

Our 59th Year

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



Going Twice Going Pill!

ANNUAL HCRA
HAM RADIO
AUCTION

Doors Open: 6:30 Short Club Meeting begins: 7:00 Auction begins approximately 7:20pm

Buyers: FREE

Sellers: 10% commission

(\$10 commission maximum)

If it doesn't sell, you bring it home

(details page 7)



Next Month (Believe it or not)

the Annual Holiday Party

Friday, December 3

In this months edition

President's Corner	Page	2
HCRA Contacts	Page	3
Dr Dx	Page	4
Get On-The-Air	Page	5
7 Sisters Regatta Recap	Page	6
Annual HCRA Auction Flyer	Page	7
HCRA Board Meeting Minutes	Page	8
HCRA History: Auction 1958	Page	9

President's



Corner

Win an Icom IC-703 at the November Auction. Tickets on sale now!

ANNUAL AUCTION!

November 5th!

n just a few days HCRA auction 2004 will be history. Will you be one of the lucky hams to go home with a genuine bargain? Will your XYL be even luckier if you sell all that 'stuff' that's gathered in the basement over the years? Will YOU win the Icom IC-703? I don't know the answer to these



A view of the crowd from last year.

questions but I do know if you go to the auction this Friday it could be you! And I'm certain you will have *LOTS* of fun—even if you don't win the Icom.

Rules for the auction? Simple and easy. Bring your stuff, put your name and call (if you have one) on the item and a minimum bid if you so desire. The auctioneers will sell your item for as much as we can get. HCRA receives 10% of the selling price (up to \$100). You go home with cash and the lucky bidder goes home with a new purchase. It's simple, fun and a great way to clear out extra stuff in your shack. The auctioneers reserve the right to combine small items in order to speed up the bidding process.

Also on tap this evening is the WB1Z Memorial drive. We will be passing the hat (actually something other than a hat but you will have to wait until auction night to find out exactly what) and collecting for the ARRL Foundation in Jim's name. HCRA will match your donation dollar for dollar so don't be shy, every dollar you donate really counts as two! What a great way to keep the memory of Jim alive and well.

Auctioneers this year will be Jim, KK1W and Marty, W1MJB. Greg, N1AEH assisted by Barry, N1IJK will handle the finances. The sound system will be provided by Andy & Erik from Jx2 productions. We're still looking for volunteers for table placement, helping shuffle the items along and general clean-up after the event.

Have some items (or a LOT of items) you would prefer to donate? We can pick them up, provide you with a tax deductible receipt and you can sit back and relax knowing you have helped HCRA.

See you Friday. Remember, bring a friend or two—the auction is free and FUN!

RANDOM FINDS...

Treasures from Wal-Mart.

had occasion to be shopping at Wal-Mart the other day. I know, what was I doing in the competition, all that stuff? I'll tell you about that part of it later. Actually, I had some time on my hands and actually did a little looking around instead of running in, getting what I wanted and running back out again. While I was wandering around I came across a couple of items with amateur radio applications at a pretty good price.

- 1. Ever want a nice, adjustable, gimbaled mount for your mobile rig or faceplate. Something that can adjust to almost any position and not cost as much as the rig? I found a pair of speaker mounts by Atlantic that fill the bill. They will support up to 10 pounds, seem to be well made and even come with a huge bag of mounting hardware. The price - \$8 for a pair!
- Does your mobile rig lack a powerful speaker or is your vehicle not as quiet as it used to be? Wouldn't you like to use the sound system already in your car? I found a neat little item from Belkin called the TuneCast Mobile FM transmitter. For twenty bucks

it just fits the ticket. Simply plug it into the headphone jack of your radio and it transmits to the FM radio in your car. You choose the frequency (88.1, 88.3 88.5 or 88.7), put in the two AAA batteries, turn on the rig and big audio comes out the car radio. Now I can hear the official 'Late Boy' in four speaker surround sound on the way to work. I had to modify the plug since my Yaesu FT100 doesn't have a headphone jack, only an external speaker jack and doesn't support the stereo plug on the TuneCast. I'll probably look to power it with a little three volt supply rather than the batteries but I'll do that at a later date.

And no, I don't work for or am anyway affiliated with any of the companies mentioned above. I'm sure a walk through any of the big box stores (or a 'well stocked hardware store') will find you all kinds of stuff with amateur applications at a fraction of the price the accessories usually cost. Good hunting!

GPS at MOSES

Scouts are exposed to electronics of all kinds.

The weekend of October 16th was the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) for scouts everywhere. At the Moses scout reservation plans were made for an electronics weekend. John, Kx1x invited me to put on a demonstration of Geocaching for the troops. It sounded like fun, I was game and it was a great way to get out of home chores for a day. How could I go wrong?

So, I went out and got a half dozen 32 oz plastic containers and filled them with goodies. Candy, some toys, light-sticks and a couple of disposable cameras. Dave, AA1YW met me at Moses late Saturday morning and we went on a short one mile hike, placing and marking each location in our GPS. Then we went back to the starting point and waited for some guests.



Tyler & Nick discuss which way to go!

The guests were a long time coming, but when the word got out we had **CANDY** in the containers some of the boys started showing up. Jim & Jim, K1JAW and KB1JXP were the first - we sent them out for cache #3. Then Nick and Tyler came along and went out for cache #5. Jim & Jim had a bit of a struggle but I'm sure they will do better next time. Nick and Tyler were back in about 15 minutes, cache in hand! Good job! They were having fun and wanted to do another one! It wasn't very busy at the time so Dave and I sent them back out for more.

The cool thing was we were able to download their track from the GPS into our laptop and show them where they walked in their quest for the gold. The last group of five went out, never found cache #6 (it was already found!) and walked over three miles for their effort! Interesting, even though #6 was already found they would never have found it anyway. Their track never even went near the cache!

All in all it was great fun, a number of boys learned about GPS and Geocaching and I'm sure there were a few 'sugar highs' that evening in camp. Next year I'm thinking of building a few APRS trackers and outfitting each group with one. Then we can actually watch them as they hunt for the prizes! A special thanks to Dave, AA1YW for helping out throughout the day and providing the generator and extra GPS. Thanks also to Kim for the loan of an additional GPS unit.

See you at the auction!

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

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Larry Krainson

We Make House Calls!

Tel & Fax: (413) 567-3505 Pager: (800) 522-6606 Pin: 4133483289 Email: WB1DBY@ARRL.NET

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ear it Proudly!

HCRA Name Badges



Only \$6.00. A vailable 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.

: jm ullen @ rockys.com or (413) 245-3228

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

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, 5. Hadley, MA

Dr. DX

By Mike DeChristopher, KB1FWN

Welcome to November! Contesters, DX'ers, and ragchewers alike know what that means: the snow flies soon. For the next few months we will all be inside our shacks without much opportunity to work on the aluminum, so unless you prefer the tin foil special dipole, get that new antenna up there!

DX wise, November is a good month. November 27-28 is CQ World-Wide CW, which means all of the big contest DX'peditions will be active. Not to mention that conditions look good for most of the month, although twenty meters will continue to get worse into the last week, and even into December for gray line and nighttime propagation. Fifteen and ten meters are looking up at a boost right now, one which should continue likewise into December...or so we should hope.



Start	End	Entity	Callsign	QSL via	Info
2004 Nov02	2004 Nov07	South Georgia	VP8SGK	GM0HCQ	By GM0HCQ; exact dates tentative
2004 Nov02	2004 Nov13	South Cook Islands	ZK1DKF	SM7DKF Direct	By SM7DKF fm Aitutaki (OC-083)
2004 Nov11	2004 Nov19	South Shetland Islands	ZWO	PT2GTI	By PY ops as ZW0CF ZX0GTI fm King George Is (AN-010, PY-01); 160-6m; SSB CW SSTV PSK31 RTTY
2004 Nov15	2004 Nov20	Mauritius	3B8	F6CXJ	By F6BUM as 3B8/F6BUM fm AF-049
2004 Nov16	2004 Dec05	Nepal	9N7BCC	DK7YY	By DJ3WE DK7YY DL6RAI IV3IYH; 9N7BCC requested; also w/ individual callsigns (QSL routes TBA); 160-15m; in memoriam of DJ7CY
2004 Nov18	2004 Nov18	South Georgia	VP8SGK	GM0HCQ	By GM0HCQ; exact dates tentative
2004 Nov20	2004 Nov30	Fiji	3D2	WA4WTG	By 3D2EE/AG9A 3D2KW/K2KW 3D2OK/WA6O 3D2SS/W2VJN 3D2TS/N6BT 3D2XA/KE7X fm Taveuni (OC-016); 160-10m; 6 low power stns; vert arrays; mainly CW
2004 Nov20	2004 Dec04	Falkland Islands	VP8	W5PF	By WF5W NM5G W5MJ W5PF w/ VP8 callsigns; 80-10m, perhaps 6m, focus on WARC; RTTY PSK included; QRV for CQWW DX CW as VP8WWW
2004 Nov22	2004 Nov30	Cambodia	XU7	Home Call	By AA4XR E21EIC as XU7ADF and XU7ADE fm Sihnoukville; 160-10m; CW SSB RTTY
2004 Nov22	2004 Dec05	Cambodia	XU7ADI	SM5GMZ	By SM5GMZ; all bands, WARC included; mainly CW; QRV for CQWW DX CW
2004 Nov22	2004 Dec09	Christmas Island	VK9XG	W0YG Direct	By W0YG; include SASE or RP w/ QSL request; QRV for CQWW DX CW
2004 Nov28	2004 Dec11	Fiji	3D2FI	GOUIH	By G0UIH fm Viti Levu (OC-016), Nacula (OC-156), Beachcomber (OC-121); check 14260 & 21260 kHz + 17m SSB; QSL OK via Buro or direct

Also of interest in November is the ARRL Sweepstakes Contests, both SSB and CW. These are domestic contests that do not demand any serious contesting finesse. You can make WAS (and it is done by many every year) in one weekend. The dates for CW are 2100z Nov. 6 - 0300z Nov. 8, and for SSB 2100z Nov. 20 - 0300z Nov. 22. 73' es good DX, de KB1FWN



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.gsl.net/crewdx

BSA VENTURE CREW 510 Contacts

Youth President Adult Advisor Adult Advisor Luke Dyson, KB1ISP John Pise, Kx1x (413) 532-7474 Dave Cain, AA1YW

luke @penguinia.net kx1x@arrl.net aa1yw@arrl.net

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 Next Meeting: Friday, October 1st Welcome Back Raffle Marc, K1MZ on Contesting

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 <u>eZB@hcra.org</u> 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 <u>WWW.HCRA.ORG</u> 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.

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)
Mondaye	10.30	HCRA 10m Not	28 375

Mondays 19:30 HCRA 10m Net 28.375

Wednesdays 19:30 MTARA Info net 146.94 and 147.000 (link) (W1TOM)

20:00 MTARA Swap net
Thursdays 21:00 Weather Net

2nd Week of the Month 147.09 (All other weeks 147.000)

Club Meetings & Testing Sessions

1st Friday of the month 19:30 *HCRA Club Meeting* Feeding Hills Congregational Church

21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills 3rd Monday of January, April, July, and October Amherst Machine

KD1XP License Exams Amherst, MA

Contact Richard, KD1XP, 413-665-2211 or 145.130 Repeater

http://www.kd1xp.org

3rd Friday of the month 19:30 MTARA Club meeting Red Cross building

http://www.mtara.org 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA

4th Friday of the month 18:00 MTARA License Exams Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke

Contact Dave, W1FAB, W1FAB@arrl.net

4th Sunday of the month 19:00 NOBARC club meeting Pittsfield MA (146.91 for talk-in)

WINY 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!!!

Hams Pitch In --7 Sisters Regatta - October 30, 2004

Saturday, October 30th started out as just a cloudy morning. But the odds were against us some what. It seems that as soon as we got in our car and headed to Brunelles Marina in South Hadley, it started to rain. But not enough to call off the regatta scheduled for today.

There were seven volunteers that helped with the 7 Sisters Regatta on the CT River.

- * Net Control Dave KB1MU
- * Start Timer Boat Larry WB1DBY
- * Finish Timer (across the river) George KC1V
- * Safety Boat 1 Eric N1QKO
- * Safety Boat 2 Schely KA1TDL
- * Dock Area Relay Steve N1NPC
- * Marshals Boat Eric KB1JVI

Once we got our positions, everyone got into position. We joined our matching parties in their boats and headed up river. George was shuttled across the river. Steve manned the docks and Dave set up net control in the warm and dry Dock Side Restaurant.

Everyone was equipped with a HT, performance ducky antenna (longer works best) and a speare battery. Raincoats were a must as it wasn't raining but was misting steadily. Once you get wet and cold it's hard to warm up and having the right wx gear always makes it easier.

There were 4 timed heats, some of A and B boats. Each boat was launched by itself and the starting time was recorded. As each group started, the recording times were relayed to net control who then relayed the info to the race officials. As the last boats finished, those ending times were then also relayed to net control and the total time for each boat was calculated. We guessed that the times would be better than usual as the sculling teams were paddling with the current instead of against it. The total distance for each boat was 2 miles and all boats had the same distance to travel.

Some of the participating schools were: Mt. Holyoke College (the hosts), Smith, Bryn Mawr, Wellesley and some others. The 7 Sisters represents the 7 colleges.

By 11 am we were all done and headed back in. The only trouble along the race was when Eric - KB1JVI's marshals boat stopped running and had to be towed part way in until they got their motor running again. Otherwise it went very smoothly and the race officials were very happy to have our communication support again this year.

There was coffee and donuts awaiting the crew back at the start.

While I was in the boat, there was chatter between the races and Jeannie; the Mt. Holyoke organizer; mentioned how badly some of the other races that she has seen run without the comm help from the hams. She even mentioned one instance where there were numerous timing watched that got shuttled back and forth from start and finish to the race officials to record the times and then shuttled back to the start and finish lines again to start another race. It made her appreciate her "hams" all the more!

I'd like to thank all those listed above for their help with the regatta. Special thanks go to KC1V and KB1JVI for helping with their first comm event. We hope that you'll partake in much more!

73 for now, Larry - WB1DBY

Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Assn. News

www.mtara.org

IRLP is on the 146.67 machine!

Use a prefix of "67" to access. See www.mtara.org

Info Net, Wednesdays at 7:30 PM local 146.94 (-) or 147.000 (+)

Meetings on the

3rd Friday of the Month, 7:30 Red Cross Building, Cottage St., Spfld



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, October 18th at Amherst Machine on Cowls Road in Amherst, MA. ALL test elements given. Contact Richard, KD1XP at 665-2211 for details

<u>www.kd1xp.org</u> has a great listing of local frequencies for scanner listening, Check it out and please add to it if you know a frequency that is not there.

Breakfast meetings every first Saturday of the month at Bickfords in Northampton.

Talk in on the 145.130 repeater.

www.kd1xp.org



Grand Raffle Prize Icom IC-703

QRP HF Transceiver w/tuner



Hovember 5th !!!

Turn your old 'stuff' into

Set-up at 6:30 PM

Auction starts at 7:30 PM

- Win a Icom IC-703!
- Coffee & Donuts!

Lots of bargains!





Contact Jim, KK1W, for details - 413-245-3228 or kk1w@charter.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 187

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 board Meeting October 7, 2004

Held at the home of Larry WB1DBY

Members present: Jim KK1W, Larry WB1DBY, Greg N1AEH, Dave KB1MU, John N1JIO, Jim KB1JVF, Peter KI1I, and Marty W1MJB.

Vice President W1MJB:

Marty did a wonderful job as "Stand-in" President. Ralph's KB1LEW presentation was well received by the membership. Great Job Ralph!

Treasurer N1AEH:

The current club balance is \$3545.00. The meeting raffle took in \$89.00. The winner of the membership renewal raffle HT was Frank Sedlik KB1LFD. Enjoy it Frank.

Secretary KB1MU:

Membership total at present:

Courtesy	7	Family	25
Life	2	Regular	73
Venture Crew	7	Prospect	6

The HCRA Big-E day was a qualified success. Attendance was slightly down, but there was a definite interest in the booth, and all aspects of amateur radio on display. The definition of a "club day" as applied by the operators of the Ham Radio booth differs from that of the HCRA. Their definition of a "club day" is a maximum of four participants as opposed to HCRA participation of ten to fifteen. This fact must be kept in mind for next years Big E.

Program WB1DBY:

Marc K1MZ made an excellent presentation. It held the interest to both those who participated in contesting and those who thought they had no interest.

November: Annual auction, no speaker required
December: Holiday Party, Food and Ham Jeopardy.

January John Ellsworth from the Historical Radio Museum

February Open

March Annual Show and Tell Meeting

April CTRI Contest Group

May Harold Ort, N2RLL – Editor of Popular Communications

June Tailgate Party

Speakers are needed for the meeting in February. Anyone who has suggestions can contact Larry WB1DBY at <<u>wb1dby@comcast.net</u>>.

Membership KI1I:

The next session of Technician Classes will start on Tuesday Feb 15. The classroom is reserved until May 17. This will allow for school vacations, and cancellations. There will be eight class sessions plus one session for testing. Peter will be updating the web page soon.

ZeroBeat KX1X:

Cutoff date for ZeroBeat submission's for the November edition is Oct 21.

Technical N1JIO:

John will restart the Tech Corner program; the first session will be during the January meeting. The actual subject is still under consideration, but PSK31 is high on the list.

At Large KB1JVF:

Jim will generate a packet to be used for distribution at VE sessions. This packet will include a HCRA flyer, welcoming letter from the HCRA President, and a membership application. (Note, all newly licensed amateurs are eligible for a free one-year membership that includes a subscription to the Electronic ZeroBeat. These are considered "Prospect" members.)

Venture Crew:

The Venture Crew held their annual elections. The slate of Officers remains the same.

President Luke KB1ISP, Vice President Steve KB1GHC, Secretary Mike KB1FWN, Treasurer Justin KB1ISQ

Old Rusiness:

Marty W1MJB and his wife Judy will be chairing the arrangements for the December holiday party. The food provider is under study, but the provider from last year may be used this year also. If anyone has suggestion on this, please contact Marty. As always, homemade desserts are welcome.

New Business:

Larry WB1DBY presented a selection of potential Club Logo's. One was selected, and a few modifications will be created for further consideration.

Dave KB1MU will submit the annual report to the state of Massachusetts using the online format, which will greatly simplified the process.

Jim KK1W presented an update on the BPL operating in Feeding Hills.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Isham KB1MU Secretary.

HCRA HISTORY 1958

ZERO BEAT

Vol.11 No. 10 Hampden County Radio Assn., Inc. September 1958

Editor: Tom Shea, W1HJK) Publishers Bob, Gordon, W1KUL Tom Biarrett, W1HJE Eunice Gordon, W1UKR

AUCTION

The September meeting will be held at the United Church in Wilbraham on Friday Sept 12, 1958 starting at 8 P.M. sharp.

NOTE THE LOCATION FOR THIS MEETING AND THE FACT THAT THE MEETING IS ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.

The meeting place is the same place that we had such a grand annual meeting and dinner last June. Its size is considered better to accommodate the crowd that an auction is likely to bring out.

The main feature of the meeting will be an auction of amateur and associated gear under the guidance of "Old Guillotine Gavel" Bob Gordon; W1KUL Assisting Bob will be Chris Payne W1HDM, and Allen Ramsey K1CZY. Handling the cashier duties will be Tom Barrett, W1KUE and Leo Brodeur, W1VNE. Members of the auction committee will be on duty as early as 7 P.M. so bring your gear early and have some time to look over the rest.

The same type tag used lant year are again available this year to identify your gear. The tags will be available at the auction. They have three sections on them. Put your call and minimum bid (if any) on the end nearest the tie-on string. Tear oft and pocket the other end section. The purchaser will get the center section to present with his payment to the cashier. The tie-on end stays with the gear at all times.

In the past many generous club members have donated gear to be auctioned off for the benefit of the club treasury. This practice is to be commended highly. If you have anything to donate, signify such on the tie-on end of the tag.

Of course all sales are for cash. A small service charge to raise money for the club treasury is charged. Ten percent of the sale price, up to a maximum of 50 cents will be withheld by the cashier.

The usual refreshments will be served at about 10 o'clock with Norm Forest, W1STR heading up the committee.

MEETING NIGHTS WILL STILL BE REGULARLY SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH. This month's exception in due to the over-lapping of vacation periods and back-to-school cash deficiencies.



Friday, November 5th

See Page 7 for details

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts
01001

Hampden County Radio Assoc.

Monthly meeting

Going Once!
Going Twice!!
Sold!!!!

AUCTION

Nov 5th
7:00 PM
Doors
Open
6:30

PLEASE HAND CANCEL