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# Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc

Springfield, Mass

Our 44th ARRL Affiliated Year

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## President's Corner

Greetings!

I hope that you had as good a time at the auction as I had. Jeff did an excellent job as auctioneer, and some people got some great bargains.

Over the past several years, the club has published a survey in Zero Beat that we have asked you fill out and return to us. This survey has helped us make some very important club decisions, most notably the decision to change our June banquet style. This year, we chose not to publish a survey in Zero Beat. But this does not mean that we don't want your input! If you have any suggestions for the club, please feel free to contact any of the board of directors. You may also call me on the telephone, my number is (413) . If you get my answering machine, please talk to it... The tape is 30 minutes long, and you may leave a message that length if you like! Some people have been calling my machine and not leaving a message... I hate to think that it is a club member with a suggestion who is afraid to leave a message!

At our September meeting, Joe Reisert, W1JR, gave a talk on some of his experiences with amateur radio. I'm sure we all have some stories that we'd like to share. At our December meeting, you'll get a chance to do just that. Bring a unique QSL card that has a story behind it. The December meeting will be a social hour; You can show your QSL card to other members, and tell them what makes the card so special. You might want to make an effort to tell about your QSL to a club member that you haven't had a chance to chat with in the past.

Bob Lafleur, NQ1C

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Next Meeting:

**Friday, December 6th**  
**Feeding Hills Congregational Church**  
**Feeding Hills, MA**  
Intersection of routes 57 and 187  
Doors open at 7:30 pm, meeting starts at 8 pm

**Bring a unique QSL card to show off!**  
**Bring one of your own QSL cards for a fun raffle!**  
**Socialize with your friends!**

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### In This Issue:

How W1MNG became W1KK  
Ancestry of the Hampden County Radio Club  
Antenna Antics  
Radio Memories  
Jamboree on the Air  
CQ DX!

### Upcoming Issues:

Special VHF Sweepstakes Issue!  
Marconi Memorial Issue  
Radio Clubs of Western Mass  
Russian Radio Operations  
Blizzard of '78

## 1991 CLUB OFFICERS 1992

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Some things never change

President:  
Vice-president:  
Treasurer:  
Secretary:

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N1EPE  
N1AEH  
N1DUY

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Larry Lemoine  
Greg Stoddard  
Jim Sebolt

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Ed Goldberg  
Fred Gore  
Fred Stefanik

(The following is a re-print from the December 1991 issue of ZeroBeat)

### *The Ancestry of the Hampden County Radio Club*

By Tom Barret W1KUE

*Author's note: The following is not meant to be a history in the documented sense. I have no documentation. Memory is my only reference. On that basis, here is some background to lay a foundation upon which a history may rise.*

The club's antecedents lie in the 1920's. Before World War II, this area was the locale of three radio clubs. In alphabetical order, they were The Connecticut Valley Radio Club (CVRC), The Springfield Radio association (SRA), and the Western Massachusetts Radio Club (WMRC). Each organization revolved around a pivotal character, and the rivalry, clash of personalities, and at times temper flaps were a sight to behold. The three colorful characters involved were Archie MacLean, W1JQ, of the CVRC; Ike Creaser W1UD, of the SRA; and Lou Richmond W1AVK, of the WMRC

These clubs had their periods of wax and wane; first one then another would grow, dominate the scene, and be replaced, only to rise again as circumstances allowed. As I have indicated, personalities played a part in this process, and hams switched from club to club as the spirit moved them. In those days, the ham population of this area was about one hundred and fifty, and perhaps sixty or seventy of them belonged to one or another of the local clubs. In addition to the advantage and disadvantages of having a "strong man" in each club, they shared another common disadvantage. Their meetings were bogged down with the nitty-gritty of club business, and it sometimes seemed that the less important the subject the longer and more acrimonious the discussion. The result was more hot air than program at the club meetings. Decisions were based more on who supported what viewpoint than on the facts of the matter under consideration. Each club maintained permanent quarters. The CVRC rented space downtown, the SRA met in a building at W1UD's QTH off upper state Street, and the WMRC had the use of facilities at Springfield Airport on Liberty Street. All three had station equipment, (sometimes operable, sometimes not). Given the above situation and method of handling club business, it should come as no surprise that the clubs were unable to support, on a continuing basis, more than a core group of a few members, and were beset by financial problems.

At this point is necessary to insert a personal note or two to assist in maintaining perspective. I knew W1JQ, W1UD, and W1AVK personally, and valued them all as personal friends. I was closest, however, to W1JQ. I joined CVRX in 1932, and in time became Treasurer. I attended meetings of the other clubs when time permitted, and base my observations concerning their operations on that and on discussion with friends who were members of SRA and WMRC. If any recounting of "the old days" is subjective, so be it.

The circumstances set forth above remained substantially constant from early 1930's until December 7, 1941. Pearl harbor shut down ham radio for the duration, and most hams went either into the military, or to work. Between 1942 and 1946, the War Emergency Radio Service (WERS) on 112 Megacycles provided some quasiham operation for those available, but this period had little effect on our story. All three clubs died and were never to arise again.

(continued next month)

***Cover Page & article thanks to Steve's (WA1EYF), donation of old versions of Zero Beat, and thanks to Dave, KB1MU, for transcribing! Do you have any old ZB's or history of HCRA? Please contact Dave, KB1MU if you do!***



Our 57<sup>th</sup> 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**



Sept, 2002

*Members & Friends: Welcome Back to HCRA*  
*This Month's Guest Speaker*

## Tom Frenaye, K1KI

**ARRL New England Division Director**



### NOTICE:

#### DETOUR IF POSSIBLE



Remember that the South End Bridge is under construction. If you're coming from Springfield, consider an alternative route!

**Tom will be speaking on topics of interest to all active hams: possible new allocations, threats to our existing allocations, new laws, and other time relevant ham information.**

**HCRA related news and business will also be discussed, such as Field Day, IRLP, new officers, the upcoming WB1HOF special event station at the Hall of Fame, the Big E, some extra special raffles, and our annual Auction!!!**

**There will be so much to do at HCRA this year!!!**

For Up-To-Date HCRA News and Information, remember to visit the HCRA Club Website

<http://www.hcra.org>

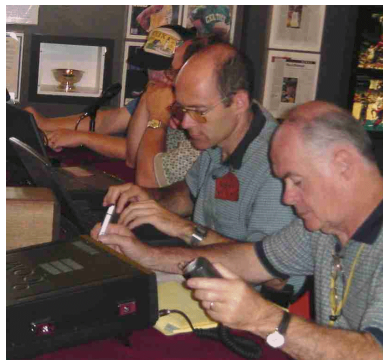
If you haven't been there TODAY, then it has probably changed since the last time you visited!

## *In this month's edition*

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# President's

# Corner



*John, Kx1x - Eric, N1QKO - and Tom, N1MUV racking up contacts at the Basketball Hall of Fame 2001*

## Welcome Back!

It's been a long, hot summer but the HCRA has some really cool things happening this year that will help you recover from the summer's heat! Here's an example of what to expect at our first meeting...

**First:** our kick-off meeting for the new season is September 6th. This is the first of a series of "must-see meetings" for the season and will feature Tom Frenaye, K1KI. Tom is the New England Division Director for the ARRL. Tom's subjects focus on new pressures coming to bear on our hobby and will also include information about exciting new changes just down the log. Interested in a new HF band on 5 Mhz? How about experimenting on the VLF bands? All this and more is coming soon, learn when and what you can do now to get ready for these new frontiers.



*Tom, K1KI*

**Second:** Larry Buck, K1HEJ will make a short presentation about this year's big event at the Big-E. HCRA has participated in this event for the last few years and will be doing so again this year. Larry will fill us in on how much fun this can be and will probably be taking names! If you would like to help out, don't wait—contact Larry, WB1DBY and add your name to the list. See the web page for more details.

**Third:** How about a chance to win a Yaesu FT-1500, VHF/UHF radio for just \$1? It can happen because that's the grand prize for this month's raffle. Purchase your ticket at the meeting and get a chance to win a \$149 radio for a lowly buck.



**Last (but most important):** Here's your chance to renew old acquaintances from last season, meet some new members, have some coffee & donuts and a fun evening!

## Exciting New Speakers

Jim, WB1Z, our new program director has lined up some really exciting speakers for the new season. Without letting the cat out of the bag to early I'll just drop a few hints. Rumor has it he has a famous author on solar activity and a pair of radio show hosts in the wing. I can't say more now because the dates are not yet firm. Rest assured, the HCRA will continue its tradition of bringing interesting folk to address our club meetings. That being said, if you would like to make a presentation contact Jim. Some of our best presentations have been made by HCRA's own and we would like to continue that tradition. Jim can be contacted at wb1z@arrl.net.

## And of course—Win an FT-817 !!!

Buy your raffle tickets now and you will have a chance to win the popular Yaesu FT-817. This miniature, ultra-portable rig covers all bands and from 160 meters to 70 cm. and could be yours for as little as the purchase of a \$1 ticket! The drawing will be held at our annual November auction. You could also win a Radio Amateur Callbook CD or a Bencher Power Distribution Center. Don't wait, purchase your tickets at the next meeting. Tickets are \$1 each or a book of six for \$5. We've really gone all out on this raffle, so tell your friends to buy tickets too!



*Yaesu FT-817  
Auction Grand Prize Raffle*

## Win an Icom HT - how?

You can win an Icom IC-Q7 Dual Band HT just by joining HCRA! How's that for a deal? Do I have your interest? I thought so. It's really simple. Just join the HCRA before October 7th and your name will be put into a drawing for the Icom. Easy enough? The drawing will be held at the end of the October meeting. You don't need to be present to win, the only requirement is you are a paid up member at the end of that meeting. Sorry, this contest is open for paid memberships only, guest, junior and family memberships are excluded.



*Free to a  
lucky  
HCRA  
member!*

## Basketball Hall of Fame Station

This year's event promises to be the biggest yet! Scheduled this year is the new hall's grand opening AND enshrinement weekend. The HCRA has been assisting the Hall of Fame get the message out world-wide with the help of amateur radio for the past three years.



How can you help? I'm glad you asked. We need a few good operators/loggers for both Saturday and Sunday, September 28th and 29th. The hours are only from 10AM to 4PM and it's a lot of fun. Bring along your autograph book. Lot's of basketball stars will be on hand, including both Magic Johnson and Larry Bird.

Larry, WB1DBY has volunteered to coordinate this year's station. Contact him directly at wb1dby@arrl.net if you would like to help out. Don't delay, we don't need a lot of people and spots are going fast! We're also looking for a special QSL card design to commemorate the grand opening of the new hall. If you have any ideas drop me a note at kk1w@arrl.net, I'd really appreciate your input.

## Annual HCRA Auction

HCRA's annual auction is November 1st. This is one of the largest ham radio auctions in Western Massachusetts and you really need to make sure you attend. Past years have had well over one hundred people, both buyers and sellers and EVERYONE has a great time. Not to mention the bargains to be had, and there are plenty of those also.

If you have some items you would be embarrassed to take money for, why not donate them to the HCRA. We're not easily embarrassed and would love to auction them off for what ever we can get. Contact me and I can help you with your tax deductible donation.

AND - - Don't forget about the 'Great Auction Raffle'! This year it's a Yaesu FT-817 - details about this are on your left!

If I sound excited about the coming year it's because I know the HCRA has everything going for it; active members, great speakers and cool events. It's your club, you make it happen and you should be proud!

73...Jim, KK1W



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### HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

#### HCRA OFFICERS

President	Jim Mullen, KK1W	(413) 245-3228	<a href="mailto:jmullen@rockys.com">jmullen@rockys.com</a>
Vice-President	Irv Slitzky, W6IS	(413) 565-5222	<a href="mailto:w6isl@juno.com">w6isl@juno.com</a>
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH	(860) 668-5143	<a href="mailto:gstoddard@rcn.com">gstoddard@rcn.com</a>
Secretary	Dave Isham, KB1MU	(413) 596-6605	<a href="mailto:kb1mu@charter.net">kb1mu@charter.net</a>

#### HCRA DIRECTORS

At Large	Larry Krainson, WB1DBY	(413) 567-3505	<a href="mailto:wb1dby@arrl.net">wb1dby@arrl.net</a>
Program	Jim Allen, WB1Z	(413) 536-5182	<a href="mailto:wb1z@arrl.net">wb1z@arrl.net</a>
Membership	Norm Gregoire, W1BMK		<a href="mailto:normgreg@aol.com">normgreg@aol.com</a>
Newsletter	John Pise, Kx1x	(413) 532-7474	<a href="mailto:kx1x@arrl.net">kx1x@arrl.net</a>
Technical	Pete Beauregard, K1Ii		<a href="mailto:k1i@arrl.net">k1i@arrl.net</a>

#### STATION TRUSTEES

W1NY Trustee	Don Johnson, W1UPH	(413) 566-3560	(let it ring) <a href="mailto:w1uph2@juno.com">w1uph2@juno.com</a>
WB1HOF Trustee	Jim Mullen, KK1W	(413) 245-3228	<a href="mailto:jmullen@rockys.com">jmullen@rockys.com</a>
IRLP Trustee	John Pise, Kx1x		<a href="mailto:kx1x@arrl.net">kx1x@arrl.net</a>

#### EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Emerg Coord	Dave Isham, KB1MU	(413) 596-6605	<a href="mailto:kb1mu@charter.net">kb1mu@charter.net</a>
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#### BSA VENTURE CREW 510

Youth President	Andy Jensen, KB1FVL	<a href="mailto:andypj2@aol.com">andypj2@aol.com</a>
Adult Advisor	John Pise, Kx1x	(413) 532-7474 <a href="mailto:kx1x@arrl.net">kx1x@arrl.net</a>
Adult Advisor	Dan Shea, N1OE	<a href="mailto:WBEagle87@aol.com">WBEagle87@aol.com</a>
Adult Advisor	Biff Simpson, AA1DI	<a href="mailto:biff@map.com">biff@map.com</a>

### *Help Wanted: Mt. Holyoke Regatta*

I will be looking for volunteers for the Mt. Holyoke Regatta which will be held this year on Saturday, September 28th. I am hoping to recruit at least 8 volunteers, some of whom will only be needed for the morning heats. Others will need to stay for the afternoon races. We are usually finished by 2:30 or 3 p.m. Lunch is provided by the regatta committee. It's a fun day! This will be the 12th year for me, and several hams have volunteered with me for quite a long time. Thanks!!!

Carol, W1LGU  
[w1lg@arrl.net](mailto:w1lg@arrl.net)



## **CONTEST CORNER**

<b>WAE DX Contest, SSB</b>	<b>0000Z, Sep 14 to 2359Z, Sep 15</b>
<b>ARRL September VHF QSO Party</b>	<b>1800Z, Sep 14 to 0300Z, Sep 16</b>
<b>North American Sprint, SSB</b>	<b>0000Z to 0400Z, Sep 15</b>
<b>Tennessee QSO Party</b>	<b>1800Z, Sep 15 to 0100Z, Sep 16</b>
<b>Texas QSO Party</b>	<b>1400Z, Sep 28 to 0200Z, Sep 29 and 1400Z to 2000Z, Sep 29</b>
<b>Louisiana QSO Party</b>	<b>1400Z, Sep 28 to 0200Z, Sep 29 and 1400Z to 2000Z, Sep 29</b>
<b>Alabama QSO Party</b>	<b>1800Z to 2400Z, Sep 28</b>
<b>TARA PSK31 Rumble</b>	<b>0000Z to 2400Z, Oct 5</b>
<b>Oceania DX Contest, Phone</b>	<b>0800Z, Oct 5 to 0800Z, Oct 6</b>
<b>California QSO Party</b>	<b>1600Z, Oct 5 to 2200Z, Oct 6</b>
<b>RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, SSB</b>	<b>0700Z to 1900Z, Oct 6</b>
<b>CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB</b>	<b>0000Z, Oct 26 to 2400Z, Oct 27</b>

## **Get On The Air**

*(all times local)*

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic System (NTS) Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94 (W1TOM)
Mondays	19:30	HCRA 10m Net	28.375
Tuesdays	19:30	Slow Scan TV (SSTV) Net	145.130 (PL 71.9hz) (KD1XP)
Wednesdays	19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link) (W1TOM)
	20:00	MTARA Swap net	
	20:30	MTARA Tech net	
Thursdays	21:00	Weather Net	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of the Month 147.09 Every other week 147.000
Club Meetings & Testing Sessions			
1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of the month	19:30	HCRA Club Meeting	Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of January, April, July, and October			Amherst Machine
		KD1XP License Exams	Amherst, MA
		Contact Richard, KD1XP, 413-665-2211 or 145.130 Repeater	
		<a href="http://www.kd1xp.8k.com">http://www.kd1xp.8k.com</a>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building
		<a href="http://www.mtara.org">http://www.mtara.org</a>	506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday of the month	18:00	MTARA License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium
			Beech St., Holyoke
		Contact Dave, WA1DC, WA1DC@pipeline.com	
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month	19:00	NOBARC club meeting	Pittsfield MA (146.91 for talk-in)

# W1NY 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!!!

## 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 [eZB@hcra.org](mailto:eZB@hcra.org) 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](http://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 [WWW.HCRA.ORG](http://WWW.HCRA.ORG) 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.

### What is Lightning?

The action of rising and descending air within a thunderstorm separates positive and negative charges. Water and ice particles also affect the distribution of electrical charge. Lightning results from the buildup and discharge of electrical energy between positively and negatively charged areas.

### Lightning Myths and Facts

**MYTH:** If it is not raining, then there is no danger from lightning. **FACT:** Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.

**MYTH:** The rubber soles of shoes or rubber tires on a car will protect you from being struck by lightning. **FACT:** Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal. Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.

**MYTH:** People struck by lightning carry an electrical charge and should not be touched. **FACT:** Lightning-strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be attended to immediately. Contact your local American Red Cross chapter for information on CPR and first aid classes.

**MYTH:** "Heat lightning" occurs after very hot summer days and poses no threat. **FACT:** What is referred to as "heat lightning" is actually lightning from a thunderstorm too far away for thunder to be heard. However, the storm may be moving in your direction!

### Lightning Safety

- If lightning is occurring and a sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hard top automobile and keep windows up.
- Get out of boats and away from water.
- Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances. Use phones ONLY in an emergency.
- Do not take a bath or shower.
- Turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can overload the compressors.

### If Caught Outdoors and No Shelter Is Nearby:

- Find a low spot away from trees, fences, and poles. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.
- If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.
- If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible, and minimize your contact with the ground.
- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately!

Stay safe and informed Mark Hoekzema WeatherBug Meteorologist

**LIGHTNING** De Eric,  
NIQKO



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Jim, KK1W : [jmullen@rockys.com](mailto:jmullen@rockys.com) or (413) 245-3228

## HCRA Big E Day

Sept. 18th 10 am to 10 pm

Volunteers are needed for a few hours or the whole day for the ham radio demo at the Big E. Free passes are available to volunteers so there will be no entrance fee. But volunteers will be responsible for their own parking.

Please contact via email or phone:

Larry - WB1DBY  
[wb1dby@arrl.net](mailto:wb1dby@arrl.net)  
(413) 567-3505

## Special Event Station WB1HOF

Sept 28 & 29 - Basketball Hall of Fame

Volunteers are needed to assist operations of the 2 ham radio stations that will be placed at the new Basketball Hall Of Fame. Operations will take place approximately 10 am to 4 pm depending upon the hours of operation in the new hall.

People are needed for either a few hours or all day. Volunteers will be also needed for antenna installation. This will be determined once we get a chance to view what antenna opportunities are available to us at the new site.

Please contact via email or phone:

Larry - WB1DBY  
[wb1dby@arrl.net](mailto:wb1dby@arrl.net)  
(413) 567-3505



# BSA Venture Crew 510

NE1C - New England's #1 Crew

BSA Venture Crew is chartered by the Hampden County Radio Association

Visit Crew DX's 100% youth designed website:

<http://www.qsl.net/crew510>



## BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

Friday, September 6th	Crew/HCRA Meeting
Wednesday, September 18th	HCRA Day at the Big E Ham Booth
Sat/Sun, Sept. 28th & 29th	Basketball Hall of Fame Special Event
Friday, October 4th	Crew/HCRA Meeting -- Crew Elections
Fri/Sat/Sun, October 18, 19, 20	JOTA/Crew Demo at Pawtucket, RI Camporee
Fri/Sat/Sun, January 17,18,19	North American QSO Party / ARRL VHF Contest QRV in VT
Fri/Sat/Sun, March 28,29,30	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB, QRV at K1TTT, Peru, MA

### *Crew Secretary's Notes de KB1GHC*

Hi Everybody!

September 6th will be the first official venture crew meeting we had in a long time. and it's been a long 2 months to go without having an HCRA meeting.

We have a new general class license holder, Mike, KB1FWN just passed his CW exam after passing his general written so now he's happily operating HF and working DX. And even bigger news, Kate, KB1GDG, passed her EXTRA, She went from a Tech to an extra by going down the ladder instead of up the ladder she passed extra written, then general written, then CW. Congratulations to both!

Most recently we have gone to the Boxboro hamvention it was an awesome event, our next event is the ARES session coming up in September. so we will soon be officially Emergency Trained.

73' de Steve, KB1GHC

### *Looking At Field Day 2002 de Mike DeChristopher, KB1FWN/AG*

After an event, I always like to look back upon it. It gives me a look at the past from above, or from outside the box. I must say, however, when KK1W asked me to right an article about it (and then twisted my arm until I did so) the words just didn't want to get down onto the paper. But I finally forced it down, and here is my review of the Hampden County Radio Association ARRL Field Day.

I noticed our planning in advance. It was very precise and accounted for. Every piece of equipment was thought about. Each antenna was designed professionally for a specific purpose. And then – somehow – we included the most important part...the fun.

When I arrived at the site in Granby, It amazed me to see that 80% of the antennas (including the 15 meter antenna I was to be using) were assembled. We must have had five towers cranked up by the end. Network cables and guys intermingled along with the coax, the star of the rat's nest.

Most band captains found a very comfortable setup. For me, I was disappointed to see that the band captain hadn't brought the carpet we had used last year. Actually, I was happy...at least when I fell asleep and slid on the carpet I woke right up. Anyway, everyone was happy.

The 15 (as well as 40) meter radios were TS440's, my home radio. I knew very well of the quality, but would it hold up against the terrible atmospheric conditions? I have just three words, Maximum Usable Frequency. And it fell very close to 21.400, the frequency I held for 24 hours straight.

Every time I called, a reply was waiting. Before 5:PM, I had made close to 400 Q's. That gave me roughly a 130Q/hour rate. Next year I have a goal to surpass (mostly because I don't take the 'good for a 12 year old' comments – there is always room for improvement!) KB1GJR also played a great deal on 15, and added many of the contacts to the log.

I know that W6IS and friends at 20 meters kicked our tails by a few hundred points. I'm actually surprised we held out as long as we did past sun down. They should have told us they were going to sleep so we could have silently caught up. I worked on 40 meters when my voice died the second day, logging for KB1FVL. The only stations I didn't touch were all the CW stations. Sad, I know.

The points were coming in like mad all at once, and I think we all found ourselves *in the middle of pileups*. If you weren't, trust me, it's a good feeling. Sometimes I was asked to slow down. It just proves that once you get into that groove, it doesn't end too fast. All week following, I kept mentally saying, "*please copy seven alpha whiskey mike alpha, QSL?*"

But that wasn't until after the event itself. I won't even touch that yet. Another important element was the food. Norm, Pat, Betty, Andy and Faye did an excellent job out of a huge task. We all need to give these people a round of applause. Because, the contesting shelf (A.K.A. gut) doesn't form without proper nourishment. Thanks to all of the above, without whom field day wouldn't have taken place.

What I also noticed is that, I can't really think of anything that needed improvements. Sure, there was minor stuff, but nothing that really stood out as a problem or a mistake. Few clubs can brag about that. Our organization was excellent. Having attended some board meetings, I learned of the inner operations of HCRA. And for the most part, we know what we're doing. This bank of knowledge obviously extended into Field Day, the product of such work being the logs overflowing with points.

I really can't prolong the closing of this article. I said what I needed to say, the general moral being that we prevailed. If we put equal or more work into it for next year, we should have another great field day. top, or give up Maybe our sites will be aimed a little higher, but then again, so will every other club in the United States. So we must compete for the top of a mountainous pile. It is never ending; a battle for superiority, power, and skill. It is a game where you can work hard and appear near or on the top, then give up and score low. Some say it's a gamble, but I think it's a game. Most games require knowledge, experience, and hard work. Hampden County Radio Association, regardless of placement among other clubs, has won a race against itself. This field day will be one to be remembered for a while, because we did it right.

73' de Mike, KB1FWN



# Zero Beat

## *Paper or Plastic?*

Well, not exactly. How about: **Paper or Electronic?** You may have noticed, Zero Beat has been printed in full color for the last two editions. I'm sure you enjoyed them, color makes a big difference. Those members who had elected electronic distribution have been getting them in color all year. So how come we can do them in color? It's kind of a "Catch 22". Since over half our members are getting the electronic edition, the price of printing the remainder in color fit in the budget. In June the board decided to print them in color so everyone in the club could benefit.

But, we need your help. If we are to continue printing in color, it's important for every member that can receive them electronically to do so. When you fill out your 2002/2003 application, please be sure to indicate how you want your Zero Beat, paper or electronic. Your unselfishness in choosing the electronic edition will allow every member to enjoy a **full color** Zero Beat. Thanks!

## Field Day—2002



Field Day 2002 is now history, and it was one for the record books. The HCRA posted one of it's best scores ever, over 10,000 points were tallied during the 24 hour event. There will be Field Day stories in this and subsequent issues, but I'd like to say a few words of my own to congratulate the team.

As always, it's the participants that really make the difference between an **OK** or a **SUPER** event. This Field Day wasn't any different. Many members pitched in way beyond the norm and helped push us over the top. It's not any individual that made 10,000 points but the everyone's contribution that made it possible. The Cain "Power and Rigging Team" (AA1YW, KB1FTX and KB1GDG) made certain everyone had towers and power. Norm's Bar & Grill was open for 48

hours supplying calories to needy hams (W1BMK, KB1CPZ and Faye). SAS (Steve's Antenna Systems) put together an great antenna installation that had good gain and little interference (N1SR). Venture Crew DX showed us old-timers how to stay up late. Not only that, we had to stay up and watch them! Thanks to all the band captains who donated time, equipment and effort. And don't forget the visitors who came to either operate or chat, you made a big difference. Chet & Larry for demonstrating ATV. The Springfield Union News for a great story in Sunday's paper. The list goes on and on but I think you get the picture. If you missed this one, plan now for next year. You don't want to miss two in a row!

Check out the Field Day page on the web at [http://www.hcra.org/field\\_day.htm](http://www.hcra.org/field_day.htm) for additional pictures and information. It was great fun. How many days until next year?

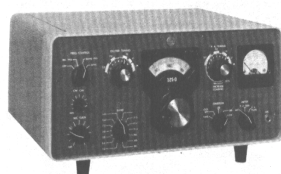
## Is this your Last Issue?

It will be unless you renew now, that's for sure. Unlike previous years, the board has decided on only one complete mailing of Zero Beat. After September, only current members who have elected to receive the paper edition will get one. Electronic editions will continue until after the auction, then you too will be dropped from the distribution.

Why? Well, historically we have continued to mail Zero Beats to everyone that was a past member until after the Auction in November. This isn't cheap and to be honest, very few actually renewed from these additional mailings. So this year we thought we would try something different. In the usual HCRA way, the board decided to use the money usually wasted on renewal efforts and buy a nice raffle prize instead. That's where we got the money for the IC-Q7A HT prize. Instead of spending it on additional Zero Beats, the money will end up back in some lucky members hands! We thought you would like the change, only time will tell if it was effective. You can cast your vote by renewing before October 7th.



**Grand Raffle Prize**  
**Yaesu FT-817**  
 Multimode portable Transceiver



# AUCTION

**November 1st !!!**

*Turn your old 'stuff' into cash!*

- Set-up at 6:30 PM

Auction starts at 7:30 PM

- Win a Yaesu FT-817 !
- Coffee & Donuts !

Lots of bagains !

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

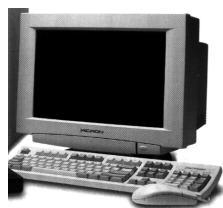
Just North of Dunkin' Donuts at the  
 intersection of routes 57 and 159.  
 Talk-in on the 146.94 repeater



**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!**



## KD1XP Repeater Group News

### Ham Get Together (& Buffet)

Saturday October 26th at 6 PM

At the Blue Bonnet in Northampton, MA

Talk in on the 145.130 - PL 123. repeater

It is a all you can eat buffet, a lot to choose from like roast beef to kielbasa, salad and a lot more including dessert.

Tickets sold in advanced for a headcount. Tickets are \$25.00 per person.

Contact for information and tickets:

Richard Strycharz, P. O. Box 4  
 Sunderland, MA, 01375  
 413-665-2211

Try out the **443.700 + PL 71.9 KD1XP**  
 Belchertown Repeater. It works well for the locals in the Granby/ South Hadley area. It makes a great alternative repeater.

KD1XP Repeater Group Ham Radio testing session will be Monday, October 2st at 7 PM in Amherst, MA at Amherst Machine. Contact Richard, KD1XP at 413-665-2211 for details.

**PLEASE NOTE**  
**NEW PL TONE on**  
**145.130, KD1XP repeater**  
**PL 123.0 hz**

## HCRA board Meeting August 8 2002

Held at the home of Irv Slitzky W6IS

Members present Irv W6IS, Larry K1ILZ, Larry WB1DBY, Norm W1BMK, Jim KK1W, Dave KB1MU, Greg N1AEH, John Kx1x, Jim WB1Z, Mike KB1FWN, and Mike's Dad Tom.

**Vice President W6IS:** The equipment list must be updated. Items used on Field Day must be located, and new items added.

**Treasurer N1AEH:** Balance through the end of June is \$1082.00. Not all funds for Field Day activities are yet reconciled.

**Secretary KB1MU:** As of Aug 8, there are 12 renewals eligible for the Oct drawing. For Sept meeting we will mail ZeroBeat to 100% of current members. Dave will forward a copy of the latest database. The board will investigate the modification of the membership application. There some reluctance of members to complete this form, but it really is necessary to document membership.

**Program WB1Z:** Sept meeting speaker will be Tom Frenaye, New England director.

Oct meeting still open

Nov meeting auction

Dec meeting Holiday get-together. We have no speaker at present.

**Membership W1BMK:** Norm will assemble a package for distribution to potential members at VE exams etc. John Kx1x will look to setting up some classes for this fall.

**ZeroBeat KX1X:** Cutoff date for articles in the Sept issue is Aug 23

The IRLP link is running well. The Raleigh reflector has reached saturation and is not encouraging its use. Reflector 920 will serve in its place

**Venture crew.** During the summer, the Venture Crew conducted Radio Merit Badge training for 10 to 12 scouts on each of four weeks.

**Old business:** Field Day expenses were \$400 to \$500. About sixty people visited the site, of which 25 were club members

The design and purchase of both regular QSL and eyeball cards for WINY is being handled by Jim, WB1Z

**New business:** The club will again participate in the Big-E booth on Wed Sept 18. Larry WB1DBY will coordinate this activity.

Norm W1BMK will contact the Basketball Hall in regards to the clubs anticipated special events station during the hall opening and enshrinement week. Larry WB1DBY will coordinate the event scheduled for Sept 28 and 29.

Jim WB1Z proposed the club setup a packet cluster operation for the greater Springfield area. Although much of the equipment and a site would be donated, there was concern over the continued cost of this operation. It was decided to table this motion, and determine if the club members really feel there is a need for this service.



# HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 562  
Agawam, MA 01001



## Application for new or renewal membership

### Personal Information:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ ext ARRL Member: ☐ Yes ☐ No

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Information:

Type of application: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Class of application: ☐ Regular ☐ Family

*Donations are tax  
deductible!  
Thanks!*

#### Please list additional family members:

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	

Please choose how you want your  
issue of Zero Beat delivered:



☐ US Mail ☐ e-mail ☐ Both

*Dues are \$15.00/year for regular membership. Additional family members are free.*

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$ 15.00

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_ .00

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_ .00

This month:  
*Hampden County Radio Association's*  
Club Meeting will be on Friday

**Sept. 6th, 2002**

At 7:30 p.m. at the  
**Feeding Hills Congregational Church**  
*Doors open at 7:00 PM*

Hope to see you there!

In case of inclement weather, tune to TV Channels 22 or 40,  
or the 146.94 and 147.105 repeaters.

*Meeting cancellation information will be given out by 6:00 PM.*

HCRA  
P.O. Box 562  
Agawam, Massachusetts  
01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

This month's Guest Speaker:

**Tom Frenaye, K1KI**

ARRL New England Director

*Lots of timely Amateur news*