



Our 56<sup>th</sup> Year

# Zero Beat

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

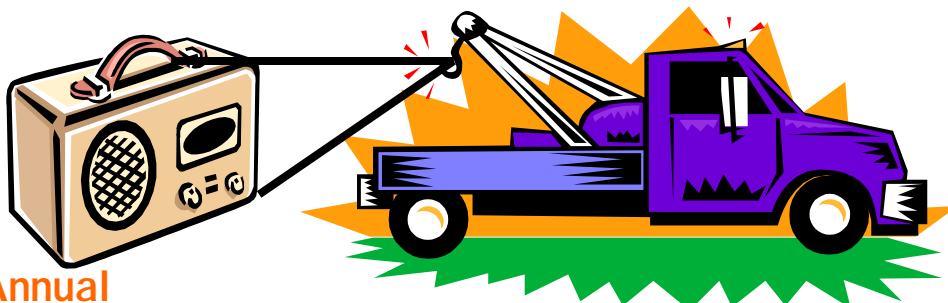
<http://www.hcra.org>

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



June, 2002

This Month's  
HCRA  
Meeting  
Features the



2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

## Tail Gate Party!!!

SetUp/StartUp at 6:PM, Sell until 7:30 PM  
Only \$5.00 for sellers (bring your own table)  
Buyers FREE!!!

Contact Dave, KB1MU, for details

The regular HCRA meeting will follow.  
ELECTIONS, FIELD DAY, IRLP and other  
matters of club business will be discussed

### NOTICE:

#### DETOUR IF POSSIBLE



Remember that the  
South End Bridge  
and Route 57 are  
under construction.  
If you're coming from  
Springfield, consider  
an alternative route!

For Up-To-Date HCRA News and Information, remember to visit the HCRA Club Website

<http://www.hcra.org>

If you haven't been there TODAY, then it has probably changed since the last time you visited!

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# President's



# Corner

Get your stuff out of the shack and  
down to HCRA for the 2nd Annual  
Tail-Gate Party



## Field Day 2002

Final preparations are taking place for what will be a great Field Day effort by our club. Presently we are planning a **7A** (seven transmitters on the air simultaneously) and have set a goal of 10,000 points. Sounds pretty aggressive for a bunch of old timers

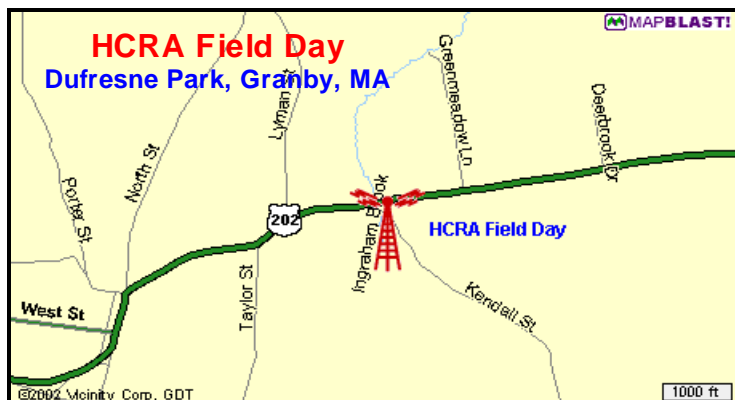
doesn't it? But, with two more stations than last year, more CW operators and the experienced help of Venture Crew DX I think it's certainly possible. Of course, those big unknowns—Murphy, Weather and Propagation—are probably still waiting to show themselves. But as always, we will overcome!

Have you committed yet? Why not, times a wastin' and we can really use your help. The nice thing about Field Day is you can pretty much do anything you want, and it will always be welcomed! Whether you come to operate, log, cook, eat or just shoot the breeze we really would love your company. Five minutes or five hours, who cares, just the fact you showed up is what makes the real difference.

Don't hesitate to bring the family, there's lots for everyone to do at Dufresne Park. A pond, swing sets, hiking trails—plenty to keep the family occupied while you grab some QSO's on 80 meters.

Field Day is the last big event of HCRA's season, so let's end it with a **BANG!** If we are to come close to our 10,000 point goal, we need everyone's help. You've been contributing all year to the success of the club, now's your chance to do it one more time, and in beautiful Dufresne Park. How can you go wrong?

Set up starts Friday afternoon at 2:00 PM on June 21st. The stations go on the air at 2:00 PM Saturday afternoon and will run continuously until 2:00 PM Sunday. Dufresne Park is located on Route 202 in Granby, MA. Here's a map to help out with directions:



## Elections

Annual elections will be held Friday, June 7th. The slate of candidates is printed elsewhere in this issue. Want to join in the fun? Nominations will be accepted until election time Friday evening. What are you waiting for, Field Day? There's no time like the present to help HCRA venture into new territory. To do that we need ideas from people like you. Like everything else, doing it is fun but seeing others benefit from your efforts is what's it and HCRA are all about. As always, thanks for your support throughout the year.

## Win an FT-817 !!!

Buy your raffle tickets now and you will have a chance to win the popular Yaesu FT-817. This miniature, ultra-portable rig covers all bands and from 160 meters to 440 cm. and could be yours for as little as the purchase of a \$1 ticket! The drawing will be held at our annual November auction. You could also win a Radio Amateur Callbook CD or a Bencher Power Distribution Center. Don't wait, purchase your tickets at the next meeting. Tickets are \$1 each or a book of six for \$5. We've really gone all out on this raffle, so tell your friends to buy tickets too! You don't have to be a member or be present to win, so what's your excuse!



## IRLP is On-the-Air!

IRLP node #727 is now operational. Hams in the Pioneer Valley can now talk "around the world" with a 2 meter transceiver. John got the node running a few weeks ago, and many have made memorable contacts since. It's easy and fun. Just dial up 146.46 MHz on your 2 meter rig, (don't forget the 114.8 PL) and listen. If you don't hear any activity you have a couple of choices. Either link one of the popular reflectors (reflectors are like repeaters) or look up a node on the list. After linking, listen again. If you don't hear anyone, try asking if anyone is listening. You never know what you will find!

To link the Raleigh, NC reflector simply announce your intention to link and press **9210** on your keypad. Have fun and when you're done simply press **9211** to disconnect the node (You've probably guessed it by now, **921** is the node number and **0** connects, **1** disconnects) Pretty simple once you try it a few times.

For a detailed description of IRLP including links to the node list (over 400 at this writing) go to <http://www.hcra.org/irlp.htm>. Additionally, there will be a short seminar on how to link and use the IRLP node at this month's meeting. Bring your questions with you on Friday and learn all about IRLP.



Since the node is located in South Hadley it's best used either from home or within a 5 - 10 mile radius around the station. Plans are in the works to improve the antenna, both gain and height, in the near future. If you have any questions, need help or want to assist with the project give either John (Kx1x) or myself (KK1W) a call. This node is a credit to HCRA. Member donations of both time and money got it on the air in a few short months. Use it and enjoy it. It's open to everyone, members and non-members alike, so pass the word.

## 2nd Annual Tail-Gate Party

HCRA's 2nd Annual Tail-Gate party is this month. Last year's was fun, and with the new parking lot, lots more spaces and free admission for buyers this year's should be even better. (sellers only \$5/space) See Dave, KB1MU to reserve a spot or volunteer to help. If you would like to donate any item to HCRA for sale at the club space, bring it along. Set-up starts at 6:00 PM, selling until 7:30 PM followed by the regular meeting and annual elections. This is our last chance to get together at a regular meeting, I hope everyone can make it.

See you in September... '73... Jim, KK1W



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## HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

### HCRA OFFICERS

President	Jim Mullen, KK1W	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com
Vice-President	Larry Smith, K1ILZ		kilzncet@aol.com
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH(860)	668-5143	gstoddard@rcn.com
Secretary	Dave Isham, KB1MU	(413) 596-6605	kb1mu@charter.net

### HCRA DIRECTORS

At Large	Larry Krainson, WB1DBY	(413) 567-3505	wb1dby@arrl.net
Program	Irv Slitzky, W6IS	(413) 565-5222	w6is1@juno.com
Membership	Norm Gregoire, W1BMK		normgreg@aol.com
Newsletter	John Pise, Kx1x	(413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net
Technical	Stan Bates, N1INB		

### STATION TRUSTEES

<b>W1NY</b> Trustee	Don Johnson, W1UPH	(413) 566-3560(let it ring)	wluph2@juno.com
WB1HOF Trustee	Jim Mullen, KK1W	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com

### EMERGENCY COORDINATOR


Emerg Coord	Dave Isham, KB1MU	(413) 596-6605	kb1mu@charter.net
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### BSA VENTURE CREW 510

Youth President	Andy Jensen, KB1FVL		andypj2@aol.com
Adult Advisor	John Pise, Kx1x	(413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net
Adult Advisor	Dan Shea, N1OE		WBEagle87@aol.com
Adult Advisor	Biff Simpson, AA1DI		biff@map.com

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## **CONTEST CORNER**

**ARRL June VHF QSO Party**

**West Virginia QSO Party**

**ARRL Field Day**

**RAC Canada Day Contest**

**Kentucky QSO Party**

**IARU HF World Championship**

**CQ Worldwide VHF Contest**

**North American QSO Party, RTTY**

**IOTA Contest**

**10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB**

**1800Z, June 8 to 0300Z, June 10**

**1600Z, June 15 to 0200Z, June 16**

**1800Z, June 22 to 2100Z, June 23**

**0000Z to 2359Z, Jul 1**

**1600Z, Jul 6 to 0400Z, Jul 7**

**1200Z, Jul 13 to 1200Z, Jul 14**

**1800Z, Jul 13 to 2100Z, Jul 14**

**1800Z, Jul 20 to 0600Z, Jul 21**

**1200Z, Jul 27 1200Z, Jul 28**

**0001Z, Aug 3 to 2400Z, Aug 4**

## **Get On The Air**

*(all times local)*

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic System (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 71.9hz) (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 <sup>nd</sup> Week of the Month 147.09 Every other week 147.000
<b>Club Meetings &amp; Testing Sessions</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of the month	19:30	HCRA Club Meeting	Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of January, April, July, and October		KD1XP License Exams	Amherst Machine Amherst, MA
		Contact Richard, KD1XP, 413-665-2211 or 145.130 Repeater	
		<a href="http://www.kd1xp.8k.com">http://www.kd1xp.8k.com</a>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA
		<a href="http://www.mtara.org">http://www.mtara.org</a>	
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday of the month	18:00	MTARA License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke
		Contact Dave, WA1DC, WA1DC@pipeline.com	
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month	19:00	NOBARC club meeting	Pittsfield MA (146.91 for talk-in)

# W1NY ON THE AIR

Join us each week (thru the summer) 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!!!



## 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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.

### SKYWARN Lightning Safety Tips

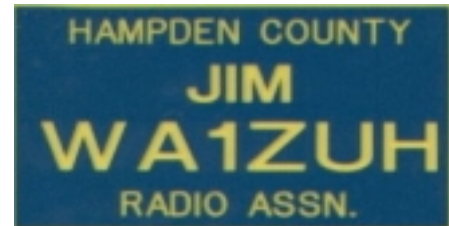
de Eric, N1QKD - Asst. Skywarn Coordinator, WMA

1. Plan in advance your evacuation and safety measures. When you first see lightning or hear thunder, go to a building or a vehicle. Lightning often precedes rain, so don't wait for the rain to begin before suspending activities.
2. IF OUTDOORS... Avoid water. Avoid the high ground. Avoid open spaces. Avoid all metal objects including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors power tools, etc. Unsafe places include underneath canopies, small picnic or rain shelters, or near trees. When possible, find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck, or a van with windows completely shut. If lightning is striking nearby when you are outside, you should :  
A: Crouch down. Put feet together.  
Place hands over ears to minimize hearing damage from thunder.  
B: Avoid proximity ( minimum of 15ft.) to other people.
3. IF INDOORS... Avoid water. Stay away from doors and windows. Do not use the telephone. Take off head sets. Turn off, unplug, and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools, & TV sets. Lightning may strike exterior electric and phone lines, inducing shocks to inside equipment.
4. SUSPEND ACTIVITIES for 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder.
5. INJURED PERSONS do not carry an electric charge and can be handled safely. Apply First Aid procedures to a lightning victim if you are qualified to do so. Call 911 or send for help immediately.

Bought to you by the National Lightning Safety Institute, 303-666-8817  
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## Wear it Proudly! HCRA Name Badges



Only \$6.00. Available for order at any club meeting, or call or drop an e-mail for immediate service!  
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Jim, KK1W : [jmullen@rockys.com](mailto:jmullen@rockys.com) or (413) 245-3228





# BSA Venture Crew 510

NE1C - New England's #1 Crew

BSA Venture Crew is chartered by the Hampden County Radio Association

Visit Crew DX's 100% youth designed website:

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



## *Notes from BSA Venture Crew DX, de Steve, KB1GHC*

First we should congratulate Brian, KB1IGM for getting his callsign. We should also congratulate Jeff, KB1GJR for passing Morse code and then the very next month he passed General.

Field Day 2002 is coming around the corner. The Venture Crew will be doing a satellite contact (100 points). We'll hopefully help attract a news reporter (100 Points). We WILL use our radio operating skills to make tons of contacts, we'll also be doing PSK31, RTTY, MFSK16, and all those other good modes if a CW station is not in use. But the greatest part of Field Day 2002 this year will be our special guest Clarke, KG4OQL may becoming up from North Carolina. He is known as our DX member, as you may recall he met John, Kx1x at K2BSA, and Kx1x helped him pass his technician.

The demo at Chesterfield went well (sort of), believe it or not it SNOWED (yes in the middle of May). We had 1 or 2 scouts say they would buy "Now Your Talking!", so let's hope they do. KB1GJR, KB1IGM, KB1HUM, KB1GHC, and Kx1x helped at this first demo by the Crew at Chesterfield Scout Reservation.

After the Chesterfield event was the Missing Children's event in Sturbridge. KB1GJR, KB1IGM, and Kx1x attended this event.

We'll be doing Special event station W1W "Webelos 1 Woods" on June 1<sup>st</sup>, so listen for us, and make a contact. We'll have over four hundred 9 and 10 year old scouts there. 73' de KB1GHC, Crew Secretary

**BSA Venture Crew 510** wishes to thank **KA1TDL, Schley Warren** and **AA1UE, Gary Thomas**. Thank you, thank you, for your kind consideration and donations.

## **BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR**

5/31, 6/1&2	Webelos Woods Weekend-- W1W Special Event Station at Camp Moses
6/21,22,23	Field Day '02, Dufresne Park, Granby, MA
10/18,19,20	Jamboree on the Air JOTA (Pawtucket, RI ???)
1/18,19,20/2003	NAQP & ARRL VHF Contests from Vermont



**ABOVE:** Crew members John, KB1FTX, Brian, KB1IGM, Steve, KB1GHC, and Jeff, KB1GJR, take in the presentation last month by Chuck Wyrick from HRO.

**RIGHT:** Crew members Brian, KB1IGM, and Jeff KB1GJR, stand with Eric, N1QKO at the Lyceum Press & Gifts, location of the Ham Radio Operators for Missing Children special event station in Sturbridge, MA.







## *My First Dayton Hamvention*

May 16 – 20, 2002 de Larry Krainson – WB1DBY

It all started last September (2001), while sitting at BB's (Brown Baggers), Jim – KK1W was talking about returning to the Dayton Hamvention in 2002. I mentioned that Dayton was something I would like to experience as I've never had the chance to go. Irv – W6IS also stated that he would like to go someday, too. While we chatted over things that go on at Dayton, Jim suggested that we make it a small group and drive up together.

I mentioned the idea to my wife Faye. We discussed it and she had no problems with me joining Irv and Jim for the Dayton 2002 adventure. I couldn't wait for May 2002. Only eight months to go!

Sometime in late December or early January, we started talking about where we would stay. Jim had mentioned that he stayed about 40 minutes outside of Dayton in a very small motel. I figured if I started looking now, I could find a hotel much closer and much more convenient. I started searching the Internet for Dayton hotels. Every hotel I checked was already booked up completely. How could this be? The convention was still 5 months away. I was told that most people that go every year made their reservations for the next year within 30 days of the existing years conventions. Unless I knew someone who was going or someone who usually went and was not returning or someone who died and would not need their hotel room, the chances of finding a free room was unlikely. Well, I kept searching for about 3 weeks and finally found a room at a Marriott and reserved it right away. The hotel was only 6½ miles from the Hara Arena.

We soon found a fourth member for our group. Dave – AA1YW was joining us and there was the possibility of his son; John – KB1FTX also. One hotel room was not going to be big enough. I called the hotel and luckily someone had just canceled, so I reserved a second room. I made sure my credit card was on both so that the rooms could not be given away.

Thursday, May 16th came. It was my wife's birthday and she was a little disappointed that I was leaving but she understood my excitement. I picked up Irv at 6:30 am and went to Dave's house for the planned 7 am start of the trip. After packing the car and resetting the trip odometer, we were off. We got onto the Mass pike at 7:30 am. The five of us were comfortably packed into Dave's big Ford Expedition. We were off.

Along the way, we tried all the IRLP nodes that Jim had written down. We kept linking back to the HCRA node (#727) to report our progress. Unfortunately it took us nearly 500 miles to figure out how to turn on the DTMF tones on the rig. We also learned how to make Dave's radio do other things. Nothing like a trip to force you to learn how to operate your own radio!

We pulled into the hotel at 10:30 pm. Exactly 15 hours and 761 miles after leaving home. Wow, long trip. We were tired and wired, ready for Friday.

Friday, May 17th: After battling the convention traffic, we finally were delivered to the Hara Arena. We soon learned that the inside vendors covered 5 full rooms and the outside vendors numbered around 2500 at the flea market. Since it was cold and raw, I decided to start inside. Upon entering the main arena (the size of the civic center floor) and looking around I knew I was in for a treat. While it was only morning of the first day, people were lined up eight people deep at the HRO and AES purchasing booths. People were already walking around with new purchases. My big question was do I buy today or wait for Saturday or Sunday? I was mainly interested in the Yaesu FT-817 and more.

I started through the show. Looking at the new goodies from Kenwood, Icom and Yaesu. Talking to the manufacturers. Looking at the toys. I tried to stop at every booth and see what they offered. The 817 was priced anywhere from \$565 to \$699. No great deals on that, so I waited and continued on. It seemed like all the ads from QST and other ham magazines had come to life. Manufacturers, small one-person companies and large resellers were there. Plus, all sorts of groups and stuff I had never seen before. And, lots and lots of people. It was very crowded.

After spending nearly 6 hours walking the floor, the price on the 817 had dropped to \$499. I started my purchasing frenzy. I didn't think it could drop any further and took my chances with the current price. A few friends had given me their wish list and the go ahead to purchase for them if the price was right. I stopped at HRO and found Chuck (who spoke at our last meeting) and started purchasing. Fifteen hundred dollars later it was on to another booth. W4RT makes some great 817 upgrades and add-ons. Another \$600 dropped there. Now loaded with too many bags and not enough arms it was time to find some help. Dave and John appeared and we made the return trip to the truck, stored the goodies inside and returned to the convention.

After wandering around some more, someone called my name. Unbelievable. From all 30,000 or so people Norm – W1BMK and Betty – KB1CPZ had found me. We chatted for a while and made plans to meet them for dinner tonight.

I regrouped with my group and we made our way to the truck and back to the hotel to meet with Norm and Betty. Like all the other visiting hams in the area, we needed to eat and rest. We found a nice restaurant called Max and Erma's. The food was delicious. It replenished our exhausted bodies. We excitedly talked about the show. We made plans on some things to buy tomorrow and the need to relax tonight. We hoped that the cold rain and 45 degree weather would be better for the rest of the weekend.

After returning to the hotel, Dave, John and I met at the pool area and soaked away our tired bodies in the hot tub and pool. It was a relaxing way to wind down the day. Upon returning to my room, I think I was sleeping before my head hit the pillow.

Saturday, May 18th: I joined the guys and walked around the flea market. It was about 48 degrees and windy. It was cold walking around. Where was the warm May weather? It was huge. Our common comments were that the junk has been at prior flea's and we've seen it before. But there were some neat things and some deals to be made. To our best guesstimate, we walked 3 to 5 miles up and down the rows at the flea. It seemed endless and it is very hard to say that we saw every vendor. I spent about 6 hours walking the flea market before I decided that I had seen enough. But there was some good stuff. For example, Dave bought a 25-amp power supply for \$35. We all had little goodies to add to our collection.

Saturday night we decided to eat Italian. Jim found what looked like a good place and we went out and enjoyed a good hearty meal. Then back to the hotel to play with our goodies. We set up John's 817, the MP-1 antenna, and his new paddles for cw and went searching for our first contact with the new rig. The MP-1 Super Antenna was clamped to the metal railing of the hotel. We were receiving good and decided to answer a CQ. It was a ham in Fort Smith, Arkansas. I made the qso and was amazed that the little qrp rig worked so well. We made the contact with only 2½ watts of power. I let John play with his radio (mine was still in its box). He made a cw contact with an HA4 in Hungary.

Sunday, May 19th: After sleeping a bit later and finding a decent place for breakfast (the hotel food was terrible and very overpriced), we worked our way to the show. We decided to park at the Salem Mall as we had on Friday and take the shuttle bus. We split up and wandered the show. I picked up some goodies inside, just as the vendors were starting to take their booths down. The 2002 Dayton Hamvention closed at 1 pm.

I found Dave, Jim, John and Irv. After finding the car we made our way to the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum. It too was huge. We learned about the first airplanes, manned flight, the wars, and everything having to do with flight. There were airplanes on the ground and in the air for display. It was obvious that this was a multi day museum. We saw what we could before it closed at 5 pm. We never did get out side or to the presidential aircraft. We'll have to go back next year. We also learned that there was a Packard Museum and some other museums that we would like to visit. Also we discussed, the possibility of spending more days for the trip to see more museums and places of interest.

Since we were tired, weary and hungry we decided it was time to eat. Last year, Jim had found a nice restaurant near his hotel. We ate there. The food was delicious and we enjoyed our selves. We also had to sample the homemade ice cream. It was yummy. We were all amazed that Dave had room for his large dinner and then an enormous desert. He had a six-inch by six-inch piece of chocolate cake, covered with ice cream and chocolate sauce. We all took a bite, but he ate the rest himself. Where did he put it?

Back at the hotel, we compared notes, reviewed some of our purchases and made plans for the return trip home.

(continued next page)

**Buyers**  
**Free Admission!**  
**Cheep!**



# TAIL GATE PARTY

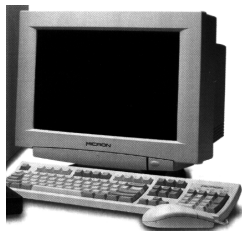
## June 7th !!!

*Clean out the garage now!*

- Set-up at 5:30 PM • Lots of bargains!
- Starts at 6:00 PM • Coffee & Donuts!
- Ends at dusk • Selling Space \$5

For more details and a map, visit us on the web at:  
<http://www.hcra.org/auction.htm>

Contact Dave, KB1MU, for details - 413-594-6831 or kb1mu@charter.net



**Being held at:**  
Hampden County Radio Association  
Feeding Hills Congregational Church  
21 North Westfield Street  
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Just North of Dunkin' Donuts at the  
intersection of routes 57 and 159.  
Talk-in on the 146.94 repeater

### RULES:

Amateur radio or computer related items only.  
Seller space only \$5

### FREE ADMISSION

If it doesn't sell - you bring it home!

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Good Deals

Bake Sale

(continued from previous page)

Monday, May 20th: We went to a Waffle House for breakfast and started home. Somehow we got the bags and all our goodies into the truck without having to strap some bags to the roof. We mounted my outbacker antenna on the car and John attempted to make some mobile contacts. Jim drove the first leg home. We played IRLP some more. It was chilly but there was no rain and it was a nice drive. I drove the remaining 400 plus miles home. We did stop for dinner in Syracuse at a Chili's restaurant. We also explained what ham radio was to the manager. He was confused and couldn't figure out what pigs (the animal) and radio had in common. After setting him straight and explaining some more, it was obvious that he was a potential ham from his interest. I handed him a HCRA card and instructed him to visit the web site and also to follow the link to the ARRL new ham web site. Hopefully he'll follow up and become a ham.

We pulled into Dave's driveway at 11:30 pm. Driving time for the 684 mile trip was about 12½

hours. We loaded Irv's and my stuff into my car and drove home to Longmeadow.

We figured that with the 6 to 7 thousand dollars we all spent, we easily saved \$1500 at the convention off regular prices. We also walked the largest ham radio flea market in the country. Saw vendors we only read about. We met lots of people, saw lots of stuff, walked ourselves weary and want to go back again. All in all we had a wonderful time. It was lots of fun.

I'd like to thank Dave, John, Irv and Jim for making my first Dayton Hamvention a memorable and enjoyable one. Now to start planning for next year.

73's,  
Larry - WB1DBY

## *Dayton Hamvention de KB1FTX*

This past weekend I had the privilege to go to the largest Ham Radio Flea Market/Show in the U.S. or maybe even the world. It was a playground for amateur radio. It was like none other, 25 thousand people, every radio you could imagine (and, for me, a dad with money). If you can think of it -- they had it there. Not only were there people selling junk, but also there were people selling stuff you might actually need! As I stepped in to the arena it was so overwhelming that I did not know where to start. I just started to walk, not knowing where I was going, nor what I was supposed to do... I just wandered. I figured we would be there for 4 days and even though you can't see it all, it is worth a try. Nothing was marked with arrows or signs and after a while it got repetitive. You would think that something was one way, but it was really the other. The best way to tell where I needed to go was the room with the wooden floor. This was one of the last rooms I saw on the first day, but from there the inside was getting clearer. Then we went outside -- again every thing was a blur. Everything was spread out, but also so close together. To find a good price you had to walk a lot and haggle with the vendors.

When you hear of "the Dayton price" you can bet you couldn't find a better one anywhere. For example, I bought a new Yaesu FT-817 for under \$500. Then I got an antenna, 80-meter coil, tripod, and a mounting bracket for only \$200. They had deals on every thing from Yaesu Mark V fields to right angle BNC connectors. Also, I got to see brand new radios that some people had never even seen before, The Yaesu FT 897 and the VX7R.

Even though the money we saved on the radios was less than the trip we felt that it is not what you get but how you get it. The trip to Dayton with the 5 morons (KK1W, AA1YW, W6IS, WB1DBY, and KB1FTX) will probably be a memory I will never forget.

'73 de John, KB1FTX



Members present Irv W6IS, Larry K1ILZ, Larry WB1DBY, Norm W1BMK, Jim KK1W, Dave KB1MU, Greg N1AEH, and John Kx1x; and guest Steve N1SR

**Vice President K1ILZ:** The May meeting was well attended with a count of 53 attendees. The guest speaker was well received. Since the speaker had a distance to travel, he was given first time, and discussion was held after the speaker.

**Treasurer N1AEH:** Current balance is \$2500.00. Raffle tickets netted \$99.00 and raffle prizes cost \$69.00

**Secretary KB1MU:** The June tailgate party is progressing. There will be no bake sale, but we will have a club table for the sale of donated items.

Maps showing the field day antenna locations have been completed. Copies can be obtained from Dave KB1MU, either by e-mail or in person. Due to personal commitments, the revised Field Day Primer is proceeding slowly. An attempt to have it ready for June meeting will be made, but it may not happen.

**Program W6IS:** The board wished to thank Irv for the great speakers we have had during the past year. Irv is looking for a speaker for the Sept Meeting.

**Membership W1BMK:** Norm is working on food for Field Day. A donation of soft drinks has been promised by Carol W1LGU.

**ZeroBeat KX1X:** Cutoff date for articles is May 25

The IRLP link is up and running. There is a slight problem with the voice announcements, but this is currently being addressed.

**Technical N1INB:** Not Present

**At Large WB1DBY:** The roster of operators for Field day is growing and in good shape. It appears that the HCRA will now operate as "7A" with the promise of a "killer" antenna for 80 meters

**Venture crew.** Not present

**Old business:** In regards to the New England QSO Party. Two rover station comprised of club members participated. Jim KK1W and Jim WB1Z as one team using the club call W1NY and Steve N1SR and Dan AA1TE using the call N1SR Apparently Steve N1SR knew some RF hot spots, since they out scored the Jims by about 10 to 1. Many other HCRA members participated, but the club does not have a listing.

**Field Day** Field Day preparation is on track. The list of operators is filling and antenna locations are set. With the addition of a "large" 80meter antenna, the HCRA is now planning operating as a "7A" entry. A map has been drawn and circulated showing the placement of antennas. It was decided to NOT rent the kitchen portion of the park. It really is expensive. Electricity will be available in the pavilion area, refrigerators will be used for foods. Ice will be used for cooling drinks. Cooking will be done on a grill, both park supplied and member supplied.

**Elections:** A complete slate of officers has been setup. We do have two candidates for the position of Technical Director.

**Note!** Anyone who would like to run for any office is encouraged to have his or her name placed on the ballot.

Respectfully submitted David W. Isham KB1MU

## ***HCRA 2002/2003 Annual Election***

The June meeting is when next year's officers and board members are elected for another term. If you would like to be considered for a position within the HCRA, please notify any board member with your desire. We entertain any and all people for any position, pursuant to the HCRA Constitution.

Here is a list of proposed members desiring election or re-election for the upcoming year:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
At-Large	Larry Krainson, WB1DBY
Program	Jim Allen, WB1Z
Membership	Norm Gregoire, W1BMK
Technical	Peter Beauregard, K1I1 Larry Steiner, N1URE
ZeroBeat Editor	John Pise, Kx1x
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
Secretary	Dave Isham, KB1MU
Vice President	Irv Slitzsky, W6IS
President	Jim Mullen, KK1W

Nominations are open right up until voting time June 7<sup>th</sup>. Many of the members running for re-election would be happy to vacate or change positions to allow a new face and new ideas to join. It's been said many times, any club is only as good as the desire and activities of its members. The HCRA is growing and exciting for exactly those reasons. If you feel you can help with this growth, let us know and we will get you on the slate.

Thanks and don't forget to attend the June meeting to vote your choice for 2003.

Jim, KK1W

This month:  
*Hampden County Radio Association's*  
Club Meeting will be on Friday

**June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

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 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

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

This month's Meeting:  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tail Gate Party**  
**HCRA Elections, Field Day, IRLP**  
*And other official HCRA business*