



ZERO BEAT

A PUBLICATION OF THE
HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION
[HTTP://WWW.HCRA.ORG](http://www.hcra.org)

MAY 2007

Next Meeting May 4th @ 7:30pm

*Join Charlotte, KQ1F and Paul, K1XM
for a great production of underwater photography
combined with DXpeditions*

Field Day 2007 updates:

June 24, & 25th
at Dufresne Park in Granby, MA.

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Hi Boys and Girls!

Field Day is coming fast! The Food team has met and the proposed menu is:

Saturday Breakfast, Donuts, and that sort of stuff, Coffee. All probable for the hard workers who have to eat at the job site..

Lunch: Hot Dogs & Hamburgers, chips, fixens..

Supper: Deep Fried Turkey, Stuffing, veggies, and dessert. It's cooked in Peanut Oil so if you have an allergy to Nuts let me or someone know..

Sunday Breakfast: French Toast, Eggs & bacon or sausage.

Lunch: Grinders.

The weekend 5 meal package has a proposed cost of \$25.00 with a FREE HCRA coffee mug. We are still working on the price of individual meals and will have that by this time next month. Another proposal is that pre-high school children that camp for the weekend eat free. There will be more coming next month

The rules for the GOTA station has changed and the Band Captain is no more. The rules state that a Coach is to be in charge of GOTA but may not transmit on the station. So here is a chance for all you Hams that don't like

to get on the air to help out on Field Day!

The more things change they stay the same. So a lot of what was last year will be This Field Day. A few changes have happened, but to see them you'll have to go to www.hcra.org, and click on the Field Day link, then read.. and click on the link that brings you to the chart, and maybe you'll like to fill in one of the blanks! Tune in again next month for more information..

*Jim Harrington Chairman
2007 HCRA Field Day.*

*Remember Field Day only
works with people working
together.*

Meeting Location:

Meetings are held at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, 21 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

The church is located across from a Pride gas station.

Parking is in back of the church. Access is HP accessible.

Talk-in is available on the 146.94 repeater.



**May 5-6, 2007:
The 6th New England
QSO Party!**



Will W1NY be QRV for NEQP?

This will be the sixth year of this interesting and fun contest. Started in 2002 as a way to bring together individual state QSO parties under one roof it has been growing ever since. For those of us that competed in past events this is all 'old hat', but with the new batch of hams coming on board this year I thought I would review the contest and point out some reasons why you will want to play!

The purpose of NEQP is to put all 67 New England counties on the air for others to work. If you are operating from New England you have become the DX and stations will be calling you. Isn't that a nice change? There are prizes, plaques and certificates available for good performance including a nice lobster dinner for the highest scoring single operator station outside of New England. You can count on Paul, N4PN to be out there looking for his 6th dinner this year.

In addition to the lobster dinner a number of clubs, including HCRA, sponsor a beautiful plaque. The one sponsored by HCRA is for the highest scoring station in Hampden County. Do you think you could win it this year? In years past it has taken less than 100 contacts so who know, this years winner could be you!

The contest is on the HF bands only and includes both phone and CW. Unlike other contests the hours are reasonable and it isn't necessary to dedicate your entire weekend (unless of course you want to) and still have fun. There are a lot of ways to enter, even if you don't have an HF station. A number of HCRA members have always been willing to open their station up for others to help operate. It's a good way to spend some time with an experienced ham and learn about radio, propagation and contesting. Don't have the correct class license? That's OK too, while visiting the station you can use the privileges of the station operator (called a control operator) and get your feet wet operating as well.

Our club has two club calls available for individuals or groups to use during a contest. This year Dave, AA1YW and myself will be QRV (on the air) during NEQP from Dave's vacation home in Vermont. The W1NY call is still available for use. Would you like to put together an operation for this year's NEQP? Interested? Give me a call or drop me an email and I will help you with the planning and operation for your first 'club station event'. It really isn't hard and can be great fun. Last year K11A and KB1JVI operated portable from the Quabbin reservoir. There is only one call available so if you would like to put your club station on the air this year the time to do it is now!

Want to try something completely different? Then go mobile and have even more fun! You can try to hit all 67 counties during the weekend but I think that may be difficult! N1SR and myself managed to make contacts from 39 New England counties, a record that still stands! Think you can top that? There's only one way to find out. Go for it!

All this and more from a simple contest, way cool don't you think. Learn more about NEQP by pointing your browser to: <http://www.neqp.org>. The site is chock full of info, scores, rules and records of past contests. Maybe you will end up taking home the HCRA plaque this year.

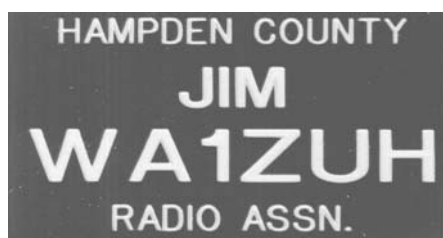
Look for WB1Z and give us a call, we would love to make the contact!

'73... Jim, KK1W

SKYWARN Class

- 6 flags amusement park
- May 7, 2007 from 6:30 til 9:30 pm
- Free to the public
- www.wx1box.org and look for SKYWARN training 2007

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, WA1ZUH: jmullen@rockys.com or (413) 245-3228

Hadley Road Race! (Communications Event)

The annual Hadley Memorial Day Road Race will be SUNDAY, May 20th in Hadley, MA. We will need to provide communications throughout this event. This is a short race that will go from 10 am till about 12 PM. We will need to meet at 9:30 AM. The location to meet will be:

Hadley Grammar School
River Drive (about 1 mile from the center of town)
Hadley, MA

Refreshments and t-shirts will be available.

Talk in and communications will be on 145.130

Contact Richard KD1XP at kd1xp@kd1xp.org for details

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions
Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

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2007/2008 Election

It is with great pride we present the following slate of proposed officers for the 2007/2008 Elections. Approval of this slate will be at the June 1st club meeting.

There is still time to toss your hat in the ring. Almost all positions are filled but there are a few board members that could be 'convinced' to step aside and let some new face have a hand in guiding our club. If you feel you have something to contribute to HCRA please contact the board before June 1st.

As you can see we are looking to fill the 'At Large' position. This is a great slot to start with in your club. It is a position that allows you to do most anything you want but without the pressure of having an 'actual job' to do on a monthly basis. Who's going to be first to volunteer?

Now on to the slate:

2006/2007 Slate of Proposed Officers & Directors	
<u>Officers</u>	
President	Jim Harrington, KB1JVF
Vice President	Dave Cain, AA1YW
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
Secretary	George Collins, KC1V
<u>Directors</u>	
Editor	Larry Krainson, WB1DBY
Technical	John Stark, N1JIO
Membership	Eric Richardson, KB1JVI
At Large	<i>open</i>
Program	Jim Mullen, KK1W

Thanks to all of the above that have volunteered their time for the betterment of HCRA and its members. Without hams like you our club would not be as strong, active or fun as it is today.

Zero Beat Contributions: The June issue will be the last issue until September. If you have any articles, pictures or comments, please send them to wb1dbv@comcast.net by the end of day on May 20th for inclusion in the June issue. I am always looking for pictures of ham shack and descriptions, activities and more. Anything of interest is welcome. Please submit your ideas, articles and more. Thank you, Larry, WB1DBY, Zero Beat Editor

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 Jim, KK1W at jmullen@rockys.com or (413) 245-3228

April Meeting Photos

By Mark—W1MRB

"Official Zero Beat Meeting Photographer"



Meeting
Attendance
Has
Been
Averaging
More
Than
65
People
At
EVERY
meeting!



What Makes A
Great Ham Club
Meeting?

Interesting
Meetings

Great Guest
Speakers

Camaraderie

Donuts & Coffee

See Your Friends

Fun

Are you in
these pictures?
Why Not?

HCRA Field Day 1981



WA1CQF, Gent



W1TM, Bill



Plaque At Base
Of Flagpole

See Page 8 of ZB
for more info

Field Day, 1981
Middlefield Fair Grounds

Dr. DX

By Mike DeChristopher, K1KAA

The volume was all the way up. The preamps were on. The narrowest filter in the arsenal was running. My left hand was pushing the headphones into the side of my head, as if that would help me hear him better. My right hand was poised on the key, ready to send. Finally, came that "QRZ?" I pounced, cranking out my never-ending suffix in a *lightning-quick* eight words-per-minute.

He didn't hear me. The bands were terrible, and a massive static crash had fallen right down on the frequency. We were working split, and the usual "late arrivals" were calling him on his much beleaguered transmit frequency. I waited to hear the "QRZ?" again, and when I did, out came my callsign, maybe at a blistering nine words-per-minute this time.

He didn't hear me. I started the waiting game again. The funny part was, I still wasn't sure of his callsign. The pileup was absolutely massive, though. Everyone else was in an equal state of unawareness, sending "?" and "UR CALL?" over and over, hoping he would send his call. He had not yet, so I continued calling, if only to keep my place in "line", if he had assembled one.

Finally, after almost two hours of calling, shouting, and praying, he sent back that never-ending suffix, "KAA?"

I tapped out "K1KAA 5NN MA K".

He responded with a phrase I will never forget. "KAA work b4 QRZ?"

DX for the upcoming month should be very interesting. We'll see activation from a few entities that we haven't seen in a while. Hopefully, their operators will feel the need to send their callsign:

3D2RI will be in FIJI from May 3-7. QSL via UR3HR, or direct to PO Box 55, Poltava, 36000 Ukraine.

9H3RZ and 9H3EZ will light up the WARC bands from Malta, May 4-18. The focus will be on CW with some RTTY. QSL via DL3KWR or DL3KWF.

9N7AU, 9N7IC, and 9N7TE will play 40-10m using SSB, CW, RTTY, and PSK31 from Nepal. This is by JA2AAU, JA2AIC, and JA2ATE; QSL via the home call(s). Look for them May 10-15.

Mexico will be seen as 4A3IH from Roqueta Island (NA-183). Look for them on HF as well as 6 meters; CW, SSB, digital, and satellite. QSL via the buro or direct. This operation goes from May 14-19, and 21-26.

Guernsey will be active as GP8LED/P from May 26-June 1. No QSL information was reported, but I suspect the home calls, MODEL or 2E0TSW, will be good direct.

Don't forget about the WPX CW contest, May 26-27. You can find times and rules on cqwpw.com. Just about everyone is a multiplier, so even us K1 guys will be needed (for the first couple hours, anyway). See if you can beat the Hampden County multioperator record set by KB1ISP(@KB1FWN) - a whopping 3 QSO's.

Good luck this month! Lots of good DX, bands can't get any worse, and there's even a nice little contest mixed in there.

73' es Gud DX de

Mike, K1KAA

Thanks to Dave, KB1MU for the info below!

B/D MEETING

The May B/D was held near the "Elk Crossing" at the home of Tom Barrett W1KU E. Most of the discussion centered on the up and coming Banquet and Field Day. In addition there was considerable discussion on an appropriate gift for the town of Middleton for the use of the fair grounds for field day. It was decided that a Flag Pole would be constructed to compliment the Flag the club had presented the town. Bernie Goyer will be handling the details. There was discussion on last months auction with many members feeling that there is need for additional restrictions on the quality & quantity of items auctioned. More will be heard on this subject before next year's meetings. The treasury appears solvent and approximately \$90. will be carried forth to next year.

Venture Crew 510 (DX) visits W1AW on April 20th during school vacation



HCRA Board Meeting – April, 2007

Held at corporate boardroom of Rocky's ACE Hardware, Springfield, MA

Members present: Dave, AA1YW, Greg N1AEH, George KC1V, Jim KB1JVF, Jim KK1W, Eric KB1JVI and John N1JIO. President John, K11A is still recuperating and unable to attend this month. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM and began with the treasurer's report.

Treasure Greg, N1AEH: Current balance is \$4055 and there are no outstanding credits or debits. The Church still has not cashed the December 2006 rent check. The monthly deposit was \$283 and included \$28 in donations, \$20 from coffee mug sales and \$180 from the raffle. There were five new paid members. A letter was received from NCDXF request a donation. No action was taken on the request.

Vice President Dave, AA1YW: Received an invoice from Co-op Printing, which was turned over to N1AEH. Still working on raffle prizes for upcoming meetings and had nothing else to report.

Secretary George, KC1V: Current regular paid membership is now 118. There was no club correspondence during the past month.

Technical John, N1JIO: The General class is going very well, with 16 students. Instructors are lined up for all the remaining classes.

Program Jim, KK1W: Turn out at last meeting was very good with between 70 and 75 in attendance. Next month's meeting should have a large attendance.

Director at Large Jim KB1JVF: Nothing to report this month.

Zero Beat Larry, WB1DBY: Larry was unable to attend this month.

Membership Eric KB1JVI: Had applications from two non-licensed prospective members.

Old Business:

Field Day – Field Day Chairman Jim, KB1JVF reports that: Interest remains high and arrangements for food preparation and meal tickets are well underway. Club will be purchasing ARRL Field Day T-shirts and Pins. A "weekend" meal charge of \$25 was suggested, but will be considered again when the exact costs are known. The weekend meal ticket will include a free HCRA Coffee Mug. Coffee mugs will also be available for purchase during the Field Day period.

New Business:

Tailgate Party - KC1V will stand-in for Dave, KB1MU who will not be able to attend. Dave will still handle all the preparations up to the evening of the party. KK1W will help with the popcorn and soda.

Election of Officers - KK1W will prepare a list of prospective officers to be included in the April Zero Beat.

Board of Directors Meeting: The next board meeting will be held on May 10 at Rocky's.

Respectfully submitted,
George Collins, KC1V, Secretary.

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

For a list of IRLP nodes and other IRLP information, go to:
<http://www.irlp.net/>

HCRA 10m Net

Join NCS, Tom Doyle (n1muv),
each Monday night at 7:30 PM (local) on

28.375 MHz

Get the latest local word, join good friends,
take part in good conversation each week!!!
Anyone can join in, don't be shy!!!

New England QSO Party Rules

Object: To contact as many New England stations in as many New England counties as possible on 80-40-20-15-10m. (New England stations work anyone)

Date: First full weekend of May (May 5-6, 2007 and May 3-4, 2008).

Contest Period: 2000Z Saturday until 0500Z Sunday (4pm EDT Saturday until 1am EDT Sunday) and 1300Z Sunday until 2400Z Sunday (9am EDT Sunday until 8pm EDT Sunday).

Categories: Single operator high power, low power and QRP categories, plus multi operator, single transmitter. Use the same four categories for mobiles. Single operator stations using assistance during the contest (packet or Internet spotting nets, etc.) will compete in the multi single category.

Contest Exchange: Send signal report and state/province (DX stations send signal report and "DX"). New England stations send signal report, county and state.

Valid Contact: Work New England stations once per band/mode. New England stations work anyone (and must copy the county for New England stations worked). CW contacts must not be made in the phone band segments. Mobiles can be worked again in new counties. County line QSOs should be logged as two separate QSOs. Crossmode, crossband and repeater QSOs are not permitted.

QSO Points: Count one point per phone QSO, two points per CW (includes digital modes) QSO.

Multiplier: Stations outside of New England use counties as multipliers for a total of 67 CT/8 MA/14 ME/16 NH/10 RI/5 VT/14). New England stations use states(50), Canadian provinces(14) and DXCC countries as multipliers.

Scoring: Total score is QSO points times the multiplier. Mobiles count QSO points per county and multipliers from all counties (counted once).

Suggested frequencies: CW - 3540 7035 14040 21040 28040, SSB - 3850 7280 14280 21380 28380

Reporting: Logs should indicate times in UTC, bands, modes, calls and complete exchange. Multipliers should be clearly marked in the log. New England stations put your club's name on the summary sheet. Entries must be submitted within 30 days and sent to NEQP, P O Box 3005, Framingham MA 01705-3005 or via e-mail to logs@neqp.org (Cabrillo format preferred). Send a large SASE for a printed copy of the results.

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to the top scorers (25 QSO minimum) in each New England county, U S state, Canadian province and DXCC country. There are thirty twenty plaques available to be awarded to top scorers, and some special awards are available to non-New England stations (check the web site for the current list).

More information: The New England QSO Party web site is at <http://www.neqp.org>. Check there for information on planned fixed station and mobile activity from New England counties, contest software information, county abbreviations, plaques to be awarded, and information on New England state county awards. NEQP results will be posted on the web site when they are complete. Questions can be addressed to info@neqp.org.

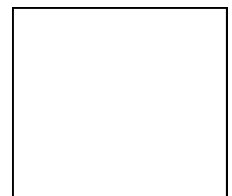
New England stations: We hope you will be able to get on for at least a short period of time to make some QSOs! Join in the fun!



CQ WW WPX at K1TTT's in Peru, MA with Venture Crew 510 (DX). March 23-25, 2007



*Hampden County Radio Association
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts 01001*



PLEASE HAND CANCEL