't have packet. If the bulletin board was available by landline, 11 would use it, 7 would not, 5 don't have a computer, and 14 don't have a modem. 14 liked the bulletin board and 2 did not.

Interests—Members interests were 32 HF DX, 22 HF ragchewing, 21 VHF/UHF contests, 20 VHF ragchewing, 17 computer programming, 15 VHF packet, 14 HF contests, 12 HF packet, 11 VHF traffic nets, 10 HF traffic nets, 8 satellites, 5 moonbounce, 3 ATV, 3 homebrewing, 1 MARS, 1 ARES, 1 QRP, and 1 6m DX.

Greg Stoddard, N1AEH

What is the 10-X International Net?

by Larry Lemoine, N1EPE

Due to the current activity of 10 meters and my own interest in the band, I would like to share some information concerning the 10-X Net and answer questions most commonly asked by those interested in 10-X. [ed. 10-X is read as "ten-ten"]

The 10-X International Net, Inc. was originally formed in 1962 as the 10-X Net of Southern California. Its purpose was to promote activity and good operating practice on the ten meter band. During the first few years, the organization grew slowly, but today there are over 50,000 members.

What are the benefits of belonging to 10-X? 10-X is like any other ham radio organization, it is a group of hams that are interested in promoting ten meters. In order to keep interest up on the ten meter band, the idea of collecting "10-X numbers" is an incentive in keeping the ten meter band occupied was developed.

What does it cost to belong to 10-X? The dues are \$4.00 per year. There is a \$1.00 registration fee for new members which is a one-time fee for the issuing of your 10-X number. In return you receive the quarterly publication *10-X International News*. This publication lists all forthcoming activities, contests, chapter news, etc.

How do I join and where do I get my 10-X number? Any licensed amateur authorized to operate on the ten meter band can join. It is required that you collect 10 10-X numbers (on ten meters), listing certain information as noted on the membership application form.

What do I do with my 10-X number now that I have received it? You can exchange it with other 10-X members and keep a record of their number. There are numerous awards for keeping track of all 10-X numbers you collect, and submitting these numbers to the award managers for the various awards. You can also just give your number, when requested, and not participate in the award programs.

What happens to my 10-X number if for some reason I lose interest in 10-X or do not wish to continue my dues each year? Once you are issued a 10-X number it is your for life. If you decide not to participate in 10-X activity and do not

continue paying your dues each year, your number is still yours. You can still give it to other members and can still collect numbers yourself but cannot participate in award programs such as 10-X Worked All States or the DX award.

I hope that the above information is a help to you in understanding 10-X and the activities that it offers to you. If you would like more information concerning the net, local chapters, and an application, send an SASE to Chuck Imsande, W6YLJ, 18130 Bromley Street, Tarzana CA 91356-1701.

Sending NTS messages via Packet

by Jean, KA1IFC

To send an NTS Radiogram on packet, use the **ST** command, meaning **Send Traffic**.

1. When sending a message to WMA (Western Mass.) you only have to use **ST xxxxxx** (where xxxxxx is the zip) and when the BBS prompts you for the subject, you type **QTC Springfield, MA** or the name of the town to which it is going. If you are sending to EMA (Eastern Mass.) use **ST xxxxxx @ NTSEMA** instead.

2. When sending a message out of the area, address it as **ST ST xxxxxx @ NTSyy** (where xxxxxx is the zip and yy is the 2-letter state designator). Example: **ST 20953 @ NTSSC**. Subject would be **QTC Columbia, SC**.

3. When sending a message to a specific call at a specific BBS outside of New England, address it as **ST KE0TY @ KOJJV.KS**, substituting the proper calls in place of KE0TY and KOJJV. The .KS tells the local BBS to send the message to Kansas, if the BBS (KOJJV in this case) is not in the local BBS's forwarding list. Substitute the 2-letter state designator in place of KS. Subject can either be **QTC KE0TY** or **QTC Concordia, KS/QTC KE0TY**.

4. When you take an NTS message from the BBS, either for yourself or to deliver in your area, use the command **KT** after reading and saving it... Meaning **Kill Traffic**. Example: **KT xxxxxx** (where xxxxxx is the number of the message on the BBS). This prevents the message from being delivered twice.

5. When you list traffic on the BBS, you will see **TN**, **T+**, **T-**, and **TY**. **TN** means the message is for the BBS you are listing it on, and has not been read yet.

T+ means the message is designated to be forwarded to another BBS. **T-** means the message is currently being forwarded to another BBS. **TY** means the message has been read but not yet killed.

6. Messages are sent in NTS radiogram format:

NR 1 R KA1EXJ ARL8 Hadley, MA Oct 1
James Smith
123 Green Street
Salem OR 97527
Tel: 503 362 6789

BT
ARL Forty Six x Letter
follows x 73
BT

Joy
/EX

Have fun but be aware that traffic via packet still has some gaps. Some areas do not have packet traffic handles and several areas will not handle packet traffic without phone numbers. Give it a try...Nothing ventured, nothing gained. If you have any questions or comments, please leave them for me on W1NY.

Jean, KA1IFC/WMA Packet Mgr.

From : K0CM @ W1NY
To : W1NY
Date : 891115/2046
Msgid : PY 19573@W1NY \$19573_W1NY
Subject : BERK6

Hi! This is Randy, K0CM from Springfield (Missouri, that is). I have spent 45 minutes or so linked into your BBS via BERK6 on 28205. I have certainly enjoyed this trip to your area via the fine nodes at BERK. It has been as if you were just across town, instead of across the country. I have downloaded a bounch of info on your area nodes. Thanks so much. 73 Randy K0CM.MO.USA.NA

Auction A Hit

The HCRA's Annual Auction was a huge success this year, despite the move from the Granger School to the Agawam Junior High. The club made \$225 this year. Part of the great success was due to a few donated items that went for sizable amounts.

The general consensus seems to be that the Junior High was a better place to have the auction. It is bright, offers more space, and more comfortable. If you have any comments on our move to the Junior High, we'd be glad to hear them!

KA1KPH/rpt back up

The KA1KPH/449.175 repeater is finally back on the air. After suffering minor damage from a lightning hit during the summer, Bob KA1KPH and John AC1T took the opportunity to upgrade the repeater's radio hardware. The system, however, is still suffering from interference with the paging service and it may need to be PL'd or have its frequency changed to cure the problem. Stay tuned for more info!

VE Exams

Exams are sponsored by the HCRA on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM *sharp* at the Agawam High School. VE's are also needed. If you are interested in taking an exam or helping give exams, please contact Jeanette KA1MEW at 786-1463.

The next exam will be October 4th.

HCRA Meetings

First Friday of each month at
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Center of Feeding Hills
Intersection of routes 57 & 187
Doors open at 7:30 PM
Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM

Local Nets

HCRA 10 Meter Net	Thursday 9:00 PM 28.650
Nutmeg VHF Traffic Net	Daily 9:30 PM 146.28/88
80 Meter Ragchew Net	Tuesday 8:00 PM 3.709 Mhz
WMPN	Daily 6:00 PM 3.937
WMSN	Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 PM 3.713
WMN	Daily 7:00 PM 3.562
WMTN	Monday-Friday 1:00 PM 146.31/91
CNP	Monday-Saturday 6:00 PM 3.965
	Sunday 10:00 AM 3.965
Mt. Tom Information Net	Wednesday 7:30 PM 146.34/94
Mt. Tom Swap Net	Follows Mt. Tom information Net
Mt. Tom Emergency Net	Sunday 8:45 AM 146.34/94
Agawam Civil Defense Net	Monday 8:00 PM 449.175 & 146.70
RASON	Daily 9:00 PM 146.13/73
WESCON	Daily 8:30 PM 147.78/18
CN	Daily 7:00 & 10:00 PM 3.640
CSN	Monday-Friday 7:30 PM 3.720
CSTN	KY1T PBBS, 145.01 Mhz

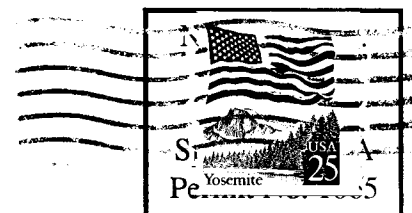
Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.
P O Box 482
West Springfield MA 01090-0482
Editor: Bob Lafleur, NQ1C

Forwarding & Address
Correction Requested

MAILED ON

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10/90 AC1T
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



*If your call is blue
your dues are due!*