

MAY 2009

Hampden
County
Radio
Association



ZERO BEAT

<http://www.hcra.org>

**Next Meeting:
Friday May 1st at 7:30pm**

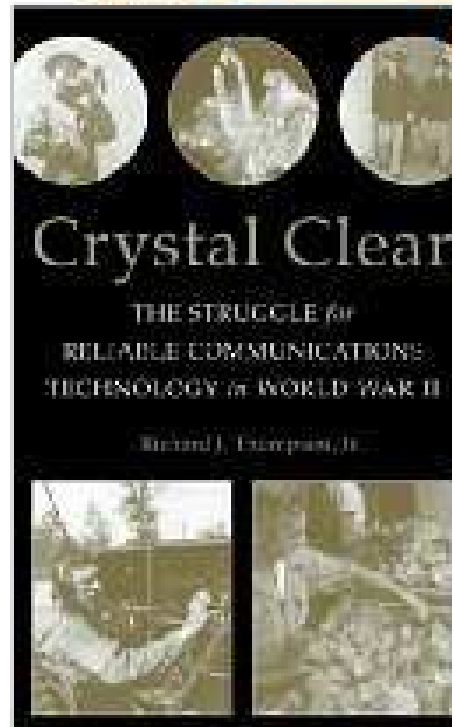
**Guest Speaker:
Richard J. Thompson, Jr.**

Richard is the Dean at the School of Mathematics and Sciences at The College of St. Rose in Albany, NY.

Richard gave a fascinating talk at Boxboro this past August on his book: *Crystal Clear: The Struggle for Reliable Communications Technology in World War II*.

He will be speaking to us on the same subject. There will be signed books to purchase and you may be the lucky winner of a autographed copy.

This is the most exciting meetings of the year and is not to be missed!



From the Shack...



Tonight's meeting will feature author and educator Richard Thompson, Jr.

Here's a brief synopsis of his latest book about the difficulties of communications during World War II.

In Crystal Clear, Richard Thompson relates the story of the quartz crystal in World War II, from its early days as a curiosity for amateur radio enthusiasts, to its use by the United States Armed Forces. It follows the intrepid group of scientists and engineers from the Office of the Chief Signal Officer of the U.S. Army as they raced to create an effective quartz crystal unit. They had to find a reliable supply of radio-quality quartz; devise methods to reach, mine, and transport the quartz; find a way to manufacture quartz crystal oscillators rapidly; and then solve the puzzling "aging problem" that plagued the early units. Ultimately, the development of quartz oscillators became the second largest scientific undertaking in World War II after the Manhattan Project. Bringing to light a little-known aspect of World War II, Crystal Clear offers a glimpse inside one of the most significant efforts in the annals of engineering."

Mr. Thompson will be traveling from the Albany area to relate first hand his studies of the subject. Crystal control is a subject that is near and dear to the heart of amateur radio. I'm certain you will want to attend one as this promises to be one of our most interesting meetings this year.

KB1NWH + W1NY = Award!

Congratulations to Ed, KB1NWH for winning the coveted NEQP Plaque for 'High Score Hampden County' in the 2008 New England QSO Party. Ed's score of 11,094 points easily made him the single operator leader in this popular May contest. The 2009 NEQP is May 2nd and 3rd this year. This is a contest that we can all enter as a club. Last year many of our members were on the air, having fun, making points and helping our club achieve third place in this popular contest. More information about NEQP can be found elsewhere in this month's issue of Zero Beat or at <http://www.neqp.org>. **Get on the air and help propel HCRA to the top!**

Field Day - The HCRA Way

Are you ready for more fun than you can handle? Twenty four hours of radio excitement awaits all Field Day participants once again this year. We will be back at beautiful Dufresne Park in Granby, MA with just a little twist. Instead of starting setup Friday afternoon at 2:00 PM we will be starting setup Saturday morning instead. This will save us 33% on our park rental fees. John will be looking for as many early morning volunteers as he can get. If you like to do antenna work, shoot spud guns and have a good time with your friends then 'come on down!'. FD info will be up soon on our web site, check it early and often and make sure your name is on the list!

June is Election Month

HCRA will be putting forth a new slate of officers and directors for you to approve in June. The proposed list of candidates is in this issue of Zero Beat. Most of the names are familiar, perhaps too familiar? Change is good and we are looking for more new blood to keep our club strong and vibrant as we start up the slope of solar cycle 24. Many of our board members would be happy to step aside and make room for a new face. If you've thought about things you think HCRA could be doing you know what, you're a perfect candidate for our board of directors. It is a fun and rewarding job that really doesn't take a lot of your time. So what do you think? Are you ready to make a difference? If so please contact any board member to get your name on next year's ballot.

Other May items of Interest:

Did you miss last month's visit to Channel 22? Go to: <http://photobucket.com/HCRA> for a re-do. May 1st and 2nd, NEARfest, New England's largest hamfest: More at: <http://www.near-fest.com>.

*'73 and see you at the meeting - bring a friend!
Jim, KK1W*



New England QSO Party

May 2-3 2009



W1NY and WB1Z QRV for NEQP?

This will be the eighth 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 hams constantly coming on board it would review the contest and point out good 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. (sorry, you will have to travel outside of New England to qualify for that prize!) You can count on Paul, N4PN to be out there looking for his another 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 knows, this years winner could be you! A lot of HCRA members participated in the 2008 event, take your browser for a spin over to: <http://www.neqp.org> and look at the 2008 results. Hams having fun with ham radio—isn't that what its all about?

The contest is on the HF bands only and includes both phone and CW. Unlike some contests the hours of NEQP 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 Ed, KB1NWH will be operating W1NY. Ed's station is in Agawam, MA and he has indicated it is fine for others to come over and give NEQP a test drive! Of course you should contact Ed prior to so he can plan properly. Last year Ed's efforts earned him a nice certificate for 1st place, Hampden County in the single operator low power category. Also this year, like last year, I'll be QRV (on the air) during NEQP from my shack here in Brimfield, MA, using the club call WB1Z. Last year Eric and I operated from here and had a fun Saturday afternoon/evening. Unfortunately I'll be operating solo this year as I haven't moved the shack out of my mother's living room yet!

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' only one way to find out. Go for it!

All this and more from a simple contest, way cool don't you think? Maybe you will end up taking home the HCRA plaque this year.

Look for our club calls (W1NY and WB1Z) and give us a call, we would love to make the contact!

'73... Jim, KK1W

Upcoming New England Flea Markets

1,2 May Deerfield NH NearFest @FG \$10Fri@9 \$5Sat@6 Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235 F
2 May Moncton NB TCARC @MapletonLodge @9 Bruce VE9YM W+
9 May Lindenhurst NY GSBARC @FiremanPk \$6@8:30 \$25/T John W2HCB 631 669 6321 W
9 May Rensselaer NY EGARA @FireCo \$6@8 \$6/T@6 Thomas KC2FCP 518 272 1498 W+
9 May Halifax NS H+DARC @ForumAnnex \$4@9 Dave VE1NN 902 462 3945 W+
17 May Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Nick 617 253 3776 F
23 May Vernon CT NARC @TolandAg \$5@8 \$20/T Wayne N1GUS 860 487 1921 F+
30 May Rochester NY RARA New Location Sat Only Len KC2PCD 585 671 2424 W+
30 May Goshen CT SoBerksARC @Fairground Rte 63 \$3@8 Lee K1LEE 860 435 0051 +
30 May Quispamsis NB LCARC @MidSch \$4@9:30 Sell@8:30 Phil VE1PGC W+
6 June Hermon ME PSARC @HS Rodger KA1TKS 207 848 3846 A+
7 June Queens NY HoSARC \$5@9 \$10/Sp Stephen WB2KDG 718 898 5599 W+
13 June Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Tailgate John 860 673 0518 W
14 June Bethpage NY LIMARC @Briarcliff Richard K2KNB 516 694 4937 A+
20 June Newington CT NARL @StMarySch @8 Mary K1MMH 860 594 0397 W+

**Zero Beat Contributions: Anything of interest is welcome. This is YOUR Newsletter.
It's not interesting without YOUR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS.
Please submit your ideas, articles and more to wb1dby@comcast.net. Thank you,
Larry, WB1DBY, Zero Beat Editor**

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, South 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!!!

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
kk1w@arrl.net or (413) 245-3228.

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions
Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

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Open—your name here!

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2009/2010 Election

It is with great pride we present the following slate of proposed officers for the 2009/2010 Elections. Approval of this slate will be at the June 5th club meeting.

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

Now on to the slate:

2009/2010 Slate of Proposed Officers & Directors	
<u>Officers</u>	
President	Jim Mullen, KK1W
Vice President	John Pise, Kx1x
Treasurer	George Collins, KC1V
Secretary	Mike Lavery, KB1PKJ
<u>Directors</u>	
Editor	Larry Krainson, WB1DBY
Technical	Jim Whitehouse, K1JAW
Membership	Ed LaCombe, KB1NWH
At Large	Irv Slitzky, W6IS
Program	Dave Cain, AA1YW

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.

Upcoming Meetings

May: Richard Thompson—Crystal Clear

June: Tailgate Party & Elections

September: Kevin Romer, KC2MLC—The Hurst Jaws of Life

October: not yet scheduled

November: Auction

December: Holiday Party

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.

**Next Meeting:
Friday Night**

May 1st

7:30 PM



The Hampden County Radio Association
P.O Box 562
Agawam, MA 01001



PLEASE HAND CANCEL