

# Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association

June 2012

## June 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting: WRTC Site Testing for July 2012

*(Tom Frenaye, K1KI, ARRL New England Division Director, will speak on WRTC 2014 at Friday's HCRA meeting -- Ed.)*

Have you heard the 'Olympics of Ham Radio' (*World Radiosport Team Championship*) is coming to New England in 2014? Read on! Like all Olympics there's site selection, equipment, procurement and testing to be done now, long before the actual event in 2014. Wouldn't you like to be part of this exciting process?

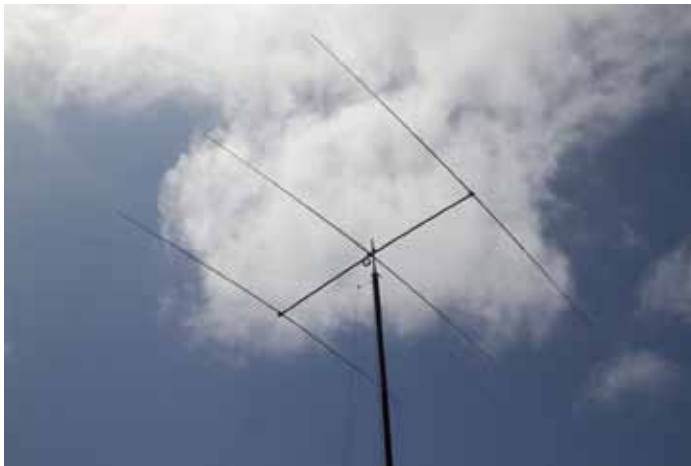
There are three types of teams that needed for the testing process:

- Tower and antenna set-up/take-down
- Site set-up/management
- Operators

### Station Set-Up

Each site runs independently, with a 2kw generator, tent, table, etc. We have successfully tested a tilt-up Rohn 25 tower with tri-bander and 40/80m dipoles. All of this should fit in a pick-up truck and weighs roughly 250 pounds.

The tower set-up process is currently estimated to take 5-6 hours, and would take place on Thursday or Friday. A team of at least four people will be needed and may set up several sites. The tower/antennas use the falling-derrick method to get them up – no climbing needed (or allowed).



### Site Team

The site team sets up the tent, generator and related items. Once the tent and tower are in place, we will need volunteers to spend the night to monitor the equipment until the contest starts (Saturday morning at 8 AM). The site team will refill the generator as needed (maybe every 6-8 hours). They will also be available to handle any requests the operators may have and serve as the interface to the HQ team. In some locations they will also have to greet members of the public and explain what we are doing. The site team will also take things down (not the tower/antennas) when the contest ends.

### Operating Teams

The contest runs from 8 AM Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> until 8 AM Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup>. We would like to see the station active for the full 24 hour time period. For 2012 we are envisioning either

a multi-single or multi-multi operation. You will need a triplexer if there are two stations using the tribander. During the contest we will be monitoring all stations via the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) and using Software Defined Radios (SDR) for wide-band recordings so we can analyze signal strengths and compare stations. We're working on ways to publicize/promote the test stations – and hope you will all treat it as a serious competition even for this year.

### Does this sound like fun?

Picture it as a mini-field day but with identical stations at each location. You pick what you want to do (setup, site team, operate), show up and get the job done. Your contribution of time and effort will guarantee New England puts forth a premiere effort for WRTC 2014! Be sure to attend the June meeting; learn all the details and sign up for fun in July. ( <http://www.wrtc.info/> )

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

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# Local happenings

(All times are local time)

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

**First Monday:** Southwick Regional RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

**Mondays:** 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

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

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

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

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

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

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

Common Ground Restaurant

25 Park Avenue

West Springfield, MA 01089

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

## Club Meetings & VE Sessions

**1st Friday of the month** 7:30 PM, 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** 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA (no meetings held in July or August)

**4th Friday of the month** 6:00 PM, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET). Contact: David Cote, w1fab@arrl.net

**Third Monday of the month** 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield High School (no meetings held in July or August) Meeting Apr 23, 2012, to avoid holidays)

**4th Monday of February, May, August, November** 7:00 PM, FCARC VE Exams, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Northfield

## New England Flea Markets

**2 June Windsor** CT Vintage Radio and Communication Museum of Connecticut, 115 Pierson Lane, Windsor, CT 06095, 8 AM Outdoor, John 860-673-0518

**2 June Woonsocket** RI, Lil Rhody Hamfest, BVARC 8AM-??, Patriot Diner/Holiday Inn Express parking lot, <http://www.w1ddd.org/default.html>

**16 June Newington** CT NARLFEST at St. Mary's School, 8 AM to 1 PM, Vinnie W1VJA 203-987-2108

**16 June Brookline** NH New England Antique Radio Club (NEARC), Brookline Event Center, 32 Proctor Hill Road, Brookline, NH 03033 <http://www.nearc.net/swapmeetinfo.htm> Bruce 603-772-7516

**17 June Cambridge** MA, FLEA at MIT, Albany Street Garage on Albany St between Main Streets and Mass Ave in Cambridge. 9 AM Nick 617-253-3776

**15 July Cambridge** MA, FLEA at MIT, Albany Street Garage on Albany St between Main Streets and Mass Ave in Cambridge. 9 AM, Nick 617-253-3776

**12 Aug Adams** MA, NoBARC, Bowe Field in Adams, MA, 8 AM, Tim KE3HT 413-822-7075

**9 August Cambridge** MA, FLEA at MIT, Albany Street Garage on Albany St between Main Streets and Mass Ave in Cambridge. 9 AM, Nick 617-253-3776

## HCRA Contact List

President, Jim Mullen KK1W (413) 237-4666  
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, Rich Wheeler N1KXR (413) 584-3372  
n1kxr@arrl.net

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

VE Session Coordinator, Dave Cote W1FAB (413) 575-2950  
w1fab@arrl.net

# FROM THE SHACK

## Tonight's meeting – Tom Frenaye/K1KI

Learn all about the upcoming WRTC (World Radiosport



Team Championship) and how New England clubs can help prepare for this exciting 2014 event. You don't need to be a contender to make a difference. Read more about it elsewhere in this issue.

### Something to sell or looking for a new toy?

HCRA's favorite event, the Tailgate party is back, but this year without ANY fees. Free admission for all, sellers, buyers, lookers, *everyone*. Setup starts at 6:00 PM – bring your stuff, a table or a tailgate and have fun! (*truck not needed for a tailgate but you must take your tailgate home after the meet!*)

### Is it time for a change of venue?

In this issue is detailed information about an important decision we need to make as a club. We have an opportunity to secure a very nice meeting location at considerable yearly savings. Please review the information presented in Zero Beat and let us know what you think at tonight's meeting.

### Field Day – Are you ready for some radio?

We're closing in on three weeks and counting. The pieces/parts are falling together but we still need YOU to get out of your chair and participate – it would be so much better with you than without you. Matt and Ed are working hard



to create a Field Day to remember, complete with a new approach to beams and towers. We can use YOUR help in all areas; operating, setup/teardown, greeting, cooking, and most of all having fun! It will be way more fun with you, are you up for the challenge?



### Loose Connections:

Field Day Raffle tickets are on sale. For a \$10 donation you could win a \$250 Gift Certificate to HRO – how cool is that? See Matt at tonight's meeting or pick up a ticket (if there's any left) at Field Day. Your chances are pretty good as only 75 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be 2:00 PM, June 24th at Field Day.

The ARRL 10 Meter contest results have been released. Check out [http://www.arrl.org/results-database?event\\_id=29580](http://www.arrl.org/results-database?event_id=29580), use the search tool at the bottom, search for Hampden County Radio Association and see how our members did.

(hint, there was a lot of participation and they all did really well!)

The ARRL June VHF QSO Party

is coming up on June 9th to 11th. This is a fun contest, even for operators only with FM. Check it out at: <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf-qso-party>, and good luck if you give it a try!



'73... See you at the meeting!

Jim, KK1W

### New Technician Class licensees at press time:

Larry Spencer - KB1YEX

David Wexler - KB1YFY

Donald Blair - KB1YFZ

Stephen Malochleb - KB1YFA

### Upgrade to Extra Class:

Rockwell Schrock - KB1NTY

## HCRA-MTARA Field Day 2012

As of the June 1<sup>st</sup> club meeting, there will only be 3 more weeks before the biggest club event of the year: ARRL Field Day. As you are probably already aware, everyone is invited to come out and participate. We will again be at Dufrense Park in Granby, MA and like last year this is a joint HCRA and MTARA event. Setup will begin Friday afternoon/evening and continue on Saturday until the operating begins at 2pm. When the event is over at 2pm on Sunday, the breakdown of the towers, antennas and stations begins.

We welcome help on every aspect of the event. Come help set up and break down. It's a 24-hour event with stations open through the night, so come and take a shift at whatever time works for you at one of the SSB, CW or digital stations. Field Day is about getting on the air, so don't be shy and make some contacts. If you like working in the kitchen and feeding the troops, Jim – NN1Y is always looking for help to ensure everyone is well fed.



We also need people to volunteer for specific tasks. Here is a list of key jobs that need

to be filled in order to gain important bonus points:

- Get On The Air – Band Captain
- Educational Activity Leader
- Copying the ARRL Field Day message from HQ
- Satellite QSOs
- Public Information Officer and station signage

If you think one of these volunteer opportunities sounds interesting and you would like to know more, please contact Matt or Jim (email addresses below).

Field Day is an important part of our hobby. Even more important is that the two big clubs that make up a large percentage of the Hams in the Pioneer Valley are working together to make this event a lot of fun and provide opportunities for their members to get outside, enjoy a wonderful park and operate some great equipment. So even if you just stop by, bring a lawn chair and have a seat and enjoy the sights and sounds of our great hobby (and don't be surprised if you find yourself behind a radio!).

We look forward to seeing you at Dufrense Park in Granby, MA June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. Please see [www.hcra.org/fd2012.htm](http://www.hcra.org/fd2012.htm) for more details.

Matt – W1MSW [w1msw@arrl.net](mailto:w1msw@arrl.net)  
Jim – KK1W [kk1w@arrl.net](mailto:kk1w@arrl.net)

## HCRA 2012/2013 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.

True to our comments a few months ago we have another new board member and a reorganization of others. It is our belief the new mix will expose the members to different areas of the operation of HCRA and expand their ability to provide a better experience for all members.

Here's the current slate of board members expected to be presented for your approval at the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. This list is not 'cast in stone' and HCRA would certainly benefit if YOU raised your hand to help out. I'm sure any of the board members would give up their position to make room for new blood.

POSITION	NOMINEE
At Large	Marty/W1MJB
Program	John/Kx1x
Membership	Rich/N1KXR
Technical	Matt/W1MSW
Zero Beat Editor	Frandy/N1FJ
Secretary	Dave/N1MFL
Treasurer	Dave/AA1YW
Vice President	Ed/KB1NWH
President	Jim/KK1W

Nominations are open right up until voting time June 1<sup>st</sup>. This year's slate brings on board one new member and five have moved to different positions. All in all a excellent board that will 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.

Please take a moment to thank these folks that work so hard to help HCRA continue to be relevant in this day and age. They all take time out of their schedules to work for our club. The pay is poor (well actually non-existent) but a simple 'thank you' is all they need to keep going for another year (or two or ....)

Jim, KK1W

# HCRA's annual June 'Swap Meet' is back, but with a new 'twist'

Our June meeting has been home to a 'Tail Gate Party' for many years now. This year we've changed it up a bit, just to keep things interesting. We have to have change, right?

First off, and probably most important, is what hasn't changed. Admission is still free, you'll still get to meet your old friends and wander the lot saying things like, "I used to have one of those" or "What is that?" You'll still get to go home with some bargains, or maybe sell some stuff you "used to have" to get more stuff you "have to have"!

The big difference affects the sellers. No table/lot fees AND free admission. No table fee, no commission, no nuttin'! Of course if you have a successful night and feel the need to donate a little (or a lot) to HCRA we won't turn our back on you. There's will be an HCRA 'donation table' for items you want to drop off and have the club make a few pennies on too, just like previous years.

There you have it, same old 'tail gate party', now a Swap Meet but free for everyone! How good is that? Be sure to pass the word around and let's see how many people we can get to bring some good stuff on June 1<sup>st</sup>. See you there!

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



## 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>



# HCRA Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 7:15pm, May 8, 2012

## Officer Reports

Jim KK1W reports they are short-handed for the weekend's classes and VE Exams. Ed, KB1NWH volunteers for the assignment.

## 7:24 Treasurer's Report 05-08-2012:

### Income

Extra book	\$ 15.00
Membership	30.00
Raffle	870.00
Jim Mullen	65.42
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>980.42</b>

### Expenses

Hall rent	180.00
Trailer	700.00
Insurance	200.00
Prize May	50.00
FD park rent	1442.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2572.00</b>
<b>Starting Balance on hand</b>	<b>8505.27</b>
<b>Ending Balance on hand</b>	<b>\$ 6913.69</b>

Expenses include: Hall rent, trailer Purchase, May prize

7:35 **March minutes** submitted for approval by board

7:38 **Technical Report** - Breakdown of trailer upgrade, testing of the triplexes, new popup trailer donated for field day use, donation letter needed.

7:50 **Zero Beat update** - Jun submissions due May 24

7:56 **Membership report** - 86 paid members - 21 family -2 venture crew- 2 prospects

8:00 **At Large** - Raffles report

8:10 **Program report** - upcoming meeting guests discussed

8:15 **Crew DX update** - DX Crew need to send emails to Matt

8:20 **Old Business** - Web page hosting discussed, progress of joint holiday party

8:30 **Action Items** - Web page upgrade discussed, new location progress discussed

8:40 **New Business** - Ratify June elections, New name badge program discussed

9:00 **Meeting Adjourns**

Club meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Dave Scarpa, Acting Club Secretary.

# HCRA could be ‘on the move’ – what do you think?

HCRA has been approved for use of a beautiful and less expensive facility starting in September 2012. The board of directors has reviewed the location and feels the move would be in the best interest of HCRA. The facility proposed is the large auditorium at Holyoke Medical Center. Officially known as the Auxiliary Conference Center it has recently undergone a complete renovation including tiled floors, padded chairs, A/V system with LCD projector and screen, open Wi-Fi, full handicap access and facilities and a huge parking lot. Anyone taking a VE test with the Western Mass VE team can attest to the quality of the facility.

Here’s a brief chart of some items the board considered in making their decision:

Item	Feeding Hills	Holyoke	Notes
Cost	\$90/night or \$150/night for the entire room	Free	A donation would be made to HMC on a yearly basis – amount TBD
Size of facility	Adequate	Larger than our present location	We have not measured the actual size of either location
Padded chairs	Yes	Yes	
HVAC	Adequate	State of the art	
Movie Screen	Portable (ours)	Built in	
Sound System	No	Yes	
LCD Projector	No	Yes	
Handicap Entry and Rest Room	Yes	Yes	
Vending Machines	No	Yes	
Parking	Adequate	Extensive	
Free WiFi	No	Yes	
Access from I-91	6 miles from Exit 3 on I-91	1 mile from Exit 16 on I-91	

Moving is always difficult, especially since we’ve been in the same location for over a decade. The Feeding Hills Congregational Church has been a good partner over the years. Unfortunately the facility has not been maintained or modernized yet our costs have increased. The rental fee has more than doubled. Still, some folks will no doubt feel we should stay the course, no matter what the cost. That’s why we’re looking for input before we make a final decision.

I’m sure if we map our will end up travelling farther. of our ‘close in’ members convenient. Still, there are distance to meetings, fighting Bridge and Six Flags traffic. farther if you’re coming on traffic, could actually be We have experience with the to work with and receptive meeting on their grounds.



closely with HMC for person at HMC has been there for over 20 years, is also a ham and feels HCRA could benefit the hospital’s emergency communications efforts.

We’re asking you to think about the move. If you feel strongly ‘for’ or ‘against’ please present your thoughts at the June meeting. As your board of directors we want to be certain we’re making decision for HCRA that benefit our present members and allow our club to prosper and grow.

membership we’ll find some This is expected; I’m sure many joined because we were so many members that travel quite a their way through the South End The location at HMC isn’t much from the South and, depending faster. hospital staff and find them easy to having an amateur radio club The VE team has worked over twenty years. Our contact

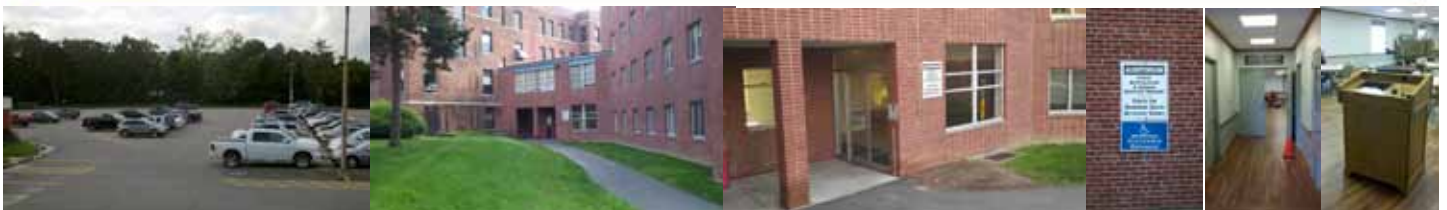
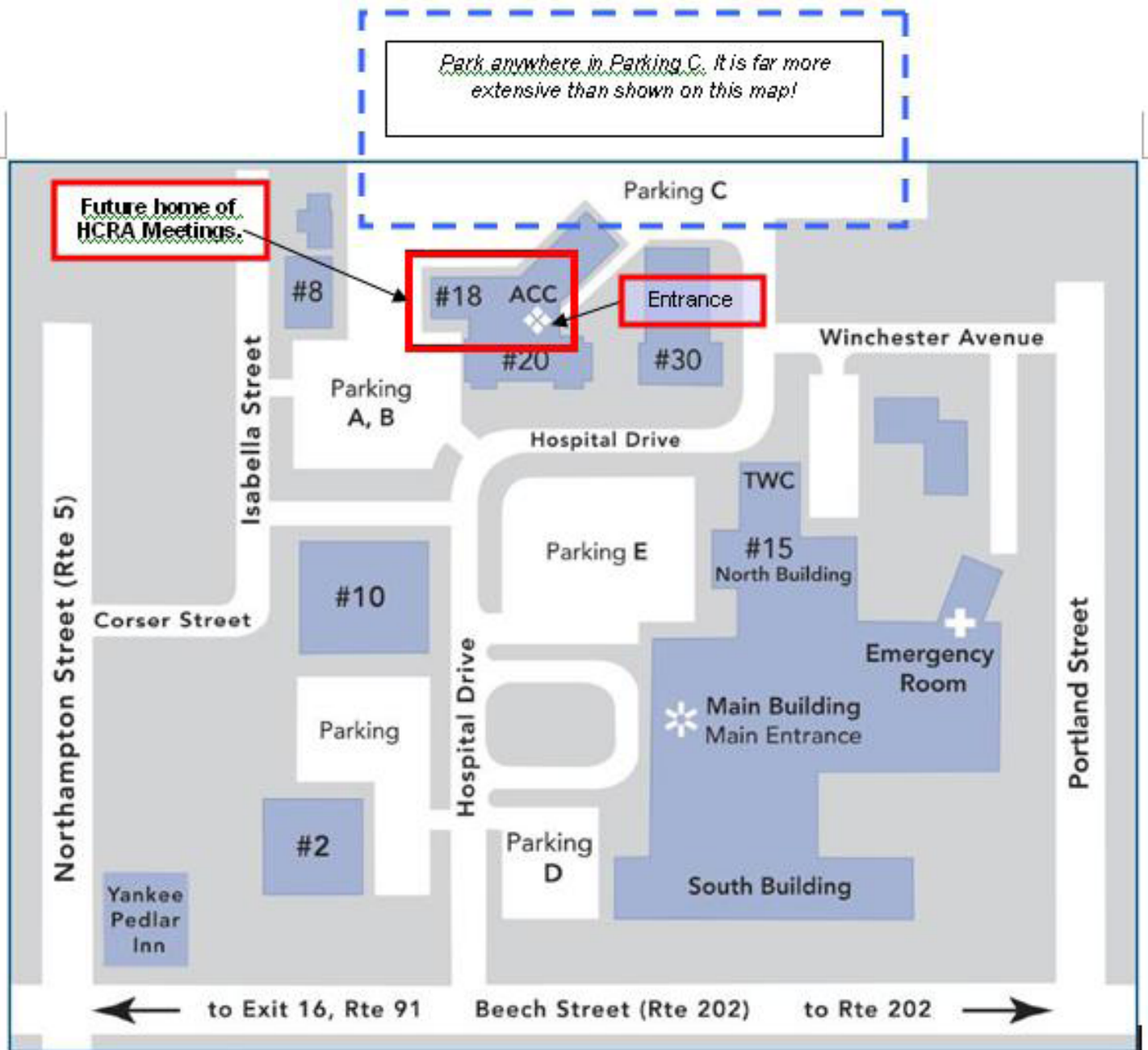
over twenty years. Our contact

# HCRA could be 'on the move' – what do you think? (continued)

This map identifies the location of the auditorium on the Holyoke Medical Center Campus. . The location is identified on the map as ACC (Auxiliary Conference Center) but most folks refer to it as the 'auditorium'.

Medical Center's address: 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. If you use GPS the above address will get you close to, but not right at the auditorium. There isn't a street address for a building that's not actually on a street!

The good folks at Google approved a map edit and now the auditorium building is clearly identified on Google maps as "Auxiliary Conference Center". If you have an Android phone simply put Auxiliary Conference Center, Holyoke, MA into the GPS app and it will take you right to the building – how cool is that? Parking, and lots of it, is in "Parking C", just to the north of the ACC. The lot is huge, the dotted area below depicts only a small portion of the available space. Follow the sidewalk along the angled building, the entrance doors are marked by the arrow on the map.



# Member Profile

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**Name:** Dan Vierno

**Town:** Southwick, MA

**Callsign:** KB1VWQ

**Previous Callsigns (if applicable):** None

**License Class:** General

**Main station equipment:** Yaesu FT-847/100w Barefoot, LDG AT-200 Tuner, G5RV Strung 50' at Center, Alinco DM-330MV 32A Power Supply (Near Future Additions include installing my T.G.M. Com MQ-26SR (5 HF Bands 2 element), along with my 13 element Cushcraft Yagi for 2m SSB, that will sit on the Rohn 25 tower I am currently gathering the remaining pieces I'll need to install it.)

**Mobile/Portable station equipment:** Yaesu FT-7900R/E VHF/UHF w/ fixed NMO Larson Dual Band Antenna (2005 Chevy Silverado). Also, the Elecraft KX3 (from the 2012 HCRA 200 Raffle) That will serve double duty of not only working QRP at the main shack, but will be used as QRP portable for operations in hopefully some future SOTA activations when time permits.

**Favorite Band(s):** Currently 40 meters and 20 meters

**Favorite Mode(s):** Currently SSB, (with future endeavors of CW)

**What year were you first licensed?** June 23, 2011 (1st QSO @ 2011 Field Day Dufresne Park, Granby, MA)

**How did you become interested in Amateur Radio?** Even though I am 'Rookie Status' to the hobby, my first interest in amateur radio was due to the tragic events of 09/11/2001. This was my first impression of how normal life, family & communications can come to an abrupt halt. My only regret is my procrastination, that it took 10 years after the event to finally get my ticket.



**What are some of your favorite aspects of the hobby (Field Day, Swap Meets, Contesting, Ragchewing, EComm, etc)?** Contesting/Field Day, My volunteer work In RACES Em-Comm, and our monthly Club meetings. In addition, I do enjoy a good DX ragchew if/when possible...

**What is your most memorable experience in the hobby?** 10/29/2011, (Sno'tober) Working at the Southwick EOC, I received traffic that we had Fire Apparatus (Fire Truck & Firefighters) in route to a house fire. They became trapped between two utility poles that sheared from the effects of the storm. Trapped under live power lines and unable to retreat, we had the men stay put as WMECO had to be notified by us, to cut power to that section. Later, after signing off the EOC at midnight, I found I couldn't return to my home, (less than 1 mile away from the EOC). Downed trees/lines in both possible routes. After relaying my situation back to the EOC on 146.49 simplex, I was advised by K1II to return. I finished the remainder of the storm relaying traffic for another hour or so, then retired until daybreak sleeping on foldout bedding within the Town Hall.

**Most memorable contact on the radio?** 1st HF QSO from my home QTH (Special Event call From Spain, TM95BA on 20 meters)

**What do you feel ham radio operators must do to help ensure the future of the hobby?** Teach and volunteer with today's youth, for they are tomorrow's operators.