

# Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association

November 2011

## It's Your Meeting, Too!



Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW, talks about the new Elecraft KX3 raffle prize.

while Duane Renaldi, KA1SFK, Larry Dziobek, KD1RV, Doug Henrichon, KB1UYG, & Rory, N1RNR look on.



Duane Renaldi, KA1SFK, enters a bid at the newly instituted Silent Auction table.



Dan Vierno, KB1VWQ, looks like he actually has fun at the meeting!



The meetings are more interesting and informative if everyone participates. Ideas for a meeting? Talk to or email a Board member. Ideas and pictures for Zero Beat? Email [n1fj@arrl.net](mailto:n1fj@arrl.net).

### Inside:

Local Happenings, Flea Markets, and stuff, page 2  
From the Shack, page 3  
The Barefoot DXer, page 4  
Raffle, page 5  
TS-590 Review, page 6  
Holiday Party, page 7  
Minutes from Oct. 11 BOD meeting, page 8  
November Auction, page 9



## There's Nothing Like a New Antenna!

Ed LaCombe, KB1NWH, (shown above) is just one of the many experienced HCRA members who help hams (new and old) with getting on the air: antennas, equipment, computer interface, operating. Don't be shy! Ask questions! Whether Tech, General, or Extra, you always have something to learn.

### Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

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- Operating Awards
- Local Clubs
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- Hamfests and Conventions
- Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Program

<http://www.arrl.org/membership>



# Local happenings

## (All times are local time)

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

**First Monday:** RACES Drill, 1900, 146.91; 1930, 146.94; 1945, 146.985

**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)  
Common Ground Restaurant  
25 Park Avenue  
West Springfield, MA 01089

Expect between 6 and 12 every Friday. Good food, great company!

## Club Meetings & VE Sessions

**1st Friday of the month** 1930 HCRA Club Meeting, Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills (no meetings held in July or August)

**3rd Friday of the month** 1930 MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA (no meetings held in July or August)

**4th Friday of the month** 1800 License Exams, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, MA. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET)

**Third Monday of the month** 1900 Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield High School (no meetings held in July or August) (Meeting Jan 23, 2012, 4th Monday; meeting Apr 23, 2012, to avoid holidays)

**4th Monday of February, May, August, November** 1900 FCARC VE Exams, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Northfield

# New England Flea Markets

29 Oct Gales Ferry CT TCARC Auction @FireCo @10 Darryl WA1DD 860 443 7799

30 Oct Westford MA NEAntiqueRC @Regency Free @8 +\$25/T Charlie 603 898 4821

4 Nov Feeding Hills MA HCRA Auction @CongCh @6:30PM Jim KK1W 413 245 3228

5 Nov Londonderry NH IRS @Lions @8AM Chris KB1QVM 603 434 6137

12 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech \$5@9 \$10/5@7 Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422



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Dust off that old key  
or paddle and get  
on the air!

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## HCRA Contact List

President, Jim Mullen KK1W (413) 245-3228  
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# FROM THE SHACK

## The sun is – ALIVE!!

Finally Cycle 24 is showing some muscle and whipping the HF bands into shape! If you're a relatively new ham, say four years or less, you probably thought those tales you heard from the 'old timers' were just a little 'exaggerated', right? At last you're getting a chance to see for yourself how much fun HF communications can be. From Europe in the morning to Japan at night now's the time to take advantage of the situation and have fun making worldwide contacts.

The road from the end of Cycle 23 to where we are now has been long and perplexing. Cycle 24 (the one we're in now) was supposed to start a few years ago. That didn't happen, did it? Then there were dire predictions we were in a Maunder Minimum and there might not be any sunspots in our lifetime. How depressing! Thankfully we're having good activity over the last month or so and hopefully it will last for some time to come.

The sun has been around for millions of years and humans have only been figuring out stuff like sunspots for a few thousand. There simply isn't a lot to go on to make accurate predictions. Is this cycle going to last? Did it start later and therefore last longer than we thought? Is this an anomaly of the Maunder Minimum after all? So what to do now?

As we move through life we learn that indeed there are some things that can be put off until tomorrow without harm and others that, if not done now, you may never have another chance. We need to prioritize and act on things that may not be repeated. It is possible Cycle 24 could end next week! If you've been thinking about getting on HF do it now. Need better antennas for 14 MHz and above? Don't wait until Cycle 24 is on the way down. Same goes for upgrading to that General or Extra class ticket – you could really get some extra mileage out of that Extra. We're all faced daily with choices that, if not acted on quickly, won't be fulfilled. When it comes to Cycle 24 I say, do it now, let the dishes wait until morning!

## Last call for Auction donations!

As you read this our annual auction is only days away, but that still leaves time to donate to the cause. Why, because not only will the full amount of what your item sells for benefit HCRA it stands a good chance of ending up in someone else's shack that will really appreciate it. By any measure a good thing, right?

So, exactly how do you go about it? If you're going to the



auction just bring the items along with you. We supply you with a sticker, put it on the item(s) fill in your name/call (if you want to) and we'll take care of the rest. I told you it was easy. But what if you're not able to attend or there's just too much to bring? Even easier! Give me a call at 413-237-4666 or email to [kk1w@arrl.net](mailto:kk1w@arrl.net) and I'll come to your house and pick it up. Does it get any easier than that?

Your donations enable HCRA to continue to provide Field Day, special events, prizes, speaker incentives and more for all our members. Anything you can do to help is appreciated by all. HCRA is a 501-c3 non-profit corporation and your donation is deductible to the

fullest extent of the tax code.

## HCRA's Holiday Party at the Steaming Tender

We're pulling out all the stops for this year's party. Once again we're back at one of the neatest restaurants in the valley, the Steaming Tender in Palmer, MA. New on the buffet this year is a roast beef carving station along with other entrees, salads, sides and dessert. Delicious foods, pleasant surroundings, good company – what more can you ask for? Well, this year the board has approved a \$500 budget for door prizes. The committee is busy selecting prizes now but it goes without saying some lucky diners will leave with more than a full stomach. You can't be a winner if you don't attend so get your check in now or purchase a ticket at November's auction. The price has remained a mere \$15/person, member or guest. I don't think you can find a meal like this for \$15 anywhere, not to mention the chance to win a nice gift and enjoy a pleasant evening with friends. Our goal is to fill the restaurant, can we do it? We can if we all go! *(Continued on page 5, col. 1)*

# The Barefoot DXer

*This is the first in a series of Zero Beat articles entitled the "Barefoot DXer" which will explore the wonderful and often frustrating world of low power DX operation.*

*Most modern transceivers now have a maximum power ceiling of 100 watts; at that power level you will be operating "barefoot". Understanding, accepting and adhering to the DX Code of Conduct is your passport to many hours of pleasant and rewarding barefoot DX contacts.*



**#1. I will listen, and listen and then listen again before calling.** Such a fundamental notion, yet so many operators fail to grasp its essential nature. Careful listening before rushing to transmit will often put that DX contact in your log far quicker than a hurried answer to a CQ. It is essential to listen in order to find out whether the DX is working simplex or split. If the DX station is working split, where is he listening? Also listening to the other calling stations, perhaps using a "Dual Watch" will also determine what the DX station is doing. He may be listening 5 to 10 up, gradually working up or down the pile-up frequency range. Tactically, you need to find your "sweet spot". The best frequency within that range which will maximize your chances of breaking the pileup and logging a quick contact, or if the pile up is broad and dense you may choose to move off and return later when the pile up has thinned and the propagation has become more favorable.

**#2 I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.** DX stations are quite often not interested in "rag chewing". Their intent is to maximize the number of contacts logged by creating for themselves a rhythm, a cadence if you will, with each contact following the other in an orderly manner. Time is precious and it is extremely frustrating for the DX station to return a call from a calling station that has answered his CQ or QRZ without actually being able to hear and understand what information the DX stations must pass in order to complete the QSO. In addition, you need to listen in order to minimize the QRM floor level created when a calling station, unable to properly hear the DX station, transmits at the wrong time. It is extremely frustrating for a DX station to return a call to a station that is unable to hear him, thereby causing incessant QRM.

**#3. I will not trust the DX Cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.** Cluster spots do not always show the correct call sign, so never trust the spotting networks; rather make sure you hear the station's call sign on the air, before you log a station, A good DX operator will send his call sign at regular intervals. Alas, not all DX operators are good DX operators.

**#4. I will not interfere with the DX station or anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.** Sadly, the amateur radio bands have their share of ignoramuses, adherents of poor operating practices and there is no lack of "Band Police," who feel the need to compulsively break in to tell hapless callers that the DX station is "listening up". Unless the DX station is operating simplex the directive is simple: never, never, ever transmit on the DX frequency for any purpose whatsoever.

**#5. I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before calling.** Transmitting prior to the actual end of an ongoing QSO, will likely interfere with the information exchange, break the cadence, lengthen the QSO thus slowing the process. Many DX stations find this practice irritating because their rhythm and operating pattern which determines when the calling stations should transmit is broken.

**#6. I will always send my full call sign.** Certainly an essential but often neglected practice is for CW and SSB operation to only send their full call sign. Incomplete calls signs lead to extra transmissions, slowing the DX operator's progress with the pileup. If a poor DX operator is responding to partial call signs, it may appear that you should also call with a partial call sign but you should not, Always use your full call sign.

**#7. I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval.** I will not call continuously. Continuous calling is ignorant, arrogant and extremely selfish. A computer or memory keyer makes it so easy to send your call sign continuously. Unfortunately, it prevents the DX station from properly listening to the incoming signals and decrease his awareness of what is actually taking place. It raises the QRM floor substantially and frustrates the DX station and everyone else attempting to make a clean contact.

**#8. I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.** This should be intuitively obvious, but it is sadly a common practice. If the DX station is not calling you, do not transmit.

**#9. I will not transmit when the DX Operator queries a call sign not like mine.** If the DX station is actually calling you and hears nothing, he will call you again. Then you can return his call. One letter from your call sign is NOT enough to mandate a return! Calling when you are not sure that your call sign has been sent confuses the QSO, breaks the cadence and raises the QRM floor level and will slow DX stations' progress.

**#10. I will not transmit when the DX operator requests geographic areas other than mine.** Calling stations must realize that the DX station is attempting to control the DX frequency and should realize, recognize and accept that when an operator is calling for a specific geographic area (e.g. EU for Europe, NA for North America, SA for South

*(Continued on page 5, column 2)*

*(From the Shack, Continued)*

## Loose Ends:

Congrats to AI/KB1XG for taking home the FT-1900R sign-up raffle prize. I wonder what repeater we'll hear it on?

The silent auction was a great success, both for HCRA and the lucky winners. Thanks everyone for your generous support. We hope to do similar things in the future based on these excellent results.

Holiday Party tickets will be on sale now. Get your ticket from Marty at this month's meeting or mail your check in before November 25th. Our goal is to fill the restaurant – do you think we can?

This year's ARRL 10 Meter contest should be exciting. Have you made plans yet for the weekend of December 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>?

John/Kx1x is scheduling a Technician license class starting in January. Know someone that would like to take the plunge into amateur radio? Get them in touch with John (or vice-versa) so we can add to our ranks.

Rumor has it the DX Crew will be feeding us again at the auction. Bring your appetite and some spare change, I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

What would you like to see happening at HCRA? Special event stations, contests, raffles, presentations only touch the surface of ham radio. We're looking for ideas for the 'next generation' amateur. Can you help? You sure can, mail in your thoughts or even better volunteer to teach the rest of us some new things.

'73... see you at the meeting,

Jim, KK1W

## New Raffle Volunteer

Frank, KB1LFD, has generously volunteered to handle raffle ticket sales at our club meetings and events for 2011/2012 and we all appreciate his willingness to take on the responsibility. So if you would like to take home a new KX3 make sure you find Frank to get your ticket.

## *(Barefoot DXer, Continued)*

America, AF for Africa, AS for Asia or something more specific such as Japan or Pacific ), you must not call until the operator's instructions change. If a DX operator is working a particular area, perhaps Africa, and fails to say so between QSOs, do not begin calling immediately. Listen and call only when it is clear that the operator's instructions have changed. Show some manners and help the DX operator conduct a clean QSO.

**#11. When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.** If you repeat your call sign, the DX station may think that he has copied your call sign incorrectly and feel the need to listen more carefully thus slowing the process. DX operators will generally log the call sign that they have copied if you say nothing further.

**#12. I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.** There should certainly be a pride of accomplishment when you break a pileup and complete a QSO with a station in a far-away entity, especially if you run a bare foot rig and are connected to a dipole or simple Yagi beam. Yes, you the operator can take a greater amount of credit than the operator running a "full gallon" into a stacked array at 100 feet but you should reflect on the fact that you would not have made the contact without the skill of the DX operator at the other end and the other calling stations who conducted themselves in a civil manner. So, be mindful and thankful for all the help you received.

**#13. I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.** Respect is all about good behavior. Behaving well toward others, a skill normally learned in kindergarten, should gain you the respect of other operators. DXing is quite competitive and can become downright cutthroat when the use of the DX code of Conduct is not there to temper the temptation toward bad behavior. If you operate outside the envelope of the DX Code of Conduct, you may acquire the reputation of being a "lid". So, the bottom line is that DXing will be the most productive and fun for all if we all behave in a polite, mutual respectful manner.

73, and Good DX!


Marty W1MJB

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Call sign \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### HCRA KX3 RAFFLE



- 160 - 6 meters
- SSB/CW/DATA/AM/FM
- Only 1.5 pounds
- Advanced DSP
- 10W PEP, low current drain
- Be the 1st on your block!
- MSRP \$899.99 (estimated)

**Elecraft KX3**

«F5»

«F5»

DRAWING BY  
JUNE 1ST, 2012

*S10/ticket - Only 200 tickets will be sold !*

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Visit our website at <http://www.hcra.org> . We are also on Facebook Groups: *Hampden County Radio Association* and *SOTAJerks*. Join us!

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# Review: Kenwood TS-590s

For around 2 years now I have been thinking about getting a new, better HF rig. I had 3 HF rigs at home, a Kenwood TS570DG, a Yaesu FT-897 and a Elecraft K2. Originally I had the 570 downstairs, the 897 upstairs with the K2. When I went camping, either the K2 or the 897 came with me. But eventually the 570 went upstairs and I had 3 very similar rigs to choose from operating.

But to get the new rig, I had to sell the aforementioned trio. I was thinking Elecraft K3 or Kenwood TS-590s. I was willing to wait if my research proved the K3 to be a substantially better rig than the 590. But it didn't, at least not for the way I was going to use the radio. I also got help from Larry, KD1RV, who has both radios side by side and I could compare the two. Yes, the K3 has growth potential for the future with dual receivers and tons of options. But I figured I'd never need or want that second receiver and a good amount of those options. So the 590 was the rig for me. Now that I've had the radio for a while, I'd like to share what I really like about it.



Kenwood has an ergonomic sense about the layouts of their rigs. Take the keypad to the left of the tuning knob. Each key except the ENT button has 2 functions. The first is to take you to the band on the button by a single key press. Press the band button again and it'll take you to the other portion of the band. For example, press the 7 button and it takes you to where you were last on the band, say 14.205. Press it again and it'll take you to 14.030 or your last used cw portion of the band. It's a neat feature for quickly getting where you want to go, especially if you operate both cw and ssb like I do. Want 40m – press the 7 button, want 10m – press the 28 button. It's very simple. But let's say you want to go to the 10m net frequency for Monday nights – 28.375? Direct frequency entry is as simple as pressing the ENT key then the frequency – 28375 then the ENT button again, the decimal is inserted automatically. Or if you wanted to go to 28.3, it would be ENT 283 ENT and you're instantly there. The PF B button is another programmable button. Mine is set to side tone volume which I have louder while on speaker and softer while wearing headphones.

Modes are nice too as they give a audible letter in cw. USB is dit dit dah, LSB is dit dah dit dit and so on. Just press the button and hear the mode letter. The buttons to the left of the keypad are also quick keys to adjust power – PWR from 5 to 100 watts. KEY adjusts cw tuning speed, GENE to general coverage receiver. MIC is microphone level. FINE is on and off fine tuning and hold FINE in to lock the dial.

The upper left corner has power, a programmable button known as PF A. Mine is set to screen brightness at the moment. ATT is attenuator, etc. Those buttons are pretty self explanatory.

The buttons to the right of the tuning knob are for filters, memory keyer, memories and vfo. Using the Hi/Shift and Lo/Width when A is displayed is your default filtering level for DSP. Pressing IF FIL shows B on the screen and this can be set narrower for the DSP. With the pressing of IF FIL you can switch between your DSP filter settings with out having to retune all the time. Of course you can still twirl the knobs any time you want or leave them set. Both SSB and CW have separate settings.

The 590s has 100 memories and each memory can have a tag. The only item I have in memory so far is HCRA 10m net.

*(Continued on page 7)*

(TS-590S review, continued)

But there is lots more room for more. The CH1 to CH3 are cw memories or if you add the voice synthesizer, it will give you three voice memories as well. (I don't have this option).

CW operation is a dream. If you like your CW at a certain tone, say 550hz, you set it in the menu and then when receiving a CW signal, press the CW T button which will tune that signal to the desired tone and frequency. It works quick and easy. The RIT & XIT are right there and easily adjusted. The nice thing about the MENU button is you go into your MENU for settings and rarely have to return there while operating the radio. Everything you need is on the front panel or the two programmable keys. There's no need to dig thru the menus every time you use the radio!

The audio output sounds so ear pleasing it's easy to sit and use it for a period of time and not get tired of hearing it. You can tailor the audio thru a receive equalizer to make it sound the way you want it to. The transmitter also has a transmit equalizer (EQ) and with the help of a friend, you can modify the output quality to sound just like you want. When I first got on the 10m net, I was told I didn't sound like me. With the help from George, KC1V after the net, I set the transmit EQ and have received very favorable audio reports since.

I'm still learning to use the Notch filters, Noise Reduction and more. There are still facets of this radio that I'll be learning how to use for a while. But what I have learned is that operating it is a dream. It's so simple and works so well and everything is laid out in a manner that makes learning and operating the TS-590 easy. It's one of very few radios you can walk away from and return a few weeks later and *not* have to relearn how to operate it all over again. Kenwood TS-590 info, brochure and manual: <http://www.kenwoodusa.com/Communications/Amateur Radio/HF Base Mobile/TS-590S>

73 for now, I hope to hear you on the bands!  
Larry, WB1DBY (wb1dby@comcast.net)

*I just received a QSL from the North Pole today, Santa's Elves just confirmed that our order for the HCRA Holiday Party prizes will arrive on time. It was a tough QSO with strong flutter and a lot of QRN created by the Coronal Mass Ejection but now we know the order did get through. So, we are excited and you should be too because you never know, you may hold one of the winning ticket stubs which will be drawn during the annual HCRA Holiday Party at the Steaming Tender Restaurant in Palmer Massachusetts on December 5th. Don't wait too long to purchase your Holiday Party tickets and join us for a convivial evening of fine New England holiday fare and potables. And, of course a chance to win one of the many fantastic prizes. For more information check out the HCRA web site or call me at 413 525-3717. Marty W1MJB*



- In the Historic Palmer Railroad Station -



## HCRA Holiday Party

*All Aboard!*

*Our Holiday Party is on the right track this year and returns to the*

*Steaming Tender in Palmer.*

*New this year is a roast beef carving station added to the buffet.*

***Happy Holidays !!!***

Date: 12/5/2011

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

Everyone will get to enjoy a festive buffet meal with three entrees, bread, salad and desserts.

Coffee/tea/water included and adult beverages available from the full (pay as you go) bar.

Raffle Prizes/Awards/Fun for Everyone!

Full menu at:

[http://www.hcra.org/holiday\\_party.htm](http://www.hcra.org/holiday_party.htm)

Please register by 11/25, fill out the right and mail it along with your check to:

HCRA  
PO Box 562  
Agawam, MA 01001

### HCRA Holiday Party Reservation

Date: Monday, December 5th

Time: 6:00 Cocktails–7:00 Dinner

Name(s) of people attending:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Total due = number attending x \$15)

Please confirm your  
reservation by November  
25th, 2011

# HCRA Board of Directors Minutes

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## OFFICER REPORTS

### Vice President, Kx1x

IRLP Update – Is it up yet? – Yes it is, not much activity. Tech Class Schedule for 2011 – Latest information? – To be announced but probably not until January 2012. Suggested advertising the class on Craig's List – N1KXR will help with this. John will check with SAMnet for the [info@hcra.org](mailto:info@hcra.org) address (who gets it).

### Treasurer, AA1YW.

Current financial report - \$7293.19 (not counting the latest donations). Long Term Raffle report – 23 tickets sold to date

**Secretary W1MJB:** Late arrival, KK1W took notes.

State and Federal filing status – We are up to date on these. Holiday Party – Status report and thoughts for door prizes. - \$500 budget approved for door prizes. Marty and Rich will put together a list and share it with the board at the November meeting.

## DIRECTOR REPORTS

**Technical, KB1NWH:** Work at Bruce's/KB1RNU, tower removal, KB1VPM roof tower w/gap Titan, WN1E tower & beam.

**Zero Beat, N1FJ:** Publication date for October – October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

### Membership, W1MSW

New member approval – John/AC1T, Janet/KB1WAN, Mike/KB1WAM, Mike/KB1VHS, Tom/N1KNY, Wally/W1WJW, Karl/KB1RXO. – voted and approved. Long Term Raffle - Update on the new raffle and raffle person. – 23 tickets sold to date, Frank is all set to carry forward. Dave/AA1YW will hold on to all ticket stubs until the drawing. Current member count (broken down by member type) – 70 Regular, 3 Life, 16 Family, 5 Prospect. Matt needs DX crew address info for the roster.

### At Large, N1KXR.

Is keeping his ear to the wall. Silent auctions have been well accepted. Will help with upcoming tech class advertising. Will get in touch with Marty about promoting the holiday party via facebook, other venues.

### Program, NN1Y

November – Auction

December – Holiday Party

**January – Open**

**February – Open**

**March** – John Eldridge/Antique Radio Museum

**April – Open**

**May – Open**

**June** – Tailgate Party

Ed/KB1NWH will do an emcomm meeting – maybe April

Crew DX ??? – history of the DX Crew and their accomplishments over the years.

Some kind of contesting presentation.

Norm/LotW presentation.

### Crew DX President, KB1RIE

Report on crew activity – October 14 – 16 JOTA @ camporee in Southampton. Shack work at Moses, a new member Mike/K1MAZ, CQWW-SSB Oct 28 – 30. Crew DX will provide food again at the November auction. KB1RIE and NN1Y will work up a menu, provide advertising to Frandy for inclusion in Zero Beat. This is entirely a Crew function, menu, profits, set-up, staffing and cleanup with HCRA providing the opportunity.

## OLD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Dates for new season: ~~AUG 22, OCT 10, NOV 7, JAN 9, MAR 5, MAY 7, JUN 4~~ please review and check your personal calendar – KK1W – **New dates Nov 8, Jan 10, Mar 6, May 8 & June 5.** – The day has been changed to Tuesday – all board members please double check your calendar and advise of any conflicts.

N1CQT Donation – status update – KK1W - \$1607.56 collected to date. The balance of the items will be sold at the November auction.

## NEW BUSINESS

N1IKD Donation – list attached to email and status. – KK1W - \$1612.57 collected to date. Charlie has requested a 5050 split between HCRA and Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

Programs (speakers) are very light. We need to get moving, time is getting short. Frandy is working on a YCCC 'Contest University' presentation, George/K1ANX is also a possible – there is nothing else in the hopper.

Looking for a new webmaster – 1W is getting sick of it AND it needs to be brought into the future. – Matt will discuss this with Jim at a later date.

Is our SSC status with ARRL Current – W1MJB.

Door Prizes for the Holiday Party – approved \$500 for prizes.

Should we look to purchase a trailer to store our stuff in? Marty and Ed will exploratory work and present some ideas to the board.



**\*200\* Raffle Prize  
Elecraft KX3!**

*Drawing June 1, 2012  
(\$10/ticket - only 200 sold)*



# AUCTION

## *November 4th !!!*

*Turn your old 'stuff' into cash!*

- *Set-up at 6:00 PM*
- *Auction starts at 7:00 PM*
- *KX3 Raffle Tickets*
- *Lots of bargains!*



**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

Contact: Jim, [kk1w@arrl.net](mailto:kk1w@arrl.net)

**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.

Minimum fee = \$1.00

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

**More info: [www.hcra.org](http://www.hcra.org)**

# This antenna survived the storm, did yours?



Share your disaster or near-miss with Zero Beat. Best photos could appear in future issues!



G5RV (formerly at 40') is now a sloper...

because one support bit the dust, er...snow.