



Our 58th Year

Zero Beat



A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

<http://www.hcra.org>

Meetings Held at: **Feeding Hills Congregational Church**
21 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA

February, 2004

NOTE: SPECIAL DATE & TIME

This month's meeting of the Hampden County Radio Association will be one week early on **JANUARY 30th, 2004**, starting at **7:PM** (1/2 hr. earlier than usual), at the **Feeding Hills Congregational Church**.



Ron Rentino from ICOM will be giving a presentation on the latest and greatest products and technology, as well as live demonstrations of the latest and greatest gear from ICOM.

Also this month ...
Other Club business
Donuts and coffee
Raffle
Good Friends,
Good Conversation,
Good Times

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

HCRA'S ANNUAL

SHOW & TELL

Win Prizes, See other Hams projects, have fun!

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President's



Icom School

Corner

ICOM School this Friday! Held early on January 30th!

The date and location of the meeting has now been confirmed. Our February meeting will be held one week early, on January 30th. Ron from Icom will start his presentation at 7:00 PM, a half hour earlier than our usual starting time. Please make note of the new date and time. If you show up as usual you're going to be bored!

Through the efforts of Larry, WB1DBY and Alex, N1EBU of Lentini Communications HCRA will bring the ICOM school to our club meeting. Ron Renteno from Icom will be on hand with a relaxed, thought provoking seminar devoted to the latest in Icom gear and ham radio technology. Renteno will have a PowerPoint presentation, demonstrate some radios and take your questions. I'm sure Ron will also have some insight into the exciting future of ham radio equipment. Icom has always been an industry leader with such radios as the IC-706, the PCR-1000 and now the new IC-7800. I wonder what else this innovative company might have on the drawing board?

Because of Ron's tight schedule it's necessary to move the meeting from our usual Friday, February 6th to Friday, January 30th. It will be at same place, the Congregational Church in Feeding Hills. Meeting time will be at 7:00 for Ron's presentation immediately followed by our regular business meeting.



The raffle prize this month will be an Icom IC-T2H handheld. The entire proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the ARRL's BPL defense fund. Bring a friend and have a great

time!



An Important Message for all hams!



Graphic courtesy ARRL web

Please read!
*There's a new serious
Amateur Radio Spectrum...*

Made your donation yet? Ham radio needs you — are you ready to serve?

The new year is here and a good New Year's resolution would be to make every effort you can to help defeat BPL. Whatever method you choose to fight BPL; publicity, testing, financial support, the most important thing is to do something. Don't know what BPL is? Don't delay, get on the internet and go to: <http://www.arrrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>. If you are not convinced that this could easily reduce your enjoyment of the HF bands you aren't reading close enough. There's no need to read between the lines to understand this threat!

The ARRL needs your financial support as well for this fight. Please look at: <https://www.arrrl.org/forms/fdefense/>. After reviewing all the information you make the choice and do what you think is best for our hobby. Your support is absolutely necessary to keep BPL off the power lines and out of your receiver! Do something and do it now!

Membership Director Retires. Norm needs time to QSO on the keyboard!

After over two and half years of service, Norm, W1BMK has decided to step down from the board to have time to pursue work on a different keyboard, a musical one. This is W1BMK's third term as Membership Director. During his years with HCRA Norm, with lots of help from his XYL Betty, KB1CPZ, has been a great asset to the club. Norm's enthusiasm for the hobby, coupled with a genuine desire to bring new blood into ham radio have made a big difference.



Norm & Betty have helped out with Field Day, Special Event Stations and of course the Big-E for many years. He has also been the person that organizes the coffee & donuts every meeting and participated in holiday party planning the previous two years. Lucky for us Norm will still be helping out with coffee & donuts and pitching in with Peter to help with Technician class instruction.

When you see Norm at the next meeting remember to thank him for all his work for HCRA. The HCRA board thanks him for his past hard work and wishes him the best in the future. I wonder when his next CD will go gold?

Are you ready for Show & Tell? March 5th is just around the corner.

Have you started building your project for this year's Show & Tell? There's only a little more than four weeks left to finish it up. What's Show & Tell you ask? It's a chance for all our members to build something, then take it to the meeting, "show" us what it is, then "tell" all about it. What do you get for your effort? How about a \$50 gift certificate to HRO as first prize, sounds pretty good, doesn't it?



Afraid you will be competing against people that are more experienced? We've got that covered with both "Novice" and "Expert" classes of competition. What should you make? Here's a few examples from past "Show & Tells". Automatic battery changeover on power failure, 1920's transmitter, antenna center supports, custom written software, bandpass filters, Van deGraff generators, QRP transmitters, vintage stations — you name it and some HCRA member has built it!

So, don't delay. Pick your project and get to work on it. Time's a wastin' and you could be taking home \$50 for your efforts. There will be a \$50 prize for each category, plus 2nd and 3rd prizes too.

W1MJB Joins the HCRA Board Marty accepts Membership Position

Marty Bowen, W1MJB, has accepted the position of Membership Director for the rest of the 2003/2004 season. Marty, a graduate of last years class will be a great addition to the board. An extra class licensee Marty is enthusiastic and active in many aspects of the hobby. The HCRA board thanks him for his willingness to join and looks forward to his input for the remainder of the year.

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and
Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

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PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR • SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA

Wear it Proudly!
HCRA Name Badges

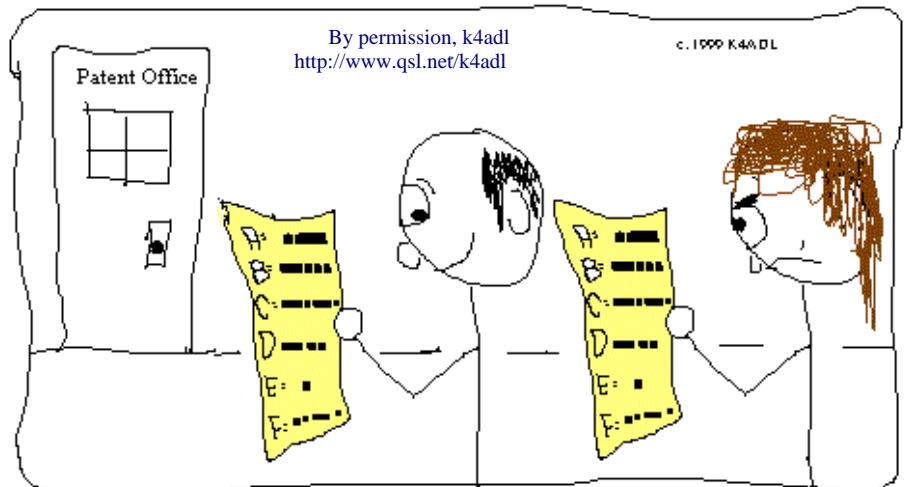
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Jim, KK1W : jmullen@rockys.com or (413) 245-3228

OUR
SUPPORTERS
PLEASE



LUCKILY FOR US, SAMUEL MORSE ARRIVES AT THE PATENT OFFICE
JUST SECONDS BEFORE IGOR CZNXOVIZKYNOVIA

CONTEST CORNER
something almost every weekend!!!

Vermont QSO Party 0000Z, Feb 7-2400Z, Feb 8
 New Hampshire QSO Party 0000Z, Feb 7-2400Z, Feb 8
 Minnesota QSO Party 1400Z-2359Z, Feb 7
 Delaware QSO Party 1700Z, Feb 7-0500Z, Feb 8
 and 1300Z, Feb 8-0100Z, Feb 9
 North Amer Sprint SSB 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 8
 ARRL School Club Roundup 1300Z, Feb 9-0100Z, Feb 14
 CQ/RJ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 14-2400Z, Feb 15
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW
0000Z, Feb 21-2400Z, Feb 22
 CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 0000Z, Feb 28-2359Z, Feb 29
 Mississippi QSO Party 1500Z, Feb 28-0300Z, Feb 29
 North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 28-0600Z, Feb 29
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, Phone
0000Z, Mar 6-2400Z, Mar 7
 Wisconsin QSO Party 1800Z, Mar 14-0100Z, Mar 15 BARTG
 Spring RTTY Contest 0200Z, Mar 20-0200Z, Mar 22
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB
0000Z, Mar 27-2400Z, Mar 28



Your Club Needs
YOU!!

It seems hard to believe that only 7 years ago, the Hampden County Radio Association was close to dissolving because of a lack of interest and low member attendance.

Since then, the club has rebounded due to strong leadership and interesting events and meetings. This didn't happen by accident. These changes were made by volunteers interested in making your club an exciting, FRIENDLY, and interesting place to be.

Now its your turn.

Many of the key officers and board members will not be returning to office in September. Why not volunteer for an office, and help keep the HCRA moving in the right direction? Please contact a board member if you are interested in taking on a position. Elections in June.

Get On The Air (all times local)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri 19:00 | National Traffic Sys (NTS) Net | 146.94 (W1TOM) |
| Sundays 08:45 | Western Mass Emergency Net | 146.94 (W1TOM) |
| Mondays 19:30 | HCRA 10m Net | 28.375 |
| Tuesdays 19:30 | Slow Scan TV (SSTV) Net | 145.130 (PL 123 Hz) (KD1XP) |
| Wednesdays 19:30 | MTARA Info net | 146.94 and 147.000 (link) (W1TOM) |
| | 20:00 MTARA Swap net | |
| | 20:30 MTARA Tech net | |
| Thursdays 21:00 | Weather Net | 2 nd Week of the Month 147.09 (All other weeks 147.000) |
| | 19:30 WMa Emergency Simplex Net | Starts on 146.94 |
| | 20:00 WMa Emergency Simplex Net | 145.130 (PL 123 Hz, use PL for both duplex & simplex) |

Club Meetings & Testing Sessions

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| 1 st Friday of the month 19:30 | HCRA Club Meeting | Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills |
| 3 rd Monday of January, April, July, and October | | Amherst Machine KD1XP License Exams Amherst, MA Contact Richard, KD1XP, 413-665-2211 or 145.130 Repeater http://www.kd1xp.org |
| 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 | MTARA License Exams | Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke |
| | | Contact Dave, WA1DC, WA1DC@pipeline.com |
| 4 th Sunday of the month 19:00 | NOBARC club meeting | Pittsfield MA (146.91 for talk-in) |

W1NY ON THE AIR

Join us each week on the HCRA 10m Net!

Join NCS, Tom Doyle (n1muv), each Monday night at 7:30 PM (local) on 28.375 Mhz (+/- QRM)

Get the latest local word, join good friends, take part in good conversation each week!!!

Anyone (with HF privs) can join in, don't be shy!!!

Announcing HCRA Sponsored Technician Class

Do You know of anyone interested in becoming a ham?

Beginning Tuesday evening, February 10th, 2004

classes will be held at Wolf Swamp Road School, Longmeadow.

Classes will begin at 6:30 PM and go until 8:30 PM each Tuesday evening.

There are ten class sessions planned, culminating with a VE session on the last meeting night.

(There will be no class on February 17th)

Last year's class yielded 14 new Technician class Ham Radio Operators.

COST: \$0.00 + the cost of "Now You're Talking"

NO AGE REQUIREMENT

Contact Peter, KI1I

(413) 562-7392

ki1i@arrl.net

On the Internet

<http://www.hcra.org>

Updated often to bring you timely
Amateur news and info

IRLP Node #7270

146.46 Mhz -- PL 114.8

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See www.hcra.org

Next Month:

Show & Tell

March 5th, 2004

Feeding Hills

Congregational Church

Get Your *Zero Beat* Electronically each month

HCRA members can receive their 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, KK1W, to be added to the eZB only list.

KD1XP Repeater Group News

KD1XP Repeater Group *Ham Radio testing session* will be Monday, April 19, 2004 at 7 PM in Amherst, MA at Amherst Machine, Cowls Rd. All test elements given.

www.kd1xp.org has a great listing of local frequencies for scanner listening, Check it out and please add to it if you know a frequency that is not there.

Breakfast net weekdays at 630
AM442.200 - PL 162.2 kd1xp/r Deerfield.

www.kd1xp.org

For any of the above, contact Richard,
KD1XP at 665-2211 or kd1xp@kd1xp.org
or on the 145.130 repeater



BSA Venture Crew 510

NE1C - New England's #1 Crew

BSA Venture Crew 510 is chartered by the Hampden County Radio Association

Visit Crew DX's 100% youth designed website:

<http://www.csl.net/crewdx>



BSA VENTURE CREW 510 Contacts

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Youth President | Luke Dyson, KB1ISP | luke@penguinia.net |
| Adult Advisor | John Pise, Kx1x (413) 532-7474 | kx1x@arrl.net |
| Adult Advisor | Dave Cain, AA1YW | aa1yw@arrl.net |

BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| January 30 th , 7PM | CREW/HCRA Meeting |
| March 5 th | CREW/HCRA Meeting |
| March 27 th | CQWW WPX Contest – NE1C at K1TTT, Peru, MA |
| April 2 nd | CREW/HCRA Meeting |
| April 3 rd | Walk-A-Thon for Pack 424, Chicopee |
| April 4 th | Scantic Spring Splash |



Crew 510 wishes to thank AA1YW, Dave Cain, for the use of his QTH in Vermont during the NAQP contest in January.

At Right: Allan, KB1HUM, working 20m during NAQP. NE1C, multi-2 operation in VT.



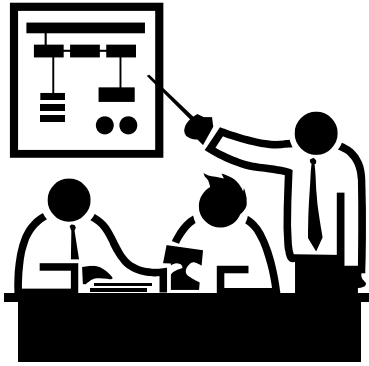
On the weekend of January 16, 17, 18, 2004, BSA Venture Crew traveled to Vermont as part of the annual Crew celebration weekend, and to work the North American QSO Party. A leadership seminar was held, to familiarize crew members of their leadership responsibilities, and to teach some new skills. A “trust fall” was held as part of that training... each crew member fell backwards helplessly, trusting that their fellow members would be there to catch them.

Attending this year's Vermont trek were crew president Luke (KB1ISP), Steve (KB1GHC), Mike (KB1FWN), Justin (KB1ISQ), Allan (KB1HUM), Brian (KB1IGM), Jeff (Nx1x), John (KB1FTX), and new recruit Ray (KB1KQM).

On Saturday, we found that we need to work better planning these events. While unpacking the Icom 746, it was decided that a microphone would have been a good thing to bring to work the SSB contest. Neither of the two laptops had a contest logger installed. When one of the power supplies died, we had to use a marine battery on one machine for the rest of the contest. The tuner didn't work, so we relied on the TS440's auto-tuner. Two minutes into the first Q's on 40m, the auto-tuner became a memory, complete with smoke signals.

All in all, a contest effort from hell. 20m was good and 15/40/80 was ok (using the Alinco after the Kenwood TS440 went away). Though the contest ran to 2:AM, the bands left the scene at 10:PM.





&



HCRA's Third Annual

Show & Tell

What's a "show & tell"? It's a chance to show off your latest creation and win some nice prizes to boot. It's the feature part of our "March Madness" meeting and should be a lot of fun! You've still got a lot of time to prepare, so read on...

To enter, show up with your project, explain it and wait for the judges decision. There will be Novice and Expert classes. All entries will be judged by an independent panel of electrical engineers from MIT, RPI and Wal-Mart :-> Entries will be judged on originality, construction quality and usefulness. So, bring your home brewed whatizit, your latest software creation, new mobile mount, portable PSK31 station, Tesla coil, etc. and "show & tell" everyone about your handiwork.

First prize in each category will be a \$50 gift certificate to HRO, Second prize a Radio Shack SWR meter and Third prize a digital volt-meter. Judges' decisions will be final and you **MUST** bring your project back home with you!

FOR SALE

(free classified for HCRA members)

Kenwood MC-60 desk mic. Mint Condition. Original Box, manuals and warranty card. Works with all Kenwood radios with an 8 pin connector except the Kenwood TS-570DG (my radio). Sells for new at \$139. Asking \$85 or best offer. Please contact: Larry - WB1DBY at wb1dby@arrl.net or (413) 348-3289 (leave message with your name and phone # if voice mail picks up).

ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License Code-Free HF Access

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 19, 2004--The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class.

The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals--developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July--are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'" The plan adopted by the Board departs only slightly from the Executive Committee's recommendations.

The "New" Novice

The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam, phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up, thus avoiding the need for the more complex RF safety questions in the Novice question pool.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "It was also seen as important to limit the scope of privileges so the exam would not have to include material that is inappropriate at the entry level."

As an introduction to Amateur Radio, the Novice license served successfully for most of its 50-year history. The FCC has not issued new Novice licenses since the 2000 license restructuring, however. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees--now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs--would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

Technicians and Generals

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be consolidated into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants. ARRL already has proposed additional phone privileges for Generals in its "Novice refarming" petition, RM-10413, but the FCC has not yet acted on that petition.

Morse Code Testing Retained for Extra

At the top rung, the Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. The League's plan calls for current Novice, Tech Plus and General class licensees to receive lifetime Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit.

"This structure provides a true entry-level license with HF privileges to promote growth in the Amateur Service," Harrison said. "It also simplifies the FCC database by conforming to the current Universal Licensing System (ULS) structure and does not mandate any modifications to it."

Sumner concurred. "The Board started out by recognizing that three license classes was the right number when looking down the road 10 or 15 years," he said. "We need a new entry-level license." "On the other hand, there's nothing particularly wrong with the existing Extra class license," he continued. "The change in the international regulations notwithstanding, the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment in the FCC's amateur licensing structure should include basic Morse capability."

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

Proposal Includes "Novice Refarming" Band Plan

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice refarming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter the current HF subbands. The Novice refarming proposal would eliminate the 80, 40 and 15-meter Novice/Technician Plus CW subbands as such and reuse that spectrum in part to expand phone/image subbands on 80 and 40 meters. The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

ARRL Proposed Band Plan

80 Meters

Extra: 3.725-4.000 MHz (gain of 25 kHz)
General: 3.800-4.000 MHz (gain of 50 kHz)
Novice: 3.900-4.000 MHz (new)

40 meters

Extra: 7.125-7.300 MHz (gain of 25 kHz)
General: 7.175-7.300 MHz (gain of 50 kHz)
Novice: 7.200-7.300 MHz (new)

15 meters

Extra: 21.200-21.450 MHz (no change)
General: 21.275-21.450 MHz (gain of 25 kHz)
Novice: 21.350-21.450 MHz (new)

10 meters

Extra and General: 28.300-29.700 MHz (no change)
Novice: 28.300-28.500 MHz (no change)

Proposed CW/Data-Exclusive HF Subbands
(Includes Novice Refarming Proposal)

80 meters

Extra: 3.500-3.725 MHz
General: 3.525-3.725 MHz
Novice: 3.550-3.700 MHz

40 meters

Extra: 7.000-7.125 MHz
General: 7.025-7.125 MHz
Novice: 7.050-7.125 MHz

15 meters

Extra: 21.000-21.200 MHz
General: 21.025-21.200 MHz
Novice: 21.050-21.200 MHz

10 meters

Extra/General: 28.000-28.300 MHz
Novice: 28.050-28.300 MHz

HCRA board Meeting

January 8, 2004

Held at the home of Norm Gregoire, W!BMK

Members present: Jim KK1W, IrvW6IS, Larry WB1DBY, Peter, K1II, Norm, W1BMK, Greg, N1AEH, Dave, KB1MU, and Marty W1MJB.

The meeting was started with a open discussion about possible revision of the board membership responsibilities. In general the board members agree that some provision should be made to include younger members (under 20 years of age.) and newly licensed (Under 2 years.) within the board. Part of the discussion centered around whether the membership would be elected or appointed, and should it be a voting or non-voting position. The board of directors would appreciate any comments on this subject from the general membership

The Board of Directors would also like to applaud Mr Jim Whitehouse for his efforts with the recently completed training of new and young hams. Classes like this will help "restock" the hobby with younger Hams.

Vice President W6IS:

Irv has supplied copies of the club inventory to each member of the board. Each member will review the inventory, make any needed changes and return to Irv.

Treasurer N1AEH:

The current club balance is \$4328.00. T

Secretary KB1MU:

Membership total at present:

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Courtesy | 6 |
| Family | 15 |
| Life | 3 |
| Prospect | 6 |
| Regular | 84 |
| Venture Crew | 10 |

Program WB1Z:

The new QSL cards have been ordered and we are awaiting delivery. The Board would like to send its best regards to Jim.

Membership W1BMK:

Norm has submitted his resignation effective 1/8/04. In his 2 ½ years as a board member Norm has been a great asset to the HCRA. Our Thanks to you Norm for a job well done.

ZeroBeat KX1X:

Due to the early meeting date, cutoff date for submission for the February edition ZeroBeat is January 18th. As the next meeting date approaches, postcards will be sent to all members as a reminder of the changed date.

Technical K1II:

Peter will continue to update the club web site as info is gathered for the Feb Ham classes. Peter will also forward to the Secretary, information on class member. This will allow them to be placed on Electronic ZeroBeat mailing list.

At Large WB1DBY:

Larry is working with Alex Lentini about the Feb meeting. Both will approach Icom for a possible raffle prize. Alex has been added to the list of courtesy copies of ZeroBeat.

Venture Crew:

Not present

Old Business:

The remaining KC1ZJ equipment has not yet been offered for sale on E-bay.

New Business:

Dufresne Park has been reserved for 2004 field day

Jim KK1W presented a review of the Directors meeting held on Jan 4th.

There will be a large contingent of HCRA members going to the Dayton Hamvention this year. If you are interested in joining them contact any board member. This group is also looking for suggestion for a GREAT raffle prize for next Nov Auction raffle. If you have any suggestion, please let a board member know.

Board elections will soon be here. Many board members have served many years on the board and would like to hand over the reigns to new faces. New faces add new vision to the old problems. As a four term member of the board, I can assure you it is a enjoyable responsibility, but you do run out of new ideas that keep the club exciting as it has been in the past. If you want to keep the HCRA vibrant as it has been volunteer for a board position. I promise, you will enjoy it.

The New England QSO party is in May. The W1NY club call is available to anyone who would like to setup a contest operation, or even a rover operation. Contact Jim KK1W for details.

Respectfully submitted Dave Isham KB1MU

The next
Hampden County Radio Association
Monthly meeting
will be on **Friday**

January 30th, 2004

Ron Retino

ICOM SCHOOL

meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Doors open at 6:30 PM!
Hope to see you there!
In case of inclement weather,
check: www.hcra.org
or the 146.94 repeater.
*Meeting cancellation information will be
given out by 6:00 PM.*

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,
S.Hadley, MA



June 25,26,27, 2004
Mark your calendar

**Freezing
Cold?**

Just think
warm
thoughts...
like

**FIELD
DAY 2004**

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts
01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

Ron Retino
ICOM SCHOOL
*Ron will discuss new
technology and products.
Live product demo!*

**Jan 30th,
2004
Doors
Open
At
6:30 pm**

