ZERO BEAT

Special points of interest:

- Next Meeting Friday, June 3rd Hanz W1JSB from RadioSetGo and his Innovative QRP Radio Designs
- Visit the HCRA facebook page.
- Don't forget to check out hcra.org
- Visit Summits on the Air
- Visit POTA413 facebook page

Don't forget

Field Day 2016

June 24, 25, & 26, 2016
School Street Park
Agawam , Ma
HELP WANTED!
Stay tuned for more info.

May's Meeting

Join us Friday May 6th at 7:30, in the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center .

Jon Perelstein WB2RYV

Will go over the finer points of
"How to report weather"

And

"How to read that weather app on your smart phone".

For directions to The Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center:

http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/

HELP WANTED!

The HCRA is in need of people to fill very important positions on both the Board of Directors, and Field Day 2016.

If you would like to help keep the Hampden County Radio Association one of the top Amateur Radio Clubs in America, your help is needed.

Just about all positions are available on both the Board of Directors, and especially Field Day. If the HCRA is going to keep it's dominant position in Field Day results we need your help.

If you would like to fill one of these positions contact:

Jeffery Bail

(413) 887-7854

nt1k@nt1k.com

New England QSO Party 2016

Jeffery Bail NT1K

On the weekend of May 7-8 is the New England QSO Party (NEQP). It's an excellent on air event for those who are interested in contesting. Since most of HCRA's members are based out of New England it's great for us because we are the "wanted" station in this contest. We are the ones that people want to contact. This contest is also a great way to sharpen your operating skills and could help you with ARRL awards such as Worked All States and Triple Play.

The best thing about NEQP is that you do not have to stay on the air for the entire event. On Saturday it starts at 2000z until 0500z (4pm – 1am) and then resumes on Sunday at 1300z until 2400z (9am – 8pm). This allows you to get errands done, some sleep and even eat a hearty breakfast.

There are many awards available to operators in New England. It's possible to win your county, state and even New England awards. Some of these awards come in the form of a nice wooden plaque. Did you know HCRA sponsors a plaque for the single operator who comes in first place in Hampden County?

There are also 3 other QSO parties happening in Delaware, Indiana, 7th area. There is also the ARI International DX contest going on the same weekend. It's possible to win in multiple contests from just one weekend of operating.

How to participate

Participating in a contest like NEQP is somewhat easy. Like any other contest, you will want to read and understand all the rules and guidelines before getting on the air. Please visit http://neqp.org/rules.html for the rules. If you plan on participating in the other contests, it would be suggested to visit their websites as well since they will have different rules.

In contesting you will need to exchange a piece of information that will be used in log checking by the sponsor. For those within New England, your exchange will be RS/RST and an abbreviated county and state. For Hampden County residents, your exchange will be "HMDMA". The other operator will exchange either their county/state, state or DX.

It's suggested to print a list of the abbreviations of the other counties in New England for this contest. You can obtain the list from the NEQP website http://neqp.org/counties.html . It will help when it comes to logging.

Here is an example of a typical NEQP contact

You: CQ Contest This Is Whisky One November Yankee.
Them: Whisky Bravo One Zulu
You: Whisky Bravo One Zulu please copy 59 Hotel Mike Delta Mike Alpha QSL?
Them: Roger, please copy 59 Hotel Mike Papa Mike Alpha QSL?
You: Roger, thank for the contact. QRZ this is Whisky One November Yankee
Repeat

Each voice contact is worth one point and each CW/Digi contact is worth two. For stations within New England, you can multiply your score with each state, Canadian province and DXCC country contact. So if you made 100 SSB contacts with 40 different states, your score would be 4000 points

Since there are other QSO parties going on at the same time, you might get different exchanges from operators in Delaware, Indiana and those within the 7th call area (N7, K7, W7).

Logging

It would be suggested to use electronic logging using software dedicated to contesting. The most popular choices are N1MM Logger+ and N3FJP. N3FJP has a simple to use interface for those starting out but N1MM+ is considered to be more popular and is free however for some, could be a bit difficult to get running.

See the article on pages 4 & 5 on how to set up N1MM for the New England QSO Party.

New England QSO Party (Cont.)

After The Contest / Log Submission

In order for your hard work to pay off, it would be suggested to submit your log to the sponsor of NEQP. It is simple with N1MM Logger+. On the main window, go to File -> Generate Carbrillo File. A couple of pop-ups will come up confirming your sent exchange and to confirm your category. Then it will want to save a .log file somewhere on your computer. Choose a place that you would normally store files and note the location. Once saved, it would be suggested to open the file using Notepad and double check that the information within the header is correct.

Using your preferred e-mail client, compose an e-mail and attach the log file you just created and checked and send them to logs@neqp.org . If you were logging by paper, you can send them to the address listed in the rules of the contest.

For the other QSO parties, I would suggest checking out their websites

INQP: http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/
DEQP: http://www.fsarc.org/qsoparty/qsohome.htm
7QP: http://www.7qp.org/
ARI DX Contest: http://www.qsl.net/contest_ari/

Local History and Facts

In 2015, 23 operators used Hampden County as their exchange but only 8 people submitted logs. Two of which were mobile operators. That means around 15 people did not submit logs. 4 people used HCRA as their club.

Previous Hampden County Single Op Winners

2015: Jeffrey Bail (NT1K)
2014: Chris Scibelli (NU1O)
2013: Mike DeChristopher (N1TA)
2012: Dave Cayen (WN1E)
2011: Jeffrey Bail (N1BMX)
2010: Jim Mullen (KK1W as WB1Z)
2009: Jim Mullen (KK1W as WB1Z)
2008: Ed LaCombe (KB1NWH as W1NY)
2007: Kyle Ebersold (KB1MNN)
2006: Rick Lindquist (N1RL)
2005: Dave Cayen (WN1E)

Maybe your name will be for 2016?

HCRA sponsored plaque for Hampden County in NEQP

Looking back at previous years write-ups (http://www.neqp.org/results.html), HCRA and Hampden County have a big presence on the air. When it comes to club participation, we often come in 3rd place behind YCCC and CTRI contest group when it comes to c. HCRA could easily beat out CTRI if we try as a group. Please get on the air and submit your logs. Make sure to put "Hampden Country Radio Association" as your club.
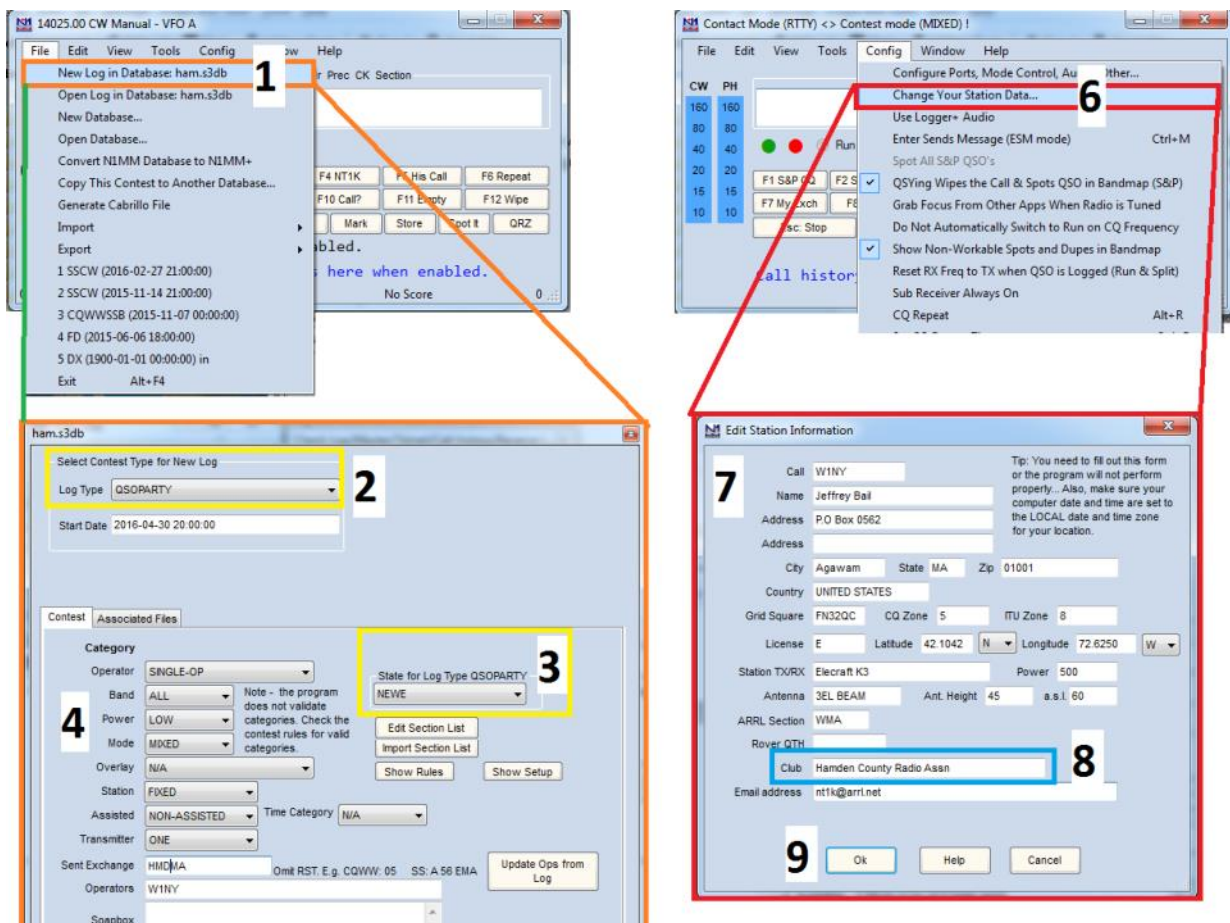
The most important thing is to have fun. QSO Parties are more laid back compared to the contests that the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) looks at for its operators. It's a great time, lots of local people on the air and who knows, you might win! Hope to see you on the air!

Setting up N1MM Logger+ for the New England QSO Party

Jeffery Bail NT1K

This is assuming that you have N1MM Logger+ installed and updated.

1. **In The Main window – File Menu -> New Log In Database (New window pops up)**
2. **Log Type Drop Down Box -> QSO Party**
3. **State for Log Type QSOPARTY -> NEWE**
4. **Fill Out Information under "Contest" Tab**
5. **Press "OK" Button**
6. **Main Window – Config Menu -> Change your station data**
7. **Fill out the following Information.**
8. **Club should be "Hampden County Radio Assn"**
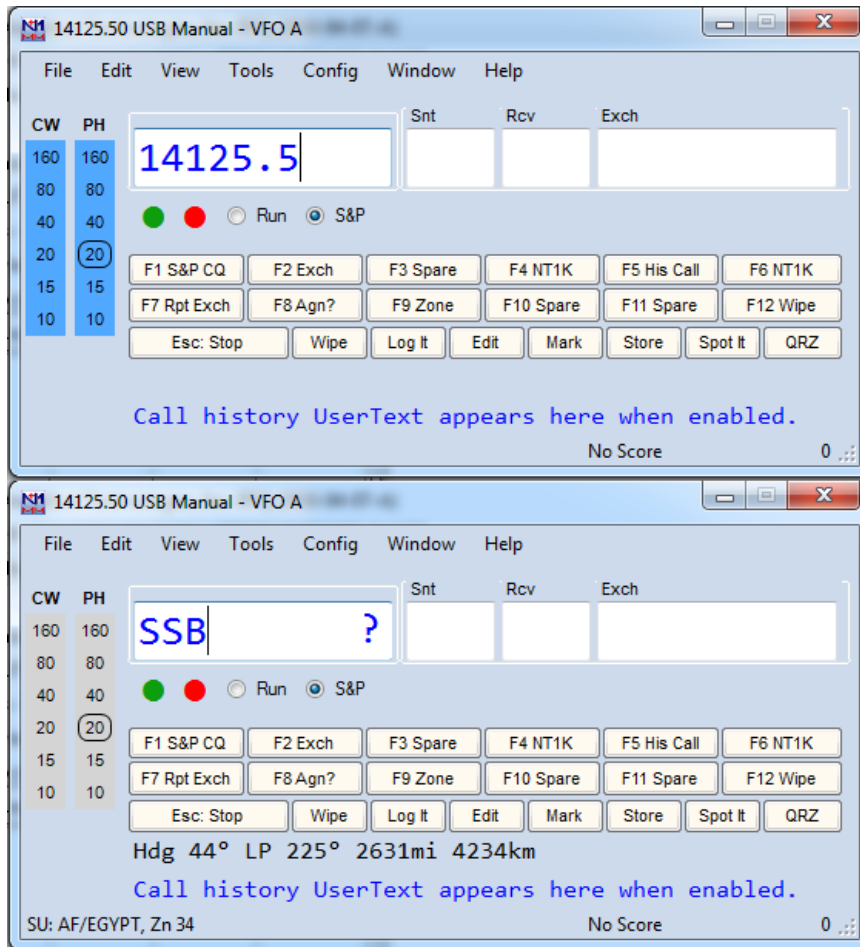9. **Press "OK"**

(Setting Up N1MM Logger+ for NEQP)

You should be all setup for the contesting, you could also setup CAT control and other features that could help you out during the contest.
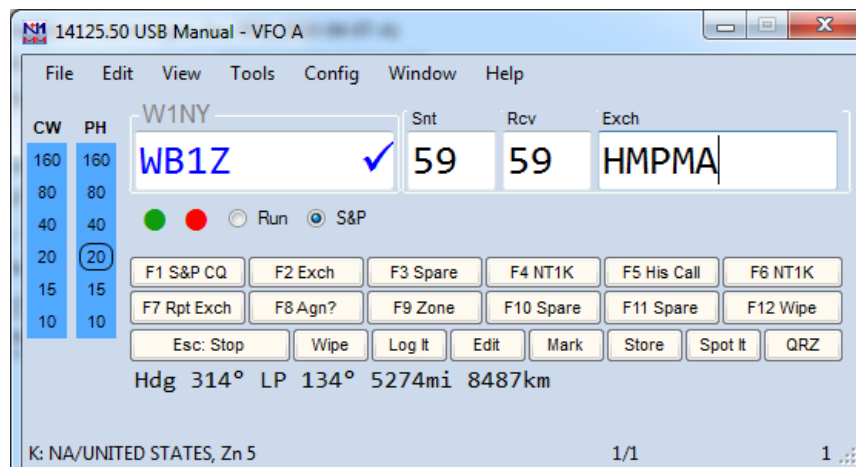
Logging a Contact with N1MM Logger+

NEQP wants the UTC, Band, Mode, Callsign and Exchange. If you are able to sync your radio with N1MM Logger+, N1MM will automatically log the UTC, Band and Mode. You just need to enter the Callsign and Exchange. If you don't have CAT control or it's not hooked up, you can manually tell N1MM the frequency and mode you are one by typing it in where you would normally enter the callsign.

(Changing Frequency and Mode manually without CAT control)

Logging the contact as simple was Entering the Callsign and exchange. N1MM logger+ will automatically fill in the SNT and RCV as 59/599. You may wish to change them if needed. Use of the TAB key will help put your cursor into the next window. Depending on your settings, pressing the "ENTER" key will log the contact.

(Example of input of a contact)

FROM THE SHACK

Jeffery Bail NT1K

Hello all,

ARRL's annual field day is just around the corner. Since the 1950's, HCRA has participated on and off as a club. We would take over a field or someone's backyard in late June, setup our antennas and gear and have a great time. It's also a great way to show the general public what amateur radio is about by inviting them along. We've always had an impressive display using portable towers and beams.

The past few years HCRA has been hosting field day at Agawam's School Street Park. It's an excellent park that is easy to get to from around Hamden county. It's right off I-91 and route 5. The town of Agawam has been nothing but helpful with our operation. We couldn't thank them and the Parks and Rec Department enough. They have made things much easier.

This year HCRA will be able to use School Street Park. However our operation depends on the membership. We need volunteers. So far not many people stepped up and offered to help out. I am going to be blunt and say if we don't get enough dedicated volunteers, we will have to have a small operation or no field day at all.

We need volunteers to help with setting up the antennas/towers, providing stations (Band captains), generators (I know there are many Honda 2k generators around), operators, CW operators, public relations, media coverage and of course help to tear down and pack away the equipment.

You can e-mail (nt1k@arrl.net), phone/text (413-887-7854) and even see me in person at the next couple of meetings. There will be a sign up sheet at meetings to get an idea of how many people would be helping out.

Thank you for being and member and thanks for reading. I hope to hear you on the air during NEQP. I know it's difficult with it landing on Mother's Day weekend. HCRA has a decent club effort and if you do participate, don't forget to submit a log and put "Hampden County Radio Association" as your club.

Jeff NT1K

2016 ARRL New England Division Convention is looking for Speakers

Don't just attend Boxboro 2016—BE A PART OF IT! The Boxboro Committee seeks fresh and exciting presentations for this year's ARRL New England Division Convention. (Note the new date!) As a Boxboro speaker, you will have the opportunity to share your subject and knowledge with Amateur Radio operators from around New England, surrounding states, and Canada.

Last year's program included top-notch presentations of both a technical, as well as non-technical nature. This year, we will feature workshops on Friday, a Saturday morning keynote address, and an enhanced Sunday program schedule. It's our hope that Convention attendees will attend the many activities spanning the three-day event.
If you represent a regional club or organization (e.g. YCCC, NEQRP, WRONE, MARS, etc.) we can help facilitate open forums or closed meetings by providing you a meeting space.

Groups who wish to set up information booths should get your requests in early. While the information booths are offered without charge, we ask for some volunteer time in return to assist us with ticket sales and other logistics during the convention.
To register as a presenter, please visit https://goo.gl/Nrwu1g and complete the online form. For the latest information on Boxboro 2016! please visit http://www.boxboro.org, or email or call us if you have additional questions. We look forward to meeting all of you at the convention!

DOTS & DASHES:

Things I can't think where to put, but are interesting.

Exciting new "Share the Knowledge's" coming in the fall 2016

We have 2 new "Share the Knowledge's" coming in the fall of 2016!

Our own Matt Wilheim (W1MSW) and Jeffery Bail (NT1K) will be running our own version of "Contest College". It will cover all you need to know about contesting, and how to set up the popular logging software N1MM for contesting. Look for it in September 2016.

Juergen Malner will be "Sharing his Knowledge" about the Arduino. He will be going over the basics of utilizing the powerful features of the Arduino microprocessor/controller. An Arduino starter kit can be purchased for a nominal charge. An October 2016 date is planned.

You Have An Appointment with the Doctor!

QST's popular "The Doctor is In" column is now an audio podcast and you can start listening *today!* "ARRL The Doctor is In" is a lively discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet or smartphone – whenever and wherever you like! Every two weeks your host, *QST* Editor in Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can also e-mail your questions to **doctor@arrl.org** and they may answer them in a future podcast. Enjoy "ARRL The Doctor is In" on **Apple iTunes**, or you can also listen online through **Stitcher** (free registration required) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle or Android devices.

Interesting Ham Radio Web Sites:

Did you ever want to modify/build something, and went looking for a basic schematic online?
Here is a good website that has over 40,000 electronic circuits, and the best thing…..They are FREE!!
http://www.discovercircuits.com/index.htm

AREA SWAPFESTS:

May	15	Flea at M.I.T.	www.swapfest.us	Cambridge, Ma
	21	Southern Berkshire A.R.C. Hamfest	www.w1baa.org	Goshen, Ct
		Nearc Antique Show	www.nearc.net	Brookline, NH
Jun	4	Bangor Hamfest	www.n1me.org	Hermon, Me
	5	Mt. Beacon A.R.C. HamFest	www.wr2abb.org	Fishkill, NY
	11	Vintage Radio Museum HamFest	www.vrcmct.org	Windsor, Ct

Contesting:

May's Contests:

May	7	New England QSO Party	www.neqp.org	CW, Ph,
		7th Call Area QSO Party	www.ws7n.net/7qp	CW, Ph, Dig
		Indiana QSO Party	www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html	CW, Ph
		Delaware QSO Party	www.fsarc.org/qsoparty/rules	CW, Ph
	11	RSGB 80 Meter Dig. Championship	www.rsgbcc.org/hf	Dig.
	14	Arkansas QSO Party	www.arkqsoparty.com	CW, Ph, Dig
	19	RSGB 80 Meter CW Championship	www.rsgbcc.org/hf	CW
	21	Baltic Contest	www.irsf.it/bcontest/english	CW, Ph
	25	SKCC Sprint	www.skccgroup.com	CW

Local happenings

Sundays: 0845: Western Mass Emergency Net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

First Monday: Southwick Regional RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

Mondays: 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

Tuesdays: 1930-2000: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - Hampshire County Emergency Net

Wednesdays: 1930: MTARA Info net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - includes NTS Net

2000: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

2000: MTARA Simplex Net - starts on 146.94 - PL 127.3, then goes to 146.42 direct (simplex) Usually starts immediately following the swap net.

Thursdays: 2100: Weather Net (Roger, K1PAI Net Control), 1st Thursday of every month: 147.090 MHz, All other Thursdays: 147.000, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

Fridays: 1200: BB's (Brown Baggers Luncheon)
   Munich House
   13 Center Street
   Chicopee, MA 01013

Club meetings & VE sessions

1st Friday of the month 7:30 PM, HCRA Club Meeting, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech St. Holyoke MA 01040 (no meetings held in July or August.) **http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/**

3rd Friday of the month 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building, 150 Brookdale Dr. Springfield, Mass. (no meetings held in July or August)

4th Friday of the month 6:00 PM, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, Mass. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET). Contact: David Cote, w1fab@arrl.net

Third Monday of the month 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield High School (no meetings held in July or August) http://www.fcarc.org/

4th Monday of February, May, August, November 7:00 PM, FCARC VE Exams, Unitarian Church**,** Main Street, Northfield http://www.fcarc.org/

HCRA contact list

President, Jeff Bail NT1K
   nt1k@nt1k.com
Vice-President, Harold Woering N1FTP
   n1ftp@yahoo.com
Treasurer, Juergen Malner NV1Q
   nv1q@arrl.net
Secretary, Dave Fant WM1B
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   et-n1qko@juno.com
VE Session Liaison, Dave Cote W1FAB
   w1fab@arrl.net

HCRA Member's Profile

This months "Member Profile" is Todd Hoessler KB1YEP of West Springfield, Ma.

Todd primarily operates on 2 Meters, and is interested in Emergency Communications

1)   **Name:** Todd Hoessler

2)   *Town:* West Springfield, Ma

3)   **Callsign:** KB1YEP

4)   **Previous Callsigns:** None

5)   **License Class:** Extra

6)   **Main station equipment**: Yaesu FT-1900

7)   **Favorite Band(s):** 2 Meters

8)   **Favorite Mode(s):** Phone

9)   **Year you were first licensed and license class:** 2012 as an Extra

10)   **How did you become interested in amateur radio?** Because of the Winter storm in October 2011, I became interested in Emergency Management.

11)   **What are some of your favorite aspects of the hobby?** Emergency Communications and Management.

12)   **What is your most memorable experience in the hobby?** Visiting ARRL Headquarters , with Larry W1AST, and operating W1AW.

13)   **What do you feel ham radio operators must do to help ensure the future of the hobby?** Participate! I was lucky enough to enroll in a class at Great Barrington Hospital. We need to encourage and participate in such classes.

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The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015:

The ARRL has announced that currently they have 111 co-sponsors for US House Bill HR-1301. There is now 2 members of Congress from Massachusetts, District #2 James McGovern (D), and District #5 Katherine Clark (D), District #1 (Where most of the HCRA resides.) Richard Neil has yet to sign on. It is time for us to step up and get involved. You can find more information on getting involved here.

Senate Bill S-1685 currently has only 2 co-sponsors: Sen Roger Wicker of Mississippi , and Sen Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut.

Homeowners Associations across the country have been mobilizing against both bills. They have been using scare tactics to get their members to write opposing letters to members of Congress.

To separate fact from fiction, the ARRL produced a video. Click here to watch. (Look for a familiar face at 4:55)

Boxboro!
2016

September 9, 10, & 11

The ARRL New England Division Convention
at the Holiday Inn, Boxborough

For ham radio operators or those interested in learning more about Ham Radio!

FORUMS & SEMINARS
FRI-SAT-SUN

EXHIBIT HALL
SAT & SUN

BANQUETS
Friday DX/Contest Dinner

Saturday Banquet Featuring Donna Halper

FLEA MARKET
SAT & SUN

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.BOXBORO.ORG
at participating retailers, or at the door

DXCC CARD CHECKING ▪ LICENSE CLASS ▪ HAM RADIO (VE) EXAMS
Free to paid Attendees: Screening of the Movie "Frequency" on Friday Night

Admission $15.00 per person, Flea market $10.00 per space. Tickets valid all days.
Friday DX Dinner $40. Saturday Banquet is $40.
"Whole Convention" package – Admission + both Banquests $90
Special discounts for groups that want to reserve a table at the banquet or DX dinner.

Ample free parking is available outside the flea market.

The Holiday Inn Boxborough, MA is located on Route 111 just off I-495 at Exit 28.
Full details and maps are available on the official 2016 Boxboro! Web Site www.boxboro.org

Here is your exciting copy
of Zero Beat!

HELP WANTED!

Your help is needed for
both Field Day 2016 and
2016/2017
HCRA Board of Directors

Hampden County Radio Association
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Agawam, MA 01030-0562