

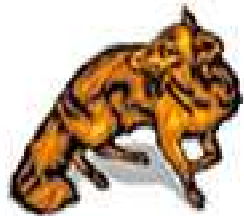
Hampden  
County  
Radio  
Association



SEPTEMBER 2008

ZERO BEAT

<http://www.hcra.org>



Fox Hunt

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

6:30 - 7:15 PM

Church Parking Lot

Bring your handheld

All winners get Bragging rights

## September's Meeting:

Friday, September 5, 2008

**Dave Robbins, K1TTT**

Station builder, antenna farmer, author, software engineer and contest operator extraordinaire! Join your fellow hams and listen to K1TTT tell about the fun of contesting and how easy it is for even 'average' hams to have fun!

Two special raffle prizes tonight!

Win this powerful Yaesu Mobile 2 meter transceiver

65 Watts  
200 Memories  
Backlit DTMF Mic  
NOAA Weather  
and more...



Or go home with a copy of  
"Building a Super Station"  
signed by the author!

Take some of Dave's gardening tips home  
and grow your own aluminum farm!

Either prize could be yours for as little as a \$1 donation (or 6 for \$5)

## From the Shack...

Welcome back from summer, just in time to start 'hamming-it-up' again. HCRA's first meeting of the new season kicks off with a bang on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Much has happened since early June and you really need to come to the meeting so you can get in on ground floor for the new HCRA.

**First off, we have a dynamite guest speaker this month.** Here's what Jim, K1JAW has to say about him:

*To start the new year, Dave, K1TTT, will be our guest speaker. Dave's expertise is in growing aluminum, lots of it, antennas, and contesting. The best part of Dave's personality is that he invites everyone to his station to operate contests. Many of us have already had the pleasure of his generosity including our own Crew DX. If you would like to see some of his antenna farm, follow this link. Afterwards, go to the home page and enjoy.*  
<http://www.k1ttt.net/overview.html>

I don't think you will want to miss a word Dave has to say!

**A question?** Do you think amateur radio, and perhaps HCRA, have slipped down the slope a bit on the 'technical' aspect of our great hobby? Have we become lazy with the new 'plug & play' style of equipment and drifted away from our roots? It could possibly be the case but your new HCRA has just the thing to reverse the slide, a new kit construction program. K1JAW with some input from AA1YW and others have designed a super program for HCRA members. Take a look at this:

*Who wants to build a kit? Well someone attending the next meeting will be presented with a kit to build..and it will cost - nothing! The only requirement is that you be a member of the club, in attendance when we draw your name, and willing to build the kit and present it at the annual show and tell. You think that you*

*might run into trouble, there are several members standing by to help. All you need is to be willing to try.. So look forward to the next meeting and let us know what you think.*

**How cool is this?** Can you think of a better way to learn some parts of the hobby that got us to where we are today. At the same time please put your thinking caps on and see if you can come up with a catchy name for the program. Submit them to us at the meeting or via email. If yours is picked HCRA will give you five free raffle tickets at next meeting you attend.

**Membership renewal is coming.** This year you will be receiving a new form. This is in an effort to provide the membership with more activities designed around what your main interests are. Membership dues are unchanged too! We are looking forward to a great year and hope you enjoy!

As an additional incentive we will again enter everyone that either renews or becomes a new member before the end of the October meeting. The prize this year is a **Tom Tom One 130 vehicle GPS**. This handy little gadget will gladly tell you where to go and won't get upset if you don't pay attention. Worth over \$150 it could be yours for free if you renew by October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Fox Hunt?** Prior to the meeting this month K1JAW, our new Technical Director has arranged a 'Fox Hunt'. Does this sound like fun?

*As we begin our new year, we thought something new might be introduced. On Friday night, prior to the meeting, we will have a mini fox hunt beginning at 6:30 PM. To participate, you simply need your handheld, your standard rubber duck antenna, and either a small paperclip or resistor (depending on your antenna connector) and you will be able to find the fox before the meeting. Believe it? Way! PLEASE DO NOT COME BEFORE 6:15 - - Thanks*

*Our intent is to find out if the club should invest in a real fox with real fox hunts. If those who participate (and those who already like foxhunts) would like to have a real hunt, then it will be planned. So, come on down, we will give you some basic instruction if you need it, and see how much fun it can be then let us know what you would like.*

And you thought nothing new happens at HCRA? Not so, eh?

### Change, and not the stuff in your pocket.

Change is a subject we constantly hear about everyday. Unless we change things become stale and boring, don't you think? If we don't go out and try new things, either personally or as a club, where's the fun? Don't we tend to get more enjoyment out of trying (and sometimes failing) new endeavors? We've got some new thoughts for our good ole' radio club this year so hang on to your microphones! Some may work, some may not, but I know one thing for sure, it won't be boring!

'It's never to early to...' Under this last heading are a couple of things we need to start planning for this year.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Our favorite HCRA contest is the 10 meter contest which is held early in December. Now that the rules have changed, it would be good to have a real club effort in this year's contest. What do you think? Can you help? Take a look at our website to see how we have done in past years.

HCRA Holiday Party. Typically we have held this at our regular meeting hall and the club has covered the cost for our members and a guest. As our club has grown the hall has become overcrowded and serving over 50 people is increas-

ingly difficult. What would you think if we moved it to a restaurant instead of the church? We would have wider selection of food, service would be provided, etc. HCRA would still be willing to fund a major part of the dinner but would probably ask for \$5 to \$10 per person to offset the increased cost. What do you think? What's it worth to you to have a better dinner, with additional refreshments, room to move and know none of your fellow club members will be working late to clean up the mess.

New Ideas! These are just some ideas for the new season, what are some of yours? What do you want to see from your radio club? How can we leverage the abilities of our members to make HCRA the *'best little radio club in the valley'*?

See you in September,

Jim, KK1W

### ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE HCRA MAILING LIST?

One of the challenges of every organization is how to communicate with its members. Even though as amateur radio operators we consider ourselves 'communicators' it is still very difficult to get information to our members quickly about coming events, weather cancellations, etc.

One of the best ways to stay informed about everything going on in your club is to join the **HCRA mailing list**. Instructions are on our web site. Just click the "Mailing List" link at the top of the main page.

You don't have to worry about spam, this list is run by hams, is moderated for membership and there simply isn't any fear of viruses, spam, etc. What you will find is news about upcoming events, technical questions, items for sale and opinion polls to find out what our members are looking for from their favorite radio club. So what are you waiting for? Join the almost 100 members on the list now and become part of the HCRA internet community.

*If you have any questions please contact Jim, KK1W and he will help get you setup on the list.*

## Field Day, Special Events and more...

The summer is over! This is long over due. I want to say thank you to all those people that helped set-up, operate, worked on food, did the miscellaneous jobs and those that took down the equipment of Field Day 2008. The only thing I can say is you did a great job.

We had a great time, we made a lot of contacts, even with the lack of propagation! Even with the changes of leadership at different stations the "newbies" took over and ran great. The weather co-operated not to hot, not to cold. Not to much lighting, eh Ed NWH? As a matter of fact, God was good to the HCRA as on Friday a severe thunderstorm passed to our north as we set-up. Saturday brought more severe weather again to our north in N.H. Sunday brought another severe thunderstorm that missed by a whisker as we took down the last tower. One last time thank you for all your help, as a team we did a great job.

Next. The Special Event Station known formally as The 28th Annual Post 351 Catfish Derby! Another great team, Steve N1SR deemed the site usable, Ed KB1NWH, Steve N1SR, and I set the outdoor equipment. The next day radio's were installed, and we were off and running. Bands were in and out most of the day. 20 in most, 40 out most of the day. We had a long list of people that came down over the 2 days. Some operated, some didn't. I was told by the people at the Derby that Saturday afternoon was a lull time for the Derby, and the "Stuff we were doing was real neat" We filled in both across the country, as we made 450 QSO's most of the contiguous 48 states and 6 DX contacts. One from Northern Ireland. For the Derby people, we had them put away the cards, and table games and listen in on and in one case operate an Amateur Radio station. We were so well received we were asked back for next year.

Another round of applause for all who came supported the Special Event at the Catfish Derby. Oh, one last thing, it seems quite of few of the Hams across the country have been or are Catfishermen! We had a few rag chews on the size of the fish, the bait, and other things fishermen talk. Who could have guessed? On break down we added "Ed's neighbor" he's really Bill KB1OPY, Thank you again, for all the support.

Now coming in September, on the 27<sup>th</sup> another Special Event Station at the Vintage Radio Museum in Windsor, Ct. We will operate only one day?! From 10 A.M. to 10 P. M., or 10 to 22:00 if you prefer. We are listed in the QST for September, on page 90 second from the last listing. Come on down, it's Windsor's Birthday! Or listen for us on the air!

If that's not enough, look for the Amateur Radio Booth at the Big E, we'll be there from September 19<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>! We are back in the New England Building, somewhere.....news at 11. More information to come. 73 for now, Jim, KB1JVF



A few pictures from  
Field Day 2008

HCRA's score was the highest ever recorded for our club



# VENTURE CREW DX (510) NEWS

**Hi All!**

Its time to get this crew moving. The best way to do that is to schedule some meetings and activities, and get everyone talking and planning.

Over the last few weeks, I've been selling off some donations that were made to Crew 510. These were mainly electronics testing equipment that we probably would never use. So far, these sales have netted us over \$500 in proceeds and added to the almost \$200 that we had left in the Crew account, we are at \$700. Let's spend some of it doing activities, and getting Crew DX moving again.

1. We are scheduled to do a demo of ham radio at MassJam '08 in Falmouth, MA, over the Columbus day weekend. The staff fee is \$10 per person (rather than the \$20 pp if attending with a troop). I think we should go as a Crew, rather than a fragmented group of members from other troops. The Crew will pay the staff fee for all attendees, but cut-off is September 1st for registration. I need to know who is attending 100% as part of this Crew. Right now, I have KB1PRA, KB1PQU, KB1ODC, KB1NSN for youth and KB1PRB and Kx1x for adults. WB1DBY may attending as Crew if T32 does not need an additional adult. We'll be going up on the Friday night to start setting up. We'll need to collect \$10/pp for food, and eat as a Crew while we're up there. We'll stay in the station overnight for security.

I ask that ALL youth Crew members participating at MassJam have a Venturer dark green Class A shirt. Standard BSA issue pants are OK, but not required. Grey or black Dockers and other reasonable pants are acceptable, but please NO JEANS and no cutoffs. (Youth may wear their current scout rank on the left pocket, but this is optional). Adults should be in BSA uniform if they will be interacting with participants as part of the MassJam demo, but a Venture uniform not required. It is my sincere hope that adults will not have to do much interaction, this should be a YOUTH run demo. All our guys have had experience showing off ham radio.

Who else is interested???? Please reply ASAP.

2 We really need to meet to discuss Crew organization. We need to elect a President and Vice President, as a minimum. With our current state, age is not a limitation for holding office.

3 I have QSL cards dating back to 2006. We need to meet for an afternoon (and evening?) to organize and mail out QSL cards. Who knows, we probably have 5 band DXCC.

4 I'd like to plan a Crew event in January for the NA QSO Party. We used to do this in Vermont at AA1YW's place. If crew participants are interested, we can ask Dave about it or check for other locations. Let's lock this date down if we are going to do it.

5 There will be a General Class study group starting the first Tuesday of October at the Moose in Chicopee, 7:00 PM to 8:30ish. Jim, KB1PRB, will be facilitating the group and there will be visitors from the HCRA to help.

6 There will be a Technician class also starting on the first Tuesday of October at the Moose in Chicopee. If you have friends or family interested in getting their first license, please spread the word!!!

**MORE EVENTS**. We need to do other things besides contests. Let's talk about Crew campouts and other events. We can do a campout almost anywhere, put out a couple of wires, and just operate for a weekend while enjoying the Crew atmosphere. We can do community service. We can have on-the-air meetings.

We just have to get these dates on the calendar and make the commitment. (REMEMBER: (except for MassJam) Troop events take priority over Crew Events).

I need the **YOUTH** of this group to drive these changes, though. If the **YOUTH** do not get excited about doing these things, they are not worth doing.

Let's hear some chatter! What say ye?

'73 de Kx1x

**Zero Beat Contributions:** Anything of interest is welcome.  
Please submit your ideas, articles and more to  
wb1dby@comcast.net. Thank you,  
Larry, WB1DBY, Zero Beat Editor

## **HCRA 10m Net**

Join NCS, Tom Doyle (n1muv),  
each Monday night at 7:30 PM (local) on

# 28.375 MHz

Get the latest local word, join good friends,  
take part in good conversation each week!!!  
Anyone can join in, don't be shy!!!

### **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, South Hadley, MA.

For a list of IRLP nodes and other IRLP information, go to:  
<http://www.irlp.net/>

## **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 Jim, KK1W at  
kk1w@arrl.net or (413) 245-3228.

*Questions, Comments, and Suggestions  
Can Be Directed To:*

### **HCRA OFFICERS**

#### **President**

*Jim Mullen, KK1W  
(413) 245-3228 kk1w@arrl.net*

#### **Vice-President**

*John Pise, KX1X  
(413) 532-7474 kx1x@arrl.net*

#### **Treasurer**

*George Collins, KC1V  
kc1v@arrl.net*

#### **Secretary**

*Ed LaCombe, KB1NWH  
kb1nwh@comcast.net*

### **HCRA DIRECTORS**

#### **At Large**

*Irv Slitsky, W6IS  
w6is@arrl.net*

#### **Program**

*Open—your name here!*

#### **Membership**

*Dave Cain, AA1YW  
aa1yw@arrl.net*

#### **Zero Beat Editor**

*Larry Krainson, WB1DBY  
wb1dby@arrl.net*

#### **Technical**

*Jim Whitehouse, KI1AW  
k1jaw@yahoo.com*

### **STATION TRUSTEES**

#### **WINY Trustee**

*Don Johnson, W1UPH  
(413) 566-3560 w1uph@arrl.net*

#### **WB1Z Trustee**

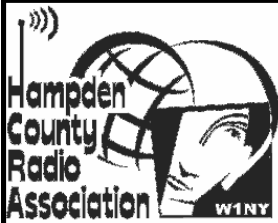

*Jim Mullen, KK1W  
(413) 245-3228 kk1w@charter.net*

#### **IRLP Trustee**

*John Pise, Kx1x  
(413) 532-7474 kx1x@arrl.net*

**Renew now** and win a Tom Tom GPS!

Fill out the application below and either mail it in or bring it to tonight's meeting!

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">P.O. Box 562 Agawam, MA 01001</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Application for New or Renewal Membership</i></p>								
<p>DATE: ___ / ___ / ___</p> <p>NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____ LICENSE CLASS: _____</p> <p>CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____</p> <p>PHONE: Home (____) ____-____ Cell (____) ____-____</p> <p>Work (____) ____-____-____ ext ARRL Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>E-mail: _____@_____</p>									
<p>Type of application:    <input type="checkbox"/> New                    <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal</p> <p>Class of application:    <input type="checkbox"/> Regular            <input type="checkbox"/> Family</p> <p>Zero Beat Delivery:    <input type="checkbox"/> email <input type="checkbox"/> USPS</p>		<p><i>Donations are tax deductible!</i></p> <p><i>Thanks!</i></p>							
<p>Please list additional family members:</p>									
Name	Call	ARRL Member	e-mail						
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No							
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No							
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No							
<p><b><u>My interests: (please check all that apply)</u></b></p>									
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Power	<input type="checkbox"/> Digital Modes	<input type="checkbox"/> QRP							
<input type="checkbox"/> Antennas	<input type="checkbox"/> DX'ing	<input type="checkbox"/> Satellite							
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Ham Classes							
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Training (Elmering)							
<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"/> ?							
<p>Thoughts for improving 'our' club:</p>									
<p><i>Dues are \$15/year for regular membership. Additional family members are free.</i></p>		<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Annual Dues:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$15.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ ____ .00</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total:</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$ ____ .00</b></td> </tr> </table>		Annual Dues:	\$15.00	Donation:	\$ ____ .00	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ ____ .00</b>
Annual Dues:	\$15.00								
Donation:	\$ ____ .00								
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ ____ .00</b>								
<p>Received by: _____</p>		<p>Date: ___ / ___ / ___</p>							

**Meeting Location:**

Meetings are held at the  
Feeding Hills Congregational Church  
21 North Westfield Street  
Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

*Parking is in back of the church.  
Access is HP accessible.*

**Holy Cow—Renew Now!!!**

September & October is renewal time for HCRA. Fill out the application on the back of this page and bring it with you to tonight's meeting.



**Everyone current as of the October meeting will be entered in a drawing for this Tom Tom GPS!**

**Next Meeting:  
Friday Night**

**September 5th, 2008 — 7:30 PM**

**Dave Robbins  
K1TTT**

Dave will be sharing with us his over 21 years experience in station building, antenna construction and contest operation.

See more of his "Super Station" on the web  
[www.k1ttt.net](http://www.k1ttt.net)



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



**PLEASE HAND CANCEL**