



# Zero Beat

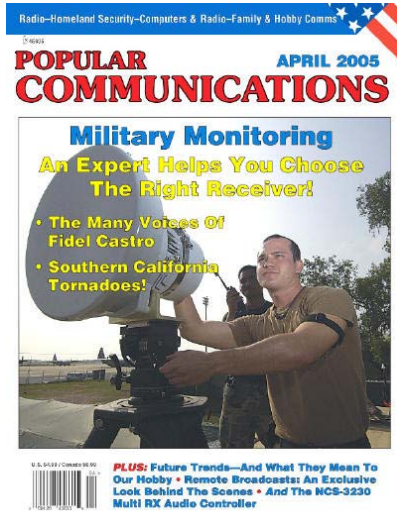


A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association  
<http://www.hcra.org>

Meetings Held at: **Feeding Hills Congregational Church**  
**21 North Westfield Street**  
**Feeding Hills, MA**

Our 59<sup>th</sup> Year

May, 2005



## Harold Ort - N2RLL Editor of Popular Communications

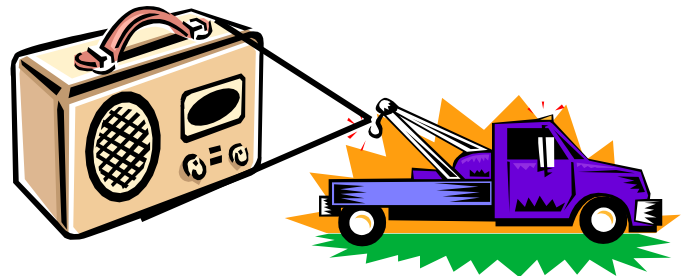
See Page 2 for details

SPECIAL RAFFLE:  
Angean STS-505P Shortwave Radio

*Good Conversation, Good Times, Good Friends*

### NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

**HCRA Tail Gate Party**  
**Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004**



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# President's Corner

## The May Blockbuster Meeting

Harold Ort, N2RLL - Editor of Popcomm

## POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

Communications is a constantly changing. This month N2RLL, editor of Popular Communications, will be stopping by HCRA before heading to the Dayton Hamfest. Harold will be bringing our members up to date on all things important about our communications hobby. In addition to the ham perspective N2RLL will also be discussing the impact of BPL, shortwave listening, stuff for scanner and weather enthusiasts and lots more.

If you have never seen an issue of Popular Communications I urge you to stop by your local newsstand or Barnes & Noble and purchase a current edition. I think you will be surprised at not only the many (and changing) aspects of radio communication but how much you may be missing by just reading the ham radio magazines. There is nothing like learning about how others use radio to have fun. Who knows, you may go home and immediately start turning the dial on your general coverage receiver to hear some exciting new things!



Sangean ATS-505P

Keeping with the SWL theme of the evening we will have a special raffle prize. This month you could go home the lucky winner of a Sangean ATS-505P Shortwave Radio worth over \$100. This neat little radio gets all the popular shortwave bands plus AM & FM, and includes a BFO for SSB and CW reception. For as little as a \$1 donation it could be yours!

I expect a full house for this meeting so plan on arriving early to get a great seat. It isn't often we get the opportunity to host such a noteworthy speaker. As always, use this opportunity to bring a friend. The more we get interested in radio the stronger our club will be.

## CW Class is about to start

Over a dozen new hams will be on the air soon.

HCRA's first CW training class is starting May 10th. From the number of people signed up so far it looks like nobody wants to wait for a rules change from the FCC! Peter, K11I in organizing the class and its another success story for our "Minister of Education". A quick check of the web page shows ninteen folks signed up so far.

A bonus for the class will be some HCRA CPO (Code Practice Oscillator) kits. Designed and kitted by John, KB1LTC they will be available for only \$9.99. John has put a lot of effort into this part of the project and they look real neat. What better way to get your feet wet in the hobby. Learn the code and kit building at the same time. This is what ham radio is all about folks.

With the large amount of students I'm sure Peter could use some assistance with the class. If you have the time to invest in growing our hobby please give K11I a call. Like everything HCRA does it gets better with your participation.

## June is the HCRA Tail Gate Party

Now's the time to get your stuff ready.

HCRA's annual tailgate party will be held again this June 3rd. Instead of a regular club meeting we will have a get together in the parking lot to sell (exchange) neat stuff with other hams. It's a low-key, fun time for all. Spaces are \$5 for the sellers, for buyers admission is free! For more information and space reservation contact Dave, KB1MU at 413-594-6831 or via email at kb1mu@charter.net. Immediately following the tailgate party will be our regular club meeting. The subject will be Field Day and our 2005/2006 election of officers. See you there and bring a friend. Everyone is always welcome at an HCRA event.

## Speaking of Building

There is still a lot of fun to be had

Hardly a day goes by that I don't hear someone lamenting on the local repeaters that, "no one builds anything anymore" or "with the advances in IC's and miniaturization the average ham can't construct anything". And in some ways they are right, probably not because it can't be done, but because it's just not as economical as it used to be. Back in the 50's and 60's, when just a transmitter cost better than a weeks pay and surplus gear could be had for next to nothing you really could save big bucks. Back then household appliances cost so much people actually 'repaired' them instead of replacing them! Can you believe that?

Well, it's still possible to build stuff, but it takes a different form. Now-a-days it usually involves small custom applications built around a PIC (custom programmed microprocessor) or putting together building blocks of off the shelf, but discontinued items.

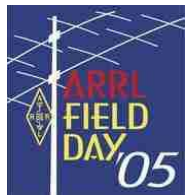
Lately I've been experimenting with making some inexpensive APRS trackers. These are little devices that you can put in your car, attach to a hiker, stuff like that and then watch their progress on a radio and computer receiving APRS. You can even view them on the internet without a radio at <http://www.findu.com>! Complicated project, you bet it would be if I had to design the transmitter, the GPS interface and the GPS receiver too. And probably a bit out of my price range. But (there always is a but, isn't there?) eBay and Byonics to the rescue. Byonics ([www.byonics.com](http://www.byonics.com)) makes a neat "Pocket Tracker" kit for under \$100. It's a 2 meter transmitter and GPS interface that fits in an Altoid tin. On eBay it's possible to get a complete GPS receiver for \$25, and a good one at that. Made for OEM applications all you need to do is put 5V and an antenna and it's outputting NEMA data to your Byonics tracker. Cool stuff, you build it yourself, and you get something that would cost far more than \$150 to purchase off the shelf. See, building is possible and is keeping with the old adage of the "frugal ham"!

So what's your project going to be this year. Why not make a late New Year's resolution to complete a project in time for next year's "Show & Tell"? March 2006 is less than a year away!

## Field Day 2005

Have you reserved your band/mode yet?

June 25th and 26th are rapidly approaching and that means HCRA's signature event, Field Day, is just around the corner. Beautiful Dufresne Park has been reserved for another great Field Day. Building on last year's successes Peter and Marty are already deep into planning this year's event. The park, the food (deliciously prepared by Andy and Erik again this year), the rigs & antennas—all are just waiting for your participation. Don't delay, the spots for operators are filling fast. Keep a watch on the progress by checking the web page at: [www.hcra.org/fd2005.htm](http://www.hcra.org/fd2005.htm) or join the HCRA Field Day mailing list at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hcra-fd/>. There is a lot going on that every HCRA member should be proud to be a part of. Our little club placed 1st in WMA and 3rd in the nation in our class (7A) last year, quite an accomplishment for a bunch of hams from the Pioneer Valley. There is room for everyone at Field Day, you don't need a high class license (or any license at all) to operate. There will be a GOTA station again this year (Get On The Air) for new or inexperienced ops, great food (you could call it the HCRA picnic too) and lots of fun. Over 80 people attended last year, do you think we can break one hundred this year!



See you at the May meeting!

'73... Jim, KK1W

## HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and  
Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

### HCRA OFFICERS

#### President

Jim Mullen, KK1W  
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#### Vice-President

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

#### Treasurer

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### HCRA DIRECTORS

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#### Technical

John Stark, N1JIO

### STATION TRUSTEES

#### W1NY Trustee

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Larry Krainson

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Email: [WB1DBY@ARRL.NET](mailto:WB1DBY@ARRL.NET)

[www.wemakehousecalls.biz](http://www.wemakehousecalls.biz)

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**Wear it Proudly!**  
HCRA Name Badges



Only \$6.00. Available for order at any club meeting, or call or drop  
an email for immediate service!

Show the world you belong to the oldest club in the Pioneer Valley.

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

OUR  
SUPPORTERS  
PLEASE

## WE NEED YOUR SUGGESTIONS

We are asking for your suggestions and ideas for future HCRA meetings. The recent success of HCRA has been, in part, because of its interesting and timely key speakers and topics.

If you can help, please contact

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

### 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 "encouragement"!?! de Marty, W1MJB***

Hey, spring has sprung!

The Field Day movers and shakers are in full motion. The AARP contingent - the most famous threesome since Moe, Larry and that other guy - are the first to report themselves ready, willing and able to once again man the 40-meter phone station. They could use a few more ops, especially during the wee hours of the night. By the way all you Technician class licensees yearning to upgrade to General Class, 40-meters is a great band to acquire some SSB phone time and Field Day is a great time to do it because with a General Class or higher control operator on station, you can work the 40-meter band to your hearts' content. Imagine working twenty, thirty or more states; imagine making contact after contact and all the while improving your communication, logging and station operation skills; imagine being so fired up, so stoked to get the code down and pass that General class exam. There is no stress, no strain - just an opportunity to have fun and improve your Ecom skills. So, don't just imagine all this, get real. Take control and put yourself in the 40-meter SSB operator's seat where you can take microphone in hand and experience the wonderful world of HF. Get it done, contact one of the stalwart three, Dave KB1MU, Earl KD1UU or Tom N1MUV and sign on for 40-meter operation.

The 20-meter CW crew, spearheaded by Larry WB1DBY and Frandy N1FD, is chomping at the bit, just waiting for high noon on Saturday June 25, to start pounding brass. They too could use a few extra ops because rumor has it that there may be a challenge in the offing. If you recall, last year John Kx1x issued a challenge to Jim KK1W stating that his phone station would post more QSO'S than Jim's CW station would. In the end Kx1x was the clear winner but only by one nap's worth of QSOs. This year KK1W's 40 meter CW station is well rested but undermanned and in need of several CW ops. Jim is again being challenged. This time by the 20-meter CW Mob who want to test his mettle. Just a friendly competition, you understand. Here is your chance to enter the fray and have some fun come field Day. So, unpack that Morse key and get on schedule to practice your CW. You still have almost two full months to get your fist back. CW is alive and well! Every HCRA Field Day is proof positive of that fact.



## **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**

*NEQP contest/Campout, Way –Northern Vermont (Biff, AA1DI's Cabin), May 6,7,8*

*RAFFLE Drawing at the HCRA meeting, May 6<sup>th</sup>*

*Ham Radio Demo, Webelos Woods, Moses Scout Reservation, June 3, 4, 5*

*HCRA meeting, June 3*

*KB1FWN, KB1ISP, Kx1x at K2BSA/4 (National Boy Scout Jamboree) 7/25 – 8/2*

***Tickets are still available for our  
27" TV and DVD Player Raffle  
\$5 for a book of 6 tickets, ask any Crew Member  
Drawing at the HCRA meeting May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005***

On the Internet  
<http://www.hcra.org>  
Updated often to bring you timely Amate  
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 Meeting:  
Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005  
Harold Ort - N2RLL  
Editor of Popular  
Communications

## 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, Steve, N1SR, or Jim, KKIW, 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	
(right after SWAP net)		N1RLX Memorial Simplex Net	Starts on 146.94, then moves to a simplex frequency
Thursdays	21:00	Northern CT Weather Net	146.79(-) PL 82.5 (except 2 <sup>nd</sup> week, on 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	WMVET License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke
		Contact Dave, W1FAB, W1FAB@arrl.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!!!

## KD1XP Repeater Group News

53.350 (-) PL 71.9 Amherst, MA  
145.130 (-) PL 173.8 Amherst, MA  
442.200 (+) PL 162.2 Deerfield, MA (near Greenfield)  
443.450 (+) PL 173.8 Leyden, MA (near Greenfield)  
443.700 (+) PL 71.9 Belchertown, MA

*. The next ham radio testing session will be on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at Amherst Machine on Cows Road in Amherst, MA. ALL test elements given. Contact Richard, KD1XP at 665-2211 for details*

*Breakfast meetings every first Saturday of the month at Bickfords in Northampton. Talk in on the 145.130 repeater.*

[www.kd1xp.org](http://www.kd1xp.org)

**KD1XP**  
repeater group

## Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Assn. News

[www.mtara.org](http://www.mtara.org)

Info Net, Wednesdays at 7:30 PM local  
146.94 (-) or 147.000 (+) with Joe, NA1X, net control

Meetings on the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month, 7:30  
Red Cross Building, Cottage St., Spfld  
**Next Meeting, Friday April 15th**  
**At the Red Cross Building**



Mount  
Tom  
Amateur  
Repeater  
Association

## The New England QSO Party

Starting Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>  
@ 4:00 PM

May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> is the fourth running of NEQP. What's NEQP? You don't know? Well folks, it's a contest, but a fun one that doesn't require a lot of time commitment on your part. Started just four years ago NEQP is a combination of the individual New England states QSO parties. Since the contest doesn't start until 4:00 PM you will have plenty of time to rest from Friday night's meeting.



The four-o'clock starting time lets you attend Hosstraders in NH and not have to miss either the hamfest or the contest. It ends Sunday morning at 1:00AM, then begins again at 9:00 AM running until 8:00 PM Sunday evening (all times given are local, EDT time). The object is to work as many stations as possible but the real fun is putting your county on the air so others outside of New England can get all 67 of them!

HCRA sponsors a beautiful plaque for the ham that gets the highest score in Hampden County. Dave, KB1MU and Dave, WN1E (ex-AA1MM) won the awards in '02 and '03 and Jim, KK1W (hey - that's me!) won it in 2004.

Speaking of HCRA, Steve - N1SR and myself will be roving throughout New England using the club call, W1NY. We will be attempting to break our previous individual records of 24 and 23 counties activated (respectively) and would really appreciate any contacts you can give us. The route is not quite determined as of this writing. With rising fuel costs this will be an expensive weekend, especially if we don't make our goal of at least 25 counties! Listen for our PW mobile signal and help us out - OK?

There are other awards available, both from within and outside of New England. Visit, <http://www.neqp.org> to see them all. Don't forget how 'inactive' Hampshire County was last year. If you live (or know someone who does) in Hampshire county you could be on the receiving end of a pile-up!

## Top Ten Reasons to Operate the NEQP

10. For a lot of U.S. Hams, New England is halfway to Europe, and in the right direction, so you can try out your new European stacks and Beverages.
9. If you're a W1 operating from your home, it's just like a DX contest where you only have to push F1 all weekend and run guys. The multipliers will come to you.
8. Tell a mobile in Vermont or Rhode Island how loud he is and butter him up so you can get the mult in SS.
7. The W1 big guns going mobile will have a chance to see how it feels to be weak for a change. And if you're in Europe, you can hear what weak W1's sound like.
6. You can try to figure out why there are Windham counties in Connecticut and Vermont, but not New Hampshire, where Windham is just a town. You can ask every station you work in Rockingham County, NH, if the hams there are really rocking. (note—the aforementioned Windham, NH is in Rockingham County).
5. If your call is K3WW, it's yet another contest for you to enter! (K3WW operated 52 different contests in 2001)
4. Since the exchange is the first 3 letters of the county and the two-letter state abbreviation, this opens up all kinds of opportunities. See if you can find a YL named Norma in Norfolk County, MA. Work K1TTT in Berkshire County, MA and see if the ARRL will accept it for XZ credit. See if K1KI/m has to stop the car for a rest stop in Piscataquis County, ME. See if you can drive the ops at N1TN crazy by asking them "Where's Waldo?". Ask W1UF if he knows a limerick that starts with "There was a young miss from Nantucket...". Ask a mobile to drive from Washington County, VT to Washington County, ME to Washington County, RI so you can get your WAWC award. Be thankful there's no Eaton County in Maine.
3. It's going to rain next weekend, so you won't be able to do antenna work anyway.
2. Ask the ops at W1YK and K1EA how "Wissta County, Mass" gets abbreviated "WOR MA", and see how long it takes before they start saying they are in "Wor-sess-ter" county.

## And the Number One Reason to operate the NEQP...

1. You missed the 2005 Florida QSO party, and you've been looking forward to operating a QSO Party for the last year!

Courtesy of Doug Grant, K1DG

**WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS Section Manager's Monthly News**  
**William C. Voedisch, W1UD [Wlud@juno.com](mailto:Wlud@juno.com)**

ASM N1VRC, KD1SM (DIGITAL) STM: WBICHU, SEC: K1VSG, OOC: N1FI. For the past year, I have only been able to attend my local club meetings only a couple of times but last week I managed to make a meeting. We were discussing plans for Field Day, and before we were through I was a little perturbed. I thought, from the discussion, we were going to be operating in some contest. Field Day has never been a contest and for the life of me I don't know when it changed from an emergency exercise. It has always a means of demonstrating to the public and government that we could go into the field and set up and maintain an amateur radio station. This week I pondered how this problem could be fixed. FD operation has got to the point that you only have to type the call sign into a computer and the computer sends the report. Usually at a speed far above what the operator can copy but let's face it, you only have to copy a combination of six letters and numbers to be successful.

**(HCRA Member) N1FJ's Reply to the WMA SM's Monthly News**

Bill, W1UD:

I'm writing to you in response to your Western Massachusetts Section News that I just received.

I hear what you're saying about Field Day, but I don't think the contest aspect of it is such a problem. I don't think it's a problem to be "fixed".

There's a picture of me (at the Field Day operating position of the Crete (Nebraska) Amateur Radio Club) in the Field Day article in December 1952 QST. Since then, for me, Field Day has always represented what is best and most fun about ham radio. It's not just a demonstration of emergency preparedness. Without the competition aspect of it I don't think it would be so successful -- or as much fun.

Setting up: camping, cooking, erecting towers, stringing antennas, solar panels, generators. Sharing expertise, camaraderie, elmering, demonstrating. Being able to use equipment you hadn't seen or used before. (I love that spudchucker!) Getting inexperienced operators experience under fire. Developing operating skill. Getting back on cw. Using different transceivers.

I've done one person Field Days. I've done two person Field Days. I've done Field Day from Block Island, a hill in Heath, and from atop Alander Mountain and Goat Peak. I've operated QRP and QRPP and 100 watts. The problem with small operations such as these is that I'm usually too tired from backpacking in and setting up to stay awake and operate! I think club operations can be the most fun and rewarding, since the work can be shared.

Computers can be useful -- as far as sending reports they aren't much different from a memory keyer. Preventing dupes and logging, I think, could be considered a real plus. But they're just an aid, not something that gives one operator a real edge over another.

Over the years, the ARRL has modified the rules greatly. They've added bonus points that help demonstrate traffic handling, solar power, publicity, novice operation, etc. I suppose they could add bonus points for non-computer operation. (But I don't miss those gigantic dupe sheets!)

The competitive aspect of Field day is an important part of the fun. Bragging rights: the pride that comes from coming in with a good score, at or near the top of your class. Say it's not a contest. Call it a friendly competition. Field Day would be the poorer for not having the sense of urgency that competition engenders -- in a real emergency a sense of urgency would replace the desire for a big score. But without the adrenalin rush of competition Field Day would become just an outing.

73 de N1FJ  
Frandy Johnson  
[nlfj@arrl.net](mailto:nlfj@arrl.net)

# HCRA Board of Directors Meeting

## April 6, 2005

Held at "The Pizza Shoppe Family Restaurant", 134 Shaker Road, East Longmeadow

Meeting called to order at 7:10PM by Jim, KK1W (President)

Members present: Jim, KK1W; Marty, W1MJB; Greg, N1AEH; Larry, WB1DBY; Peter, K1II; Jim, KB1JVF & Steve, N1SR

Members absent: John, N1JIO; John, Kx1x; Venture Crew

### **Vice President W1MJB:**

Marty indicated he is perusing new member leads...

### **Treasurer N1AEH:**

Present balance in the treasure is \$3858 including \$120 received at this meeting.

### **Secretary N1SR:**

Minutes for March BoD meeting were published in April ZeroBeat.

### **Program WB1DBY:**

April meeting was Joe, K1JN from the CTRI Contest Group. 60 attendees enjoyed the speaker who was well received.

Upcoming meeting speakers:

- May - Harold Ort - N2RLL Editor of Popular Communications

Board authorized renting the "double meeting space" for this meeting.

Larry has completely filled all 2004/2005 speaking engagements

### **Membership K1II:**

Technician course continues, There are 8 students. Two students have passed the Tech class exam (Mark Cote - KB1MCH & Marius Zielinski - KB1MDS).and one has also passed the General written... Exam is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Peter has 4 "Now Your Talking" books remaining and 3 General Q&A books.

A 4 week cw class will follow at the end of the Technician class.

### **ZeroBeat Kx1x:**

John is consistent with his decision to resign as ZeroBeat Editor. Ann Mullen, N1RJJ has volunteered for the position starting in June. Ann's offer was gratefully accepted

### **Technical N1JIO: - Absent.**

There will not be a Tech Corner at neither the May meeting nor the June meeting due to the Tailgate Party.

### **At Large KB1JVF:**

Progress continues on Special Event station at the Barnes Airshow scheduled for 27 Aug. The airshow will assign a communications coordinator to coordinate ham Activity.

### **Venture Crew: Absent**

Raffle Sales at MTARA Flea went well. TV/VCR Raffle will be held at May HCRA Meeting.

### **Old Business:**

1. Field Day plans progress.

### **New Business:**

1. John Lenville, KB1LTC demonstrated a code practice oscillator which he constructed and offered to "kit" them so that they could be provided in conjunction with the upcoming code class following the Technician class. John's offer was accepted and the club will sell the kits for \$10.

2. The WB1Z club callsign application has hit a temporary snag but should be on track soon.

All were satisfied with the new Board meeting location and reservations were made to hold the May Board meeting at the same location.

The HCRA thanks Larry and Faye for their previous continuing hosting of the Board meetings.

Respectfully submitted

Steve Rodowicz, N1SR



## June Hurricane Drill - 7-JUNE-2005

All Regions Expect a Long night on June 7 for Statewide RACES/ARES drill - Expect Each Region to be on the air, and nets running on ALL published frequencies for the duration.

Dennis Zonia, K1VSG, SEC WMA



### SKYWARN NEWS

I'd like to thank all those who attended the SKYWARN classes in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. I look forward to working with all of you during the 2005 weather season.

**Here are the criteria that we will be looking for this summer when a SKYWARN net is activated.**

#### A GUIDE FOR REPORTING SEVERE WEATHER

- Tornadoes / funnel clouds (be wary of look a likes)
- Wall clouds, especially if they are rotating
- Any hail (be specific to size) (*DO NOT USE "MARBLE SIZE" TO DESCRIBE SIZE*)
- Winds (40 mph or greater, estimated or recorded)
- Damaging gusts (50mph or greater)
- Trees and power lines down. Large limbs down
- Structural damage to buildings, windows broken
- Rainfall:
  - 1 inch or greater in 1 hour
  - 2 inches or greater storm total
- Flash flooding:
  - Streams / rivers -also when nearing bank full
  - Coastal/ Street

#### PROCEDURES for calling into local net

- Identify yourself with your call and name
  - Be BRIEF in your observation, Include:
    - WHAT was observed
    - WHEN it was observed
    - WHERE it was observed
  - Include direction & distance from a known location
- Some things to remember during a net:

When calling from your town. Please specify if in MA or CT  
**DO NOT** relay reports that you here on repeaters in other coverage areas

**DO NOT** relay information from the WEATHER CHANNEL  
**DO NOT** relay information you hear on a scanner

#### WE WANT YOUR OBSERVATIONS!

After the storm has passed your location. **DO NOT** tell net control the storm has passed. Please stay off the air so that reports east of you can be taken. We don't need a summary of what has already happened. Please remember your safety during severe weather!

Thank you,

Eric Tuller, N1QKO

ASST. SKYWARN COORDINATOR for W.MA.

### Local Hams Help w/ SSS

On behalf of the Scantic Spring Splash Race Committee I want to Thank each and everyone of you for your time and services given to the event.

You are our lifeline along the river and your efforts and services are truly an integral part of the success of the event. Thank You!

On a personal note - the way you come in and take charge of the task makes my day so much easier. I truly appreciate it and hope I can call on you next Spring too. Until then, I encourage you to debrief/critique the communication systems on our website at [www.scanticspringsplash.com/bbs](http://www.scanticspringsplash.com/bbs)

Thank You, Knut, N1QKP Scantic Spring Splash Race Comm

Thanks to all the amateur volunteers for helping make this event a success again. Your professional participation is greatly appreciated by all. Please consider participating next year. Thanks again to all for also making my day a lot easier.

Also a special thanks to the MTARA for the use of two repeaters for over 5 hours, Bob (K1YO), our repeater trustee, and Eric (N1QKO) for helping us with the repeaters.

Special thanks to Knut (N1QKP) for setting up the monitoring position chart this year. I hope you all had a great time helping in this event.

The following 20 amateurs participated this year:

**N1SPJ, W1BMK, N1MUV, KB1MU, N1TPC, KB1CWO, KC1V, KB1JVF, WB1DBY (+ Jake), K1DNX, KB1KKY, K1VOI, KA1TDL, KB1LFD, N1AYS, N1NPC, K1NBS, KB1XG, N1QKO, KB1CPZ**

Thanks again to all....

Dennis Rembiesa

N1SPJ

**The Hampden County Radio Association's next meeting FRIDAY, APRIL 1st**

Doors open at 7 p.m., Meeting begins at 7:30

**Feeding Hills Congregational Church, Feeding Hills, MA**

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.**



**Ham Volunteers at the Scantic Spring Splash 2005**

**HCRA**

P.O. Box 562

Agawam, Massachusetts

01001

**PLEASE HAND CANCEL**

*Hampden County Radio Assoc.*

**Harold Ort - N2RLL**

Editor of

Popular Communications

Magazine

**Friday,  
May 6<sup>th</sup>,  
2005**

Doors open at  
7:PM

