



# 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**

Our 58<sup>th</sup> Year

May, 2004



**John, Kx1x**, will speak on his experiences working on the K2BSA Ham Radio Demo staff at the 2001 National Boy Scout Jamboree, Fort AP Hill, VA. K2BSA/4 had the opportunity to show 40,000 scouts and scouters ham radio during the 10 day Jamboree. Ham classes were given, VE exams were administered EACH DAY, and the radio merit badge was offered to participating scouts. There will be plenty of pictures of the K2BSA display tent, as well as other Jamboree attractions.

Also this month ...  
*Other Club business  
Donuts and coffee  
Raffle  
Good Friends,  
Good Conversation,  
Good Times*

## NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

**HCRA Tail Gate Party  
Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

## *In this months edition*

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# President's



Young OP at K2BSA

# Corner

## BSA National Jamboree 2001 Kx1x's experiences of this great scouting event.



Here's a chance to find out about K2BSA at the 2001 BSA National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, VA. Our very own John Pise will be presenting this month and relating his experiences at the Jamboree he had the honor of attending.

Most of you know that John is captured by everything related to scouting, and to be invited to National Jamboree is like striking the mother lode! I remember speaking with him after his return; he couldn't stop talking! Well, a few years have passed but he still can be prodded to tell us a little bit about it and the upcoming Jambo '05. Come along this month and enjoy the show. Kx1x will have lot's of pictures and a lot to say. You won't want to miss it.

We've also got the usual good stuff at the meeting. Coffee, donuts, great friends and fun conversation. The raffle prizes this month include an internal CD-RW drive, digital multi-meter and more! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on May 7th for a fun time!

## APRS WX There's a lot of weather out there!

If you attended last month's meeting you know that Gary, AA1UE took us through the basics of APRS. By the end of the evening I was determined to do something with APRS, but I wasn't quite sure just what.

I took a look at the software that would allow me track people and put them on maps. Looked like fun but I'm not home enough to get a lot of use from that application. I was sitting up late one evening (like right now) and doing some web surfing when I came across the little circuits made by Byonics. Byon makes a neat little board with a PIC on it that is perfect for making mobile trackers. Not exactly what I was looking for but then I noticed he had a variation that would interface a home weather station with a radio without the use of a computer. Hey! I found something I could use. I've had a Peet Brothers weather station at the house for years but never did much with it but check it's readouts when I was home. With the WXtrak I could tie my weather station into the radio, broadcast the data on 144.39 MHz and the whole world would know the weather in Brimfield. Now that was neat. I immediately clicked the buy now button and it was on it's way.

The kit arrived in a few days. As soon as I had the chance I assembled it and hooked it up. After a bit of a struggle with WinXP and leading zeros in the configuration software I had it up and running. My home weather station is now broadcasting Brimfield weather for the whole world to see! And the coolest thing is you don't have to even be a ham to see the data. Simply go to: <http://www.findu.com>, type in KK1W in the weather station box and you will immediately see the conditions at my house. So now while I'm working at the office I can see what's happening at home (at least weather wise). Is that cool or what? Too see the current conditions at the KK1W shack go to: <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=kk1w&last=24>



The picture shows my simple home station. An underused Yaesu FT2600 into a Radio Shack disccone scanner antenna and the Byonics WXtrak. The WXtrak kit took about 45 minutes to build, plan on another hour to fabricate cables and you're ready to go. Once I got all the wiring figured out it was a pretty simple matter

to get it up and running. More info about the Bionic's products can be found at: <http://byonics.com/>

Have a weather station but don't want to tie up a radio? If you have a full time internet connection you can download a copy of APRS-IS and put it directly on the web. Another neat thing is the Citizen's Weather Observer Program. Check out what they are all about by pointing your browser at: <http://www.wxqa.com/resources.html>.

Well, I've said enough about my installation. What did you do after attending the April meeting? If you have something up and running with APRS drop me a note and we'll get it included in next month's issue.

Yet another example of the many and useful facets of ham radio. It certainly is a hobby that has something for everyone!

## WB1Z, Jim Allen - SK Ham Radio loses another great hobbyist.

After a difficult struggle with cancer one of HCRA's strongest supporters and active area ham has become a Silent Key.

If you didn't have time to get to know Jim let me fill you in a bit. WB1Z enjoyed every aspect of radio. Starting out with CB and SWL'ing Jim got into ham radio about ten years ago as N1RUT, and never stopped. Active in almost all aspects there was hardly any part of ham radio he didn't try. Jim really liked everything about radio, from Art Bell to SWL, DX'ing to AM'ing. He tried and enjoyed them all.



WB1Z at FD2002

Jim has served the board of HCRA for the last two years, bringing us some great monthly presentations like Mike Carlowicz, the author of "Storms on the Sun" and Jay and Paul, the "Pocket Calculator Guys". In between he found time to earn DXCC, play with PSK31 & RTTY, put up a weather station, tinker with packet radio... the list goes on. WB1Z was a great proponent of Field Day, always putting maximum effort into this annual activity.

Jim and I were good friends and I'll certainly miss the fun we had going to ham-fests and of course roving for NEQP. I'll always cherish the time he spent trying to teach me to write better and me trying to show him to build stuff! I don't think either one of us ever got it but it was fun trying.

It's always sad to lose good people but we can always remember how they touched our lives and made things more fun. Jim was one of those people and the memories will always be pleasant. Maybe one of these evenings I'll hear the WB1Z call on one of those long delayed echoes...but probably not CW!!!

## HCRA Tail Gate Party More bargains again this year.

Come on out for a pleasant evening of bargains and fun at the annual HCRA Tail Gate Party. This will be our third year running the event and hopefully it will get bigger every year. Last year we even had our first commercial vendors attend. I think they will be back again this year, along with a lot of local hams.

Dave, KB1MU is again coordinating the fun. If you would like to bring something out to sell it's pretty simple. \$5 a spot, bring your own table. If you want to come and shop (and buy?) it's even easier. FREE, the best word a ham can hear! That's right, there is no admission charge for buyers so now what's your excuse? To make the evening more pleasant, Erik and Andy from Jx2 productions will be DJ'ing with some nice music. Andy will also be our chef extraordinaire at Field Day again this year. I can't wait for that one.

The June meeting is also our annual election. Elsewhere in this issue is our prospective slate of officers for the 2004/2005 season. Is your name on there? If not, why not? HCRA has done well with our current board but it's probably time for a change. We've gained a lot of new members lately, many of them very active. Why not take a turn at the board and steer the club into new and exciting things. If you would like to participate simply contact any board member and we will get you added to the list. It is great to see some new names on the board for the coming election. That's a good indication our club is growing stronger every year.



## Have you signed in yet?

There's still time to sign on for food, fun and lots of radio activity at Field Day this June. If you haven't yet contacted Pete or Marty about what fun you can have on June 26 through 28 there's still time. They have a super event planned including a GOTA station. The Get On The Air station is the perfect place for new or inexperienced hams to have fun on HF for a few hours. Dufresne Park is a great location for the entire family so bring them along for the fun.

## HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and  
Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

### HCRA OFFICERS

#### President

Jim Mullen, KK1W  
(413) 245-3228 [jmullen@rockys.com](mailto:jmullen@rockys.com)

#### Vice-President

Irv Slitzky, W6IS  
(413) 565-5222 [w6is1@juno.com](mailto:w6is1@juno.com)

#### Treasurer

Greg Stoddard, N1AEH  
(860) 668-5143 [gstoddard@rcn.com](mailto:gstoddard@rcn.com)

#### Secretary

Dave Isham, KB1MU  
(413) 596-6605 [kb1mu@charter.net](mailto:kb1mu@charter.net)

### HCRA DIRECTORS

#### At Large

Larry Krainson, WB1DBY  
(413) 567-3505 [wb1dby@arrl.net](mailto:wb1dby@arrl.net)

#### Program

#### Membership

Marty Bowen, W1MJB  
[w1mjb@arrl.net](mailto:w1mjb@arrl.net)

#### Newsletter

John Pise, Kx1x  
(413) 532-7474 [kx1x@arrl.net](mailto:kx1x@arrl.net)

#### Technical

Pete Beauregard, K1I  
(413) 562-7392 [ki1i@arrl.net](mailto:ki1i@arrl.net)

### STATION TRUSTEES

#### W1NY Trustee

Don Johnson, W1UPH  
(413) 566-3560 [w1uph2@juno.com](mailto:w1uph2@juno.com)

#### WB1HOF Trustee

Jim Mullen, KK1W  
(413) 245-3228 [jmullen@rockys.com](mailto:jmullen@rockys.com)

#### IRLP Trustee

John Pise, Kx1x  
(413) 532-7474 [kx1x@arrl.net](mailto:kx1x@arrl.net)

### EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Dave Isham, KB1MU  
(413) 596-6605 [kb1mu@charter.net](mailto:kb1mu@charter.net)



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HOWARD LEARNS THE HARD WAY TO ADOPT A LESS LITERAL  
INTERPRETATION OF THE TERM "BOAT ANCHOR."



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news and info

IRLP Node #7270  
146.46 Mhz -- PL 114.8  
A free service of HCRA  
See [www.hcra.org](http://www.hcra.org)

Next Month:  
**HCRA Tail Gate Party**  
**Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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.

## 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	<b>HCRA 10m Net</b>	28.375
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 <sup>nd</sup> Week of the Month 147.09 (All other weeks 147.000)

### Club Meetings & Testing Sessions

1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of the month	19:30	<b>HCRA Club Meeting</b>	Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of January, April, July, and October		KD1XP License Exams	Amherst Machine Amherst, MA
		Contact Richard, KD1XP, 413-665-2211 or 145.130 Repeater	
		<a href="http://www.kd1xp.org">http://www.kd1xp.org</a>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA
		<a href="http://www.mtara.org">http://www.mtara.org</a>	
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday of the month	18:00	MTARA License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke
		Contact Dave, W1FAB, W1FAB@arri.net	
4 <sup>th</sup> 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!!!

## HCRA 2004/2005 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	Open
Program	Larry Krainson, WB1DBY
Membership	Marty Bowen, W1MJB
Technical	Peter Beauregard, KI1I
ZeroBeat Editor	John Pise, Kx1x
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
Secretary	Dave Isham, KB1MU
Vice President	Irv Slitzsky, W6IS
President	Jim Mullen, KK1W

Nominations are open right up until voting time June 4th. Many of the members running for re-election would be happy to vacate or change positions to allow a new face and new ideas to join. It's been said many times, any club is only as good as the desire and activities of its members. The HCRA is growing and exciting for exactly those reasons. If you feel you can help with this growth, let us know and we will get you on the slate.

Thanks and don't forget to attend the June meeting to vote your choice.

Jim, KK1W

<i>Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Assn. News</i>
<p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: blue;"><a href="http://www.mtara.org">www.mtara.org</a></p> <p style="color: green;">Check out our recently updated Web page!</p>
<p>Info Net, Wednesdays at 7:30 PM local 146.94 (-) or 147.000 (+)</p>
<p>Next Meeting Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 Red Cross Building, Cottage St., Spfld</p>
<p><b>Paul E. Marsters</b> TO SPEAK ON: The new Search and Rescue Satellite systems as they relate to EPIRB, ELT, PLB</p>


<i>KD1XP Repeater Group News</i>
<p><i>. The next ham radio testing session will be on Monday, July 19th at Amherst Machine on Cowls Road in Amherst, MA. ALL test elements given. Contact Richard, KD1XP at 665-2211 for details or <a href="http://www.kd1xp.org">www.kd1xp.org</a></i></p>
<p><a href="http://www.kd1xp.org">www.kd1xp.org</a> has a great listing of local frequencies for scanner listening, Check it out and please add to it if you know a frequency that is not there.</p>
<p><i>Breakfast meetings every first Saturday of the month at Bickfords in Northampton. Talk in on the 145.130 repeater.</i></p>
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: blue;"><a href="http://www.kd1xp.org">www.kd1xp.org</a></p>




# 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

Youth President

Luke Dyson, KB1ISP

luke@penguinia.net

Adult Advisor

John Pise, Kx1x (413) 532-7474

kx1x@arrl.net

Adult Advisor

Dave Cain, AA1YW

aa1yw@arrl.net

## BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

April 23,24,25

Emergency Preparedness Camporee, Moses Scout Reservation

May 7<sup>th</sup>

HCRA/Crew Meeting

June 4<sup>th</sup>

HCRA/Crew Meeting

June 25,26,27

Field Day

## Lost Scout (Hidden Transmitter) Demonstration At the Emergency Preparedness Camporee, Camp Moses, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004

When I heard that the theme for the spring camporee would be Emergency Preparedness, I asked CrewDX if they were interested in fox hunts and T-hunting. I was met with an overwhelming response!!!

In preparation for the hidden transmitter demonstration, Steve, KB1GHC and Luke, KB1ISP met on a Saturday to create a "fox box", an automated 'beacon' to act as the "lost scout" sending a transmission intermittently to simulate an actual event, and to allow the "fox hunters" a chance to "DF" the signal.

Their "fox box" was built inside a surplus ammo box using an antiquated 2m HT, a CD player (with an audio CD of "NE1C" in morse code), and a timer taken from an old security system.

After the MTARA fox hunt meeting, Steve, Luke, and Justin, KB1ISQ, got together to create t-hunting yagis with attenuators for the demo. Project boxes were made from sheet metal, switches were purchased, and components were used from a donation to Crew DX. The attenuators worked as advertised, and the yagis, made from wood and tape measure "tape" were enough for the scouts at the camporee to get a taste of how someone could be found using "DF" techniques.

Not only did the scouts that were able to see the demonstration learn something, but those that contributed on that day also worked with the antennas and attenuators, and were able to get a taste of "easy" fox hunting. Steve, Luke, Allan (KB1HUM), Brian (KB1IGM), and Mike (KB1FWN) helped out at Camp Moses to show 120 scouts how to "DF" a lost scout who had a radio.

de Kx1x, PROUD advisor of BSA Venture Crew 510



## Amateur Radio & the 2004 Marathon

Once again the Boston Marathon communications was all Amateur Radio.

Western Massachusetts Hams joined 150 other operators from three states to link the entire course. The unusual heat during the race meant heavy communications activity. Throughout the course runners required medical assistance, medical bus transportation & ambulance assistance. All these requests went through the amateur radio 2-meter nets.



*First Aid Station 12 during quiet time.*

Most American Red Cross first aid stations had 2 away teams, 2 EMT's and a radio operator. With record entries of over 20,000 runners the teams were very busy assisting the runners. The operators were calling in requests for stretchers or wheel chairs to move runners to a First Aid Station. Hams covering water stops were making calls for medical assistance for runners unable to go any further. Still most of them finished the race.

Seventeen 2 meter repeaters were available including APRS. Most of them were in constant use during the race. It is an experience all will long remember, Truly an amazing day.



*From left to right: Eric-N1QKO, Larry-WB1DBY, Marty-W1MJB, Ernie- K1EJB, Dave – KB1MMU and Tom-N1MUV*

### Local Hams working the marathon where:

Dave KB1MU, Eric N1QKO, Tom N1MUV  
Larry WB1DBY, Ernie K1EJB, Marty W1MJB  
John K1VOI & yI Chris

ARC Fox 12 Station  
ARC Fox 13 Station  
Whiskey 14 (water stops)

'73 de Tom, N1MUV

# Skywarn Training Schedule Update

de Eric, N1QKO

The following is an update on SKYWARN training for year 2004.

Thursday	05/06/2004 7-10PM	Walpole Town Hall/Senior Center Walpole, Mass.
Thursday	05/13/2004 7-10PM	Mastricola Elementary School All Purpose 26 Baboosic Lake Road, Merrimack, NH.
Saturday	05/15/2004 Noon-3PM	Braintree Town Hall Braintree, Mass.
Thursday	05/20/2004 7-10PM	Martin Middle School Auditorium 131 Caswell Street, East Taunton, Mass.
Saturday	05/22/2004 Noon-3PM	North Kingstown, RI Library North Kingstown, RI
Monday	05/24/2004 7-10PM	Sturdy Memorial Hospital Rice-Webb Auditorium, Attleboro, Mass.
Tuesday	05/25/2004 7-10PM	Ipswich High School Ipswich, Mass.
Tuesday	06/01/2004 7-10PM	Thomas Talbot Masonic Lodge 11 Concord Road, Billerica, Mass.
Wednesday	06/02/2004 7-10PM	Smithfield High School Media Center Smithfield RI
Monday	06/07/2004 6:30-9:30PM	Boston Museum of Science Boston, Mass.
Thursday	06/17/2004 7-10PM	Cape Cod National Seashore Province Lands Visitor Center, Provincetown, Mass.



## To Be or Not To Be: *Committed* That is the Question

This is a personal opinion, just my two cents worth, but It might behoove you, the H.C.R.A. member, to read on and take heed, do a little soul searching about your club, its' future and your level of participation in the day to day effort needed to keep any organization functional.

A case in point being field day, which is certainly not an ordinary daily event. It is our premier event of the year - the *jewel in the crown* that defines what Amateur Radio and the Amateur Radio service is supposed to be all about. It is our weekend to shine and project to the public and public service sector who and what we are and what we can do when disasters occur and communication becomes paramount. Remember *Perception is everything*. Field day is rapidly approaching and this year's effort at organizing the event is going along as usual. A great many things need to be done, but very few people are willing to throw their hats into the ring, roll up their sleeves and get the job done.

Oh, the usual hardcore members are there behind the scenes and they will get the jobs done as usual. There will be a field day for H.C.R.A. in 2004 and it will be sufficient. But it will not be the field day that it could be if every member took some responsibility. We need everyone involved in some aspect of the field day whether it be planning, set up, operation or take down - there is some task that could be done by you with minimum effort and minimum impact on your work or family duties and responsibilities. So, throw your hat into the ring and commit some of your time and effort - no matter how little - into some part of the field day program.

Marty Bowen, W1MJB



## *Titanic Special Event Station 2004*

April 10 through April 15 2004 was the 92<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the ill-fated journey of the RMS Titanic. During this period a special event station was in operation at the Titanic Historical Museum located in Indian Orchard, MA. Why celebrate the 92<sup>nd</sup> anniversary you ask? Well, I admit it's not much different from the 91<sup>st</sup> or the 93<sup>rd</sup>. In addition to the tremendous loss of life this event caused, many changes in transoceanic travel came about. Did you realize that at the time of the disaster radio was not really a safety consideration. The "wireless Stations" were placed aboard passenger ships for the passengers convenience, only. The equipment and the operators were provided by the Marconi Company to allow passengers messages to be passed from ship to shore.

Among the changes due to this event, was the fact that a 24-hour radio watch was required. At this time many ships had only one radioman (The RMS Titanic did have two.) and when this one radioman went off duty, the radio operations ceased. This meant that one ship very close to the RMS Titanic had no radioman on duty at the time of the collision. Among other changes brought about by the RMS Titanic incident was the requirement that all passenger ships be equipped with enough lifeboats to handle ALL passengers. (The RMS Titanic had lifeboats for about 50% of the passengers.) These are only a few of the many changes brought about by the RMS Titanic incident. As you can see, there is adequate reason to remember this event.

About eleven amateurs participated as operators in this operation. Band conditions during this event were certainly not the best. As a result, much of the operating time was spent on 40 meter SSB. For those who would have liked a 20-meter QSO, perhaps a prayer to the propagation gods before the next event would help. The amateurs who operated this station were: Jim K1JAW, Marty W1MJB, Irv W6IS, Norm W1BMK (Who also operated some 20-meter PSK31.), Larry WB1DBY, Alex KB1FYU, Al W1AB, Tom N1MUV, Rick N1RL, Mike W1MG, and Tom KA1MDA who provided all the APRS operations. (Tom also provided all the photos of the event.) Operations were conducted on 40 meters, SSB and CW, 20 meters, SSB, CW, and PSK31, and also some operation on two meter FM (146.580)

If you worked the station W1MGY and would like a nice QSL card, just send in a SASE. The Address is the call book address.

Titanic Historical Society, Inc., W1MGY  
208 Main St,  
PO BOX 51053  
Indian Orchard, MA 01151-0053  
USA

If you also copied the final CW message at 0127 AM EDT, send in the text of the message. We will send you a certificate for that accomplishment.



*Marty, W1MJB and Dave, KB1MU work W1MGY.*

APRS operations: During the event an APRS beacon of the approximate current location of RMS Titanic was displayed on the APRS frequencies. Tom also placed occasional information messages on APRS during the event. Great Job Tom!

I'd like to thank all the Amateurs who made this event possible (At both ends, senders and receivers.) I would also like to thank Ed Kamuda. For his authorization and assistance with this operation. Also I would like to thank Mike Gruber W1MG who is the originator and driving force behind special events at the Titanic Historical Society.

The tenacity of these operators, despite poor propagation made the event a success. And to those of you out there who were unable to work the station, thank you for trying.

One little thing to think about, what was the call sign of the RMS Titanic?

Thank You  
Dave Isham KB1MU  
<Kb1mu@charter.net>

# The DX Beat

By Mike DeChristopher, KB1FWN



Well, it has been yet another month and we are looking right into May. To start on a positive note, longpath propagation will be up this time, although band conditions in general will remain the same. So, chip the rust off of the rotator and turn the beam north...the high bands will at least be a little more forgiving.

Most of the announced DX operations appear to be ignoring the propagation forecasts as a record number left port (or airport, as the case may be) to play radio in those rare entities.

<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>DXCC Entity</u>	<u>Callsign</u>	<u>QSL via</u>
2004 May01	2004 May21	Mauritius	3B8/DL3LBP	DL3LBP
2004 May02	2004 May04	New Caledonia	FK/JF1UIO	JF1UIO
2004 May02	2004 May05	Ogasawara	JD1/JD1BLK	JM1LJS
2004 May02	2004 May14	St Lucia	J69/WB5ZAM	WB5ZAM
2004 May03	2004 May13	Faroe Islands	OY9OY	ON5UR
2004 May04	2004 May07	New Caledonia	FK/JF1UIO	JF1UIO
2004 May04	2004 May09	Maldives	8Q7WP	JA1WPX
2004 May07	2004 May19	Cambodia	XU7ACE	XU7ACE

Also of note are several upcoming contests. While some of you may not be testers, why not jump on the air? There is plenty of DX and domestics for the paperchaser, or just a good platform to test out your station.

<b>10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW</b>	<b>0001Z, May 1 to 2359Z, May 2</b>
Indiana QSO Party	1500Z, May 1 to 0300Z, May 2
<b>ARI International DX Contest</b>	<b>2000Z, May 1 to 1959Z, May 2</b>
<b>New England QSO Party</b>	<b>2000Z, May 1 to 0500Z, May 2 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 2</b>
US IPARC Annual Contest, SSB	0000Z-2400Z, May 2
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, May 3
<b>Nevada QSO Party</b>	<b>0000Z, May 8 to 0600Z, May 9</b>
<b>Oregon QSO Party</b>	<b>1400Z, May 8 to 0200Z, May 9</b>
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party	1600Z, May 8 to 2400Z, May 9
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, May 8
<b>His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW</b>	<b>1800Z, May 15 to 1800Z, May 16</b>
ARCI Newcomer's Run	1800Z-2000Z, May 15
<b>CQ WW WPX Contest, CW</b>	<b>0000Z, May 29 to 2359Z, May 30</b>

Pick up the microphone -- this month is certainly off to an interesting start. Contester, DX'er, whatever you happen to be, conditions may be down, but they aren't out!

73' and happy DX.  
de Mike, KB1FWN

# HCRA board Meeting

April 8, 2004

Held at the home of Larry WB1DBY

Members present: Jim KK1W, IrvW6IS, Larry WB1DBY, Peter K1II, Greg N1AEH, Dave KB1MU, John Kx1x, and Marty W1MJB.

The meeting was started with sad note from Jim KK1W. Jim Allen WB1Z our program director has become a Silent Key. Jim has contributed much to the HCRA and the world in general. He will certainly be missed.

**Vice President W6IS:** The April meeting went well with 65 attending. The club will continue, for the rest of the year, to send postcard reminders to all members who get ZeroBeat via e-mail.

**Treasurer N1AEH:** The current club balance is \$3735.00 The April Raffle netted \$150.00.

**Secretary KB1MU:** Membership total at present:

Courtesy	7,	Family	17
Life	3,	Prospect	6
Regular	95	Venture Crew	7

The annual State reports for the year 1998 and 2003 have been re-sent, and hopefully accepted by the Commonwealth.

**Program:** New QSL cards are on their way. Delivery date is not certain. at this time

Speakers are confirmed for the rest of the 2003/2004 seasons. For the coming 2004/2005 season we have the following:

September	OPEN
October	Marc K1MZ on contesting
November	Auction
December	Holiday party.

**Membership W1MJB:** Marty is still working with the Springfield Armory on a special event station. He is also checking with WBZ to obtain permission to have a special event station based upon that call.

**ZeroBeat KX1X:** Cutoff date for ZeroBeat submission's for the May edition is April 24.

**Technical K1II:** The Technician class is going along well, with 14 students. Testing for this course will be held Tues April 13.

**Old Business:** The remaining KC1ZJ equipment has still not been offered for sale on E-bay.

**New Business:** Steve Nelson WA1EYF has asked for and been granted permission to make a presentation about the Venture Crew.

The club has a couple of potential volunteers for the upcoming elections. Board members are asked to each present the name of a potential board member at the next board meeting, (Any volunteers? It really is a fun experience, and not at all labor intensive.)

The club is considering a plan to sell HCRA T-shirts, Hats, or sweats. Dave KB1MU will search the old ZeroBeat archive for a logo that might be used on these.

Peter K1II and Marty K1MJB are planning on a GOTA station for Field Day. Peter, Marty and the Venture Crew would be involved in the operation of this station. Preliminary documents for the use of Dufrense Park have been received. The price per day has increased another \$25.00 this year. (How much longer should we tolerate these increases? Let the board know of alternate Field Day sites.)

*Respectfully submitted Dave Isham KB1MU*



The next  
**Hampden County Radio Association**  
*Monthly meeting*  
**will be on Friday**

May 7<sup>th</sup>

**John, Kx1x, on**  
**Working K2BSA at the**  
**National Boy Scout Jamboree**

meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

**Feeding Hills Congregational Church**

*Doors open at 7:00 PM!*

**Hope to see you there!**

In case of inclement weather,

check: [www.hcra.org](http://www.hcra.org)

or the 146.94 repeater.

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

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



**FIELD**

**DAY**

**June 25,26,27, 2004**

*Mark your calendar*

**2004**

**HCRA**

P.O. Box 562

Agawam, Massachusetts

01001

**PLEASE HAND CANCEL**

**Hampden County Radio Assoc.**

*Monthly meeting*

will be on Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

**John, Kx1x**

**Hamming at K2BSA 2001**

**National BSA Jamboree**

**May 7<sup>th</sup>,**

**2004**

**Doors**

**Open**

**At**

**7:00 pm**

