

Zero Beat



Our 54th Year

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

June, 2000

*Join Us on Friday, June 2nd, 2000 for
Edward J. Spellacy
Doors open at 7:PM Meeting Starts at 7:30*

Ed is a retired pilot who will speak about his experiences working for PanAM airlines.

*Also!!! Field Day is less than 30 days away!!!
How are your going to help your club?
Much discussion about plans for
Field Day 2000 is planned for the June meeting.*

Hope to see you there!!!

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LOOK HERE for FD2K

From the President's Shack de W6IS

CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY

It's that time of the year again. This year's FIELD DAY looks to be one of the best ever. As most of you know this year we will be doing a joint FIELD DAY with the Mt. Tom club. Since many of our members are also members of Mt. Tom, it really should work out very well. A new location was obtained for FIELD DAY 2000, it is Chicopee State Park. It is a convenient location easy to find and easy to get into and should be a great operating site. As usual we need the participation of club members. There are many things that have to be done. Setup, take down, and of course operators. Operating FIELD DAY is a good time to hone and brush up on your operating skills. Lots more info on FIELD DAY at the June HCRA meeting.

The June HCRA meeting is the most important meeting of the year. It is the officer election meeting. There will be the so called changing of the guard. My term as president of HCRA is ending, and a new president as well as a new board will be elected.

I strongly urge all of you to attend the June meeting to show your continued support for HCRA.

Since this will be my last presidents message I would like to take this time to thank all of you for your loyal support over the last three years. To the officers and directors the success of HCRA would not have been possible without you.

We have a very interesting speaker for the meeting as well as the usual amenities. Please be there.

73 de Irv, W6IS



W1W AT WEBELOS WOODS



Please try to work special event station W1W on June 3rd, 2000

John Pise, KX1X and Biff Simpson, AA1DI will be giving an

Amateur Radio Demonstration at the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation in Woronoco, MA.

The Pioneer Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America hosts an annual event for Cub Scouts ages 9 & 10 at the Scout Camp.

There will be about 900 scouts and adults on the reservation this weekend, most will visit the shack during the day.

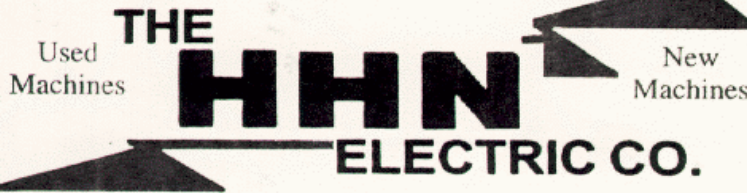
See June, 2000 QST page 105. QSL to KX1X for Color Certificate. 7.270 -- 14.290 -- 21.360 -- 28.375 -- 146.940 (-.600)

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.

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EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Emergency Coordinator	Dave Isham, KB1MU	kblmu@mindspring.com
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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

The 10m net will run during the Summer if there is interest. Maybe we'll get some interesting DX as the days get longer... 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!!!

Field Day Preparations, the combined Field Day event, the last HCRA meeting...



Dx Clips

de
Jordy, W1JK

I am completing my term as technical adviser shortly & thought it would be a good idea to discuss some common and practical issues that we encounter in every day operating - maybe even dispel some common misconceptions:

1. I can't seem to get full power out of my Radio on SSB:

A 100W Radio is designed to put out 100W PEP (peak envelope power) on SSB. You will not see that on your meter unless it reads "peak" power. Most meters show average power. This varies with individual voice characteristics and the manner in which we speak. Depending on those characteristics and the way the Radio and microphone are set-up, 30W will be about right for an average reading. You can check your Radio for maximum output capability by placing it in the CW or RTTY mode. Do not use AM for this test because most Radios are limited to approximately 30W of carrier on AM.

2. What is the impact of SWR on HF (1.8 to 30MHz) ? What about an SWR of 4:1 or 6:1? Can I still operate safely?:

HF antennas can still be effective with high VSWR readings. If you have a Yagi or other "Tuned" antenna system with high SWR, you have a serious problem, but wire type antennas can show a high SWR & still work well. A Dipole or Inverted V fed with Balanced line can show high SWR & still work reasonably well. Typically you need a Balun to get the SWR into the range where a Transmatch can tune it. (some Transmatches have built-in Baluns). The major concern with high SWR is high voltage/current points in your feedline, antenna, Transmatch & power Amp stage. Use of a Tuner will help the Transmitter - but bear in mind that maximum ratings for feedlines & Antennas (especially the Matching Networks) are usually based on the assumption that the VSWR is relatively low (under 3:1) . A Tuner will not change these high voltage/current points. I have heard of matching networks & traps overheating & burning out when running "high power" with a Transmatch. Also, remember very few Transmatches can take "high power" on 160M.

3. Where is the best place to measure SWR?:

The best place, if possible, is at the "load" (Antenna Input). Place the Meter or its Coupler right at the Antenna feed point if you can. If you are installing a new 2M Vertical, for example, ground test it first. A short piece of mast can make a good temporary stand. Some Antenna designs call for a conductive support, so don't use wood or PVC. Keep the Antenna as far away from any surrounding metal as possible & check for a reasonable match. Note that the lower the Antenna frequency, the more interaction between ground & supporting objects that affect SWR readings. Do your final "Tuning" at the point of installation.

4. Can I use my Tribander 10-15-20M Yagi on 12M & 17M?:

Yes - but be careful here. The newer "logcell interlaced Yagi" designs use traps in the Directors only. Much less power is absorbed by traps in Director elements than traps on the other elements. When you use a tuner to match a standard Triband Yagi - you are forcing it to accept power at a frequency it is not designed for & you can burn out traps & matching networks quite easily. An Antenna rated at 2KW PEP can be blown-out by 100W on the wrong frequency if the SWR at the Antenna is high enough. I would suggest that you check with the Manufacturer before using it on a frequency outside its design range. You can use a KW on a G5RV wire Antenna, but the voltage/current points could exceed the ratings of the feedline or the Balun. If the "pure" SWR of the 10-15-20M Tribander reads above 4:1 on 12M or 17M , I would not run an Amplifier. By "pure" SWR - I mean the SWR measured at the Antenna input directly before installation of the Transmatch. The gain in Decibels could be very expensive & labor-intensive. Also - bear in mind that most amateurs operating the WRC HF bands are using Dipoles or rotatable dipoles. There is much more parity on these bands than other HF bands. You will be very competitive with a wire Antenna & you can run your Amp without risk of damage.

5. And finally - I know some of you are experiencing electrical noise on receive that is severely inhibiting your operating capabilities. What can you do?:

You must figure out the source of the noise. If the noise is man made, try to reorient your antenna. This is a viable option with wire type antennas only. Install them at right angles to the source. If this is not practical - then digital noise reduction may help. On the lower HF bands, try turning off your receiver's preamp (IPO) , or turn on the attenuator if signals are strong. I have heard good things about a noise canceling product made by JPS. The theory behind its operation is to receive the local interference on a separate antenna & inject with the desired signal 180 degrees out of phase & amplitude, thereby eliminating it. This type of device will be effective on local interference caused by man - made devices, not atmospheric noise. Remember that DSP is best on narrow bandwidths such as CW & RTTY. It causes a hollow, artificial sounding voice on SSB. I personally find DSP quite effective for weak signals covered up by noise with fast rise times. If your radio does not have DSP - check out Timewave's products. They are highly regarded. Also - if the noise is being picked up on the AC line , a good line stabilizer/filter will eliminate most of the noise & you derive the added benefit of a safer operating environment for your cherished Transceiver. These units provide a controlled 120V AC output regardless of line variations from 85V - 150V. Those summertime brownouts caused by heavy Air Conditioner use won't bother those units & you needn't worry about damage to the output stage transistors from excess current draw caused by large voltage drops in the AC supply.

LOOK FOR:

3W-Vietnam- Mal, VK6LC will be there until November & operate as 3W2LC. QSL via VK6LC.

FR5ZQ/G- Glorioso - Henri is back there until June 15. Remember, he uses a Military transceiver & can only operate Simplex. You may have to work him through Flavio, An Italian operator who "makes a list".

V2 - Antigua - Brian, N30C & Bob, N5NJ will operate as V260C & V260 respectively until May 31. QSL home calls.

3V - Tunisia - Ytlad, Hrane, will be QRV from club station 3V8BB during & after the CQ WPX contest. QSL home call.

FY - French Guiana - A group of hams QRV May 27-June 4. On all HF bands CW & SSB, QSL via F8BXI.

H40 - Temotu Is. - H40MY is usually QRV on 20M & 12M. QSL via JA0IXW.

JT - Mongolia - Nicola, I0SNY & other Italian Ops are QRV as JT1Y for several weeks. They will sign JULY during the CQ WPX CW contest. QSL to I0SNY.

CUL....Enjoy your Summer.

de Jordy Koltz, W1JK, W1JK@earthlink.net



Tornadoes DO occur in Southern New England

de *Eric Tuller* *NIQKO*

THE FUJITA TORNADO DAMAGE SCALE IS AS FOLLOWS...

F0	40-72	MPH
F1	73-112	MPH
F2	113-157	MPH
F3	158-206	MPH
F4	207-260	MPH
F5	261-318	MPH.

The F0 and F1 Tornadoes are considered weak and account for approximately 80 percent of all tornadoes nationwide. The F2 and F3 twisters are considered strong and they account for 19 percent of all tornadoes. The F4 and F5 tornadoes are considered violent with tremendous devastation. Nationwide... only 1 percent of all tornadoes achieve a ranking of F4 or F5.

A little known fact... however... is that in Connecticut, the violent tornadoes account for 4 percent of the state's tornadoes, and in Massachusetts it is 1.6 percent... both, well above the national average of 1 percent. Granted... Southern New England is not the Midwest, and tornadoes do not occur as frequently... But the statistics show that when they do happen... they can be quite violent.

The most violent tornado in southern New England... of course... was the Worcester tornado of June 9, 1953. It was on the ground for 46 miles... lasted for 84 minutes... killed 94 people... and injured 1288 people. The tornado was 1000 yards... or 10 football fields... in width.

On October 3, 1979... a F4 tornado occurred in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, killing 3 people, and injuring 500. On July 10, 1989, a tornado with F2 ranking injured 70 people in Litchfield County, Connecticut. A more damaging F4 tornado occurred that same day in Hamden County, Connecticut, causing 40 injuries.

On August 7, 1986, a F2 tornado ripped through Providence and Cranston, Rhode Island...injuring 20 people.

More recently... a F3 to F4 tornado occurred in Great Barrington, Massachusetts in 1995 killing 3 people and injuring 24.

F1 and F2 tornadoes have occurred in Swanzey and Greenfield, New Hampshire in 1997 and 1998. F1 tornadoes occurred in Charlemont and Colrain in Franklin County, Massachusetts, in 1997. Weak F0 tornadoes were confirmed in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and Westport, Massachusetts, in 1997.

So... tornadoes DO occur in Southern New England. You need to know safety rules and have a plan of action if a tornado warning is issued for your area.

...Tornado Safety...

A tornado watch is issued by the storm prediction center in Oklahoma City whenever atmospheric conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms... with large hail and damaging winds... some of which could spawn tornadoes. The watch often covers several states. It is your initial word that dangerous weather is possible. A severe thunderstorm watch means that large hail or damaging winds are possible. Although tornadoes can form when only a severe thunderstorm watch is in effect... they are less likely than if we are under a tornado watch.

If the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning... immediate action should be taken to protect life and property. A tornado warning means that a severe thunderstorm is in progress and that a tornado has either been sighted or is imminent based on Doppler radar imagery.

Your first safety rule is that you need to have a means of receiving the word that a watch or warning is in effect. NOAA weather radio... which can be purchased from your favorite electronics outlet... has an alarm feature that will activate whenever a severe weather watch or warning is issued. It can wake you up at 3 o'clock in the morning if that is when it is issued. This is the only means of notification like this that currently exists. Local radio and television stations will broadcast the warning... sometimes with an emergency alert tone. The warnings scroll across a red screen on the Weather Channel on cable TV. However... you need to be watching or listening in order to receive the warning via commercial radio or TV.

The greatest dangers from a tornado are from flying debris and from the collapse of the roof and/or wall structure of a building. If in a building... you should move to the basement underneath the staircase. If no basement, seek shelter in a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor. Stay away from windows and exterior doors. If possible... place something over your head such as a coat gymnasium... or auditorium because of the wide-span roofs that can collapse. You should go to the interior hallway outside the classrooms.

DO NOT stay in a mobile home or any type of temporary shelter. Seek shelter in a sturdy structure. If none is available, get out a ditch or ravine nearby. Take the protective position on your elbows and knees with your hands over your head. Never attempt to outrun a tornado in a car, bus, or truck. Vehicles can easily become airborne. DO NOT seek shelter under an overpass. The structural integrity of overpasses is unknown... plus the Bernoulli principle can lead to acceleration of the wind through the embankment.

After the storm... if a tornado has struck your neighborhood... please report it to local law enforcement officials for relay to the National Weather Service. Turn off the gas at the main switch to your building. If live electrical wires are down, turn off power at the main switch. Instruct people not to touch loose electrical wires. Food, clothing and shelter will become available at Red Cross shelters.



EXTRA!!! EXTRA!!! EXTRA!!!



Field Day Site Confirmed

Saturday, June 24th, 2000

"FD" now Stands for both Field Day AND Family Day

Chicopee, MA. After an extensive search for a good place to hold the first joint MTARA and HCRA Field Day, Chicopee State Park has been named and confirmed as the location for all the fun and festivities. And what a great location it is.

This year's Field Day location will accommodate families looking for a weekend of fun and relaxation, while some family members help their radio club by participating in the field day event.

At Chicopee State Park, families will be treated to picnic areas, hiking trails, life-guarded swimming, bike trails, and a stocked lake for fishing.

The Field Day site will be in the upper part of the park, where band captains will be able to spread out their antennas, and set up their operating areas. There is both open terrain and wooded areas with tall trees to accommodate any antenna configuration.

Look for directions to Chicopee State Park elsewhere on this page, and make your way to FD2K.

HELP WANTED

Interested in a Field Day job? We are interested in YOU. Please contact Larry, WB1DBY, either on the air or by e-mail: wb1dby@arrl.net OR John, KX1X, (413) 532-7474, kx1x@arrl.net.

Senior Operators. Some experience talking preferred. Experience operating ham equipment a plus, but not required. Working hours flexible. Will accept offers of even 1 or 2 or more hours over the weekend.

Junior Operators. No experience or license necessary, will train as required. Preferred candidate will enjoy the hobby enough to want to be licensed for next year's event.

Loggers: No experience necessary, will train. Aid operators by keyboarding QSOs into laptop computer logging program. Flexible hours.

Construction Chief Take charge person to be responsible for directing assembly of FD site, including antenna construction. Your technical expertise more important than physical strength.

Equipment Owners. Great need for generators, radios, laptop computers, coax, and antennas for use over one weekend.

Directions to Field Day 2000 Site, Chicopee State Park

FROM I-90 Massachusetts Turnpike, exit 6 Springfield: after toll booth, turn RIGHT. Continue through past McDonalds for about ¼ mile. Look for Chicopee State Park on your left.

FROM I-91 NORTH OR SOUTH: Take exit for I291 East. See directions below.

FROM I-291 EAST: Follow I291 East to its end (Mass Turnpike). Continue straight through past McDonalds for about ¼ mile. Look for Chicopee State Park on your left.

FROM Southern Ludlow and Indian Orchard: Take Route 141 toward Chicopee.

FROM: Chicopee Falls: Take Route 141 (East Main St.) toward Springfield. Follow signs for I291 EAST and I90. Continue past turnpike, then past McDonalds for about ¼ mile. Look for Chicopee State Park on your left.

FROM Northern Ludlow and Granby: Take Holyoke St. south into Chicopee. Chicopee State Park will be on your right ½ mile after ChicopeeCountry Club.

What is this "Field Day"???

Come one, come all to Field Day. This is an event to show off to the public at large what Ham Radio, and emergency communications is.

The object is to have Ham Radio Clubs mobilize their resources, and setup in a public area that does NOT have permanent radio structures in place. The underlying idea is for emergency preparedness and practice.

With the help of experienced operators, non-licensed persons are allowed to operate to get a feel for what Ham Radio is all about. While talking and looking around, people can see how easy it is to get an Amateur Radio License.

Though Field Day is not a "contest", an extensive point structure has been established, giving extra points for such things as a public awareness booth, a newspaper article, a satellite QSO, use of a non-fossil fuel source of energy for some QSOs, demonstration of exotic modes (such as ATV, SSTV, APRS, etc...), relay of 10 NTS messages, and copying the ARRL Field Day message. Entries are compared against others based upon Individual vs. Clubs, emergency power only vs. use of commercial mains, and the number of simultaneous signals. WM1FD hopes to be running 7A, meaning a club entry with seven simultaneous signals using emergency power only.

Joint Field Day Club Call, WM1FD Issued

South Hadley, MA. With the mountain of work before the FCC after the recent restructuring, it was not a sure thing that we would get our joint club call sign issued in time for this year's event, but, the call has been received.

In March, the joint Field Day committee authorized John Pise, KX1X, to file for a club call sign to be used strictly for joint field day events. John is an active member of both clubs, and an Extra class license holder.

In April, a new club call sign, KB1FBK, was issued using the FCC's next sequential method. As

soon as that call was issued, a vanity call was applied for.

On May 16, 2000, WM1FD was issued. The committee chose WM1FD, because other, shorter "FD" call signs were all taken, it is truly a joint club call, and it could stand for what will surely be "Western Massachusetts' #1 Field Day".



Emergency Coordinator's Corner

ARES Registration Form Why should I fill one out???

de KB1MU, Dave Isham



Simply stated the ARES registration form is really an inventory of your available amateur equipment and capabilities. It is a means to improve response time in an emergency situation. With your registration form and the forms of other amateurs in the area, emergency response personnel are able to rapidly locate amateurs with the needed equipment. All amateurs should have this information on file with your local ARES group. See Tom N1MUV for your registration form. Remember that you do not need to be registered to participate in local ARES and public service events. For this, all you need is a willingness to participate.

Recent Public Service Events

On March 26, a large group of amateurs assisted Ray N1RLX in providing communications for the annual "half Marathon" in the Westfield area.

On April 8, there were two events running simultaneously. A real challenge to Ray N1RLX, but he managed to provide communications for two MS Walk-a-thons. One in the Florence area, and the second in Springfield's Forest Park area.

Also, on April 17, four local hams participated with over 300 other hams in providing communications for the Boston Marathon. Those participating were, Norm W1BMK, Eric N1QKO, Tom N1MUV, and Frank K1NBS. Based on the reports I have received, it was a very enjoyable event.

Upcoming Events

Sunday June 4 will be another busy Public Service day. In the South Hadley area there will be a "Tour-de-Cure" event. See Ray N1RLX for information on this event. Just south of the Mass. Border will be a MS Bike-athon with 25, 50, and 100 mile routes. This event covers from Griffin Office Park out to the Green in Ellington, and requires a multitude of hams. See Harvey K1PZS or Dave KB1MU for information on this event.

Also in June a few more public service events will occur. On June 10 and 11 the Senior Olympics will take place at Westover Air Reserve Base. Additionally on June 18 will be the Senior Olympics Triathlon. With all these events, there is a great chance to check and see that you H-T really does still work.

'73 and keep those batteries charged!

300 Hams Volunteer to Help at Boston Marathon by Tom N1MUV

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tom (N1MUV), Norm (W1BMK), and Eric (N1QKO) are members of HCRA.

The 2000 Boston Marathon was held on April 17th.

Communications support from Hopkington to Boston was provided by volunteer Ham operators. Each First Aid station, waterstop, medical bus, supply/support vehicle, and the Start and Finish line was linked to a central control.

Fox 22, the American Red Cross First Aid station at the 23.6 mile mark was staffed by 8 EMTs, Paramedics, and Muscular Therapists. Ham operators Tom (N1MUV), Norm (W1BMK), and Eric (N1QKO), provided radio link to central control.

Each operator had a primary and secondary repeater to monitor. Ten area repeaters on 2m and 440 Mhz. were used throughout the race.

The radio operation provided hourly reports on specific medical treatments, Emergency requests for ambulance, and non-emergency info to or from the Fox 22 station manager.

Throughout the day, medical teams would go out into the race to check for runners who might be in need of assistance. Each team would be accompanied by a radio operator with a specific tactical call sign, "Fox 22 Alpha - Juliet" for instance, with a direct link to a net control operator on either primary or secondary repeater. The first aid station medical people handled blisters, cramps, pulled muscles, as well as dehydration & other medical problems.

The Communications for the event was well coordinated and professionally carried out. All radio operators were issued special event wind breakers and wore orange baseball caps for visibility. It was a 12 hour day, and it was cold and windy, but it went by very fast. All members of Fox-22 team found themselves cheering runners on as the day progressed.

The three of us agree we look forward to another opportunity to work the Boston Marathon in the future.

Excerpt from the ARRL Letter... SKYWARN Saves the Day

EDITOR'S NOTE: Harvey Broverman, K1PZS, is a longtime member of HCRA.

* SKYWARN saves the day: The evening of May 10, the FAA radar serving Boston's Logan Airport went down during a thunderstorm. The Connecticut SKYWARN team was asked to get weather data. Roger Jeanfaivre, K1PAI, **Harvey Broverman, K1PZS**, and Jim McBride, KD1LD, passed weather data to the National Weather Service via telephone and repeater. The Norwich repeater was in priority use with Robert Macedo, KD1CY, and William Granfield, N1YOQ, at NWS and KD1LD running the net. Weather data was passed to NWS on this repeater. --Jim McBride, KD1LD via Connecticut ARES reflector

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting, May 11, 2000, Held at Irv Slitzky's, Longmeadow, MA

HCRA Officers present were: Irv Slitzky, W6IS; Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH; Greg Stoddard, N1AEH; Larry Smith, K1ILZ; Jordy Koltz, W1JK; Les Prentice, K1DNX and John Pise, KX1X. Also present was Larry Krainson, WB1DBY, to present an update on Field Day 2000.

Irv opened the meeting by greeting all in attendance and handing out a meeting agenda.

REPORTS:

Vice President: Not present.

Treasurer: Greg reported success changing our bank. Because of the Fleet/BankBoston merger, fees would be rising and branches inconvenient. Greg was able to open new accounts at SIS, with minimal fees and good location. He has transferred all the accounts and is back in business. Good job Greg!

Presently the treasury stands at \$1868.00 with all bills paid. May's raffle netted \$29 and coffee \$9.75. The HCRA is in good shape to start the 2000/2001 season.

Secretary: Current membership stands at 89 regular, 3 life, 1 honorary and 9 family for a total of 102. New membership cards and labels for Zero Beat will be sent to John by May 26th.

Newsletter: This month's issue will contain the emergency communications article that didn't make last month's issue. Submit your articles to John by May 26th to see your name in print!

Technical: Jordy has a few things on his plate this month. He is working with Irv on an amplifier problem and assisting Irv resolving power line noise at his QTH. All members should remember to give Jordy a call if you have some tech questions that need answered.

Program: Not present, teaching ham class tonight! Pete's, N1AGV, presentation of APRS and GPS last month informative and well attended. June's speaker noted in last month's minutes has had to cancel. Irv and Yorke are working on a substitute. See this month's Zero Beat for the exciting new speaker. Irv is working with a suggestion from John, K1CPW, on another possible speaking candidate. Anyone with ideas for speakers for 2000/2001? If so, give Yorke or Irv a call.

At Large: Nothing to add to tonight's proceedings, but Les will be attending the FD meeting immediately following.

Membership: Larry sent out membership prospects to Ludlow last month. He asked the board if we thought we should send out prospects for June? The board approved.

The company that has been making the club name badges has gone up in price drastically. Price is now \$15!!! Jim will investigate another possible source.

Station Trustee: Not present. The Monday 10 meter net under the club call continues to draw a good amount of check ins. Don has registered W1NY (after great difficulty) with FCC's ULS, so we're set with that for another 10 years.

Old Business: Special Event station at BBHOF. Irv has been unable to get in contact with the correct people at the HOF. It was decided to write a letter to the board of the Hall of Fame requesting permission to hold the event again this year. Jim will compose the letter and send it out.

(continued next page)

PLEASE!!!

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New Business: Field Day 2000 (FD2K) is just around the corner. Larry, WB1DBY, was on hand to bring the board up to date. The committee has had many problems obtaining a site. As of today, a site still has not been confirmed. The committee is working hard to find a location, and will be looking closely at Dufresne Park in Granby and Chicopee State Park this coming week. Stay tuned for more information on location.

The vanity call for the event has been obtained. The Field Day team will be calling itself the "Connecticut Valley Radio Adventurers" and be using the call WM1FD (Western Mass #1 Field Day).

Other than location, FD preparations are progressing well. Band captains, equipment, food, etc. are falling into place nicely. Don't forget to mark your calendar with these important dates: June 24th and 25th. Take a few minutes out of your busy day to stop by the FD site, operate if you like, chat if you want, and have a good time. The weather should be good. With the rain we've been having lately, it should all be gone by the end of June!! Let's see if we can get everyone from the club at the event sometime during the two day period.

Elections will be held at the June meeting for the 2000/2001 term. Nominations are needed for all officers and members at large. Here's your chance to guide the HCRA into the new millennium. Please contact any board member or officer with your thoughts or desires. Remember, change is good, and your contribution CAN make a difference.

Here is a proposed slate of 2000/2001 officers. As you can see, no slots have contenders, and it would be great to see some alternatives.....

At Large: Les, K1DNX
Program: Irv, W6IS
Newsletter: John, KX1X
Technical: Stan, N1INB
Membership: Betty, KB1CPZ
Secretary: Dave, KB1MU
Treasurer: Greg, N1AEH
Vice President: Jordy, W1JK
President: Jim, WA1ZUH

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM and John, Les and Larry headed out to the FD meeting.

Licensed Amateur Radio Volunteers Needed to Staff an Amateur Radio Booth at the **Big E** (September 15 thru October 1, 2000)

Dear Fellow Hams:

It's springtime, the time when public service starts to pick up. For me it is also the time to start looking for volunteers to help me tell people about amateur radio. For the past ten years there has been a booth at the BIG E, which is totally dedicated to promoting amateur radio. This booth always contains information sheets, radiograms, packet radio, and HF radio, but we need people to show off these things, to answer questions and let people watch as you talk to someone half-way across the world.

There are benefits to participating, both for clubs and individuals. Clubs who take the booth for a full day can put up their banner to promote interest in their club. You cannot take on new members at the BIG E, because there can be no exchange of money in the New England building, but you can take names, addresses & phone numbers to contact people at a later date. Benefits for both clubs and individuals include free admission and parking, so when you are done working, you can go have fun at the fair for free (well, almost free, it is a fair, after all).

What we ask of you is to talk to people, answer their questions, and send some radiograms, joke around with them. The goal is to get them interested in amateur radio. Heck, you can even just sit there and transmit, which many of you do at home anyway. The booth has to be manned from open to close (10am to 10pm). Generally we schedule two people at the booth for each shift, so if it gets busy, you are not alone. Also, when you need a break or need to eat, there is another person to cover the booth. During the week there are two six-hour shifts, and on the weekend there are three four-hour shifts. We split it like this because it is harder to find people to help during the week, and because it's busier on the weekends.

It has become harder and harder to find enough volunteers to staff this booth for 17 days. This year we need to have a certain number of names before we can even consider making the commitment. It would be a shame to not have a ham radio booth at the BIG E, it is one of the biggest fairs in New England, hence it gives ham radio a large amount of public exposure. Last year we had hundreds of people stop at the booth to send Radiograms, and hundreds more just to ask what we're all about, some even asked about classes and testing dates/locations. There were also hams that stopped just to talk and kids who wanted to play with the code keys we had on display. I don't know about you, but I think it would be a loss to amateur radio if we were unable to participate in the BIG E. If we decline this year, it is very unlikely we would be able to get back in next year, so the loss could be permanent.

'73 de Tammy Krauss, KB1CYN, co-chair

FOR MORE INFO: Tammy Krauss, KB1CYN, 148 Hollywood Avenue, Hartford, CT 06110-2220 Phone: 860-205-9385 E-mail: kb1cyn@aol.com
Al Gerke, NIJWF, 60 North Washington St., Plainville, CT 06062 Phone: 860-747-1925 E-mail: aln1jwf@juno.com

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

June 2nd, 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

Field Day 2000 June 24, 25

Easily made into a family fun weekend of
Swimming, hiking, picnicking, and fishing
WM1FD at Chicopee State Park