



Our 56th 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**



May, 2002



Join Us on
Friday, May 3rd

for the next

Hampden County Radio Assn. Meeting

Our Guest Speaker will be

Chuck Wyrick, N1UC

Chuck is the manager of HRO in
Salem, NH

If you're at all interested in neat new
toys, you won't want to miss this
meeting

NOTICE:

DETOUR IF POSSIBLE



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

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

<http://www.hcra.org>

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

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President's



HRO Personnel at the New England Convention

Corner



NEQP is Just a Few Days Away!

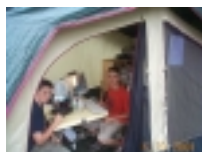
There's still time to fit New England's newest contest into your busy May schedule. The New England QSO Party will start on May 4th at 4:00 PM. Contest hours will be from that time until 11:00 PM on the 4th, then resume again on Sunday, May 5th. The contest will run again on Sunday from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM.

This new contest really needs your support. In an effort to get more interest in QSO parties, all six New England states have been combined into one contest this year. We are hoping to activate all 67 New England counties. Can we count on your help?

Complete information about the contest can be found at the NEQP web site: <http://www.neqp.org>. The rules also support mobile (rover) operation. HCRA members WB1Z, N1SR and myself will be roving after the Hopkinton hamfest on Saturday afternoon. Look for us in a few of the rare VT counties as the day progresses. AT press time we're not sure what call we will be using, but check the HCRA web site, it will be posted when we make that decision.

The HCRA is sponsoring a plaque for highest single operator score in Hampden County. I'm really hoping one of our members will win that plaque. I do know one thing for sure, you won't have a chance to win it if you don't operate. Make the commitment now, mark your calendar and we'll be looking for **YOU** on May 4th.

Field Day 2002



I told you FD would be in every issue until it's over, didn't I! So here's the pitch for this month.

Elsewhere in this issue is a breakdown of where we stand for FD, who's doing what, and what's left to be done. Take a look at the breakdown and if you haven't yet made the decision to join in,

pick something and do it now. Why, because it's going to be a lot of **FUN**. Where else can you get away from all the pressures of work and family, spend some time with your fellow hams and club members and operate radio too? Beats me, as far as I can tell, this is the best place that it will happen this year.

Never participated in a Field Day before, that's even better? You don't know what fun it can be until you try. I've been a ham for over twenty five years, and just started the Field Day thing about seven years ago. Al, WG1H, convinced me to help out with a satellite setup. I had such a good time I've done Field Day every year since! I have no doubt your experience will be the same.

Field Day planning is progressing extremely smoothly. It looks like we will be operating as a 6A this year (6A means we will have six transmitters on the air simultaneously, running on emergency power). The site (Dufresne Park) is superb, the food will be good and the operating will be great. Even if you only want to come by, sign the guest book and shoot the breeze or operate for a few minutes; come on over! We really need the support of everyone, no matter how much or how little, to make this a Field Day to remember. I truly hope to see every HCRA member there, because I know you will enjoy the experience!

The IRLP Project



By the time you read this month's Zero Beat it's a good possibility the new HCRA IRLP node will be up and running. If not you can count on it being just around the corner. Not bad, another HCRA project taken this from a February decision to a May completion, including a long delay in procuring the interface board from Canada. A fine example of the volunteer spirit that represents the core of HCRA.

All the needed hardware is now in, the interface card arrived a few weeks ago and the radio last week. John is installing the card and an interface cable has been made for the radio. A higher gain antenna was donated and is ready to be installed at dizzying new heights! It shouldn't be long now before node #### will be up and running on the IRLP network.

We will be posting some interesting tidbits about IRLP on the web site shortly. These will include some brief operation guidelines and a node list of some of the more interesting or exotic locations. In the meantime, point your browser to: <http://www.irlp.net> or <http://www.kwarc.org/irlp/> and learn all about this new mode. Speaking of interesting nodes, there is an active one in Antarctica. Node #888, KC4USV is up and running at McMurdo Base. Should be a neat one to try when the system is up and running!

So, check into 146.46 on a regular basis. Who knows when the real IRLP node will be operating? In the meantime, you might find an eQSO link there on evenings and weekends. Just set your radio to 146.46 MHz, no offset (simplex) and a PL tone of 114.8 and have a good time.

This Month's Guest Speaker

Chuck Wyrick, N1UC will be our guest speaker this month. Chuck is the manager of HRO in Salem, NH and will be giving a preview of new items to be announced at Dayton, some insight into future productions and a quick rundown of what's cool for today. Chuck has visited us in the past and always has a very interesting presentation. If you're at all interested in neat new toys, you won't want to miss this meeting. In addition to Chuck's presentation, expect the usual at an HCRA meeting.. Good fun, coffee & donuts, nice raffle prizes and the fellowship of local hams. Don't miss it, the meeting starts around 7:00, club business at 7:30 and Chuck's presentation around 7:45. I hope to see you there!

June Tail Gate Party (& Bake Sale?)

Don't forget June 7th. It's a very important date. Not only is it our annual elections, but also the 2nd Annual HCRA Tail Gate party. In addition, I've heard talk of a bake sale. Last year's was fun, and with the new parking lot, lots more spaces and free admission for buyers this year's should be even better. (sellers only \$5/space) See Dave, KB1MU to reserve a spot or volunteer to help. If you would like to donate any item to HCRA for sale at the club table, bring it along. We, as always, appreciate the support.

Don't forget about the Missing Children Special Event Station in Sturbridge on May 19th. If you can help out, contact Sheree at ham-radio@lyceumpress.com

Until next month... '73...Jim, KK1W



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 Pager: (800) 552-6606 (Pin #: 4133483289)
 Email: WB1DBY@ARRL.NET

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Our Sponsors

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

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

HCRA DIRECTORS

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

STATION TRUSTEES

W1NY Trustee	Don Johnson, W1UPH	(413) 566-3560(1et it ring)	wluph2@juno.com
WB1HOF Trustee	Jim Mullen, KK1W	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

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

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

PLEASE!!!
Support Our
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Let them know
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Zero Beat

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



**HAM
RADIO
OUTLET**

Chuck Wyrick
 Eastern Regional Mgr.
 KM4NZ

224 N. Broadway
 Salem, NH 03079
 (603) 898-3750
 1-800-444-0047

ANAHEIM, CA • ATLANTA, GA • DENVER, CO • OAKLAND, CA
 PHOENIX, AZ • PORTLAND, OR • SALEM, NH • SAN DIEGO, CA

CONTEST CORNER

Indiana QSO Party	1300Z, May 4 to 0500Z, May 5
New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5 and 1100Z to 2400Z, May 5
Nevada QSO Party	0000Z, May 11 to 0600Z, May 12
Oregon QSO Party	1400Z, May 11 to 0200Z, May 12
VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 11 to 1200Z, May 12
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 11 to 0300Z, May 12
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 25 to 2400Z, May 26
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	1800Z, June 8 to 0300Z, June 10
West Virginia QSO Party	1600Z, June 15 to 0200Z, June 16
ARRL Field Day	1800Z, June 22 to 2100Z, June 23

Get On The Air

(all times local)

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic System (NTS) Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Mondays	19:30	HCRA 10m Net	28.375
Tuesdays	19:30	Slow Scan TV (SSTV) Net	145.130 (PL 71.9hz) (KD1XP)
Wednesdays	19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link) (W1TOM)
	20:00	MTARA Swap net	
	20:30	MTARA Tech net	
Thursdays	21:00	Weather Net	2 nd Week of the Month 147.09 Every other week 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			Amherst Machine Amherst, MA
		KD1XP License Exams	Amherst, MA
		Contact Richard, KD1XP, 413-665-2211 or 145.130 Repeater	
		http://www.kd1xp.8k.com	
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	MTARA License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke
		Contact Dave, WA1DC, WA1DC@pipeline.com	
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!!!

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, Dave, KB1MU, or Jim, KK1W, to be added to the eZB only list.

SKYWARN Wind Scales

de Eric, N1QKO - Asst. Skywarn Coordinator, WMA
FUJITA DAMAGE SCALE

F0	GALE TORNADO	WEAK	40 - 72 MPH
F1	MODERATE TORNADO	WEAK	73 - 112 MPH
F2	SIGNIFICANT TORNADO	STRONG	113 - 157 MPH
F3	SEVERE TORNADO	STRONG	158 - 206 MPH
F4	DEVASTATING TORNADO	VIOLENT	207 - 260 MPH
F5	INCREDIBLE TORNADO	VIOLENT	261 - 318 MPH

Wear it Proudly!
H C R A Name Badges



Only \$6.00. Available for order at any club meeting, or call or drop an e-mail 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

The Beaufort Wind Scale

Beaufort#	mph	Observation
0	0-1	smoke rises vertically
1	1-3	smoke drifts slowly
2	4-7	leaves rustle
3	8-12	leaves and twigs in motion
4	13-18	small branches move
5	19-24	small trees sway
6	25-31	large branches sway
7	32-38	whole trees in motion
8	39-46	twigs break of trees
9	47-54	branches break
10	55-63	trees snap and are blown down
11	64-72	wide spread damage
12	73-82	extreme damage



A series of local Skywarn training for the area has been announced. As more are confirmed we will post them right here.

Place:

Walpole, MA 09 May 2002 Thursday
Walpole Town Hall 1900 to 2200 EST

Place:

Palmer High School 16 May 2002 Thursday
Main st. Thorndike 1900 to 2200 EST

Place:

Warwick, RI 28 May 2002 Tuesday
Tollgate High School (Cafeteria) 1900 to 2200 EST
05/28/2002 7-10PM Tollgate High School (Cafeteria)





BSA Venture Crew 510

NE1C - New England's #1 Crew

BSA Venture Crew is chartered by the Hampden County Radio Association

Visit Crew DX's 100% youth designed website:

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



BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

5/3	HCRA Club Meeting
5/17,18	Ham Radio DEMO at Chesterfield Scout Reservation Camporee
5/19	Missing Children Special Event, Sturbridge
5/23	Crew Meeting, Pioneer Valley Council Office, 7:PM
5/31, 6/1&2	Webelos Woods Weekend-- W1W Special Event Station at Camp Moses
6/21,22,23	Field Day '02
10/18,19,20	Jamboree on the Air JOTA (Pawtucket, RI ???)

HCRA is a thriving club because HCRA Members Volunteer

Boston Marathon Aided by Hams de N1MUV



Some 20000 + runners ran the 106th Boston Marathon on Patriots day. Race communications from Hopkington Start to Boston Finish was provided by amateur radio volunteers, From W/Ma. this year we had eight to go. All assigned on the route in the Newton area 18 - 20 mile section of the race.

Hams acting as American Red Cross volunteers operated from First Aid stations & Water Stops.

HCRA members carpoled to the staging area in Newton. Spread out on assignment for the day,back to staging area for Ziti Dinner in the evening.

All agree The Boston Marathon is a Special Event in the truest meaning of the word.

HCRA Members who volunteered for this event were: Norm W1BMK, Betty KB1CPZ, Larry WB1DBY, Eric N1QKO, John KB1GPF, Dave KB1MU, Tom N1MUV. Joining us was Don W1DRT AF/MARS Asst Dir.



TOP LEFT:
Tom, N1MUV, Betty
KB1CPZ, Norm W1BMK,
and Eric N1QKO

BOTTOM LEFT:
Larry, WB1DBY

TOP RIGHT:
Dave, KB1MU
Betty, KB1CPZ

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Norm, W1BMK



Thank You to all who Volunteered!



The W1NY Way!!

Here's where we stand so far –
Where of the list would you like to
see **YOUR** name ???



BAND CAPTAINS

BAND	CALL	NAME
VHF/UHF		
GOTA Station		
15/20M CW	WB1DBY	Larry
40M CW	KK1W	Jim
10M/75M Phone	KB1FTX	John
15M Phone	Kx1x	John
20M Phone	W6IS	Irv
40M Phone	KB1FFK	Ernie
OPERATORS & LOGGERS		
Dan, AA1TE	Dave, WA1DC	Mike, N1WLC
Steve, N1SR	Rick, N1RL	Mike, KB1FWN
Stan, N1INB	Marc, K1TS	Jim, WB1Z
Venture Crew DX	Earl, KD1UU	Tom, N1MUV
NATURAL POWER STATION		
Dan, N1OE's equip, Operator ???		
SATELLITE STATION		
Gary, AA1UE's equip, Operator ???		
SET-UP & TAKE-DOWN		
K1ILZ, Larry	KB1MU, Dave	W6IS, Irv
KB1FTX, John	WB1DBY, Larry	Kx1x, John
KK1W, Jim	W1BMK, Norm	Steve, N1SR
Tom, N1MUV		

GENERATORS & POWER DISTRIBUTION

AA1YW, Dave	KB1FTX, John	KB1GDG, Kate
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FOOD PROCUREMENT & COOKING

W1BMK, Norm	KB1CPZ, Betty	Faye Krainson
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N1CET, Pat		
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ALTERNATIVE MODE DEMONSTRATIONS

MODE DEMONSTRATOR

Amateur TV - Slow Scan	Jim, KK1W
------------------------	-----------

Amateur TV - Fast Scan	Chet, W1HGJ
------------------------	-------------

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

KB1MU, Dave

MESSAGE ORIGINATION & RECEIPT

Dan, AA1TE

INFORMATION TABLE

WB1DBY, Larry

PHOTOGRAPHERS - Film & Digital

VISITORS & MORAL SUPPORT

ROAD SIGNS

WB1DBY, Larry

FIELD DAY COMMITTEE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	
Larry, K1ILZ	Site Planner	
Larry, WB1DBY	Information Table, Signs	
Steve, N1SR	Antennas	
Dave, KB1MU	Information Officer	
Norm, W1BMK	Food Procurement	
Jim, KK1W	Logging Software & Scorekeeping	
Dave, AA1YW	Generators	
John, Kx1x	Networking	
Mike, KB1FWN	<u>VCrew Liason</u>	
Steve, KB1GHC	Site Mapping	
Pat, N1CET	At Large	
DONORS - Equipment & \$\$		
Steve, N1SR	John, Kx1x	Stan, N1INB
Larry, WB1DBY	Jim, KK1W	<u>Irv</u> , W6IS
Dave, AA1YW	Gary, AA1UE	
Ernie, KB1FFK	Jim, WB1Z	Jake, (Larry's & Faye's son)

**Don't miss FD 2002
at Dufresne Park,
June 21, 22 and 23, 2002**



Buyers
Free Admission!
Cheep!



TAIL GATE PARTY

June 7th !!!

Clean out the garage now!

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

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

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



Raffle Prizes
Good Deals
Bake Sale



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!

HCRA board Meeting April 11 2002

Held at the home of Irv Slitzky W6IS

Members present Irv W6IS, Larry K1ILZ, Larry WB1DBY, Norm W1BMK, Jim KK1W, Dave KB1MU, Mike KB1FWN, Steve N1SR, Greg N1AEH, and John Kx1x.

Vice President K1ILZ: Larry distributed a revised inventory list. Larry has also investigated the condition of the 15 meter monoband beam stored at his location. The boom appears to be present, but antenna needs some maintenance. Larry and Irv are planning a "work party" to determine exactly what needs to be repaired.

Treasurer N1AEH: Current balance is \$2783.50. Raffle at April meeting netted \$120.00 and prizes cost \$57.00. An additional \$50.00 donation has been received from the IRLP project. This brings the total donations for this project to \$140.00

Secretary KB1MU: Current club membership is now 100, with the receipt of one more membership.

The tailgate party for June meeting is progressing. Dave will check to see if there is sufficient interest to include a bake sale with this event. There will be a club table for donated items.

Revised Field Day primer is progressing. Main change will be a section on the logging program to be used this year. Some notes on the GOTA (Get On The Air) station were added.

Program W6IS: The April speaker, Mark Lantzka, was very well received. The board expressed thanks to Larry WB1DBY for getting Mark to speak. The secretary has sent a thank you letter to Mark.

Speaker for May will be Chuck from HRO in Salem NH. With tailgate party and elections June meeting is set.

Jim KK1W and Irv W6IS will obtain the raffle prizes for the May meeting.

Membership W1BMK: Norm has been sending information packets to new ham from a list supplied by the ARRL. The return on this program has been disappointing. It was agreed to continue for this year, and look for a better means of obtaining new members in the next year.

ZeroBeat KX1X: Cutoff date for articles is April 20

The E-QSO test has been working well. The club has gained knowledge into the operation of such a linking system.

Technical N1NB: Not Present

At Large WB1DBY: The Mt Washington etc bus trip has been canceled. The cost to an individual would have been prohibitive, and the long distance would require using a larger (more expensive) bus. Larry is working on another trip for next (2003) year.

Venture crew. KB1FWN The venture crews participation in the Scantic Spring Splash was a success. For most crew members this was their first exposure to a public service event. They did a fine job and I am sure learned a lot.

The Crew will participate in the WMECO event in May This will be a special event station operation in Sturbridge, MA on May 19 to help with missing children

Old business: IRLP project. As mentioned earlier, the E-QSO test has given the club much information about the operation of such a project. The interface board has been received. It will require some assembly before use. No radio has yet been obtained. The club is considering a commercial radio, because to the high duty cycle it will have.

Operating guideline for the IRLP station was discussed. It was agreed that this would be an open system.

Field Day Plans for this event are progressing. A plan for antenna placement will be generated by Dave KB1MU. A decision has not yet been made concerning the use of the kitchen; It would increase the park rental fee, and may not be cost effective.

There will be a Field Day Prep meeting at Dufresne Park on Friday April 19 at 2:00 PM. All planning to participate in Field Day are encouraged to attend. All aspects of Field Day Operation will be discussed.

New England QSO Party (NEQP) This new QSO party will replace the individual state QSO party held by states in the New England Section. To encourage participation in this event, The HCRA has agreed to present a plaque to highest scoring single operator in Hampden County. Sure would be nice if a member of HCRA won this award.

Elections A complete slate (minus one) of officers has been setup. The position of Technical Director remains open. The board has some possible candidates.

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

Note! The Board meeting for May will be held on Wed May 8. Jim KK1W will not be present at the May meeting, Larry K1ILZ will preside.

Respectfully submitted David W. Isham KB1MU

HCRA Volunteers do it again!

Gazette Regatta de W1LGU

We had a great day doing communications for the second annual Gazette Regatta at the Oxbow this past Saturday, April 27th. Participants were: Ray, N1RLX; Carol, W1LGU; Tom, N1MUV; Norm, W1BMK; Larry, WB1DBY; and Dave, KB1MU.

The day was sunny, but quite cool and windy. The wind picked up considerably toward the end of the regatta and the last two races were cancelled by the referee who considered the choppy river to be getting dangerous for the rowers. Several problems were solved through use of the ham radio operators, who performed in their usual competent and professional manner. The regatta committee had nothing but very high praise for the communications which were provided, and requested that we return for the next regatta as well. We headed home at about 3:30 p.m., windblown, sunburned !!!!!, and pleased with our ability to help another event run smoothly.

Hats off to all the volunteers!

Carol, W1LGU (new call, changed from WAILGU)



*Larry, WB1DBY, Carol W1LGU, Tom, N1MUV, Dave, KB1MU, and Norm W1BMK
Regatta Ham Volunteers 2002*

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

May 3rd, 2002

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

Hope to see you there!

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

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

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts
01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

This month's Speaker:

Chuck Wyrick, N1UC

Manager of HRO in Salem, NH

See some of the new ham "toys"