

Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association

June 2011

SOTA Jerks, Annual Tailgate Party, and 2010/2011 Elections —all at June 3 meeting

The June 3 HCRA meeting will be chock full of don't miss programs. First, we'll have our annual tailgate party in the parking lot behind the Feeding Hills Congregational Church. This is a great time to try to get rid of some of the stuff that's been cluttering up your ham shack, and at the same time, accumulate more. Then the fabulous local group you're getting sick of hearing about—the SOTA Jerks will make a brief presentation on all the fun they're having while avoiding serious work—getting out on a mountain top, experimenting with rigs and antennas, and making QSOs. They hope that you'll join them in an activation this Spring and Summer! Next, we'll elect our new Board of Directors and present a (metaphorical) gold watch to Larry WB1DBY for his years of service to the club.



Vintage TDE-2 Transmitter



1. PURPOSE: General communication for small ships. [WW II vintage]
2. FREQUENCY RANGES:
 - (a) IF, 300 to 1,500 kc.
 - (b) HF, 1,500 to 18,100 kc.
3. EMISSION:
 - (a) A-1 or CW, up to 100 words per minute.
 - (b) A-2 or MCW, up to 100 wpm
 - (c) A-3 or VOICE.
4. POWER OUTPUTS:
 - (a) 125 watts CW.
 - (b) 35 watts MCW.
 - (c) 30 watts VOICE. [AM, of course]

[Ed. note: Its weight: **344 pounds.**]

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W1MJB on Field Day

Marty, W1MJB, has “volunteered” to be the 40 meter phone band captain for Field Day this year. He wants to “recruit operators for the 40 meter phone station”—but beyond that he hopes “to strike a chord in the club membership which will renew that spark of interest that brought them to the hobby initially. Whether you rag-chew or contest, build equipment or purchase it, the logical end result is to operate your equipment and communicate either locally or world wide with your fellow radio amateurs.

“The frame work of the ARRL sponsored annual Field Day is perfect for renewing that spark and your participation in FD may allow you to rekindle your interest in the hobby and also educate the public and politicians about the role Hams play in providing emergency communication for local emergency management agencies and disaster relief providers when the communications infrastructure is compromised.

“Just a few hours of your time can make a great difference and if you are truly a ham you will manage to make playing with radios in the field a fun-filled experience.”

Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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

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



Local happenings

(All times are local time)

Sundays:

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

Mondays:

1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

Tuesdays:

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

Wednesdays:

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

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

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

Thursdays:

2100: Weather Net (Roger, K1PAI Net Control)

1st Thursday of every month: 147.090 MHz

All other Thursdays: 147.000, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

Fridays:

1200: BB's (Brown Baggers Luncheon)

Common Ground Restaurant

25 Park Avenue

West Springfield, MA 01089

<http://thecupinc.com/home.html> for more details and directions. Expect between 6 and 12 every Friday. Good food, great company!



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

Club Meetings & VE Sessions

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

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

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

4th Sunday of the month 1900 NOBARC club meeting Pittsfield MA (146.91 for talk-in)

Upcoming Hamfests & Flea Markets

3 June Feeding Hills MA HCRA Tailgate Party @6PM
Jim KK1W 413 245 3228

4 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson Ln
John 860 673 0518

4 June Goshen CT SBARC @FG
Lee K1LEE 860 435 0051

11 June Windsor VT CVFMA @HS Free
Ray K1XV 802 875 4525

18 June Newington CT NARL @StMarySch
Steve WV1X 860 594 0265

19 June Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT
Nick 617 253 3776 F

17 July Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT
Nick 617 253 3776

23 July New Haven CT YankeePeddler @HI \$7@8\$19/
sp\$15/T

HCRA Contact List

President, Jim Mullen KK1W (413) 245-3228
kk1w@arrl.net

Vice-President, John Pise KX1X (413) 532-7474
kx1x@arrl.net

Treasurer, Dave Cain AA1YW (413) 569-6901
aa1yw@arrl.net

Secretary, Marty Bowen W1MJB (413) 525-3717
w1mjb@arrl.net

Newsletter, Frandy Johnson N1FJ (413) 584-9005
n1fj@arrl.net

Programs, Jim Machia NN1Y (413) 535-1703
machiaj@lmsn.com

Membership, Matt Wilhelm W1MSW (413) 336-4701
w1msw@arrl.net

Technical, Ed LaCombe KB1NWH (413) 250-3137
kb1nwh@comcast.net

At Large, Larry Krainson WB1DBY (413) 348-3289
wb1dby@arrl.net

ARES Coordinator, Robert Macedo KD1CY (508) 354-3142,
(508) 994-1875 - After 6 PM, (508)997-4503 - After 6 PM,
(800)445-2588 Ext:72929
rmacedo@ma.ultranet.com

Skywarn Liaison, Eric Tuller N1QKO (413) 967-3869
et-n1qko@juno.com

FROM THE SHACK

TAIL GATE PARTY

There's still time to gather up some 'goodies' and bring them to HCRA's annual Tail Gate Party this month. Not sure what we're talking about? Here's the deal.

Every June we hold a 'Tail Gate Party' in the back parking lot of the church prior to the our regular meeting and annual elections. 2011 is no exception; we'll be doing it again this year. The whole idea is to give our members an opportunity to exchange some unneeded ham gear for some new (but probably still unneeded) gear. It is a low key, fun event that is open to everyone, members and non-members alike.

For the paltry sum of \$5 you can get a spot in the parking lot to exhibit your articles for sale. Tail gates are not required but tables/blankets/sawhorses are not supplied (in other words you're on your own). That's it, \$5 to exhibit and take as much space as you want. Buyers get in for free! Can it get any simpler? The gates open at 6:00 PM on June 3rd and the regular meeting starts at 7:30.

There will be an HCRA Donation Table. If you have something you would like to give to help out our treasury drop it off! We'll get what we can for it and of course thank you profusely. Please, we would discourage you from bringing PC's, monitors or printers – you can't even give those things away now-a-days.

Once again this year we will have hot dogs, chips, soft drinks, coffee & donuts all hosted by DX Crew 510. Ed/KB1NWH is handling the setup and Jim/NN1Y will be helping out the Crew.

It's gonna be fun, bring a friend, shop the vendors, eat a dog or two and then join us for elections, a SOTA presentation and Field Day planning.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT 'SUMMITS ON THE AIR' (SOTA)?

Summertime is here and wouldn't you like to combine your favorite hobby with some fresh air and exercise? We're honored (I think) this month to have a presentation about SOTA by our own SOTA Jerks. This small, local club is focused on activating as many peaks as possible this summer. Find out what fun you can have, either by activating a peak or chasing activators. There are awards too but the most rewarding part is actually getting out and doing it. Like everything else in life the more effort you put in, the more fun you have. After the presentation who knows, you may want to join the fun!

FIELD DAY - 2011

As I write this our first 'official' Field Day meeting is later this week. We plan to firm up the bands, band captains, housing and antennas and will share this with everyone both on the usual places (see below) and at this Friday's meeting. It appears we'll be back with our usual 7A classification but with some different players and bands.

The best place to keep abreast of Field Day preparations is on our web site at <http://www.hcra.org/fd2011.htm>, our facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=13909010799> and of course the HCRA mailing list. The web site will have the latest list of bands, band captains, erection crew, cooks, and everything else that goes into making Field Day at HCRA a fantastic event. Facebook and the mailing list will be the place to interact about the preparations and read about the latest happenings.



New bands, new modes and new operators promise to really spark things up this year. If you haven't yet decided you want to play what are you waiting for? For just a little investment of your time you'll have more amateur radio fun than you can pound a key at. Experience construction, antennas, operating SSB, CW and digital, great food and the camaraderie of amateur radio

operators. Where else can you get that but at HCRA Field Day.

We're looking for volunteers in many areas and welcome your participation. Band captains, greeters, message handling, satellite communication and instruction are just a few of the areas we could use some help. Are you ready to raise your hand and have fun?

Field Day is the type of event that serves to pull everyone together and get them working toward a common goal. HCRA Field Day is reasonably well organized and we can provide a training ground for everyone, regardless of club affiliation or amateur radio experience, to hone their skills as communicators in times of emergency. Please take a moment to review the preparations, pick a activity or two you would like to try come out to Dufresne Park and have fun!

(Continued on next page, column 1)

(From the Shack, continued)

NEWS FLASH!

MTARA MAKES A DONATION TO HCRA FOR FIELD DAY

At the May meeting our club was presented with a check for \$125 to offset fuel costs for Field Day this year. The donation was totally unexpected and will be put to good use! Our thanks to the members and board of directors of MTARA for their generosity. Remember, HCRA Field Day is open to everyone, members, non-members, guests and other amateur radio organizations. Pass the word and we hope to see a big crowd at Dufresne Park this year.

PROPOSED SLATE FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTION

June is election time at HCRA. The 2011/2012 slate:

President – Jim/KK1W

Vice President – John/Kx1x

Treasurer – Dave/AA1YW

Secretary – Marty/W1MJB

Zero Beat Editor – Frandy/N1FJ

Membership Director – Matt/W1MSW

Technical Director – Ed/KB1NWH

At Large – Rich/N1KXR

Program Director – Jim/NN1Y

DON'T MISS THE JUNE MTARA MEETING!

The final MTARA meeting of the season is June 17th and it promises to be a good one. Here's what Al, KB1XG has to say about the meeting:

Ned Bassick, KA1CVV, from West Mountain Radio will be our June 17th MTARA Guest Speaker. He will be speaking on West Mountain Radio's 2011 product line. Ned will be bringing an assortment of equipment for show and tell and also for sale! Purchases made at the June 17th MTARA meeting will be discounted by 10% and if Ned does not have the item with him, he will ship it free. West Mountain Radio is generously donating a Gift Certificate worth up to \$100, for our raffle, to be used towards the purchase of any West Mountain Radio's product of your choice.

I'm in for a \$100 gift certificate – that would be cool!

'73 and see you at the Tail Gate Party,

Jim, KK1W

Last Chance to win HCRA Power UP Raffle!

Honda EU2000i 2 K generator

- 2000 Watts (16.7 A) of Honda Inverter 120 VAC Power
- Super Quiet
- Weighs less than 47 lbs!
- Fuel Efficient
- Inverter — Stable power for computers, ham rigs, etc.

**\$10/ticket. Only
200 tickets will be
sold. Drawing will
be June 3, 2011.**

Contact Matt, W1MSW@arrl.net
or purchase tickets at meeting.



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**Buy a raffle ticket yet?
Increase your chance of
winning by buying multiple
tickets.
Drawing is Friday, June 3 at
HCRA meeting!**

Item for Sale: The Vibroplex© Iambic is the modern descendent of the Original. It incorporates the traditional Vibroplex© look for use with modern electronic keyers. The code speed with the Iambic depends on the particular electronic keyer with which it is operated. And, you get the same crisp operation at 5 words per minute as you do at 50+ wpm. Weight 5 lbs.

In excellent condition: \$199 from Vibroplex, price \$150 or best offer. WB1DBY@arrl.net.



2011 NEW ENGLAND QSO PARTY ROAD TRIP

The 2011 NEQP has come and gone and this year the WB1Z callsign left Hampden County on a road trip and headed to Vermont to give a shot at the more “rare” Windham County also known as WNHVT. Dave – AA1YW hosted the multi-operator effort at his cabin in Whitingham and other operators included myself – W1MSW, Frandy



– N1FJ and Jim – KK1W. The first order of business when we arrived Saturday morning was to install a “new” G5RV for coverage on 40 and 80 meters. 20, 15 and 10 meters were taken care of by an existing tri-bander on a 35 foot tower. After a short struggle with hanging the G5RV, station setup was next and consisted of a K3 with an internal tuner

and a laptop running N1MM. With everything setup and ready to go, there was nothing to do but eat and drink until the 4pm startup.

Finally the time had arrived and we jumped on the air and started working stations. The strategy was to call CQ most of the time and to search and pounce when things got slow to increase multipliers and pick up a few more QSOs. Although this is one of the larger QSO parties in the nation, the number of available contacts is nowhere near that of an international contest and working more than one mode really helps to increase the score. Since there are only 19 operating hours in the contest, splitting it up between 4 operators makes it a pretty laid back operation, especially if you’re not on the radio. There was

plenty of time for rest and relaxation in a beautiful location. Saturday coincided with a couple of other QSO parties, which probably provided extra opportunities for contacts. Sunday was only NEQP and combined with cruddy band conditions, things slowed down significantly. However, towards the end of Sunday when the rest of us were ready to throw in the towel and head home, Frandy jumped on and increased our points and multipliers inspiring me to also get back on the radio. We got lucky and 40 opened up nicely and we ended up boosting our score significantly and increasing our mults by staying on until the bitter end. Over the weekend it was nice to hear HCRA members and other familiar calls on the air. All in all a great time and a great excuse to operate from a different location and enjoy some new scenery. Thanks, Dave, for hosting us at your place and thanks to all the guys for a very fun weekend of playing radio and enjoying life. I’m already looking forward to next year’s event.

Our summary:

WB1Z NEQP 2011 WNHVT multi single

[ops: W1MSW, KK1W, AA1YW, N1FJ]

721 QSOs, 74 Mults,

Claimed Score: 88,948

—Matt, W1MSW

(Clockwise, from upper left: Jim, KK1W; Matt, W1MSW; Dave, AA1YW; Frandy, N1FJ)



HCRA Board of Directors Minutes

May 9th, 2011

OFFICER REPORTS

Vice President, Kx1x

Report - **General Class went well, 10 students, 7 passed.**
Treasurer, AA1YW.

Current financial report - **\$4208.43**

Secretary W1MJB

Send thank you letter to MTARA for their \$125 donation for FD and follow up on John Bee (Quicksilver) thank you letter. - **Draft letter to MTARA read, edited and approved.**

Approve March minutes as printed. - **Approved unanimously.**

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Technical, KB1NWH

Report - **New ham help (Dave/KB1PVM helped him with antennas and setup) - Playing with astronomy Aruna hill in Cummington, amateur astronomers have a field day the last weekend in August.26, 27 & 28 - proposing a special event station for their field day).**

Zero Beat, N1FJ

Cutoff date for May ZB? - **May 23rd.- wants local stuff and amateur radio only information.**

Possibility of a Field Day Special Edition? - **Yes, especially as a motivational piece.**

Membership, W1MSW

Generator Raffle progress - **112 tickets sold so far, drawing at the June meeting.**

Current member count (regular, life) - **89.**

New member approval. - **Bob LaFleur/NQ1C, Roger/AA1LY, Dave/KB1PVM, Dan Vierno/nocall.**

At Large, WB1DBY

Report - **Not present.**

Program, NN1Y -

June - SOTA presentation by the SOTA Jerks, Tailgate party & elections. - **Crew will handle dogs and sides.**

September - Possible presentation by Mike Raisbeck/K1TWF. KK1W is working on this. - **other presentation suggestions? IRLP, Radio Museum.**

Crew DX President, KB1RIE - **April netted \$20. WPX at K1TTT - 10M points. Field Day: setup help for FD.**

Report on Crew Activity as it relates to amateur radio.

OLD BUSINESS

Waiting to hear back from Dufresne about FD price reduction - KK1W - **Reduction submitted for approval by the Selectboard.**

Board meeting schedule for the remainder of the season:
Jun 6

Club History - Dave/KB1MU was contacted about

returning the HCRA history collection to the club but has refused as he feels it is his personal collection. - **Further action tabled until Jun 6.**

MTARA/HCRA Joint Picnic scheduled for September 18, 1 to 5 PM at the Springfield Turnverein in Feeding Hills. We need a coordinator to work with Diane/KB1KST from MTARA. - **Possible VHF SS station for the picnic, Matt and Ed.**

Election Slate for 2012:

President - KK1W

Vice President - Kx1x

Treasurer - AA1YW

Secretary - W1MJB

Zero Beat Editor - N1FJ

Technical - KB1NWH

Program - NN1Y

Membership - W1MSW

At Large - N1KXR

NEW BUSINESS

Who can lead the tailgate party this year? - **Ed/KB1NWH, Jim/NN1Y**

Field Day Planning - KK1W, W1MSW

ACTION ITEMS

Confirm K1TWF for September - KK1W

Edit and send MTARA thank you letter.

May 23rd is ZB cutoff date.

Matt will send 1W a copy of the db after notifying the BOD of the member count.

Ed and Jim/NN1Y will co-host the TG party.

Long term raffle for September? HF rig?

Field Day Notes:

FD Raffle, HT or mobile rig. Ed will run, I will make the tickets and buy the prizes. Raffle starts after the generator raffle.

GOTA Station? No, we don't think so.

Alternative Power - yes, Frandy will do it with the K3.

Classification isn't important, we want to do the best we can in our class.

7A isn't important.

Jim is handling food, Dave/KB1PVM will be helping.

PIO - Marty/W1MJB

Frandy will get parts for his AB577

Bob will supply generators but not fuel this year.

CREW DX REPORT

In Venturing, you are exposed to a brand new world of possibilities and program that by yourself you could never experience. Crew 510, referred to as DX by cool people, is one of those crews in which you can also experience Amateur Radio and all its majesty. We are currently over 30 people large, and almost completely comprised of youth between 15 and 18. We do plenty of radio activities, but also do other fun things such as SCUBA, SOTA, and plenty of in scouting events such as jamborees and O/A events. Attached is a sign-up sheet in which you can take place in the fun. Please note you can be a chick or a dude, as long as you are between 14-21 years of age. We also do out of scouting events compiled as a group, so don't worry if the same old woodsy stuff gets boring, we have all aspects covered and all systems are go. I myself have experienced this fun and recommend it to any adventure seeker.

Fun regards,

Eli



Buddipole set up on Peaked Mountain in Monson for a SOTA activation, looking towards Europe!

.....

BSA VENTURE CREW **DX SIGN-UP SHEET**

Name: _____

Gender: Male Female

Age 14-21? (Required)

Callsign: _____

License Class: **Technician**

General

Extra

Mailing Address:

Previous BSA Experience? Yes No

Info: _____

Please attach to this form a copy of the Boy Scouts of America application filled out for venturing, with the crew number filed under 510. Please note you must be 14-21 years of age to be a youth and can be male or female. To obtain further information and paperwork, please attend a Hampden County Radio Association meeting, and ask for Jimmy or Eli. Meetings on the first Friday of every month, 7:30 PM, except July and August. Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 North Westfield Street Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Lentini Communications, In Berlin, CT (just south of Newington) is a sponsor of HCRA. Please tell them you saw their ad in *Zero Beat!*

TYT TH-F4 (below)

Features:

- 1/2/4 watts
- 128 Memories
- VOX
- PC Programmable
- Power on password
- Channel Naming
- FM radio
- Drop in charger
- Heavy Duty Belt Clip

\$84.95



The Wouxun KG-UVD1 (below) has all the features any ham can use:

- 144/440 MHz
- SOS Function/FM Radio
- Bright Flashlight LED
- Dual Band/Dual Display
- Voice Prompts
- Drop in charger/LiON Battery
- 5 watts high/1 watt low power
- VOX
- PC Programmable
- Low voltage voice prompt
- Stop watch function
- Keypad lock
- Programmable scan modes
- Heavy Duty Belt Clip
- USB programming cable and software CD included with radio at no extra cost.

\$129.95

TYT TH-UVF1 (above)

Features:

- Emergency Alert
- Dual Band/Dual Display
- Multi and Priority Scan
- Channel Naming
- VOX
- PC Programmable
- 128 Memories
- 5 watts high/ .5 wat low power
- Heavy Duty Belt Clip
- Long life 1500 MAh Battery
- USB Programming Cable
- Programming Software on CD

\$129.95

