



Our 57th Year

Zero Beat



A Publication of the Hamden County Radio Association

<http://www.hcra.org>

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

November, 2002

Auction

Auction

Auction



HCRA

Annual Auction

Friday

November 1st

Doors Open 6:30 PM

Auction at 7:30 PM

On the Internet

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President's



Corner

Annual Auction

This Friday is the HCRA Auction. A time when hundreds of people journey from afar to either sell something of questionable value or to bid on the same. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

If you have yet to attend the auction you owe it to yourself to try it at least once. Rarely will you find such a great assortment of ham radio "stuff" at bargain basement prices. Bring your wallet, but don't plan on digging too deep, this is a "FUN" event. The auction is a great way to stock your "junk box" for the next project, pick up a new antenna or rig or just sit in awe of the selection and the prices. Where else can you end up buying multi-thousand dollar test equipment for mere pennies?

The size of the auction and the time it takes to sell everything precludes having our regular meeting. We will start setting up the tables at 6:00 PM and hope to have the auction underway by 7:00. The auctioneers have asked all sellers to "box their items". This means if you have a whole bunch of stuff that's worth about 25 cents each put them all in one box (or bag or package) so they can be sold all at once. This should help the auction move more quickly and probably get you more money than the one item at a time method. While your boxing them up, why not make it easier for the buyers and put a list of the items in the box on the outside of the box. Easy to sell, easy to buy, easy as ?

Win an FT-817!

This will be your last chance to purchase a ticket for the Yaesu FT-817.

The drawing will be held at the auction during the break, typically around 9:00 PM. Tickets are still available and will be sold during the auction. For as little as \$1 (\$5 for a book of six) you could go home with a brand new Yaesu FT-817, one of the hottest selling rigs on the planet! Yet another reason to attend this month's meeting. Just think, you could come home with a new rig and not have to explain the credit card bill to your spouse next month. Second prize is a Radio Amateur Callbook CD and third prize is a Bencher DC power distribution panel. Winners need not be present.



Yaesu FT-817
Auction Grand Prize Raffle

Bring Out Your Dead (or broken, or rusty...)



Once again this year, the HCRA "recycling truck" will be on the road November 1st. If you have something you would like to donate to the HCRA for the evening auction we will come to you! That's right; are those boat-anchors just a little too heavy to drag out of the basement? Is that vintage gear a bit too "well

aged" to put your own name on it? Do you want to help your favorite radio club with a donation that requires very little effort? Well, the HCRA recycling truck is just the ticket. All you need to do is choose your donation and have it ready for the garbage men. We'll come to your house and pick it up. Simply call me at 413-245-3228 or email to kk1w@arrl.net and I'll be at your house Friday afternoon. What could be easier? And...your donation is tax deductible. As always, thanks for your support.

Are the Bands Dead Yet?

Have you been listening to HF lately? It's been really wild! We are supposed to be on the down slope of the solar cycle. Maybe someone should tell the Sun? Mike Carlowicz showed some great animations of the Sun at last month's meeting, but even he couldn't have predicted the propagation we have enjoyed so far this year. The last few weeks have seen some great openings on the HF bands. Ten meters has been open almost every day. Lot's of DX out there for the picking. With major contests just around the corner don't delay. This is your chance to get up a better antenna before cold weather hits and have a ball. It's going to end sometime, just make sure you have your fun before it does! Turn on that radio, spin the dial and get active—this is what it's all about!

December's Meeting will be a winner!

Jim, WB1Z, has a great lineup for the December meeting. In addition to our traditional holiday party, we have not one, but **TWO** guest speakers. This is one of those cases where you get two for the price of one. I don't know the order of presentation, but here's who you will have the honor of seeing and hearing December 6th.



Steve Schwarm, W3EPE. Steve was a key New England ham participating in the rescue efforts immediately after the 911 terrorist attack. Steve will relate how ham radio operators rose to the occasion and helped with the aftermath of the attack. In this post 911 world, Steve's insight on how amateur radio operators can interface with the public safety sector is something everyone should hear. This is also a perfect meeting for anyone who attended N1MUV's ARES training October 12th to further their education.

Rob Macedo, KD1CY. Keeping with the public service aspect of the meeting Rob will speak about Skywarn and the National Weather Service. Rob is an employee of NWS Taunton and has been a key individual in organizing area Skywarn activity and training. With Winter just around the corner and the possibility of major snow or ice storms Rob's presentation is sure to be timely and informative.



Both Steve and Rob are fine examples of how our "fun" hobby can have far reaching impact on our society through public service activities. For more information about ARES, SkyWarn and other amateur public service activities visit: <http://users.rcn.com/rmacedo/> This should be a very interesting meeting, you won't want to miss it.

The other part of the meeting is our holiday party. Expect some of the usual, with great pot luck dishes provided by the more skillful cooks in the HCRA! Additionally we hope to have a bigger variety of prepared foods and maybe even some raffle prize surprises. This is the last time most of our members get together before year's end. I know you'll want to be there to wish everyone a safe and happy New Year.

That's it for now, don't forget to check the shack for potential auction items, get there early for a good seat and bring some pocket change for bidding!

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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 listen)

146.46 simplex, 114.8hz PL

Kx1x, Node #727,

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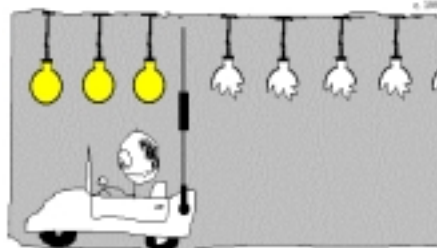
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CONTEST CORNER

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 26 to 2400Z, Oct 27
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 2 to 0300Z, Nov 4
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 9 to 2359Z, Nov 10
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 16 to 0300Z, Nov 18
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 23 to 2400Z, Nov 24
ARRL 160-Meter Contest (CW only)	2200Z, Dec 6 to 1600Z, Dec 8
PSK31 Death Match	0000Z, Dec 7 to 2400Z, Dec 8
TARA RTTY Sprint	1800Z, Dec 7 to 0200Z, Dec 8
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 14 to 2400Z, Dec 15
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z to 2400Z, Dec 28

New IRLP Node in Worcester, MA

IRLP node #818 in Worcester 146.430 MHz, PL 114.8 Hz Open to ALL without access/prefix codes.
This node will be part of a linked repeater system between Holland and Worcester *after* I move out to the 413 area code in a few months Rob, N1NTE

(Perfect for consistent, clear 2m QSOs to Worcester from our IRLP Node in South Hadley!!!)

Get On The Air

(all times local)

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic System (NTS) Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Mondays	19:30	HCRA 10m Net	28.375
Tuesdays	19:30	Slow Scan TV (SSTV) Net	145.130 (PL 71.9hz) (KD1XP)
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 nd Week of the Month 147.09 Every other week 147.000
Club Meetings & Testing Sessions			
1 st Friday of the month	19:30	HCRA Club Meeting	Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
3 rd Monday of January, April, July, and October		KD1XP License Exams	Amherst Machine Amherst, MA
		Contact Richard, KD1XP, 413-665-2211 or 145.130 Repeater	
		http://www.kd1xp.org	
3 rd Friday of the month	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA
		http://www.mtara.org	
4 th Friday of the month	18:00	MTARA License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke
		Contact Dave, WA1DC, WA1DC@pipeline.com	
4 th 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!!!

Long Ago, But not forgotten

By Jeff Duquette K1BE

(A reprint of an article originally appearing in the Dec 1991 ZeroBeat -Ed.)

While most of the members are new to ham radio, we have some who go back to the early days of radio. As you all know, the HCRA was formed out of three radio clubs in the Greater Springfield area. They were the Connecticut Valley (CVRC), the Springfield Radio Association, (SRA), and the Western Mass Radio Club (WMRC). The SRA is probably our "Mother Club" more than the others. World War II put the kibosh on radio activities, and in 1946, the clubs merged to form your present day club. An article by Tom Barrett, W1KUE, will be re-printed in a future issue that will explain this in more detail. Here are some of the past historical highlights of the club. The first part of the list was originally sent in by Howard Cutting W1JWV, and published during the 1950's in Zero Beat.

1919- Springfield Radio Association is formed by the late "Ike" Creaser, then W1BSJ, and met in the State Street Baptist Church

1920- Affiliated with the ARRL.

1921- Relayed the Carpentier-Dernpsey fight to an estimated audience of 10,000 people had booths in the radio shows of those days and handled traffic universally

1928- sponsored the ARRL convention at the Hotel Kimball, Springfield

1930- Maintained communication stations on pylons for races at Bowles Airport, and at other fields,

1931- was official communication station at the First Corps Area Air maneuvers at Bowles Airport, received commendation, from Major General George S. Gibbs, Chief. Signal Officer, U.S. Army

1932- Experimented with the first 5-meter radiophone communications

1946-47 Club constitution is drafted and approved, with merger of the three existing radio clubs in the area. First running of the January VHF Sweepstakes

1948 State of the art BC645s are being used on VHF &UHF. W1MNG (now W1KK joins the club! Stamps to mail Zero Beat, yet unnamed, cost 1 1/2C. First club banquet is held, the start of an annual tradition,

1949- HCRC now affiliated officially with the ARRL under its new name. VHF Sweepstakes articles about rigs and antennas well represented. Members are building their own television sets

1950- Club meetings moved from the Hampden County Improvement Building to the Chalet. Participation in DX contests and VHF experimentation are big club activities. W1QWJ is writing excellent technical articles. 10-meter club net going strong. Civil Defense was a major concern of members.in.Wma. Going horizontally polarized for 2 meters. Members try for class 'A' or 'B' licenses at Tech High.

1951-W1HDQ, Ed Tilton, featured guest speaker. (He is still a club member, now lives in Florida) Doc Webb accepted for membership#100. Other members are reporting for military duty. Bill Werenski, W1CJK is club president and still a member today!) Members are trying to build color televisions.

1952- Ike Creaser becomes a Silent Key on December 21. HCRC sponsors ARRL convention at the Eastern States Exposition grounds.

1953- The fire tower bums down during Field Day in Wilbraham and the dues are raised to \$3.00 to pay for it Worried directors look at incorporating the club to avoid liability

1954- HCRC becomes the HCR Association, incorporated under Massachusetts laws.

1955- Meetings are at the Captain Leonard House. Club QSL card is available to all members. In VHF SS, Hampden County RC was 4th in the country with 45,000 points.

Hartford RC was 5th with 401,000. Harold Atwater W1VNH, gets WAS #28 on 6 meters, the first in the First Northeast.

Note there were only 48 states! Bob Gordon W1KUL is teaching, a novice course. Tom Barret W1KUE is president. Ted Witowski, W1RLV is Ludlow Radio Officer, assisted by Mike Ludkiewicz, W1DGJ. Tom Chapman, W1KK, becomes a silent key. Hurricane Diane has members like Art Zavarella, W1MNG, Agawam Civil Defense Director, working overtime. Don Johnson, W1UPH is at radio school at Kessler Air Force Base, and is now A3c. Members help with communications for the Powder Puff Derby, the transcontinental women's air race. George Hughes is active in 4-H, and wants an amateur radio set up at the Eastern States Exposition. Art, W1MNG, resigns as SCM, when he discovers his license has expired!

1956- Members make the club a leader in VHF work. High power amplifiers designed by people like Dick Stephens W1QWJ set the standard for everyone else to copy. Hartford RC beats the club in the January contest, though! Too many members rested on past laurels! Much gnashing of teeth in newsletter. Bill Rosner, W1RFU is president. No one sent in a log for DX Contest. Don Johnson, W1UPH, writes a nice letter from Greenland, TF2. Mike Ludkiewicz, W1DGJ has a new Heath DX- I 00. Ed Tilton, W1HDQ crossing the U.S. operating 2 and 6 meters. Dick Downing, W1T'XS put up a new tower and beam. Valley ARC started up. Conelrad monitors required in the shack. Jim Spates, W1ARA accepted into membership. Norm Forrest, W1STR has a nice 6-meter beam, but no transmitter!

1957- Members listening to Sputnik and providing tape recordings to local news media. Mac McKerrahan W1HRV is president. Ken Walker, W1FAB is operating a Viking Valiant. Bill Werenski's KW makes W1CJK heard up and down the valley. Roger Corey W1JYH is club coordinator for ARRL DX contest. The club beat Hartford in the VHF SS. ARRL dues is \$4.00 per year! The West Coast finally worked Hawaii on 144 Mc. 6N2 rigs are the 'biggee' to own. Bylaws changed to make club year June to June vs. January to December. Stan Call, W1CYG joins the gang. Zero beat features VHF SS articles on antennas (wooden frames!), and Gonset Communicator modifications

1958- Dues are \$3 .00 per year and 117 members are 'in the group. Club wins the VHF SS in January and keeps the gavel the Hartford club bet. This was over five years, and what a battle! Special club ID badges are given away. Hank Baier, W1NY is president. Al Miles, W1GQP, is cited for calling in an auto accident to the Agawam Police. Al Jackson, W1OBQ, and other members are copying signals from the new American Satellite.

1959- 11-meter band taken away and now belongs to CB.

1960- APX-6's hottest rig for 1200 Mc, cost an outrageously high \$15.00 but worth it to VHF enthusiasts. Bill Ham, W1RRX is president. Tom Shea, W1HYO, is Zero Beat editor, a job he does for many long years!

1961- Chet Balicki, W1IVK shows off the Collins A-4 receiver. Norm Forest, W1STR, (now N1PF) is president

1962- W1STR tape records the OSCAR I satellite on 145MC. Bob Little, W1WLE is Zero Beat editor, Bob and Eunie Gordon with Tom Barrett's help, have been publishing it for

years. Jim King, W1EVZ, pushing RTTY activity on 2 meters. Cal Phillips, W1WDM, is president. (Now he's down boating in the Caribbean!) OSCAR 11 is launched. Mike Ludkiewicz, W1DGJ, earns first class commercial radio license. Jean and Norm Peacor, K1IJV & K11JU, have a new tower and beam up. Doc Taddell, W1AGM, is at new QTH in NH.

1963- Award for working 25 HCRA members is first issued on February 1, 1963 to Bernie Goyer, W1UPF. Middlefield Fairgrounds are used for the first time for Field Day. Fred LaValley, K1FUA, accepted as a member. Howard Gurney, W1IC is president. Bill Hall, K1RPB, (now W1JP) takes over as Zero Beat Editor. Bill has an article published in "73" magazine.

1964- Incentive licensing begins. Club meeting place is now the Feeding Hills Congregational Church. W1NY, Hank Baier, honored at a club dinner for his fifty years of service to amateur radio.

1965- Norm Peacor, K1IJU, club president. Bob Young, K1NWF, won the HCRA WAS contest. Gent Lam, WN1CQF, won the N.E. Division Novice Round-up. Bob and Eunie Gordon journey off for a stay in St. Louis

1966- Gus Rosati won the TO Keyer the club raffled off. Dues are still \$3.00. K1YPE/XV5 is operating from Vietnam.

1967- Club becomes the W1 area incoming QSL bureau. George Dougan, K1PMK, is president. Phil McDonald, WA1CTQ, Ted Lockwood, WA1GZO, accepted as members. HCRA beats out Hartford club in the VHF SS and keeps the bell trophy! Novice phone privileges are dropped by FCC.

1968- George Hughes, W1ALL is president. Jean Peacor, K1IJV, running a cw training net. Gil Williams, W1APA, a silent key. Gil was first elected president of the club

WN1JUJ, Kevin Stromgren, just one of many new novices from classes taught by George Hughes and Al Hall, W1IUB

1969- Bill Stacey, K1ANF is president. Vic Paounoff, W1EOB, off to Japan. Bill Stacey, K1ANF doing EME on 144. Art Zavarella W1MNG gets call sign W1KK. Paul Wing, K1WVX moves to new QTH in Suffield, CT, HCRA won the club competition against Talcott Mountain group by one point!

1970- Bob Phoenix, WA1DNB is the SEC and asking for even more participation in AREC.

1971- Ed Goldberg, WN1PLS joins up. W1KUE, Tom Barrett honored for his many years of service to the club. Gary Potts, WA1ECR is VHF contest chairman. Vince Falardeau, WA1GVV has an antenna raising party. Two-meter repeaters are on the air in Western Mass. Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, (HCRA Life member!) is guest speaker on VHF receivers. Tube gear still the order of the day, but solid state starting to take over. Bob Phoenix, WA1DNB, is SEC, a job he holds for 15+ years. SSB becoming preferred HF voice mode. What to do with all those AM only receivers? Jack Sheehan, K1NJC operated the VHF SS with club call WA1BTU from atop Mt. Tom. Bill Hall's home brew transceiver in February QST earns K1RPB the Director's award. Bob Stephens, W1MM retired from GE. Ed Stefanick, WA1CYK building an antenna tuner.

1972- 25th anniversary of the club is celebrated. Club dues are \$5.00. OSCAR VI is up! Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, retires from the ARRL. FM operation on VHF is coming thing. League dues are \$7.50! Don Gleason, W1RED, re-joins the gang. Bob Gravel, K1BUB completes his HW-101. 6-meter gas company rigs going cheap to members. Paul Caputo, K1PKZ is club president

1973- Vince Falardeau, WA1GVV is president. W1MM Bob Stephens is giving talks to local groups about amateur radio. Bob McCormick, WA1QHR joins up. Eleanor takes over from the Gordons, as W1 QSL Bureau manager. Flea market opens for the first time.

1974- Oli Quist, K1HYL is president. (I chatted with him at our flea market on April 28, K1BE) Members are outraged over dual licensing structure proposal. Frank Potts, WN1RWU, has a high score in novice Roundup

1975- CB boom is in full bloom. Al Jackson W1OBQ passed into the ranks of silent keys. Don Gleason, W1RED, talking back to Western Mass friends from Barbados. Jeff Duquette, WA1SNJ joins the club. John Sullivan, W1HHR, becomes N.E. Division Director. Gary (WA1ECR) and Frank Potts WA1RWU built the new Heathkit SB 303

1976- Club call W1NY issued by the FCC. This was the call sign of Hank Baier, one of the founding members. Jeff WA1SNJ, operates KP8USC to celebrate the bicentennial from atop Perry's Peace Memorial in Lake Erie. The QST picture shows him way up in the air bolting on an antenna. Club president is Ted Lockwood, WA1GZO. Extras with 25+ years can choose an 1x2 call sign. Harold Atwater, W1VNH, is a silent key.

1977- Jeff Duquette, WA1SNJ, is president. (Now K1BE) Novice course at Agawam H.S. ends and the next one begins at the Westfield Y. Many present club members from that program. OSCAR communications of big interest to members. Spaghetti supper at the Westfield Y honors Percy Noble, W1BVR for his many years of outstanding service to amateur radio

1978-KM1CC commemorates Marconi's first transatlantic transmission, and HCRA members are there to help operate

1979- Kevin Stromgren, WA1JUJ is assigned overseas. WA1RWU, Frank Potts puts his EME array on the air. Club does a huge show at the Springfield Science Museum, which is the hit of the program. Fred Stefanick, KA1APR is our first "KA" call.

1980- K1BUB operates winter Olympics special event station, W1ORAN. Bob sent this idea into the ARRL back in '78. Ron Beauchenlin, W1E1TS is president.

1981- Eunie and Bob Gordon are moving to Florida. Yorke Phillips, K1BXE has his home-brew satellite TV receiver work

1982- Computers are all the rage. Satellite TV explained in articles. Steve Nelson, WA1EYF coordinating the licensing classes. Tryon Cote, WA1YCA recovering from a knee operation. Cliff Junkins, W1UWX again wears his gaudy (read "ugly") bowtie from World War II to the meeting. Top club score in the country in the January VHF Sweepstakes

1983- BASH books helping many to upgrade. Bert, W1DTZ helps the ship "City of Dunedin" when he hears their mayday after running aground. Jean and Norm Peacor operate many club members from St. Kitts & Nevis Island, using the calls VP2KBD and VP2KBE. HCRA is again #1 in VHF contest! OSCAR 10 signals are loud and clear. President is Steve Nelson, WA1EYF. Bob McCormick KA1KPH is recovering from an auto accident. Packet radio experiments are going on.

1984- WA1RWU (now NC11) continues making EME history; first to work Russia and Brazil. Club sponsored the first Volunteer Examiner session in the area. The first packet repeater, KA1KPH-1, is put on the air in Springfield. (Now, W1NY-1)

(Continued bottom of Page 9)



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>



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Adult Advisor

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BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

Fri, November 1 st	Crew Meeting (Crew Elections)/HCRA Auction
Fri, December 6 th	Crew Meeting/HCRA Meeting
Fri/Sat/Sun, January 17,18,19	North American QSO Party / ARRL VHF Contest QRV in VT
Fri/Sat/Sun, March 28,29,30	CO WW WPX Contest, SSB. ORV at K1TTT, Peru, MA

Jamboree on the Air 2002

By Mike DeChristopher, KB1FWN

Venture Crew 510 (DX) has made a trip to Rhode Island, into a little town called Cranston on the weekend of October 19, 2002. Why go to such a tiny town to a little Boy Scout camp buried deep within the wooded country? Here in lies Crew DX's specialty. What we do is something interesting, something I blame my license on. We recruit. We walked into that camp just to work JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) and maybe get more potential licensees.

I was a victim of this kind of subliminal recruiting that attacked all of us at some time. It is like a fishing pole cast into a lake, you never know what you're going to get (just like a box of chocolates). We were made the venture with the Troop 424 (we share the same leader. Kx1x is their Scoutmaster), and bunked at their site, and even ate dinner with them the second night. They all watched in terror as their scoutmaster did that 'radio thing again'.

Friday night we got the inside set up with thirty chairs, a TS440, TS450, and a TS520 in the back. A chalkboard was added later for the teaching of the merit badge. Saturday morning, we put up a military tower with a TA33 Tri-Bander on top of it, and aimed it south-west at the 'states'. There was a little (more like a lot) of tuning before we got the radios on the air, when the lights started screwing them up. Okay fine, no problem.

I ended up manning the outside station, a TS440, earlier in the day (what other radio *would I* use?) and handed it over to Jeff, KB1GJR, to finish it up. Before Jeff had sat down, though, a whole pack of Tiger Cubs approached us (1st grade scouts) and sat down on the picnic tables around us.

One was about to climb on the tower, I think it was Steve, KB1GHC who screamed at him and activated the VOX. I turned it off because the table was about to shout "We're table number one, where is table number two?!" It was a good move. The shouting didn't end.

That night, Kx1x cooked us most of (or an entire) cow over a fire. We feasted with 424 over it, and even liked it (as if we had a choice)! Then we retreated back to the cabin to play some more radio. The leisurely DX was rolling in from Jeff, who refused to leave the radio alone. When the night activities started and it was time for John's evening class, no one showed up. Oh well, can't win them all. The first class was packed, and most of them seemed to be paying attention, although we caught one sleeping. Radio merit badge is a rare patch, and some people are actually after it!



AA1YW, with a new possible Crew member. Also, KB1FWN and KBiHUM at JOTA, QRV in RI.

Later on, we collapsed the tower and folded it up into its holding device. It had lasted the weekend (leaning off the left a little) and served its purpose. We ran off a G5RV for the rest of the night with the TS450. I was really disappointed that they didn't keep the TS440 on the air. After all, it is the best radio (so what if I'm a little obsessed with it, at least I admit it openly!) All in all, we made enough contacts. I say this because we got every scout who took the badge, and visited for that matter, on the air via phone, or PSK31. We even found another licensee who got his license at eight years old, and is eleven now... and GENERAL.

The final morning, the G5RV came down, along with the balanced line antennas we were using for PSK31. We didn't have to take down one of the illustrious green wires, a heavy branch and the wind took care of it. We all got packed, folded down the tents, and loaded up the cars. There was a little bit of mix-up with the closing ceremonies, but it finally worked out. They were glad that all of three troops had come an hour early; they wanted to bid farewell to us and our green uniforms. The staff was nice and very appreciative, and it seemed as though we were a shoe in for next year.

If we do go back, I will enjoy the chance to accompany the crew, in this as well as all other events. Besides, it was JOTA that got me hooked, and I want to give that chance to someone else. It brings in members to the crew, to the club, and to this great hobby we refer to as our own. '73 de Mike, KB1FWN.

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 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. 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 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.

KD1XP Repeater Group News

KD1XP Repeater Group *Ham Radio testing session* will be Monday, January 20th, 2003 at 7 PM in Amherst, MA at Amherst Machine. All test elements given. Contact Richard, KD1XP at 413-665-2211 for details.

SSTV net Tuesdays at 730 PM
145.130 PL 123.0
Dennis, wb1ehd net control

Breakfast net weekdays at 630 AM
442.200 - PL 162.2 kd1xp/r
Deerfield, MA

www.kd1xp.org

HCRA Board Meeting October 10, 2002 de Dave, KB1MU, Club Secretary

Held at the home of Irv Slitzky W6IS

- Members present** Irv W6IS, Larry WB1DBY, Norm W1BMK, Dave KB1MU, Greg N1AEH, Jim WB1Z, Peter K1II, John, Kx1x, and Mike KB1FWN.
- Vice President W6IS:** In the absence of the president Jim KK1W, Irv W6IS acted as moderator. Irv has completely updated the equipment list, including the newly acquired TA33 Jr. It was agreed that the club members should attempt to return items used to the original location. This would make maintenance of the inventory much easier
- Treasurer N1AEH:** Balance as of Oct 10 is \$2727.00 Oct monthly raffle tickets netted \$108.00 and sale of Nov raffle tickets netted an additional \$59.00. AA1YW has been reimbursed for antennas purchased for use as raffle prizes.
- Secretary KB1MU:** As of Oct 10 the club roster includes, 9 Venture Crew members, 1 Sponsor, 75 Regular members, 21 Regular members who have not yet renewed, 3 Life Members, 12 Family members, and 6 Courtesy members. This totals to 98 Active members. Dave KB1MU will generate a listing of un-renewed members for distribution to Board members.
- Program WB1Z:** Nov meeting auction
Dec meeting Holiday get-together. Speaker will be Robert Macedo KD1CY and Steve Schwarm W3EVE.
Jan open at this time
Feb John Stark N1JIO will speak on computer control of radios.
April "The Pocket Calculator Boys"
June Tailgate Party and annual elections.
- Membership W1BMK:** The Big E netted 53 inquiries for Amateur Radio Training. Some were from locations out of the Western Mass area. These will be forwarded to the ARRL.
- Technical K1II** Peter is busy organizing the training to be held in Feb/Mar. Volunteer trainers will be needed. The course will be divided into modules. Each volunteer need only be responsible for one module. A listing of modules will be posted on the HCRA web site. The course will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 for eight weeks.
- ZeroBeat KX1X:** Cutoff date for articles in the Nov issue will be Oct 20.
- At Large WB1DBY** The Hall of Fame operation went well with a few minor problems. The 20-meter station functioned well, with many QSO's. The 40-meter station suffered a few problems. All were "noise". RF noise (antenna left something to be desired.), Audible noise (The live entertainment was very loud, especially on Sunday.), and the original power supply used were very noisy.
- Venture Crew** The election of officers has been postponed until the November HCRA meeting. The Crew will participate in JOTA from Rhode Island. They will be using a TA33 and one of the clubs military towers. Other hardware items not yet decided.
- Old business:** The November Auction raffle is going well. We will have additional tickets printed, since most of original tickets have been sold.
- New business:** With the current HCRA treasury in good shape, the board discussed how best these funds could be used to the benefit of all club members. The first suggestion, a pair of wireless lapel microphones was agreed upon by the Board. These will be of very handy for all meetings, especially the auction. Another suggestion was providing fancier food for the annual December Holiday Party. The board agreed unanimously on this idea, but postponed any action until actual planning of the party is begun. Additional suggestions will be sought from the general membership.

Grand Raffle Prize
Yaesu FT-817
Multimode portable Transceiver



AUCTION

November 1st !!!

Turn your old 'stuff' into cash!

- *Set-up at 6:30 PM*

Auction starts at 7:30 PM

- *Win a Yaesu FT-817 !*
- *Coffee & Donuts!*

Lots of bagains!



Contact Jim, KK1W, for details - 413-245-3228 or kk1w@arrl.net

Auction held at:

Feeding Hills Congregational Church
21 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Just North of Dunkin' Donuts at the
intersection of routes 57 and 159.
Talk-in on the 146.94 repeater

AUCTION RULES:

Amateur radio or computer related items only.
Mark all items with name/call and minimum
acceptable bid.
Items without minimum will sell at any price!
10% of selling price goes to the HCRA.

If it doesn't sell - you bring it home!



HCRA History, Continued from page 6

1985- HCRA becomes a Special Service Club. KA1KPH/R is state of the art repeater with computer-generated speech. Teleconferencing radio nets and Westlink Reports are carried live via this repeater. NASA space shuttle communications are re-transmitted through the Greater Springfield area, on W1NY thanks to Joe Wolos, WA1OCK. Jack Plantinitis KA1KRJ contacts WOORE aboard the space shuttle Challenger. Special event station, N1BHF, is operated for grand opening of Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

1986- Space shuttle Challenger explodes on takeoff.

1987- Amateur TV generating more interest. 40th VHF SS has the club going for the gold. Pilot test for the ARRL of novice code training tapes helps them to pick the best one. OSCAR 10 failing. Field Day is the biggest effort in the club's history

1988- W20ONY operation a huge success. Rusty Hack, NM1K, operates W200AW. Volunteer radio exams are held every month.

1989- Percy Noble, W1BVR, the grand Old Man of Western Mass, is a silent key. Hurricane Hugo traffic swamps the nets.

KA1KPH/R hit by lightning

1990- W1NY is number seven in the country for Field Day scores!

1991- VHF Sweepstakes has record participation. New codeless license started on February 14, WF1R starts a radio class at Agawam High

This month:

Hampden County Radio Association's

Annual Auction will be on Friday

November 1st, 2002

At 7:30 p.m. at the

Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Doors open at 6:30 PM

Hope to see you there!

In case of inclement weather, tune to TV Channels 22 or 40,
or the 146.94 and 147.105 repeaters.

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

HCRA

P.O. Box 562

Agawam, Massachusetts

01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

