

# Zero Beat



Our 54<sup>th</sup> Year

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

March, 2000

Join Us on Friday, March 3rd, for HCRA's own  
**Tom Doyle, N1MUV**  
Doors Open at 7:PM Meeting starts at 7:30

Tom is the Communication Chair for the American Red Cross, Pioneer Valley, and a long time volunteer for the chapter. His topic will be the American Red Cross and amateur emergency communications in Western Massachusetts (ARES & RACES).

There will also be a video showing new equipment from Kenwood.

Hope to see you there!!!

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## *From the President's Shack* de W6IS

I am sure you are all aware of the recent flood and tornado disasters that levied horrific destruction to parts of the country. When you see the news broadcasts on television or read the newspapers about these emergency situations you think this can not happen right here in Western Massachusetts -- but in reality, it can happen anywhere.

In situations like that, you will almost always find AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS pitching in to help with communications.

It seems to me that the powers that be expect no less of us and we should be prepared to help as best we can. This is one of the reasons I urge all of you to attend the March Hampden County Radio Association meeting.

Tom Doyle, N1MUV, will present an American Red Cross program on what you, as a radio amateur, can do should a disaster strike in our area. In conjunction with this program we have a special guest Town of Hampden Police Chief Phil Adams.

Knowing what to do in these kinds of disasters can save your life as well as the life of your loved ones. This program should be of interest to everyone. You are encouraged to bring members of your family or friends.

I would like to thank all of you that attended last months meeting and especially George, K1ANX, for his talk on military radios. The turnout was great and I think everyone enjoyed the evening.

I hope to see all of you and that you'll stop to say hello at the next club meeting. Remember there is always great fellowship, raffle prizes, and the great HCRA coffee and doughnuts.

cu there

*73 de Irv, W6IS*

### Membership Drive 2000

We would like to increase HCRA's membership 10% this year.

As an incentive to bring in more members,

For each prospective NEW member that you bring as a guest to an HCRA meeting, you will receive

5 free tickets for that night's door prize drawing.

If the guest joins, he/she will also receive 5 free tickets.

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**HCRA CONTACTS**

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

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**STATION TRUSTEES**

W1NY Trustee	Don Johnson, W1UPH	(413) 566-3560 (let it ring)	w1uph2@juno.com
W1HOF Trustee	Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com

**EMERGENCY COORDINATOR**

Emergency Coordinator Dave Isham, KB1MU

**Please remember to join our Monday evening 10m Net**

Join NCS Tom, N1MUV, On Monday nights, 7:30PM local  
for the *HCRA/W1NY 10m Net*

**28.375 +/- QRM**

with 10m opening daily, who knows what DX may check in to our  
10m net!!! DX or not, you'll still be treated to information and good conversation.

More and more people are joining into our Monday night chat sessions.

Come in and discuss whatever is on your mind!!!

How do you feel about the FCC License restructuring? How was the last HCRA meeting?



# DX Clips

de  
Jordy, W1JK

This month I will briefly discuss Dipole Antennas in compromise-type installations inside apartments or in home attics. These installations present such a complex electromagnetic environment that it is not possible to predict which location or orientation of the antenna will work best. You will have to employ good old-fashioned "cut & try" methods. Very little test equipment is needed for casual evaluation. You can simply use your receiver. If your interest lies in working to the East (Europe, Africa, etc), just tune in some signals from these regions & change the orientation & location of the antenna while observing the S Meter. Small improvements will be difficult to discern by this method.

Remember - a few decibels will not be noticeable on an S Meter but can make the difference in landing a DX QSO. If you want a more accurate measurement, simply use a good AC Voltmeter at the receiver audio output. (remember to turn the AGC off).

A few general comments about the indoor Dipole antenna:

1. Remember - at HF it is the most practical Antenna.
2. Do not attempt to get more gain with "parasitic" element variations. They usually fail because of close proximity to the ground or close-coupling to the house wiring.
3. Spend your time optimizing the location.
4. If you plan to use it on 7 Mhz you will have to "fold" the Dipole. Be sure that the center of the Dipole (carries the most current & does most of the radiating) is as high & unfolded as possible. It can be L-shaped or U-shaped, etc to conform to your useable space.
5. Multiband performance is possible by using open-wire feeders & an Antenna Tuner.
6. You can place 2 Dipoles at right angles to each other with provisions for switching them. Don't be surprised if you find that one Dipole is consistently better in nearly all directions. If that happens, remove the inferior Dipole & experiment in a different location.
7. Try to install the dipoles at right angles to existing electrical wiring which is in close proximity.
8. Check out the installation for Antenna heating before you do any extended operating. Remember to check for RF arcing also. A potential of several hundred Volts exist at the "ends" of a Dipole driven by a 100w Transceiver. An Amplifier simply magnifies the fire hazard potential.

I have worked many DX stations who were using Dipole variations - the most popular being the G5RV & its many incarnations. If you have no other feasible Antenna options, it will provide you with an opportunity to work Dx during the peak of the sunspot cycle. You won't have another opportunity for 11 more years.

Incidentally, you can buy commercially assembled ready to install HF Dipoles for approximately \$30+ if you do not wish to build one.

## **LOOK FOR:**

EA9 - ED3AFR/9 will be active (40 & 80M SSB) from Velez de la Gomera from Feb 29 thru March ?.

ET - Claudio, 1V3OWC will be active (all bands & modes) from Ethiopia from Mar 20-30. QSL home call.

HL, So. Korea - Special event station 6K2000WFK will be active until May 7. QSL's will be sent automatically via the bureau.

S7, Seychelles - Kurt, HB9MX will be active as S79MX from Mar 6 - April 1 on all bands except 80M. QSL via HB9MX.

FG, Guadeloupe - Look for Isabelle, F5BOY as FG/F5BOY from Feb 26 -Mar 11 (10,15,17 &20M).

FM, Martinique - Frank, F5JOT & Daniel, F5LGQ will be signing FM/homecall from Mar 18 - Apr 1. QSL via F5JOT.

J7, Dominica - Frank & Dan (above) will be here from Mar 24-26. They have requested J72JOT & J79LGO.

PJ8, St. Martin - Ron, ND5S & wife Sue, KF5LG, & another couple will be here from Feb 19-Mar 12.

All modes, all bands. QSL via home call signs.

ZK2, Niue - Since Feb 7 Bill, W7TVF & Al, K7CA mostly on 160M CW with some operations on 40/17/10M CW. QSL via W7TVF.

See you next month de Jordy Koltz, W1JK, [W1JK@earthlink.net](mailto:W1JK@earthlink.net)



# Skywarn Training

de

*Eric Tuller*

*N1QKO*

The following is an updated list of confirmed SKYWARN training sites. Added to the list in recent weeks include Foxboro, Mass., Shirley, Mass and Mansfield, CT. Updates on other SKYWARN training sites follow below this confirmed list.

Wed., 04/12/2000	7-10PM	Bristol Park Cafeteria--Foxboro Inc., Foxboro MA
Mon., 04/24/2000	7-10PM	Bernon Heights School, 657 Logee Street, Woonsocket, Rhode Island
Wed., 04/26/2000	7-10PM	Lura A White Elementary School, 34 Lancaster Road, Shirley, Mass.
Wed., 05/10/2000	7-10PM	Central MA Safety Council, Wachusett Plaza, 186 West Boylston Street (Rt 12), West Boylston, MA 01583 CoSponsors: Central Massachusetts Public Safety Assn Inc. Central Massachusetts Safety Council Inc.
Thurs., 05/11/2000	7-10PM	Mansfield E.O. Smith High School, 1235 Storrs Road, Mansfield CT

Huntington, Mass.

Awaiting final confirmation from the Superintendent of the Huntington School system for the availability of the Gateway Regional School. Currently, we are trying to schedule Tuesday May 2nd from 7-10 PM. As soon as we get final confirmation, it will be added to the training schedule.

Lexington, Mass.

Bill Ricker, N1VUX has emailed me concerning options for SKYWARN training in the Lexington area. A response will be sent and its hoped to have the site by the end of February for the April-May time-frame.

Hillsborough County, NH (Greenfield NH Area)

Awaiting word from Marc Slater, KB1DFE, concerning a site in the Greenfield, NH area.

Connecticut

Tom Walsh, KD1QK, has assisted Roger Jeanfaivre, K1PAI, in getting a SKYWARN training site for Thursday May 11th in Mansfield, CT at the Mansfield E.O. Smith High School from 7-10 PM. Tom is working with Roger on a site in Newington, CT and in the Southeast part of Windham County CT.

NWS Open House Update...

The NWS Taunton Open House is slated for Saturday May 20th from 10AM-5PM and Sunday May 21st from Noon-5 PM. A SKYWARN booth will be done at the Open House and we'll be interested in volunteers willing to staff the SKYWARN booth for this year.

Plans for what type of radio equipment will be used at the site will be discussed at the SKYWARN Strategy Meeting at the end of next month but we'd like to get an idea of how many volunteers are willing to staff the booth during this weekend period.

The Open House has been a huge way to gain more spotters and also get more people on to email lists that have been established to use the power of technology to get the word out on the need for timely severe weather reporting which is the ultimate mission of SKYWARN. Please email me if you're interested in manning the booth.

A web page link to a press release for the Open House including pictures from last year's Open House follows below:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/er/box/outreach/open.htm>

# ***ATTENTION: HCRA MEMBERS***

***The HCRA is looking for donations of “sell-able” amateur radio equipment.  
This equipment will be sold on the HCRA table at the MTARA Flea Market  
On Sunday, March 12.***

***Proceeds from this event will go to the HCRA general fund.  
Donations should be Amateur Radio equipment only, please.  
(no computers, televisions, telephones, lawnmowers, etc...)***

***The HCRA is also looking for a few good men and women  
to help man the HCRA table during the flea market.***

***If you are interested in donating time or equipment, please contact Irv, W6IS,  
either at the Club meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
by phone, or by e-mail (see contact info on Page 3)***

## ORIENTEERING SCHEDULE for CT & W MA- Spring 2000

These events are sponsored by the NEW ENGLAND ORIENTEERING CLUB. Instruction and rental compasses are available at each event. For info, call Paul & Sue Pearson 860-745-7457. (PRPearson@AOL.COM)

All events have courses with difficulty and distance ranging from beginner to advanced levels:

S = String-'O for young children      W = White = Beginner ( 1-3 km)      Y = Yellow = Novice ( 2-4 km)  
O = Orange = Intermed. ( 3-5 km)      G = Green = Advanced ( 4-5 km)      R = Red = Advanced (5-7 km)

- Sun., 2 April, CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, NEW LONDON, CT      Beginner Event  
Registration & interval starts: 10 AM to 1 PM    Map: 1:3500, 10 ft,    Courses: W,Y  
Directions: From New London, take Route 32 north to Connecticut College. Turn east into Athletic Center. Follow 'O' meet signs to parking lot.  
For info: Stuart Sharack 860-442-6914    course setter: Stuart Sharack
- Sun., 9 April, METRO. DIST. COMM. RESERVOIR #5, WEST HARTFORD, CT  
Registration & interval starts: 10 AM to 1 PM    Map: 1:10000, 5 m      Courses: S,W,Y,O,R  
Directions: From I-84, take exit 39 to Rte 4. Go east on Rte 4 for 2 mi. to MDC gate. Follow 'O' meet signs for 0.5 mi. to parking lot.  
For info: Paul Pearson 860-745-7457    course setter: Charlie Deweese
- Sun., 7 May, GAY CITY STATE PARK, HEBRON, CT  
Registration & interval starts: 10 AM to 1 PM    Map: 1:10000, 5 m      Courses: S,W,Y,O,R  
Directions: From I-84E, take exit 59 to Rte 384 and take exit 5 in Bolton to Rte 85 S to park entrance in Hebron.  
For info: Clinton Morse 860-875-6256 (EBGadm01@UCONNV.M.UConn.EDU)    Course setter: Clinton Morse 860-875-6256
- Sat., 13 May, FOREST PARK, SPRINGFIELD, MA  
Registration & interval starts: 10 AM to 1 PM    Map: 1:10000, 10 ft      Courses: W,Y,O  
Directions: From I-91N, take ex 2 to Longhill St. Turn right at light on to Sumner Av and follow for 0.6 mi to park entrance.  
(park fee: \$5 for out of state)  
For info: Elaine Dill 413-267-3736
- Sat., 3 June, GAY CITY STATE PARK, CT    Trails Day Event    HEBRON, CT      Try-O (for beginners)  
Registration & interval starts: 10 AM to 12 PM    Map: 1:10000, 5 m      Courses: W,Y,O  
Directions: From I-84E, take exit 59 to Rte 384 and take exit 5 in Bolton to Rte 85 S to park entrance in Hebron.  
For info: Clinton Morse 860-875-6256 (EBGadm01@UCONNV.M.UConn.EDU)    course setter: Clinton Morse

For information on orienteering, please visit these web sites:

What is Orienteering?	<a href="http://www.williams.edu:803/Biology/orienteering/o-index.html">www.williams.edu:803/Biology/orienteering/o-index.html</a>
Orienteering in western MA (and CT)	<a href="http://www.the-spa.com/Tony.Maniscalco">www.the-spa.com/Tony.Maniscalco</a>
New England Orienteering Club	<a href="http://www.tiac.net/users/cohen/neoc">www.tiac.net/users/cohen/neoc</a>
United States Orienteering Federation	<a href="http://www.us.orienteering.org">www.us.orienteering.org</a>

QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 10 ARLB010  
>From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT February 15, 2000  
To all radio amateurs  
SB QST ARL ARLB010

## ARRLB010 Georgia Amateurs Respond to Tornado Disaster

Amateur Radio operators are responding in force in the wake of tornadoes that struck rural extreme southwestern Georgia this week, killing more than a dozen people and injuring many more. Georgia Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Rogers, KR4OL, reports that hams from nearby communities including Moultrie and Albany have turned out to help.

Twisters late Sunday and early Monday leveled a housing development in the town of Camilla, in Mitchell County. The town was one of the worst-hit areas. The storm also tore roofs from houses and flattened mobile homes. The storm caught many residents by surprise since warnings were not issued until after they'd already gone to bed for the night.

Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes has declared a state of emergency in Colquitt, Grady, Mitchell and Tift counties. Georgia Emergency Management Agency reports emergency shelters have been set up in Camilla and Moultrie.

"Shelters are open, and the Georgia Baptist Hams are setting up feeding locations and assisting with the cleanup," Rogers said.

An HF emergency net is running on 3975 kHz to coordinate activities. Rogers advised all participating stations to monitor that frequency. If relief operators are requested, operators should coordinate through the emergency net on 3975 kHz before attempting to enter the disaster area.

Thousands were left without power in Georgia and elsewhere. The storm that wreaked havoc on Georgia was part of a system that also struck Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama before moving into Georgia, Northeastern Florida and the Carolinas.

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HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION  
Board of Directors Meeting, February 10, 2000  
Held at Irv Slitzky's, Longmeadow, MA

HCRA Officers present were: Irv Slitzky, W6IS; Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH; Greg Stoddard, N1AEH; Larry Smith, K1LILZ; Jordy Koltz, W1JK; Don Johnson, W1UPH; Yorke Phillips, K1BXE; John Pise, KX1X and Les Prentice, K1DNX.

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

REPORTS:

**President:** Irv opened the meeting with a discussion of Field Day 2000. An agreement has been reached with MTARA to have a joint Field Day. A joint Field Day committee has been formed, with two members from each club and one committee chairperson. Les, K1DNX and John, KX1X are the HCRA's Field Day representatives. Larry, WB1DBY, will be the joint committee chairman. The MTARA's representatives are Marc, K1TS and Eric, N1ZTB. The committee will be holding their first meeting shortly, and is looking for input on possible FD locations. Feel free to contact either Les or John with your thoughts.

**Vice President:** Not present.

**Treasurer:** Present balance, \$1869.49. The small raffle was very successful at the February meeting, netting \$99. The coffee fund took in \$12.60. The PO Box has been renewed for another year. The club got four new or renewal applications at the last meeting.

**Secretary:** Current membership stands at 85 regular, 3 life, 1 honorary and 9 family for a total of 98. New membership cards and labels for Zero Beat will be sent to John by February 25th.

**Newsletter:** John pleaded for more articles. John will contact Dave, KB1MU for an EC article for ZB and Tom, N1MUV for net information. Submit anything to interest to him on paper or e-mail at the address shown in *Zero Beat*. John will create a club info/application for the MTARA flea market in March. Critical dates for the next *Zero Beat* are February 25th for article submission and February 28th for mailing.

**Technical:** Jordy had one call for technical assistance last month, otherwise very little activity to report. Jordy raised the question about compensation for club speaker, dinner and/or travel reimbursement. The board thought the idea had merit, and will be considered further.

**Program:** Speakers are needed for March, April and June. Pete, N1AGV is confirmed for the May meeting, the subject will be APRS. Larry will confirm W1GCA for April or June. That leaves March and April or June open. Anyone with suggestions should contact Yorke. Some possibilities were considered and Yorke will follow up on those potential speakers.

**At Large:** Les continues to help with the monthly raffle and is always available to members for any help. Also, Les is one of HCRA's FD committee members, please contact him with your thoughts and ideas for FD2000.

**Membership:** Larry is continuing to send 10 *Zero Beats* to different zip codes monthly. This month's town will be Holyoke, last month's was West Springfield.

**Station Trustee:** Don is happy with the proper use of W1NY callsign. The 10 Meter net on 28.375 is going great. Remember to check in on Mondays at 7:30 PM.

**Old Business:** A correction to last month's notes. Les suggested co-chairs, one from each club, for FD, with no single overseer so there could be no question as to which club he represented, not with a joint chairman as reported

**New Business:** Irv asked the boards approval on purchasing a table for HCRA at the MTARA flea market March 12th. Table cost is \$15 and was unanimously approved by the board. Greg will forward a check to MTARA.

**Open Discussion:** Irv commented on the great help Al, N1CQT has been with the monthly raffles. Al certainly gets the job done! Also noted is the active participation of members with cleanup and stowing of chairs after the meeting. Thanks for all you help.

Irv brought up the subject about Emergency Communications and the role the HCRA could or should be playing in this arena. What are your thoughts? Any ideas or volunteers should contact Dave, KB1MU, and discuss the same.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.



The next meeting of the  
Hampden County Radio Association  
Will be on Friday  
**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2000**

At 7:30 p.m. at the  
Feeding Hills Congregational Church  
Doors open at 7:00 PM

Hope to see you there!

*In case of inclement weather, tune to TV Channels 22 or 40, or on the  
146.94 and 147.105 repeaters.*

*Meeting cancellation information will be given out by 6:00 PM.*

HCRA  
P.O. Box 562  
Agawam, Massachusetts  
01001

Are you prepared to aid  
The community in case of emergency  
with your communication skills?  
N1MUV talks about ARES & RACES at the  
Next HCRA Club meeting, March 3<sup>rd</sup>