

# Zero Beat



Our 54<sup>th</sup> Year

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

February, 2000

\*\*\*\*\* FCC ANNOUNCES \*\*\*\*\*  
AMATEUR RADIO RESTRUCTURING

X i bu!E pft!ju!Nfbo!up!zpv@@@!!

See Page 6

Join Us on Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, for HCRA's own  
**George Rancourt, K1ANX**  
Doors Open at 7:PM Meeting starts at 7:30

The topic will be military receivers and transmitters.

There will also be talk about the license restructuring,  
and other current Ham news.

Hope to see you there!!!

## In this months edition

From the President's Shack.....	Page 2
HCRA Contact Sheet .....	Page 3
DX Clips .....	Page 4
HCRA Photo Album - HCRA Auction.....	Page 5
What Restructuring means to you.....	Page 6
HCRA Board Meeting Minutes .....	Page 7

## *From the President's Shack* de W6IS

The big news on the airways is the FCC license restructuring. I am sure by the time you read this you will have heard all about it. Lets talk about the effect it might have on our cherished hobby.

Over the past number of years the topic was how to get more interest in ham radio. What was the possible deterrent. Was the onset of the communication highway called the .com syndrome taking away interest.

Or was it the higher speed CW code tests. Or any number of other possible reasons. I guess it depends on who you talk to.

Lets get back to the new restructuring and what I hope it might accomplish. For many of you already holding a ticket, it is a great chance for you to upgrade your license class. What comes with an upgrade obviously more band privileges. But what I think is even more important it should give you more incentive to get on the air and operate. Keep the bands busy and spark what I think is most important excitement and more enthusiasm into the hobby. I certainly hope the restructuring will open the door to many newcomers into the hobby. For those of you that might have any questions on the restructuring, HCRA secretary Jim, WA1ZUH, is our resident expert on the matter. I am sure he will be happy to answer any questions.

Have a comment???? You can air it at the HCRA meeting or right here in ZERO BEAT.

I urge you all to come on down to the HCRA meeting this month. George, K1ANX, will be the speaker. George is a long time dedicated HCRA member. The topic will be on military receivers and transmitters. Of course, there will be the usual great comradeship, club raffle, and coffee and doughnuts.

I'm looking forward to saying hello to all of you at the meeting.

*73 de Irv, W6IS*

### Membership Drive 2000

We would like to increase HCRA's membership 10% this year.

As an incentive to bring in more members,

For each prospective NEW member that you bring as a guest to an HCRA meeting, you will receive

5 free tickets for that night's door prize drawing.

If the guest joins, he/she will also receive 5 free tickets.

- MACHINE REBUILDING • INSTALLATION • REMOVAL
- CONTROL PANELS • START-UP • CONTRACTUAL SERVICES



WALTER J. NERO  
PRESIDENT  
Tel. & FAX 860-684-6650

P.O. BOX 477  
TOLLAND, CT 06084

Please  
Support  
our  
Sponsors

**HCRA CONTACTS**

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

**HCRA OFFICERS**

President	Irv Slitzky, W6IS	(413) 565-5222	w6is1@juno.com
Vice-President	Walter Nero, WA1HHN	(860) 684-6650	walhhn@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH	(860) 668-5143	
Secretary	Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com

**HCRA DIRECTORS**

At Large	Les Prentice, K1DNX	(413) 783-6775	
Program	Yorke Phillips, K1BXE	(413) 566-3010	ypphil@juno.com
Membership	Larry Smith, K1ILZ	(413) 566-3966	kilzncet@aol.com
Newsletter	John Pise, KX1X	(413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net
Technical	Jordan Koltz, W1JK	(413) 532-3729	w1jk@earthling.net

**STATION TRUSTEES**

WINY Trustee	Don Johnson, W1UPH	(413) 566-3560 (let it ring)	w1uph2@juno.com
WBIHOF Trustee	Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com

**EMERGENCY COORDINATOR**

Emergency Coordinator Dave Isham, KB1MU

**Please remember to join our Monday evening 10m Net**

Join NCS Tom, N1MUV, On Monday nights, 7:30PM local  
for the *HCRA/WINY 10m Net*

**28.375 +/- QRM**

with 10m opening daily, who knows what DX may check in to our  
10m net!!! DX or not, you'll still be treated to information and good conversation.

More and more people are joining into our Monday night chat sessions.

Come in and discuss whatever is on your mind!!!

How do you feel about the FCC License restructuring? How was the last HCRA meeting?



# DX Clips

de

Jordy, W1JK

I hope all had a wonderful Holiday season and assume that everyone is happy that the Y2K "Baloney" is behind us. Or is it ?!! The computer "Date changeover" issue is, of course, dead - but I think we can expect more hyperbole when the new Millenium really begins on Jan 1, 2001. Did these people "skip" 4th grade mathematics, or was there a "method to their madness"?

This month will long be remembered for the FCC decision to "downgrade" code and (hopefully) open the floodgates to new Hams. Whatever your feelings regarding this decision which was championed by ARRL - I know many of us are concerned about the long term survival potential of our unique Hobby. The trend is not good and let us hope that this approach to simplification will provide us with much-needed young Amateurs.

I just returned from 2 weeks of skiing in Stowe and apologize for the brevity of this month's column.

---

## LOOK FOR :

**3B6-Agalega** - mark your calendars for this one in October. A multinational team headed by HB9XE plans to operate Oct 7-23 on all bands & modes.

**8Q7-Maldiva Is.** Look for 8Q7CR from Feb 10 on SSB & RTTY. QSL via DF5JR.

**FH-Mayotte** Roger/G3SXW & Nigel/G3TXF will be QRV until Jan 31 on 80-10M CW only. They will do a brief stint on Seychelles (S7) on Feb 2-CW only. QSL home calls.

**J3-Grenada** Harry/W8KKF will be active as J73K Mar 4-7. He plans to be active in the ARRL DX contest over that weekend. Look for him also before & after the contest.

**TX0-Chesterfield** This is the next "new" DXCC entity. This DXpedition is scheduled for Mar 15 thru April 1. The New Caledonian Telecom authorities have already issued the call sign TX0DX. They will operate simultaneous CW & SSB on the same band with 4 HF stations. The 2 QSL mgrs. are Jarmo/OH2BN & Kan/JA1BK (6 M only). Check their website for more info.: [www.n4gn.com/tx0dx/](http://www.n4gn.com/tx0dx/)

**V7-Marshall Is.** - Tom/N4XP & Mike/N6MZ are active now until Feb 10 on 160/80/12/10M. QSL home calls.

**XZ-Myanmar** The XZ0A team will be active until Feb 6. Remember to check both the short path & the long path for openings on this one.

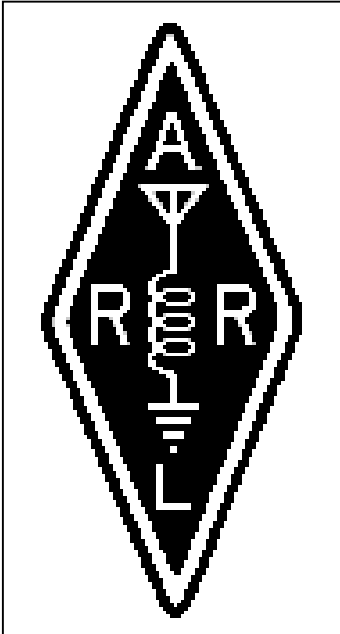
**ZK1-So. Cook Is.** Jim/ZK1JD is active on 10M SSB (around 28465 after 0000Z). 40 & 30 CW & 20M SSB after 0400Z. QSL via LA5VK.

See you next month.

de Jordy Koltz, W1JK,

NOTE JORDY'S NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS: [W1JK@earthlink.net](mailto:W1JK@earthlink.net)

# WHAT the new license structure Means to you



You are a...	To Become...		
	Technician	General	Amateur Extra
Non-Ham	Element 2 <sup>1</sup>	Elements 1,2,3	Elements 1,2,3,4
Novice	Element 2	Elements 2,3	Elements 2,3,4
Technician		Elements 1, 3 <sup>2</sup>	Elements 1,3,4
Tech Plus <sup>3</sup>		Element 3	Elements 3,4
General			Element 4
Advanced			Element 4 <sup>4</sup>

## NOTES:

- 1 Element 1 is the 5 WPM Morse code exam. Elements 2, 3, and 4 are the written examinations for Technician, General, and Amateur Extra, respectively. Elements 2 and 3 are 35 questions each; Element 4 is 50 questions – all multiple choice
- 2 Starting April 15, 2000, individuals who qualified for the Technician class license prior to March 21, 1987, may upgrade to General class by providing documentary proof to a Volunteer Examiner team, paying an application fee, and completing FCC Form 605. This is *not* an automatic upgrade!
- 3 The FCC has lumped Technician and Technician Plus licensees into a single category, all designated as “Technician” licensees. Those who can document having passed the 5 WPM Morse code examination will continue to have current Tech Plus HF privileges.
- 4 Between now and April 15, current Advanced holders may take the *existing* Element 4B, a 40-question test, giving them credit for having passed the current Extra written examination.

By Rick Lindquist, N1RL  
From QST, Feb 2000

PLEASE!!!

... \_ \_ \_ ...  
Support  
Our  
Sponsors  
Let them know  
That you saw their  
Ad in  
Zero Beat

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

**Chuck Wyrick**  
Eastern Regional Mgr.  
KM4NZ

224 N. Broadway  
Salem, NH 03079  
(603) 898-3750  
1-800-444-0047

ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • DENVER, CO • OAKLAND, CA  
 PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR • SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA  
 SUNNYVALE, CA • VAN NUYS, CA • WOODBRIDGE, VA

## HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting, January 13, 2000

Held at Irv Slitzky's, Longmeadow, MA

HCRA Officers present were: Irv Slitzky, W6IS; Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH; Greg Stoddard, N1AEH; Larry Smith, K1ILZ; and Les Prentice, K1DNX. Also present was Paul, N1FI. Paul was invited to attend to discuss a joint MTARA/HCRA Field Day. Irv opened the meeting by greeting all in attendance and handing out a meeting agenda.

### REPORTS:

**President:** Irv opened the meeting. The first order of business was to discuss the possibility of a joint Field Day. Thoughts about how the HCRA should participate in such an event were discussed, including food and food costs, investment in equipment and such. Conclusions were not drawn, we just wanted to arrive at a consensus for further discussion with Paul.

**Vice President:** Not present.

**Treasurer:** Present balance, \$1963. The small raffle was very successful at the January meeting, netting \$87. All bills are paid through November, 1999 at this time.

**Secretary:** Current membership stands at 82 regular, 3 life, 1 honorary and 8 family for a total of 94. New membership cards and labels for Zero Beat will be sent to John by January 26th.

**Newsletter:** John was unable to attend. Critical dates for the next Zero Beat are January 26th for article submission and February 1st for mailing.

**Technical:** Not present.

**Program:** Yorke was not present. February's meeting will be a presentation by George Rancourt, K1ANX. George will be speaking and perhaps showing military radios. George is a long time ham and HCRA member and is one of the areas most knowledgeable people on military radio history and refurbishing. It should be an interesting meeting. Speakers are still needed for March, and two of the three months of April, May and June. Yorke will be contacting Pete, N1AGV for a possible presentation on APRS. KC1XX has confirmed a talk on towers or contesting, but has not yet committed to a date.

**At Large:** Les has been helping with the monthly raffle and is also a great member resource for anyone looking for help with the hobby or input of what you would like from HCRA.

**Membership:** Larry is continuing to send 10 Zero Beats to different zip codes monthly. This month's town will be West Springfield, last month's was Agawam. HCRA has gained at least two new members with this program.

**Station Trustee:** Not present. The 10 Meter net on 28.375 is going great. Remember to check in on Mondays at 7:30 PM.

### Open Discussion:

The possibility of a joint Field Day with MTARA was discussed. Paul, N1FI, president of MTARA was present to review the MTARA's thoughts on the subject. Paul said the matter was discussed at the last MTARA board meeting, and seems to have met with the boards approval. He will bring it before the board at the January meeting for final approval. The HCRA board voted unanimously to support a joint field day, assuming the MTARA does the same. Benefits from such an event would be a greater pool of operators, erectors, cooks, etc., many of which are members of both clubs and are now forced to split their time between the two. During the discussion thoughts were aired concerning structure, financing and location. Les suggested co-chairs from each club, with perhaps a committee chairperson overseeing the operation. It was decided to use approximately the same investment each club has made in the past few years for equipment, supplies, etc. Also, if the joint effort should come to pass, food will be arranged and cooked for participants, but will self-funding.

Location of the joint effort was tossed about, with thoughts of local High Schools (Agawam topped that list), or perhaps a large field at a manufacturing facility. All agreed a more central location close to Springfield would be best for most people.

We will be looking for a new club FD call, anyone have any suggestions? Take a look at available calls on line, perhaps we can get a new club vanity call for FD, just like we did for the Hall of Fame station (WB1HOF)

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

The next board meeting is Thursday, February 10, 2000 at Irv's house.

The HCRA's board of directors extends thanks to Irv and Marilyn for the use of their home and their excellent hospitality.

Jim Mullen

Secretary, HCRA

Saturday, January 13, 2000

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

**February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000**

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 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

What does license restructuring  
mean to you?

See Page 6 of this Zero Beat