



NOVEMBER 2009

Zero Beat

<http://www.hcra.org>

From the Shack...

Donations Wanted for the Annual Auction - you call, we haul!

The Annual Auction is just around the corner. Are you ready? Ready for fun, bargains and hot dogs! Yes, we have it all and it's free for both buyers and sellers. Call friend and come on down!

One thing we depend on every year is donations of items to the club for sale at the auction. These gifts spice up the auction, create good bargains for the buyers and help the club treasury at the same time. As always, the more, the better! Do you have (or do you know of someone who has) a surplus of 'stuff' that would make a good auction donation but just don't want to put the effort into getting it there? Not a problem, call us and we will come and pick it up. Everyone benefits, you have fun at the auction without any work, the buyers have more choices and HCRA gets some help as well. Pretty cool, and all it takes is you!

Call me at 413-237-4666 and I'll take it from there - thanks!

ARRL 10 Meter Contest - the perfect club event!

The ARRL 10 Meter Contest is December 12th and 13th this year. Once again we will be entering our scores as a club, do you think we can do better than last year? In 2008 we had eleven logs with a total score of 38,378 points from almost 500 QSO's in 136 sections. The biggest thing is the fun everyone had in this 'low impact' contest. Let's see how many members we can get on the air this year. Once again we will be offering some nice HCRA wallpaper for individual member achievements. New this year Mike, NOHI will be back in town and is opening his station to guest ops. Haven't tried an HF contest yet, here's your chance. Watch the web site and the mailing list for more details as we get closer to December 12th.

Members Only - Book Sale!

K1JAW is making a special effort to save you money on ARRL books. He is working on a 'bulk buy' that will allow our members a 20% discount on ARRL books. Watch your email for the offer. If there's something you would like for your book shelf (the new 2010 Handbook looks cool) fill out the form and get it to the PO Box with your check before November 15th.

Thanks Jim for your efforts.

Change in publication of the monthly minutes.

You may have noticed we started publishing the minutes

of the board of directors meetings in Zero Beat once again. For the last year we have been only publishing them to our web site. This month the minutes of the October meeting will be missing. Why? For some time we have been publishing the minutes prior to acceptance by the board, and then approving the minutes at the next board meeting. A policy that really puts the 'cart before the horse'. Starting in November the minutes will be published after board approval. This means the October minutes will be published in the December issue and the pattern will continue going forward.

Holiday Party is just around the corner!

Are you ready for a party? This year's Holiday Party will be held on December 4th at Alexander's Restaurant, just down the street from the church. Elsewhere in this issue is an invitation for you and your guests. I won't go into the detail (the invitation has that) but as a regular patron of the establishment I can vouch you will enjoy a scrumptious meal to go along with your holiday cheer.

Special thanks this year to Jim, NN1Y for stepping up coordinating this year's party. Besides Jim's efforts we need your help as well. Crucial to all events such as this is determining how many folks will be attending so the restaurant can prepare the proper amount of food. Please make an effort to get your information and check to the PO Box in time so we can insure everyone will have a great time at the party.

New this year will be a super door prize. One lucky guest will go home with a \$100 Gift Certificate to HRO. Won't that look nice under the tree?

'73...and see you at the Auction!

Jim, KK1W



Grand Raffle Prize
Yaesu VX-150R
w/battery & charger



AUCTION

November 6th !!!

Turn your old 'stuff' into cash!

- *Set-up at 6:00 PM*
- *Auction starts at 7:00 PM*
- *Win a Yaesu VX-150R HT*
- *Hot dogs, soda, coffee & donuts!*
- *Lots of bargains!*



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 the Pride station at the
intersection of routes 57 and 187



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.
Maximum fee - \$25.00 per item.

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

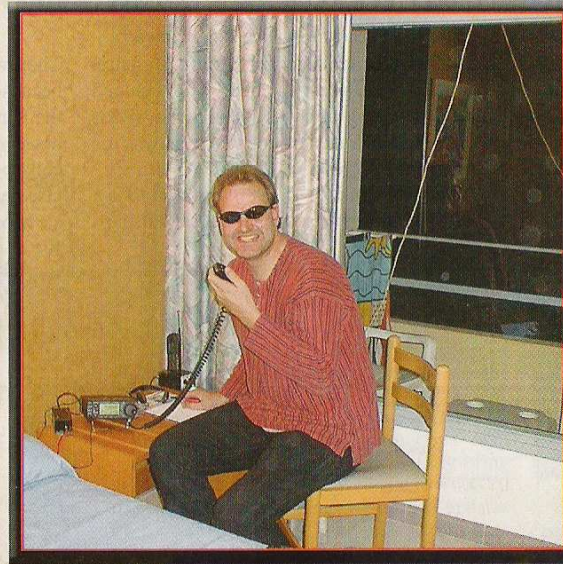
HCRA Enters Club Competition again in 2009



2009 ARRL 10 Meter Contest

0000 UTC Saturday, December 12 – 2359 UTC Sunday, December 13

- Get in on the 10 meter fun, even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle!
- Work stations throughout North America as well as DX.
- Technicians can operate from 28.3-28.5 MHz.
- Don't miss this chance to work stations on one of the great HF bands!



MIRKO HOLTE, DJ1AA

Complete rules may be found at www.arrl.org/contests.

Logs must be post-marked no later than 2359 UTC Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

Send electronic Cabrillo-formatted logs to 10meter@arrl.org.

Paper logs to ARRL 10 Meter Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

From November 2009 QST—pp 87

Are YOU ready for some HCRA Club Competition?

In 2008 eleven of us made 478 contacts across the country, and that was without a single sunspot!

Do you think we can do better in 2009? I'm sure we can and the quickest, easiest way will be to have a few more members participating. Wouldn't it be great to have 15 or 20 HCRA members submitting their score this year? The ARRL 10M contest is a lot of fun and offers a very relaxing contest experience. Perfect for a noob!

We may even get a sunspot or two, you never know!

Once again HCRA will be offering beautiful certificates for a few lucky members, perfect for hanging on the shack wall.



HCRA Holiday Party

Join your friends for a relaxing evening at Alexander's Restaurant this holiday season. Located just down the street from our regular meeting hall and on our usual meeting night you can enjoy the company of your best friends along with some holiday cheer.

The meal will be served 'buffet style' with a choice of three delicious entrée's. Pick just one or try them all! Included are all the "fixin's" and of course dessert. The party will be in a private room with a full bar and soda.

New this year will be a \$100 HRO Gift Certificate for one lucky guest.

When

December 4th

Cocktails at 6:00 PM – Dinner at 7:00 PM

Where

Alexander's Restaurant
60 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Menu

Fresh Garden Salad w/dressing
Seasonal vegetable and fresh baked rolls
Roasted Red Potato

Entrée choices

Roast Stuffed Loin of Pork
Chicken Francais
Ziti & Meatballs
Cake w/coffee or tea

Cost

\$25/person

Please mail number of attendees and your check to:
HCRA, P.O. Box 562, Agawam, MA 01001

This event is a major effort to provide a fantastic Holiday Party for our club. Please help make this a success by registering early so we can ensure everyone has a great time.

Reservations MUST be received by November 27th!

Good Food – Good Friends – Great Time – the HCRA Holiday Party

Give Your Generator Some Space

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the same folks that bring you WWV, publish a monthly newsletter called NIST Tech Beat. Here's an item from the 10/6/09 issue of NIST Tech Beat that will be of interest to radio amateurs:

To subdue the steaming heat of hurricanes or to thaw out during a blizzard, gasoline-powered, portable generators are a lifeline during weather emergencies when homes are cut off without electricity. But these generators emit poisonous carbon monoxide—a single generator can produce a hundred times more of the colorless, odorless gas than a modern car's exhaust. New research from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) shows that to prevent potentially dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, users may need to keep generators farther from the house than previously believed—perhaps as much as 25 feet.

Up to half of the incidents of non-fatal carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning reported in the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons involved generators run within 7 feet of the home, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Carbon monoxide can enter a house through a number of airflow paths, such as a door or window left open to accommodate the extension cord that brings power from the generator into the house. While some guidance recommends 10 feet from open windows as a safe operating distance, NIST researcher Steven Emmerich says the “safe” operating distance depends on the house, the weather conditions and the unit. A generator's carbon monoxide output is usually higher than an automobile's, he says, because most generators do not have the sophisticated emission controls that cars do.

“People need to be aware that generators are potentially deadly and they need to educate themselves on proper use,” Emmerich says. With funding from CDC, NIST researchers are gathering reliable data to support future CDC guidance.

NIST building researchers simulated multiple scenarios of a

portable generator operating outside of a one-story house, using both a test structure and two different computer models—the NIST-developed CONTAM indoor air quality model and a computational fluid dynamics model.

The simulations included factors that could be controlled by humans, such as generator location, exhaust direction and window-opening size, and environmental factors such as wind, temperature and house dimensions. In the simulations the generator was placed at various distances from the house and tested under different weather conditions.

“We found that for the house modeled in this study,” researcher Leon Wang says, “a generator position 15 feet away from open windows was not far enough to prevent carbon monoxide entry into the house.”

Winds perpendicular to the open window resulted in more carbon monoxide entry than winds at an angle, and lower wind speeds generally allowed more carbon monoxide in the house. “Slow, stagnant wind seems to be the worst case because it leads to the carbon monoxide lingering by the windows,” Wang explains. Researchers determined that placing the generator outside of the airflow recirculation regions near the open windows reduced carbon monoxide entry.

In the next phase of the study NIST will model a two-story house that researchers believe will interact with the wind differently. NIST researchers also have worked with the Consumer Product Safety Commission on related work. (See: “NIST to Study Hazards of Portable Gasoline-Powered Generators,” NIST Tech Beat, March 5, 2008.)

The generator study can be downloaded at <http://fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/build09/PDF/b09009.pdf>.

* L. Wang and S.J. Emmerich. Modeling the Effects of Outdoor Gasoline Powered Generator Use on Indoor Carbon Monoxide Exposures. (NIST Technical Note 1637,) 2009.

Hints & Kinks: Altoids Times Two

Sam Green, WOPCE, of St Louis, Missouri, has a different take on those ubiquitous Altoids tins:

Many of us mount compact circuits in cases that previously contained mint candies. My friend Matt, W0XEU, suggested packaging more complex circuits in multiple Altoids tins by mounting them back to back, a simple yet elegant idea.

I built this circuit in a "double-wide" arrangement because I needed somewhere to put the



A view of both tins open. Notice the copper tape shielding on the right-hand tin.

batteries. This offered the added advantage of providing a means to filter bench power during development and testing so I wouldn't leak ambient RF signals into the main compartment with its very sensitive circuitry. I simply drill a hole near each corner to screw the boxes together. If you are careful with the placement of the holes you can even turn the arrangement around later to reverse the way the covers open. Otherwise, plan ahead. I feed power between compartments via a threaded coaxial feed-through [EMI](#) (electromagnetic interference) [filter](#), with additional bypass capacitors for this very sensitive application. The threaded filter serves in place of one of the screws that hold the cases together. I use conductive adhesive-backed [copper tape](#) as a gasket to minimize leakage into the shielded compartment that

contains the sensitive circuitry.

You can extend this method to additional compartments where you might want many stages of gain and you need to isolate and control the coupling between them. This is a very simple and effective way to prototype more complex circuits before you have to worry about customizing the packaging. Matt and I hope you will find this method useful. -- 73, Sam Green, WOPCE, 10951 Pem Road, St Louis, MO 63146,

w0pce@arrl.net

+ *Did You Know?* The Wouff Hong

Every amateur should know and tremble at the history and origins of this fearsome instrument for the punishment of amateurs who cultivate bad operating habits and who nourish and cultivate bad operating habits on the air. The [Wouff Hong](#) was discovered -- by "The Old Man" himself, just tinging back on the air after World War I. The Old out to be Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, co-

ndent of ARRL) first heard the Wouff Hong described amid the howls and garble of interference as he tuned across a band filled with signals that exemplified all the rotten operating practices then available to amateurs (considering the state of the art as they knew it). As The Old Man heard it, the Wouff Hong was being used on some hapless offender so effectively that he investigated. After further effort, "T.O.M." was able to locate and identify a Wouff Hong. The Old Man never prescribed the exact manner in which the Wouff Hong was to be used, but amateurs need only a little imagination to surmise how painful punishments were inflicted on those who stoop to liddish behavior on the air. The Original Wouff Hong is on display at ARRL Headquarters. Find out more about this dreaded instrument of torture [here](#).



The finished device, all closed up and ready for travel.



A look at the interior of the shielded side with the copper tape along the edge and inside to eliminate RF interference. All photos by Sam Green, WOPCE.

Thanks to Ed, KB1NWH and QST/ARRL for this puzzle



The Wouff Hong - a "fearsome instrument for the punishment of amateurs who cultivate bad operating habits."

Ham Humor, Part 2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
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			23			24				25			
26	27	28		29		30		31		32			
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38				39			40	41			42	43	
			44			45				46			
47	48				49	50		51		52			
54					55		56		57		58		
59				60				61			62	63	64
65										67			
68										69			
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										72			
										73			

Answers will be available in the Zero Beat section of www.hcra.org

- Across**
- Remembered place in W5-land
 - Sprays
 - Small rigs
 - F3 compared with A1, say
 - HPM call sign, once
 - Deleted entry island, with Abu
 - A4 denizen
 - J6 name
 - 9/11 year
 - Frequent author in 60-across
 - F9 wine
 - Am H follower
 - W1 to CN dir
 - I-land good
 - UTC predecessor
 - Thyristor type
 - News
 - Detect after the detector
 - Famous W4 suffix (SK)
 - Cyber attacker, with net
 - What 20 across' articles described
 - Alpha male suffix?
 - Former F coin
 - CW, to FCC
 - Adobe product
 - Dir. for HL from W2
 - W5 ARRL sect.
 - Sinister look
 - OSCAR, for one
 - Ham equipment dealer
 - Sometimes accompanies a QSL with an SAE
 - Frequent place for ham humor
 - Opposite of paleo-
 - Elmer, in a way
 - VOA part
 - Diamond or Comet mounting place
 - Equatorial prefix
 - 720 and 753, for example
 - Opposite of 65 across
 - Amplifier, slangily
 - Sloper orientation
 - Down
 - Roll call misser
 - Before mike
 - 4X mouth
 - The brainy bunch
 - Tennessee transceivers
 - XE sancé
 - Accustom (to)
 - Trig ratio
 - BV city
 - Shop partner, on a net, say
 - Takes place at Hara
 - It's everything, often
 - Collins sets
 - Scratches, as to a wire
 - Flora and fauna
 - JK predecessors
 - Storage, for short
 - What we did before war, mp3, etc.
 - Ham name
 - Aur. performance mess.
 - Yagi yawer
 - KB2GSD network
 - Weep
 - Skywave reflector
 - EME path
 - Suffix with persist
 - Driver's license datum
 - Maker of 11 across, for example
 - Some like it hot
 - Per se
 - Arm art
 - Interlaces
 - Iceland ID
 - Go bad
 - Locales
 - Lodes from lodes
 - TI last name
 - Desktop feature
 - " ___ we forger"

Thanks to Ed, KB1NWH and QST/ARRL for this puzzle

Meeting Location:

*Feeding Hills
Congregational Church
21 North Westfield St.
Feeding Hills, MA 01030*



Next Meeting:

**Friday Night
November 6th**

**Setup: 6pm
Starts: 7pm**

**Annual
Auction**



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

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