



Our 59th Year

Zero Beat

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association
<http://www.hcra.org>

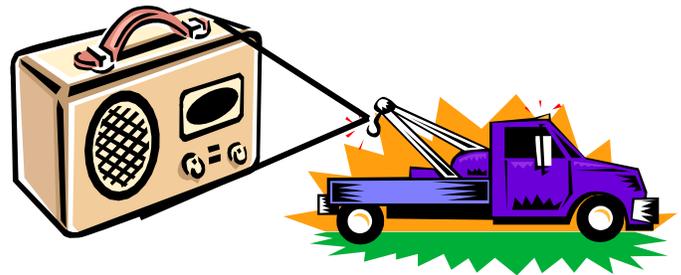
Meetings Held at: **Feeding Hills Congregational Church**
21 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA



June, 2005

HCRA Tail Gate Party
Friday, June 3rd, 2005

Also:
Annual HCRA Officer Elections
Field Day Planning
Last meeting of the Season



As Always,
Good Friends, Good Conversation,
Good Times

The Board of Directors wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the membership of the Hampden County Radio Association for yet another great year. This year, the HCRA has grown in membership and financial stability – this while other radio clubs like ours are declining in membership. We believe that a steady diet of interesting speakers and fun events is the key to a thriving club, but also that listening to our membership and bringing them what they want keeps them coming back. Never forget that this is YOUR club – speak up if you have an idea that you would like to see implemented or a concern that needs to be addressed.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Summer!!!

We hope to see you at Field Day on June 26th & 27th. The HCRA does not meet in July and August.

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President's Corner

Field Day 2005

Some changes but still the best!

When you read this Field Day 2005 will be less than 30 days away. Are you ready? I didn't think so! Well, there's no time like the present to get in gear and get you and your rig ready for June 26th and 27th.



Notice I didn't say the 25th? That's one of the changes. Two factors have combined to change our plan for '05. One is the cost of park rental. It has been climbing every year. If we opt to set up starting Saturday morning instead of Friday afternoon HCRA will save \$195. Add to that the prospect of poor propagation which lessens the need for more towers and beams and we think it's possible to pull off a set-up starting Saturday morning. Like everything else we won't know until Sunday afternoon rolls around if it was the correct decision but...

Another change is the prospect of running a 5A instead of 7A as in the past four years. Setting up stations for 10 and 15 meters to more than likely only make a few contacts over the 24 hour period is a lot of work. Much better to concentrate our operators and effort on the bands that will be fun to run.

The biggest part of this change is the importance for folks that usually help out Friday afternoon to be available Saturday morning instead. If memory serves me right, most of the set-up people don't do a lot of operating so there shouldn't be much difference. Instead of taking time off from work to help with set-up you'll have to take time out from lawn mowing instead. Sounds good to me, work probably pays better too.

Those are the major changes, the rest remains the same. Same sumptuous cuisine, same beautiful park, and of course the best group of hams in the valley. What more can you ask for?

Keep an eye on the web page for the latest information about HCRA's 'signature event'. Also, we have a lot of new hams this year and I want to be sure to extend an invitation to all—come join us for a lot of fun. Field Day will have a GOTA (Get On The Air) station that is just the ticket for a new or inexperienced licensee. A great way to get your feet wet, learn about station set-up, antennas, operating practice and most of all, **FUN**.

If you don't see your name on the list don't despair. Let Peter, K11I or myself know and we will be sure it is listed. But, listed or not, club member or not, please stop by for some food, fun and operating. If you know of someone who is interested in radio, bring them along, this event is open to everyone.

CW Class

Wraps up this Tuesday.

HCRA's first CW training class ends Tuesday, May 31st, with an official HVE exam. The class has gone extremely well, one of the students passed at the regular WMMET exam this past Friday. This is the class everyone was asking for and I guess they meant it! There were over 25 registrations before the class began. Peter expects a good many of those will go home soon with Element 1 under their belt.

There are still a few Code Practice Oscillator kits left. For \$10 you can purchase a neat little CPO designed and kitted by John, KB1LTC. Complete with instructions it's a fun way to get started with both CW and kit building.

The FCC isn't acting very quickly on the possibility of removing the requirement of CW for HF operation. Why wait? It's not that hard and you don't want to lose out on any of the fun of HF operation do you? Do it now and extend your operating privileges and your fun at the same time.

June is the HCRA Tail Gate Party

And the long range forecast looks good too.

HCRA's annual tailgate party will be held June 3rd. Have you got your 'stuff' ready for sale? There's not a lot of time left so don't delay any longer. The Weather Channel is predicting partly cloudy and 70 degrees, what could be better than that?

Instead of a regular club meeting we will have a get together in the parking lot to sell (trade?) neat stuff with other hams. It's a low-key, fun time for all. Spaces are \$5 for the sellers, for buyers admission is **free!** Andy & Erik will be providing music and announcements, coffee & donuts as usual and we'll have some great raffle prizes too! More information and space reservation contact Dave, KB1MU at 413-594-6831 or via email at kb1mu@charter.net. Immediately following the tailgate party will be our regular club meeting. The subject will be Field Day and our 2005/2006 election of officers. See you there and bring a friend. Everyone is always welcome at an HCRA event.

Annual Elections

Vote the slate for 2005/2006.

This is the time of the year when you get to choose (or join) the board of directors for the upcoming year. Elsewhere in Zero Beat is the slate of proposed candidates. But, there can be changes. Your name could be on there too! What better way to show your support for both your favorite hobby and your favorite radio club by becoming a member of the board?

This year will usher in more new members to the board. That is the best news a club can have, new people and ideas will promote change. I think we all heard Mr. Ort last month and his view about how important change is to everything; business, government and of course our club.

Departing the board this year for a number of different reasons are Marty, W1MJB; Peter, K11I; Larry, WB1DBY and Steve, N1SR. Please take a moment the next time you see them and say thanks for all the effort and thought they put into HCRA over the time of their terms. Marty's participation with FD and Holiday Party organization; Peter's extremely successful classes; Larry's hugely popular speakers and Steve's work as Secretary have all combined to put us where we are today.

New members joining the board are Eric, KB1JVI and John, KB1LTC. Eric has been a member for the last few years and is looking forward to taking over as editor of Zero Beat. John recently got his license and is really excited about having fun with ham radio. He is the person that designed and kitted HCRA's first project—the HCRA CPO! I'm sure both will do a fine job as members of the board.

Returning from a short period of retirement are Irv, W6IS and Dave, KB1MU. Both are a fine example of guys that left but can't stay away! And both are active, knowledgeable hams that will continue to work hard for our club. The rest of us remain, perhaps shuffled around a bit to take advantage of everyone's strongest areas.

But, the list you see is not the final one. If you feel *YOU* have something to give, time to invest and ideas that need nurturing HCRA is the club for you. We pride ourselves on being a club that is easy to live with and fun to be a member of. It's not over until after the election on June 3rd. Contact any board member to get *YOUR* name on the list.

See you at the June meeting!

'73... Jim, KK1W

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and
Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

President

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

Vice-President

Marty Bowen, W1MJB
w1mjb@arrl.net

Treasurer

Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
(860) 668-5143 gstoddard@rcn.com

Secretary

Stefan Rodowicz, N1SR
n1sr@arrl.net

HCRA DIRECTORS

At Large

Jim Harrington, KB1JVF
jldhjr@verizon.net

Program

Larry Krainson, WB1DBY
(413) 567-3505 wb1dby@arrl.net

Membership

Pete Beauregard, KI1I
(413) 562-7392 ki1i@arrl.net

Newsletter

John Pise, Kx1x
(413) 532-7474 kx1x@arrl.net

Technical

John Stark, N1JIO

STATION TRUSTEES

W1NY Trustee

Don Johnson, W1UPH
(413) 566-3560 w1uph2@juno.com

WB1HOF Trustee

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

IRLP Trustee

John Pise, Kx1x
(413) 532-7474 kx1x@arrl.net



Larry Krainson

We Make House Calls!

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Cell: 413-348-3289

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Computer Sales & Service
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Salem, NH 03079
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ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • DENVER, CO • OAKLAND, CA
PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR • SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA

Wear it Proudly!
HCRA Name Badges



Only \$6.00. Available for order at any club meeting, or call or drop
an email for immediate service!

Show the world you belong to the oldest club in the Pioneer Valley.

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

OUR
SUPPORTERS
PLEASE

WE NEED YOUR SUGGESTIONS

We are asking for your suggestions and ideas for future HCRA meetings. The recent success of HCRA has been, in part, because of its interesting and timely key speakers and topics.

If you can help, please contact

Larry, WB1DBY, 567-3505, wb1dby@arrl.net

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

HCRA 2005/2006 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:

Position	Nominee
At-Large	Jim Harrington, KB1JVF
Program	John Pise, Kx1x
Membership	John Lenville, KB1LTC
Technical	John Stark, N1JIO
ZeroBeat Editor	Eric Richardson, KB1JVI
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
Secretary	Dave Isham, KB1MU
Vice President	Irv Slitzky, W6IS
President	Jim Mullen, KK1W

Nominations are open right up until voting time June 3rd. This year's slate brings on board some new members and returns a few old ones. Some have moved to different positions. All in all a very good board that should keep HCRA on the same growth pattern of the last few years. The board can only direct or recommend - it is the membership that is driving HCRA forward. Thanks everyone for making HCRA the great amateur radio club that it is. Don't forget to attend the June meeting to vote your choice.

Jim, KK1W



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.qsl.net/crewdx>



BSA VENTURE CREW 510 Contacts

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

BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

Ham Radio Demo, Webelos Woods, Moses Scout Reservation, June 3, 4, 5

HCRA meeting, June 3

KB1FWN, KB1ISP, Kx1x at K2BSA/4 (National Boy Scout Jamboree) 7/25 – 8/2



At left, Mike, KB1FWN, Luke, KB1ISP, and JJ in the paddle boat at Biff's (AA1DI) QTH in Essex County, Vermont (instead of at the radio where they should have been).

NE1C operated the NEQP from WAY Northern Vermont giving out points from the most un-ham-populated area of New England.

265 Q's, 31 NE counties, 14 states, 10 DX 14,575 pts.
Not bad for 6 hours contesting!!!

On the Internet

<http://www.hcra.org>

Updated often to bring you timely Amate news and info

IRLP Node #7270

146.46 Mhz -- PL 114.8

A free service of HCRA

See www.hcra.org

Next Meeting:

Friday, September 2nd, 2005

Have a great Summer!!!

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, Steve, N1SR, or Jim, KKIW, to be added to the eZB only list.

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
Wednesdays	19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link) (W1TOM)
	20:00	MTARA Swap net	
(right after SWAP net)		N1RLX Memorial Simplex Net	Starts on 146.94, then moves to a simplex frequency
Thursdays	21:00	Northern CT Weather Net	146.79(-) PL 82.5 (except 2 nd week, on 147.000)

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		KD1XP License Exams	Amherst Machine 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
		http://www.mtara.org	
4 th Friday of the month	18:00	WMVET License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke
		Contact Dave, W1FAB, W1FAB@arrl.net	
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!!!

KD1XP Repeater Group News

53.350 (-) PL 71.9 Amherst, MA
145.130 (-) PL 173.8 Amherst, MA
442.200 (+) PL 162.2 Deerfield, MA (near Greenfield)
443.450 (+) PL 173.8 Leyden, MA (near Greenfield)
443.700 (+) PL 71.9 Belchertown, MA

. The next ham radio testing session will be on Monday, July 18th at Amherst Machine on Cowls Road in Amherst, MA. ALL test elements given. Contact Richard, KD1XP at 665-2211 for details

Breakfast meetings every first Saturday of the month at Bickfords in Northampton. Talk in on the 145.130 repeater.

www.kd1xp.org

KD1XP
repeater group

Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Assn. News

www.mtara.org

Info Net, Wednesdays at 7:30 PM local
146.94 (-) or 147.000 (+) with Joe, NA1X, net control

Meetings on the
3rd Friday of the Month, 7:30
Red Cross Building, Cottage St., Spfld
Next Meeting, Friday June 17th
At the Red Cross Building



Mount
Tom
Amateur
Repeater
Association

W1NY/m set new NEQP Record! (unofficial for now but...)

On May 7th & 8th Steve, N1SR and myself set out to put our club call in the record books. I don't know if this rates up there with the W1NY VHF scores in the past but we had a great time. Steve (now known as Mad Max) drove while I sat at the table in back of his E-150 van and tried to work at least one station in each county we visited. The old record for maximum number of counties activated was 24. We had a route that 'should' take us though 34 counties. We felt that was both attainable and high enough to ensure success. Well, propagation was not our friend and neither was the weather. Cold, windy & rainy outside Saturday and a geomagnetic storm on Sunday were the major challenges. When all was said and done, Steve drove 1202 miles over the two days, we made 140 contacts (about 60/40 phone/CW) and visited 39 (yes 39) counties! What didn't go to plan? Lots of ignition noise hampered us and a noisy computer power supply didn't help either. Band conditions really dropped off Sunday and we were only hearing the strongest of stations. The plan was to end up in Nashua, NH at 8:00 PM on Sunday. What did go right? Steve did a super job of driving (accident & ticket free I might add), the rig/computer/software worked FB and we managed to exceed our goal by 20%. Oh, one more thing. If you ask us we will tell you we 'really did' want to visit L.L.Bean, that's why we ended up in Lisbon Falls, ME at 8:00 PM Sunday!



N1SR (Mad Max) at the wheel!

I hope everyone had a chance to work even a few contacts during the contest. We listened for everyone but only managed to work NE1C in Essex, VT for a few contacts Saturday evening. Don't forget to turn in your logs so you will have a chance at the HCRA sponsored plaque. Thanks to Tom, K1K1 and friends for putting together a great QSO party. Our goal next year — 45 counties!!

Steve, N1SR & Jim, KK1W

Notes on the Icom 7000 From the Dayton Hamvention

Jim Harrington, KB1JVF

The Icom IC-7000 was released at the Dayton, Ohio Hamvention. The rumors before the release were centered on the IC-7000 being the replacement for the IC-706MKIIG. During the introduction Icom said the unit was to be for sale in September or October just in time for Christmas. Some of the features he was showing were from a beta version and had been modified. This unit was just packed full of goodies from it's bigger brother's the IC-7800 & IC-756PRO.

After the presentation I had a chance to talk to the Icom presenter and he stated that the IC-7000 was not a replacement for the IC-706MKIIG. Icom understands Ham's price units in \$200 increments. The Icom IC-706MKIIG was selling at the show for around \$750 to \$800. The radio is selling fine and had competition, and a niche. While the IC-7000 was expected to sell for about \$1,500 and was in a niche by itself... a lot like the IC-7800 was at \$13,000.00 for a base station.

You can't replace a radio that doesn't exist.

QCWA Pioneer Chapter #183



Schedule of
Events

July 23 -- Picnic at Mt Tom State Park
Starts at 11:AM

A multi-charter activity
Bring your own food, plates, flatware, and chairs
Cooking Utensils, etc... will be furnished

Meeting October 8th - 11:30AM
CJ's Restaurant, Rte. 20, Palmer, MA
Speaker: Mr. Guy McLain, Director of the CT Valley
Historical Museum
Subject: History of Transportation in New England
Guests welcome.

Contact: Pat Smith, N1CET (413) 566-3966

Meeting January 21st, 2006 -- 11:30AM
CJ's Restaurant, Rte. 20, Palmer, MA

Special Event Station

Barnes A.F.B. Air Show, August 27th and 28th
Massachusetts 104th Air Guard, Barnes Airport, Westfield, MA

HCRA is sponsoring a special event station at the air show. If you would like to help out, please contact Jim Harrington, KB1JVF, jldhjr@verizon.net. Planned frequencies: CW: 3533, 7033, 14033, 18099, 21033, 28033 SSB: 3860, 3885 (AM), 7260, 14.260, 18160, 21360, 28336

NEW CW CLASS STARTING

The current CW class will be completed on Tuesday May 31. On June 1st there will be another CW class starting. Interested parties can contact me, jldhjr@verizon.net. I will give you directions and times.

Jim Harrington KB1JVF

WANTED TS820S Power & VFO Cable for University of Hartford ARC

Paul Sittar, a University of Hartford Regent recently donated a TS 820S, Remote VFO, Station Monitor, and A Drake Antenna Tunes to the University of Hartford ARC. However, he did not have the power cable (Cinch Jones Connector) or Remote VFO cable (9-pin miniature tube connector). If you have any of these connectors or cables the UHa club would appreciate them.

Thanks, Lad WA3EEC Phone:
860-768-4866 email:
nagurney@hartford.edu



Congrats to Mariusz, KB1MDS, winner of last month's special raffle, a Sangean AT505P

HCRA Board of Directors Meeting

May 11, 2005

Held at "The Pizza Shoppe Family Restaurant", 134 Shaker Road, East Longmeadow

Meeting called to order at 7:20PM by Jim, KK1W (President)

Members present: Jim, KK1W; Marty, W1MJB; Greg, N1AEH; Larry, WB1DBY; Peter, K1II; Jim, KB1JVF & Steve, N1SR

Members absent: John, N1JIO; John, Kx1x; Venture Crew

Additional attendees: John, KB1LTC and Eric, KBJVI

Vice President W1MJB:

Cost of Field Day site in Granby, MA has increased. Marty will try to negotiate more favorable terms. KB1JVF will checkout Mt Tom as a possible alternate site. W1MJB and K1II will make the final decision regarding the FD site.

Raffle prizes in stock and available for the June meeting include various books, a World Clock and World Radio Subscriptions.

Treasurer N1AEH:

Present balance in the treasure is \$3825 including \$115 received at this meeting.

Secretary N1SR:

Minutes for April BoD meeting were published in May ZeroBeat. (editor's note: oops!!!)

Program WB1DBY:

May meeting was Harold Ort - N2RLL Editor of Popular Communications. About 90 attendees enjoyed the speaker who was well received.

Upcoming meeting: June – Tailgate Party

Larry has completely filled all 2004/2005 speaking engagements

Membership K1II:

Technician course has been completed. 7 new Technician Licenses plus 2 Element 3 CSCEs making a total of 9 new licenses and 3 CSCEs associated with this class.

Peter has 3 "Now Your Talking" books remaining and 2 General Q&A books.

The 4 week CW class has started with 26 students. A VE exam will be held on Tuesday May 31st.

ZeroBeat Kx1x: - Absent

Technical N1JIO: - Absent.

There will not be a Tech Corner at the June meeting due to the Tailgate Party.

At Large KB1JVF:

Progress continues on Special Event station at the Barnes Airshow scheduled for 27 Aug. The callsign that will be used is W1NY/A10, the A10 suffix representing the A10 "Warhog" aircraft assigned to Barnes.

Venture Crew: Absent

Winner of the Crew Raffle for the TV/VCR was Tom DeChristopher, KB1FWM

Old Business:

1. Field Day – See above
2. The WB1Z club callsign application remains in limbo, resolution expected soon.

New Business:

1. Board voted to allocate \$1000 for purchase of raffle prizes at Dayton.
2. NEQP results: NE1C (Portable Essex County, VT) 260+ contacts
W1NY/m (Rover throughout New England), 140 contacts

The new Board meeting location is working well; reservations were made for the June Board meeting at the same location.

Respectfully submitted
Steve Rodowicz, N1SR

The KIII BEAM

Another HCRA year is coming to a close and much has been accomplished. First, I would like to congratulate the many successful candidates for FCC Technician Class Amateur Radio License and wish them much success and fun in the hobby. Additionally, as the HCRA Morse Code Academy draws to a close, I hope that all that can be successful in their pursuit of FCC Amateur Radio Element 1 requirements completion.

My personal thanks to the following individuals because without your help, the classes would not have been possible:

HAMCLASS 05:

Jim Mullen	KK1W	An Introduction to Amateur Radio
Marty Bowen	W1MJB	Radio Spectrum & Licensing Good Engineering Practices
John Stark	N1JIO	Frequency Privilege Chart Electrical, Antenna Structure and R
Luke Dyson	KB1ISP	Radio Phenomena, Station Licensee
John Pise	KX1X	Control Operator Duties
Tim Peet	KB1LFG and	
Jim Whitehouse	K1JAW	Good Operating Practices
Norm Gregoire	W1BMK	Basic Communications Electronics
Bob Meneguzzo	K1YO	Good Engineering Practices (2)
Ernie Bramucci	K1EJB	Including Antennas
Larry Smith	K1ILZ and	
Pat Smith	N1CET	Special Operations

MORSEACADEMY05:

Norm Gregoire	W1BMK
George Collins	KC1V
Marty Bowen	W1MJB
Larry & Pat Smith	K1ILZ & N1CET
Jim Whitehouse	K1JAW
John Stark	N1JIO



When naming names, one always risks forgetting someone. If I have, I am truly sorry and I thank those who I may have inadvertently left out as well as those who have been mentioned. I may have organized the two classes but these folks were responsible for the follow through. It is because of the efforts of people like these that make this club a truly wonderful organization. An organization that is vibrant and constantly renewing itself. The new hams and folks upgrading will remember the good times they had at the classes and the memories will become a part of what makes them the hams that they will be as they begin on their new hamming journeys.

HCRA Field Day 2005

We are truly getting close day by day. Soon the event will be upon us. One thing I would like to state up front is that “Field Day the HCRA Way” should, in my humble opinion, always be centered on fun. If you aren’t having fun, then we need to readjust that. If you have heard the saying that “you can please some of the people some of the time but not all of the people all of the time” well...for this event I for one would like to put a harpoon through that saying. This event is what each one of us wants to make of it. For some of us it is the nuts and bolts of setup/teardown that makes us happy. Others will be having fun operating, teaching, cooking, chatting with other participants or just being there. There is something in the event for everybody.

I have to state right up front that I am not a master organizer. This year the event is somewhat organized but over organization can be just as bad as not enough (it can kill fun). With this having been said, when you arrive on the day of the event, don’t hesitate to jump in and help wherever you can. There are many things to do as we set up, operate, and tear down. Operator positions may go unfilled because someone didn’t take the initiative to just jump in.

If your thing is learning how to set up an HF station, then ask people who you see setting up those stations. If you still have questions ask the same question to another person you see setting up a station. Sometimes getting two answers to the same question answered differently can help with the understanding of a topic. The important thing is that if learning is what you are at Field Day to do, there is plenty of knowledge there to have access to.

So, Roll up your sleeves and get ready because the fun is just about to begin. If you have a question, email me at netmastr@comcast.net. I will do my level best to help you out as we approach the day.

As always, best of 73s de KIII, Peter.

Buyers
Free Admission!
Cheep!



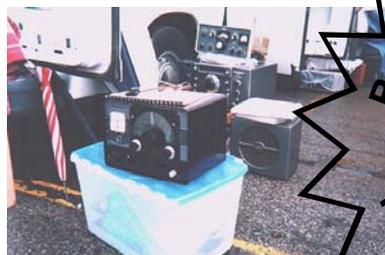
TAIL GATE PARTY

June 3rd !!!

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>



Raffle Prizes
Good Deals
Free Admission

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!

What is Lightning?

The action of rising and descending air within a thunderstorm separates positive and negative charges. Water and ice particles also affect the distribution of electrical charge. Lightning results from the buildup and discharge of electrical energy between positively and negatively charged areas.

Lightning Myths and Facts

MYTH: If it is not raining, then there is no danger from lightning. **FACT:** Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.

MYTH: The rubber soles of shoes or rubber tires on a car will protect you from being struck by lightning. **FACT:** Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal. Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.

MYTH: People struck by lightning carry an electrical charge and should not be touched. **FACT:** Lightning-strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be attended to immediately. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter for information on CPR and first aid classes.

MYTH: "Heat lightning" occurs after very hot summer days and poses no threat. **FACT:** What is referred to as "heat lightning" is actually lightning from a thunderstorm too far away for thunder to be heard. However, the storm may be moving in your direction!

Lightning Safety

- If lightning is occurring and a sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hard top automobile and keep windows up.
- Get out of boats and away from water.
- Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances. Use phones ONLY in an emergency.
- Do not take a bath or shower.
- Turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can overload the compressors.

If Caught Outdoors and No Shelter Is Nearby:

- Find a low spot away from trees, fences, and poles. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.
- If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.
- If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible, and minimize your contact with the ground.
- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately!

Stay safe and informed, Mark Hoekzema
WeatherBug Meteorologist

LIGHTNING



SKYWARN

de Eric
N1QKO

Personal Lightning Safety Tips

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
please reprint and distribute this message.

The Hampden County Radio Association's next meeting FRIDAY, APRIL 1st

Doors open at 7 p.m., Meeting begins at 7:30

Feeding Hills Congregational Church, Feeding Hills, MA

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.



Gary, AAIUE, and Chip, K7JA at Dayton



Dayton pilgrims take a picture

HCRA

P.O. Box 562

Agawam, Massachusetts

01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

Hampden County Radio Assoc.

**HCRA
TAILGATE PARTY
CLUB ELECTION
FIELD DAY PLANNING**

**Friday,
June 3rd,
2005**

Starts at
6:PM

