

Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association

October 2013

Next HCRA Meeting

Friday, Oct. 4th

Please join us at our October club meeting where John Kalotai – N1OLO from Hamsource.com will give a presentation on some of his new products like the Ez-gate 80 and EZ Power Strip as well as other solutions hamsource.com has available for the shack. Along with John's presentation, we will be discussing regular club business and future events, selling raffle tickets for the FT-857 and to the Holiday Party in December, taking membership renewals for 2013/2014, and taking deposits for WRTC equipment that the club is selling at a discount to members. Meeting starts at 7:30 after the Tech Corner.

New this month: Tech Corner @ 7:00pm

Starting with our October meeting, Bob – K1YO, HCRA's technical director, will be holding a regular pre-meeting



technical demonstration called Tech Corner. During this time, Bob will give a technical demonstration on a particular aspect of the hobby. This month Bob will show us how to test ferrite chokes using an MFJ259B

analyzer. Tech Corner is a very welcome addition to our regular meetings and I encourage everyone to come a little early to learn something new. This would also be a good time to bring technical questions for Bob and ideas for future Tech Corners. -Matt, W1MSW

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ARRL New England Division Director Visits HCRA



(Matt, W1MSW) At our September meeting our ARRL New England Director, Tom Frenaye, K1KI, discussed several topics of interest with our membership. Tom spent most of his presentation giving us the details of what ARRL is working on for their 100th Anniversary convention, which will be held in Hartford, CT. Tom informed us that convention

organizers are focusing on top-notch presentations, bus excursions from the convention to local attractions like the Vintage Radio and Communication Museum and ESPN, and tours of W1AW and ARRL HQ. There will also be efforts to curate historical displays as well as displays on the future of amateur radio. Of course all of the other things you expect to find at an amateur radio convention will also be there. Tom mentioned that volunteers would be needed for the event and that organizers will be looking for people to fill 2-hour time slots. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Tom – K1KI at k1ki@arrl.org

Tom also discussed briefly the current state of the relationship between ARRL and the FCC, some of issues that the league is working directly with the Commission and the current status of the FCC's enforcement within the realm of amateur radio.

And lastly Tom discussed the current status of the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championships, how the 2013 station tests went and reiterated some of the volunteer opportunities that are still needed for that event.

It's always a pleasure to have Tom out to talk to the club and keep us informed on how things are back at HQ!

FROM THE SHACK

Potential Loss of 2 meter Simplex Frequencies?

(From ARRL News, 09/09/2013) The New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC) reaching out to 2 meter simplex operators in its four-state coverage area to get their opinions on changes to the 2 meter band plan.

At its annual meeting August 24, NESMC, the Amateur Radio repeater coordinator for Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, announced a proposal to modify the 2 meter band plan to allow for some 1 MHz split repeaters.

The proposal includes new repeater channels with outputs from 146.41 MHz to 146.49 MHz and inputs from 147.41 MHz to 147.49 MHz. Also included is a test pair, with output at 147.505 MHz and input at 146.505 MHz. The NESMC membership ultimately will vote on this band plan, which will affect some simplex users.

There is a lively discussion going on the NESMC's Yahoo Group page including comments from Mark/K1MAP, of Hampden, MA. If you're interested in what the proposed 2m band plan might look like you may want to check it out.

I would like to know your thoughts on the proposed changes and will set aside meeting time this coming Friday for discussion. I'll gather your thoughts and forward them to NESMC..

Have you renewed your membership yet?

It's RENEWAL Time! Once again it is time to renew your HCRA membership for another year. A one year ticket is still only \$15, a bargain by any stretch of the imagination. Included in this month's Zero Beat (and also available on our web site) is a handy application. Please fill it out and bring it to Friday's meeting. See Rich and Dave at the back of the hall and they will get you settled in for another fun year!

Remember you can skip the long lines at the meeting and pay by PayPal from the comfort of your couch. Why not click here and get it done!

IRLP Node 7270 is QRT

The end of an era... After many years of operation on 146.46 MHz the HCRA IRLP node has been retired. A combination of failing equipment and lack of users prompted us to 'pull the big switch'. We were one of the first clubs in the area to put an IRLP node on the air allowing many Technician class hams to make DX contacts on 2 meters. Special thanks go to Carol/W1LGU, John/Kx1x and others who donated equipment and time to keep the node QRV for all these years.



Jim/KK1W operating from Baxter Mountain in the Adirondacks in September.

Notes from the cluster...

Foxhunting! - Rich/N1KXR and Larry/WB1DBY are still hoping to get one or two in before the snow flies. See them at the meeting to find out when and where?

November Meeting

– Features Dave/N1MFL and Dan/KB1VFQ bringing us up to speed about Parks on the Air (POTA), the latest craze in portable operations. Learn how to join the fun at November's meeting.

HCRA/MTARA Joint Holiday Party

December 9th – Tickets go on sale at tonight's meeting. We'll be at the Steaming Tender once again and the price remains at \$15 each for member and guest. Info elsewhere in this issue of Zero Beat. 73 and see you at the meeting,

Jim/KK1W

Join the ARRL or renew your membership!

ARRL members enjoy:

- QST Magazine
- Members-Only Web Services
- Technical Information Service
- Member Discounts
- Outgoing QSL Service
- Continuing Education
- ARRL as an Advocate
- Regulatory Information Branch
- Public Relations for Amateur Radio
- ARRL Field Organization
- ARRL-sponsored contests
- 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: Southwick Regional RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

Mondays: 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

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

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

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

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

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

Fridays: 1200: BB's (Brown Baggers Luncheon)

Munich House

13 Center Street

Chicopee, MA 01013

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

Club meetings & VE sessions

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

3rd Friday of the month 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, Springfield, Mass. (no meetings held in July or August)

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

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

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

Flea markets coming up

7 Oct Meriden CT Nutmeg @Sheraton was Wallingford John N1GNV 203 440 4973 F+

12,13 Oct Deerfield NH NEARFest XII @FG Mike K1TWF 978 250 1235

19,20 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr ~photo~ John 781 592 2553

20 Oct Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT Mitch 617 253 3776 F Third Sunday April thru October

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

2 Nov Londonderry NH IRS \$3@8 \$15/T Chris KB1QVM 603 434 6137 F

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

30 Nov Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor John 860 673 0518

HCRA contact list

President, Jim Mullen KK1W (413) 237-4666

kk1w@arrl.net

Vice-President, Ed LaCombe KB1NWH (413) 250-3137

kb1nwh@comcast.net

Treasurer, Dave Cain AA1YW (413) 569-6901

aa1yw@arrl.net

Secretary, Dave Scarpa N1MFL (413) 241-0139

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At Large, John Pise KX1X (413) 532-7474

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Newsletter, Frandy Johnson N1FJ (413) 584-9005

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Programs, Matt Wilhelm W1MSW (413) 336-4701

w1msw@arrl.net

Membership, Rich Wheeler N1KXR (413) 584-3372

n1kxr@arrl.net

Technical, Bob Meneguzzo K1YO (413) 896-4879

k1yo@comcast.net

Skywarn Liaison, Eric Tuller N1QKO (413) 967-3869

et-n1qko@juno.com

VE Session Liaison, Dave Cote W1FAB (413) 575-2950

w1fab@arrl.net

WRTC EQUIPMENT SALE – October Update

We are only one month into the sale and already half the Honda generators and almost half of the coax have been purchased! How cool is that? Unfortunately this also means if you're contemplating purchasing a generator or coax time is of the essence. I don't need to remind you there won't be any more coming once these are gone, do I?

An updated inventory list is presented below and an official WRTC purchase agreement can be found elsewhere in this month's Zero Beat. Don't delay, put your deposit down now to ensure you can take advantage of our club purchases, get a good discount and support HCRA/WRTC at the same time!

Available	Item	Model	Retail	HCRA	Notes
12	25G, 10' Section	Rohn 25G	\$135	\$60	
4	25G, 8' rocket top w/4'	Rohn 25G	\$309	\$150	w/4' mast and rotor bracket
4	Rotator w/125' cable	Yaesu G-450A	\$404	\$225	
Only 2 left!	2000W generator	Honda Eu-2000i	\$1,119	\$750	with Berg extended run tank
2	Tent	Eureka Cop Canyon 8	\$379	\$100	
Only 5 left!	150' Coax w/PL-259	Times LMR-240	\$120	\$50	
2	Tri-band Beam Antenna	Cycle 24, TX-38	\$1,000	\$500	
2	80M dipole	Radio Oasis	\$55	\$20	
2	40M dipole	Radio Oasis	\$40	\$20	
6	36"x36" Folding Table	?	\$70	\$25	
8	Folding Chairs	?	\$15	\$10	
4	Lamp	?	\$10	\$5	
4	Fan	?	\$15	\$5	
4	Camp Toilet	?	\$40	\$10	

Here are some facts worth considering when making your purchase:

1. The equipment has between 24 and 72 hours use (*in other words it isn't NEW*)
2. A 20% non-refundable deposit is required for purchase
3. Your purchase must be paid in full by June 1, 2014
4. Delivery will be immediately after July 13, 2014
5. You must be a member of HCRA, this offer is not available to the general public
6. Quantities are very limited and are on a first come/first served basis

The sale started at our September 6th meeting and is being administered by Dave/AA1YW and Jim/KK1W. All questions about the equipment, deposits, etc. should go directly to Dave or Jim.

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

Dave/AA1YW & Jim/KK1W

HCRA/WRTC Equipment Purchase Agreement

(current inventory as of 9/23/2013)

Date: ____/____/____

Name: _____, Call: _____

Street: _____, City: _____, State: ____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) - ____ - _____ email: _____ @ _____

Purchaser agrees to the following:

1. A 20% non-refundable deposit at date of purchase.
2. Payment made in full by June 1, 2014
3. Purchased items will be available for delivery/pickup after July 13, 2014
4. Purchaser understands the goods are used and without warranty

Available	Item	Model	Retail	HCRA	Qty	20% Deposit	Balance Due
12	25G, 10' section	Rohn, 25G	\$ 135	\$ 60			
4	25G, 8' rocket top w/4' mast and rotor bracket	Rohn, 25G	\$ 309	\$ 150			
4	Rotator w/125' cable	Yaesu, G-450A	\$ 404	\$ 225			
2	2000W Generator w/Berg Extended run tank	Honda, EU-2000i	\$ 1,119	\$ 750			
2	Tent	Eureka Cop Canyon 8	\$ 379	\$ 100			
5	150' Coax w/PL259	Times, LMR-240	\$ 120	\$ 50			
2	Tri-band Beam Antenna	Cycle 24, TX-38	\$ 1,000	\$ 500			
2	80M dipole	Radio Oasis	\$ 55	\$ 20			
2	40M dipole	Radio Oasis	\$ 40	\$ 20			
6	36" x 36" Folding Table	?	\$ 70	\$ 25			
8	Folding Chairs	?	\$ 15	\$ 10			
4	Lamp	?	\$ 10	\$ 5			
4	Fan	?	\$ 15	\$ 5			
4	Camp Toilet	?	\$ 40	\$ 10			
				Totals:			

SELLER

BUYER

HCRA Inc.

_____ (printed)

By

By (signature)

Name, Title

Date

Name, Title

Date

Ham Apps

(Larry, WB1DBY) As a Android phone user for a number of years now, I find I'm frequently referring to my phone, especially when I'm camping or away from my home station. When I am camping, I log all my contacts manually vs on the computer using DX Labs at home. One thing that I can never keep straight in my head is what time it is in GMT. I figured there HAD to be an app for that, and there was.

UTC-GMT-ZULU TIME by Kosmo Studio. I would have thought that UTC clocks would be readily available but that wasn't the case when I went looking. After going thru some clock games, clocks all over the world and



others I ran across this one, which I just renamed UTC Time on my Androids desktop.

The app shows two different time zones and mine is set for UTC at the top and my local time at the bottom. The clocks are nicely overlaid on a blue gray map of the world. There are 4 buttons at the bottom, 2 are useful for 12 or 24 hour time (I set it to 24 hour) and brightness. It's simple and perfect to tell me the UTC time for my ham log. (see photo)

Ham by Smerty Software. Another very useful app is simply called Ham. I have been using this for a number of years and it's a quick glance to see what bands might be open today. Once opened, the menu at the top is Solar Conditions (see photo). If you're techy, you'll have a listing of the solar flux, A and K index, sun spots and more. Below that info is the calculated solar condition which lists bands and prediction for communications which varies from Poor to Fair to Good or Band Closed. You can also go back to the menu and if you have a QRZ account, enter that in the settings and then do a QRZ look up of call signs (*free* reports very basic info, *paid* offers full QRZ info),



report your grid location, latitude and Longitude, plus the accuracy with or w/o the GPS turned on.

That's it for this month, I'm going to try to submit Ham App articles to Zero Beat often, but no guarantees on every month. If you are using a specific Ham App on your phone, write it up to be included with my reviews. I can be reached at wbl1dby@comcast.net.

73, Larry, WB1DBY

Return of the 147.000 Weather Net!

(From the MTARA website)

What: Weather Net

Net Control: Roger, K1PAI

Where: 147.000 (also known as "Triple Zero" or "Triple Zip"); PL tone 127.3

When: First Thursday of each month

Time: 9 PM (21:00 Hours)

This is a great net to join. You don't need a weather station.

You don't need to be a professional meteorologist. It's the same net that meets the other three Thursdays of the month on 146.790. (PL is 82.5) So, if you're interested in Skywarn and weather, spend your Thursday evenings joining Roger, K1PAI's weather net.

Remember, 1st Thursday of the month is on the 147.000 repeater and the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays are on the 146.79 repeater.

A Yaesu FT-857D for only \$10?



That's right! This year, the HCRA's *250* raffle prize is a brand-new Yaesu FT-857D HF/VHF/UHF transceiver.

The *250* means only 250 tickets will be sold, with the drawing scheduled for March 7, 2014 (or earlier, if all the tickets are sold before then).

Tickets are available at any HCRA meeting, or contact n1kxr@arrl.net.



Hampden County Radio Association

P.O. Box 562

Agawam, MA 01001

Application for New or Renewal Membership



DATE: ___ / ___ / ___

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____

ADDRESS: _____ LICENSE CLASS _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: Home (____) ____-____ Cell (____) ____-____

Work (____) ____-____-____ ext ARRL Member: Yes No

E-mail _____@_____ I don't want to be a member of the HCRA mailing list

Type of application: New Renewal (see below)

Is renewal use data already on file? Yes No

Class of application: Regular Family

Please list additional family members (family members at the same household are free)

Name _____ Call _____ ARRL Member? Yes E-mail _____

Name _____ Call _____ ARRL Member? Yes E-mail _____

Name _____ Call _____ ARRL Member? Yes E-mail _____

My interests (please check all that apply, even if renewing)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Power | <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Modes | <input type="checkbox"/> QRP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antennas | <input type="checkbox"/> DXing | <input type="checkbox"/> Satellite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Teching Ham Classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Elmering (Training) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contesting | <input type="checkbox"/> Fox Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CW | <input type="checkbox"/> Kit Building | <input type="checkbox"/> ? _____ |

Received by _____ Date _____

Annual dues: \$15.00

Entered in database by _____ Date _____

Donation _____

Payment received by _____ Date: _____

Total \$ _____

October Contests

Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 5 to 0800Z, Oct 6
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 12 to 0800Z, Oct 13
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 19 to 1500Z, Oct 20
ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 21 to 2359Z, Oct 25
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 26 to 2400Z, Oct 27
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 2 to 0300Z, Nov 4

October QSO Parties

California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 5 to 2159Z, Oct 6
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 12 to 2200Z, Oct 13
Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 12 to 2359Z, Oct 13
New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 19 to 0200Z, Oct 20
Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 20 to 0100Z, Oct 21

For more information on these and other October contests and QSO parties: www.hornucopia.com/contestcal

Holiday Party Musings...

(Marty, W1MJB) As I sit in the radio shack with windows open to the gentle breeze of a gorgeous Indian Summer day, staring out at the trees and their soon to be falling leaves. I thought how quickly we will be in the depth of autumn and soon after in the grip of another New England winter. Then I began to smile a bit because already the bands are beginning to become more active, the winter DX season will soon be in full swing and the annual HCRA/MTARA Holiday Party will be ushering in the 2013 yuletide.

So, let me extend to all an invitation to save the evening of December 9th for a pleasant evening among good friends enjoying a fine selection of New England table fare and yuletide potables at the Steaming Tender Restaurant in Palmer. Cocktails at 6:00pm, dinner at 7:00pm with door prizes and a raffle to follow. Tickets sales will begin at the October meeting. If you have any questions please contact me at [413 525-3717](tel:4135253717) or e-mail: marty.w1mjb@gmail.com

Sunday morning fox hunt?

If you are interested in participating in a Sunday morning fox hunt this fall, please contact Larry, WB1DBY at wbl1dby@comcast.net.

Next HCRA Meeting- Indoor Tailgate Party

In lieu of a tailgate party in the parking lot in Feeding Hills, we are going to have a small-scale flea market on October 4th. As long as space permits, we will allot about 12 square feet of table space to each club member that wants to put out a few things for sale -- a rig, a reel of wire, books – anything that fits, is ham radio related, and is not totally junk, but NO computers, NO monitors, NO printers, NO TVs! Table space is free--we are asking a minimum 10% commission on sales for the club's treasury. To reserve a space email Frandy at n1fj@arrl.net

