

Zero Beat



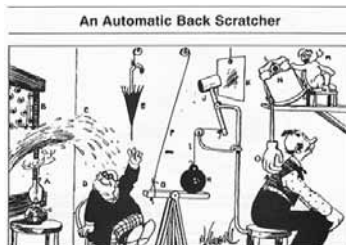
Hampden County Radio Association

January 2012

Show & Tell Is Early This Year!

How's your project coming for Show & Tell this year? Have you started yet? Well, I hate to break it to you, but we moved Show & Tell to February 3 to make room for the Vintage Radio & Communications Museum presentation in March. Now, ordinarily, I would say this could be a problem but knowing our builders you probably haven't even started yet, right? Don't we all work better with a deadline? Hmm, I wonder if we could film a reality show of Gent or Jon trying to finish up their projects before the deadline, wouldn't that be fun to watch? Running through the salvage yard, grabbing capacitors and fans, wire trailing out the car door-cool!

So you can't say you haven't been warned. There's still over a month



to get things finished up and ready for presentation. Where to start, how to finish—it's all up to you. Every year our members come up with a great assortment of items that will simply amaze you. The uniqueness of the ideas and the quality of construction are on a par with commercially produced equipment and run the gamut from small station accessories to kilowatt amplifiers—and a little bit of everything in between.

Mark February 3rd on your calendar, circle it in red and be ready to bring your latest creation to HCRA's Annual Show & Tell. We're waiting to see the latest things to spring from the shops of our members!

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Here's a Good Way to Get Licensed (or Upgrade to General and/or Extra!)

Are you, or is someone you know interested in Amateur Radio and would like to obtain a Technician Class license, but don't know where to start? Well, look no further, your search is over! The HCRA will be holding Amateur Radio Technician Classes in January at the Moose Family Center, 244 Fuller Road, Chicopee, Mass. 01020.

Class #1 - Monday, January 09, 2012 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Class #2 - Monday, January 16, 2012 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Class #3 - Monday, January 23, 2012 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Class #4 - Saturday, January 28, 2012 9:00 - 3:00 PM

VE Exam - Saturday, January 28, 2012 3:00 PM

There is no charge for the class. Details on HCRA.org; send questions to John/Kx1x, kx1x@arrl.net.

Looking to upgrade to General or Extra? There will be 'study sessions' for both licenses running concurrently with the Technician course. If you would like to take part in these sessions, as a student or an instructor, then contact John/Kx1x and he will be happy to sign you up.

Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

- QST Magazine
- Members-Only Web Services
- Technical Information Service
- Member Discounts
- Outgoing QSL Service
- Continuing Education
- ARRL as an Advocate
- Regulatory Information Branch
- Public Relations for Amateur Radio
- ARRL Field Organization
- ARRL-sponsored contests
- Operating Awards
- Local Clubs
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- Hamfests and Conventions
- Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program

<http://www.arrl.org/membership>



Local happenings

(All times are local time)

Sundays: 0845: Western Mass Emergency Net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

First Monday: RACES Drill, 1900, 146.91; 1930, 146.94; 1945, 146.985

Mondays: 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

Tuesdays: 1930-2000: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - Hampshire County Emergency Net

Wednesdays: 1930: MTARA Info net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - includes NTS Net

2000: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

2000: MTARA Simplex Net - starts on 146.94 - PL 127.3, then goes to 146.42 direct (simplex) Usually starts immediately following the swap net.

Thursdays: 2100: Weather Net (Roger, K1PAI Net Control), 1st Thursday of every month: 147.090 MHz, All other Thursdays: 147.000, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

Fridays: 1200: BB's (Brown Baggers Luncheon)

Common Ground Restaurant
25 Park Avenue
West Springfield, MA 01089

Expect between 6 and 12 every Friday. Good food, great company!

Club Meetings & VE Sessions

1st Friday of the month 1930 HCRA Club Meeting, Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills (no meetings held in July or August)

3rd Friday of the month 1930 MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA (no meetings held in July or August)

4th Friday of the month 1800 License Exams, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET)

Third Monday of the month 1900 Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield High School (no meetings held in July or August) (Meeting Jan 23, 2012, 4th Monday; meeting Apr 23, 2012, to avoid holidays)

4th Monday of February, May, August, November 1900 FCARC VE Exams, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Northfield

New England Flea Markets

25 Feb S Burlington VT HAM-CON @HI

4 Mar Hicksville NY LIMARC @LevitHall

10 Mar Feeding Hills MA MtTARA @
TurnverneinClb (**Note new date!**)

18 Mar Southington CT SARA @HS

25 Mar Framingham MA FARA @KeefeTech

15 April Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT (Third
Sunday April thru October)

28 Apr Gales Ferry CT RASON Auction @
FireCo

4,5 May Deerfield NH Nearfest XI @FG



Dust off that old key
or paddle and get
on the air!

HCRA Contact List

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FROM THE SHACK

January's Guest Speaker – Jose Castillo/N4BAA

Sunspots are back, the bands are alive and ham operators everywhere are turning their attention back to the HF bands. It seems no matter where you point your beam there is a DX station waiting for your call. Wait, you don't have a beam? The horrors!!!

Are you suffering 'antenna envy' and sick and tired of coming up with excuses about why your 'wire antenna' (of some shape or form) isn't really cutting it? Wouldn't a beam antenna perched on top of a tall tower look nice in your yard? Maybe 2012 is time for a change? If you answered "yes" to any of the above Jose is the guy to show you how to do it, in terms the average amateur can understand.

Yep, that's right - you don't need to be an engineer or have a bank account like Warren Buffett to add an accessory to your station that will outperform the best rig you could buy. All you need is ambition, a little cash and helpful advice from N4BAA to get the job done, and done correctly. Join us for an interesting presentation about how *YOU* can get more out of your hobby - without breaking the bank or having to take a night course in civil engineering. This is a meeting that all of us, those with and without towers, should attend. Jose is a extremely active (some would say 'overactive') local amateur that will leave you excited about improving your station and your enjoyment of ham radio. Don't miss it - mark your calendar now, OK?

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

I threw out a challenge last month to get more participation in the ARRL 10 Meter contest and boy did the membership respond. I was hoping we could surpass one million points and we went WAY beyond. As of this writing (more scores still to be reported) we have 1,715,070 and at least 24 HCRA members participated. What a great job by our HCRA members, both from individuals that plugged away in front of their rigs to those that opened up their stations to guest operators. Friday night there were pileups working local HCRA members. Wasn't it great to hear the new ops out there having fun too? An amazing job from an amazing group of people. We're still sorting out what the 'prize' will be for exceeding 77,000 points but rest assured there will be 'something' handed out during the January meeting.

Please take a moment to check the score chart on our web page and see how we did. If for some reason you were left off the chart please let us know. And don't forget to send your log in if you did participate – who knows, you could win an award from ARRL as icing on the cake.



KX3 *200* Raffle - update

Have you purchased a ticket or three yet? Wouldn't you want to be one of the first to own this ground breaking HF rig that is causing excitement throughout the amateur community? Maybe 2012 is the time for you to 'take a chance' and go home a big winner. Like they say, you can't win if you don't play.

The big news is the KX3 moved from 'announcement' to 'order' status on December 27th. HCRA was on the pre-order list and the KX3 for the raffle is on schedule for delivery in "late February". This means we still have more tickets to sell before we can hold the raffle, that's what it means. Final price of the 'built' model (that's the one you'll win) is \$995. Restating the obvious, "where else can you get a \$1K radio for a \$10 bill?" HCRA of course! Frank/KB1LFD will be selling tickets at all the club meetings and at other events in the area. The sooner we sell out the sooner the drawing will be held. So, "what's in your wallet?" Hopefully a few raffle tickets!

Holiday Party

Once again this year our Holiday Party at the Steaming Tender was a resounding success. Over seventy guests enjoyed scrumptious food and fun with their friends throughout the evening. Add to that a gaggle of great door prizes and you couldn't get more enjoyment for \$15 anywhere this winter season. We've already reserved December 3, 2012 so be sure to mark your calendar too. You wouldn't want to miss it! Thanks to all that attended and the staff and owners of the restaurant for making our 2011 party a great success.

Loose Connections:

If you've been thinking of joining the ranks of amateur radio, know someone who is, or want to upgrade your ticket then we have just the ticket for your ticket. John/Kx1x is holding a Technician license class, along with a
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General and Extra study group this month. He's looking for both students and instructors. See the dates on our website and contact John if you're interested in attending. Not sure if you're a student or a teacher? You really need to contact him then so he can help you sort this out! With the bands hopping now is the time to upgrade and increase your "joy of hamming"

Show & Tell has moved to February this year to avoid a schedule conflict. See the separate S&T article in this newsletter for more details and be sure to get to work on your project NOW! ☺

'73... Happy New Year to you and yours from all of us at HCRA. See you at the January meeting.

Jim, KK1W

Jacob Krainson, KB1NSN, Becomes Eagle Scout



Ever since my son Jacob was very small, he would accompany me to many HCRA meetings and activities. He's been to Field

Days, fox hunts and other activities. One of the meetings that stood out was when Dave, AA1YW's son John had his Boy Scout Eagle Ceremony at the HCRA holiday party. Jake spoke about wanting to earn the Eagle rank for many years afterwards.

Many of you have seen Jake at meetings throughout the years. Some of you helped him earn his Technician class license and the call of KB1NSN, and then helped him upgrade to General. Recently Jacob completed his BSA Eagle project and all the requirements for becoming an Eagle Scout on October 11, 2011.

If you would like to join us at Jacob's Eagle Ceremony, it will be held Sunday afternoon, January 15th at 2 pm at Temple Beth El, 979 Dickinson Street, Springfield, Mass. Entrance is thru the middle doors and Troop 32 Boy Scouts will point you in the direction of the auditorium. Another scout is also being honored, too. The ceremony will take approximately 2 hours with refreshments afterwards. We look forward to seeing you there! 73,

Larry Krainson, WB1DBY
wb1dby@comcast.net

Hello World A life in ham radio, Reviewed by Marty Bowen, W1MJB

To an outsider, amateur radio is an arcane, mysterious and ethereal world centered around the crackly bleeps, squawks, groans and chirps that emanate from radios quite unlike the family AM/FM. Certainly a noisy world where jargon laden voice transmissions are no more intelligible to the untrained ear than the dits and dahs of Morse code; but we as hams, all two and a half million of us world wide, come to know a different world, one of rich diversity inhabited by peoples from a multiplicity of cultures, speaking a myriad of languages. A world where we, through the magic of the radio wave, can travel to the most remote regions of the world from the confines of our radio shacks.



Imagine a chilly winters eve on 40 meters, as you slowly scan the band listening for a station to work you encounter a voice calling: "CQ CQ CQ, This is W2OJW, calling CQ. Whisky Two Oscar Juliet Whisky in Hackensack, New Jersey standing by for a call..." You send your call and spend a pleasant ten minutes in a QSO with Jerry, just Jerry from New Jersey and then continue the hunt for yet another contact without the knowledge that for seven decades, Jerry Powell sent this familiar invitation to fellow amateur radio operators around the world, from depression era rural Kansas during the formative years of amateur radio as W9DOG, through the space age turn of the century in urban Hackensack, New Jersey as W2OJW, Jerry Powell aeronautical engineer, husband, father, dedicated ham,

He spent as much time as his busy life allowed working the world from a modest "radio shack" and documented his journey with seventy years of QSL cards. In a novel approach, authors Danny Gregory and Paul Sahre, inspired by 369 of Powell's QSL cards rescued from a white elephant sale, have graphically pieced together the time line of Jerry Powell's life as a ham. Their book "Hello World" is not so much "a must read, as it is a book that is a "must see" because the time line is brought to life not so much by the explanatory text as it is by the QSL cards themselves.

The book is a fine introduction to our hobby and an enticement to delve further into the hobby; it is also a mirror for those presently on an odyssey similar to that of W2OJW. So, if you are looking for a few hours of diversion from the hear and now take a journey with Jerry. "Hello World", authored by Danny Gregory and Paul Sahre, published by Princeton Architectural Press and designated ISBN 156898-281-X. by the Library of Congress.

Happy New Year and good DX!

Marty W1MJB

We puts 'em up...



The finished product. Bracketing the tower to the side of a building means fewer guywires necessary, and a lot less concrete. Below is the wooden mockup of the custom-made “house bracket” . Once the concrete is cured (about a week) additional sections of tower can be added, upper sections guyed, and a 40 meter beam installed.



A tower project at KK1W's requires (from top) careful planning, precise execution, and an eager and alert crew (Marty, W1MJB, Frandy, N1FJ, and Dave, WN1E. That's Marty leaning on a board.)

and we



takes



Ed/KB1NWH doing the honors atop a tower to be taken down in Enfield. (If the tower is unclimbable it's a tougher situation!) This tower had several UHF and VHF beams on it. The ground crew consisted of Dana/KB1AEV, Bruce/KB1RNU, George/KC1V, Steve/N1SR, and Gene/KB1FQQ.

Here Ed is detaching the 6 meter beam and

'em



lowering it to the ground. The last steps are lowering the tower sections one at a time using a gin pole.

down...



It takes time, patience, and more than a little bit of nerve!

Don't Forget the "200" Raffle!

Frank, KB1LFD, is handling raffle ticket sales at our club meetings and club events for 2011/2012. If you would like to take home a new KX3 make sure you find Frank to get a ticket (or two or three).

Visit our website at <http://www.hcra.org> . We are also on Facebook Groups: *Hampden County Radio Association* and *SOTAJerks*.

FCARC Offers Technician Class License Course Starts January 12


The Franklin County Amateur Radio Club will be conducting a Technician Class license course on six Thursday evenings in January and February, starting on January 12th. The course will be held from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Greenfield High School and will cover the technical material, operating practices and FCC regulations necessary to pass the Technician Class license exam. The exam will be given during the last session. Contact Chris Myers, KB1NEK at 413-625-0344 for further information.

Name _____

Call sign _____

Phone _____

HCRA KX3 RAFFLE



- 160 - 6 meters
- SSB/CW/DATA/AM/FM
- Only 1.5 pounds
- Advanced DSP
- 10W PEP, low current drain
- Be the 1st on your block!
- MSRP \$899.99 (estimated)

Elecraft KX3

«F5»

«F5»

DRAWING BY JUNE 1ST, 2012

\$10/ticket - Only 200 tickets will be sold !