



Our 57th 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

February, 2003

First Meeting of 2003

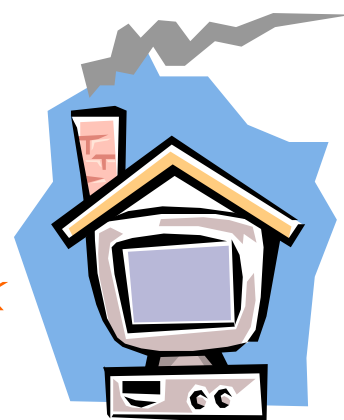
After last month's cancellation, we hope to have
Our first meeting of the year on Friday, February 7th, 2003
This month, the guest speaker is

John Stark **N1JIO**

On Computers in the Ham Shack

Rig interfaces, loggers, SSTV, RTTY, PSK31

There are so many uses for computers in a
ham's shack. Are you using YOUR computer to its
fullest? Do you have ham-computer questions?



Next Meeting: 7:30 P.M, Friday, February 7th, 2003



On the Internet

<http://www.hcra.org>

Updated often to bring you timely
Amateur news and info

Now, TWO sources
for Local Amateur
Information

On the Air

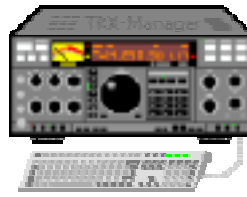
146.46 Mhz

Announcements every 7
minutes when not in use

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President's



Corner

John Stark, N1JIO This month's speaker

Interested in how you can make better use of the PC you have in your shack? Ever wonder if you could use it for rig control, rotor and antenna control, remote station control and logging. Well, you certainly can and our own John Stark, N1JIO will be on hand to show you how to do it.



Can your PC do this?

John will be demonstrating how he has integrated his shack completely with his PC. John has been doing this for quite some time and will have lots of good advice if you want to try some or all of his methods in your shack. Come prepared for the question and answer session afterwards. Then head home to the shack and see how you can put some of John's advice to use. In addition, John has recently purchased a new antenna, the SteppIR from Fluidmotion. Although weather has prevented it's installation at this time I'm sure John will be able to answer some questions about this innovative antenna.

In addition to John's presentation expect the usual at an HCRA meeting; coffee, donuts, raffle prizes and of course the enjoyment of chatting with your fellow hams. See you February 7th!

Mother Nature strikes, Dan reschedules

The nerve of her, dumping a foot of snow on us when we had a great meeting scheduled! I hope everyone's antenna farm survived the blizzard and things are back to normal at your shack.

Because of the weather the club meeting of January 3rd was cancelled (along with just about everything else in the valley). The good news is Dan's presentation was not cancelled, just rescheduled. Dan will make another attempt to visit with us on October 3, 2003. Hmmmm, the same day again - but I wouldn't expect a snowstorm.

Thanks to Irv for calling the local TV stations and to Channel 40 for getting our meeting cancellation announcement on the air.

Technician Classes Starting February 10th.

Do you know someone desiring to take a course in amateur radio? Well, HCRA has just the ticket for their ticket. Starting February 10th, HCRA will be offering Technician level classes at the Al Boutin, Jr. Community Center in Chicopee, MA. Classes will run for eight consecutive Mondays with a VE exam at the end.

Thanks to this class goes directly to Peter, K1I1. Pete was presented with the challenge of organizing a class late last year and gracefully accepted. He has done an excellent job, with many instructors scheduled and lots of information on the web site. He's off to a great start with students too, thirteen are already registered as of this writing.

It's not too late to either volunteer to help with the teaching or to recommend the course to some budding amateur. To see where everything stands visit <http://www.hcra.org> and follow the links to the instructor and student pages.

Additionally, all new students have been enrolled in the HCRA mailing list. Please take an extra minute to help them with any questions you may see posted on the list.

ARRL Cabinet Meeting

Irv and I had occasion to attend the ARRL NE Cabinet meeting on January 7th. This meeting is organized by Tom Frenaye and it's purpose is to gather information from the clubs and section managers prior to Tom's attendance at the ARRL Board of Directors meeting held later in the month. This January's meeting was very well attended with over forty participants, many coming from quite a distance.

According to Tom's data, amateur radio had very little growth in 2002 (+2000 hams) and the New England area had a slight decrease (-15). Although this seems a bit dismal, remember we are just now cycling the ten year anniversary of the "no-code" Technician license. Some had predicted much greater drops, so this slow growth is actually better than expected.

League fund raising has improved and many have donated to the "Big Project", the ARRL's program to develop ham radio curricula in public schools.

For you DX'ers out there the "Logbook of the World" is in Beta testing and hopefully will be operational by mid-2003.

The rest of the meeting was a forum for the clubs to share information and ideas that have helped drive our hobby. Irv and I came back with a few new twists we hope to try during the coming months.

In Memorium...

HCRA mourns the passing of two long time members. Chet Kruczek, W1HGJ and Cleborn (Woody) Woods, KA1FDE this past month. Both were strong supporters and participating members of HCRA and genuine credits to our hobby.

Chet, W1HGJ was an outstanding electronics engineer, ATV enthusiast and Elmer to many of our members. He designed and built an ATV repeater that spent many years on Soapstone Mountain and has been most recently installed (with help from N1URE) in Monson, MA. Chet was always available to bring his portable ATV cameras to many HCRA events, including the past two Field Days and the 2001 Big-E. He was there for any ham that had an interest in things technical. He loaned equipment and most importantly his knowledge to help newcomers learn exciting things about electronics. Personally, I'll always treasure the times Chet and I teamed up and foxhunted a few years back. We had a great time and Chet always had a "new wrinkle" to try every time I picked him up on Sunday morning.

Woody, KA1FDE was a quiet ham who attended just about every event possible. He was always at BB's, club events for both HCRA and MTARA and even found time to go to the big hamfest in Dayton, OH. His presence at club meetings will be missed by all.

Lets remember Chet and Woody for all the good they accomplished in their lives, the mark they made on our hobby and most importantly the example they have left for the rest of us.

Next Month's Meeting

Show & Tell - see the ad elsewhere in this issue! Win a \$50 gift certificate to HRO

HCRA CONTACTS

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Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

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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 listen)

146.46 simplex, 114.8hz PL

Kx1x, Node #7270,

S.Hadley, MA



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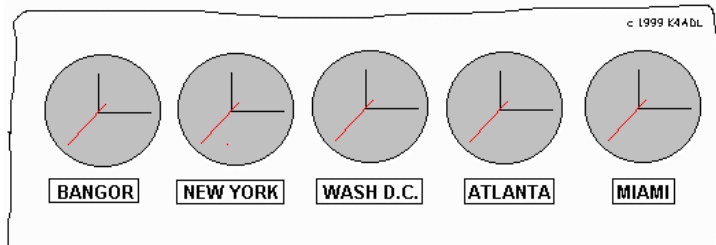
Wear it Proudly!
HCRA Name Badges



Only \$6.00. Available for order at any club meeting, or call or drop
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Jim, KK1W : jmullen@rockys.com or (413) 245-3228

OUR
SUPPORTERS
PLEASE



WORLD TIME CLOCKS FOR THE INTERNATIONALLY CHALLENGED

By permission, k4adl --- <http://www.qls.net/k4adl/>

CONTEST CORNER

something almost every weekend!!!

Vermont QSO Party 0000Z, Feb 1-2400Z, Feb 2
 New Hampshire QSO Party 0000Z, Feb 1-2400Z, Feb 2
 10-10 Inter. Winter Contest, SSB 0001Z, Feb 1-2400Z, Feb 2
 Minnesota QSO Party 1400Z-2359Z, Feb 1
 Delaware QSO Party 1700Z, Feb 1-0500Z, Feb 2
 1300Z, Feb 2-0100Z, Feb 3
 North American Sprint, Phone 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 2
 CQ/RJ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 8-2400Z, Feb 9
 North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 9
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW
 0000Z, Feb 15-2400Z, Feb 16
 North Amer QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 22-0600Z, Feb 23
 CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 2200Z, Feb 21-1600Z, Feb 23
 North Carolina QSO Party 1700Z, Feb 23-0300Z, Feb 24
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, Phone
 0000Z, Mar 1-2400Z, Mar 2
 Wisconsin QSO Party 1800Z, Mar 9-0100Z, Mar 10
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB
 0000Z, Mar 29-2400Z, Mar 30

DX CORNER

SENEGAL, 6W. Norbert, F6AXX is QRV as 6W7/F6AXX until Feb 7. CW on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 m. QSL to home call.
SIERRA LEONE, 9L. Zbig, SP7BTB is QRV as 9L1BTB. QRV on 160, 80, 20, 12 and 6 meters. QSL to home call.
CENTRAL KIRIBATI, T31. Mike, KM9D is QRV as T31MY from Canton I., IOTA OC-043, until late Feb. QSL via OM2SA
MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A. Monk Apollo has been QRV on 40 meters CW around 1900z and 20 meter CW around 1000z.
SVALBARD, JW. JW0HU is active on 160 to 15 meters, inc. WARC bands, at various times of the day. QSL via SP3WVL
ANTIGUA, V2. W4LW and K4FMD are QRV as V2/K4UP from February 2 to 8 on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10m SSB. QSL via K4UP.



www.rockys.com

Color "Zero Beat" printing and mailing made possible by a generous donation.

Remember them the next time you need something from the "Helpful Hardware Folks"

Get On The Air (all times local)

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic System (NTS) Net	146.94 (WITOM)
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94 (WITOM)
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) (WITOM)
		20:00 MTARA Swap net	
		20:30 MTARA Tech net	
Thursdays	21:00	Weather Net	2 nd Week of the Month 147.09 All other weeks 147.000

Club Meetings & Testing Sessions

1 st Friday of the month	19:30	HCRA Club Meeting	Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
3 rd Monday of January, April, July, and October		KD1XP License Exams	Amherst Machine Amherst, MA
		Contact Richard, KD1XP,	413-665-2211 or 145.130 Repeater
		http://www.kd1xp.org	
3 rd Friday of the month	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA
		http://www.mtara.org	
4 th Friday of the month	18:00	MTARA License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke
		Contact Dave, WA1DC,	WA1DC@pipeline.com
4 th 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!!!

Cloning a CAT

A homebrew version of the Yaesu CT-62 Computer Interface - Jim, KK1W

Having recently acquired a Yaesu FT-817, I immediately set about using it in a way it wasn't designed for—in my shack! As you probably know, the FT-817 is best known for its small size and portability—great for backpacking but not quite so cool when you're using it on the desk. But Yaesu must have known the little rig would find itself in different applications and thoughtfully added a computer interface port on the back of the radio.



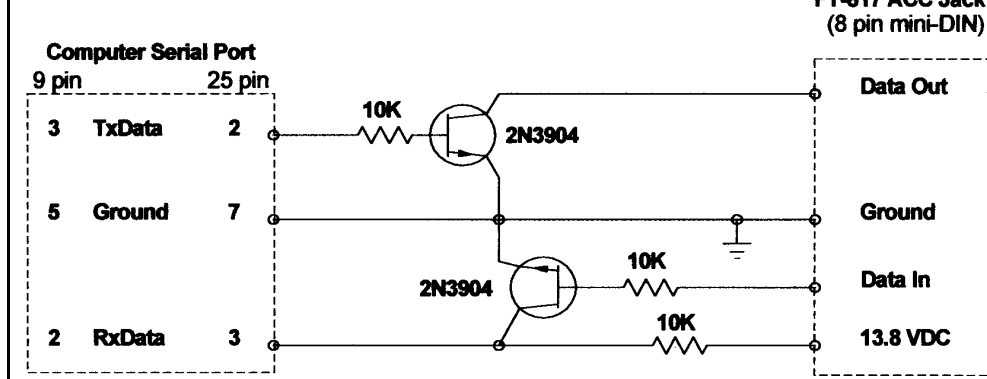
There is always a stumbling block. The radio talks TTL and the computer com port wants RS-232. To solve the problem you can purchase a Yaesu CT-62 interface cable. Simply spend the \$30, plug it in and control away! However, in the tradition of a good ham, why buy when you can build. A little web searching turned up a number of circuits to accomplish the task. Some used the ever popular MAX-232 interface chip from Maxim, some used discrete transistors, some were on circuit boards and others were built inside the connector shells (like the Yaesu). What to build, and why—that's the question?

I never liked the 'lump in the cable' type interfaces so I looked for a circuit that could be built right inside a DB9 or DB25 connector shell. I found a simple circuit made from two NPN transistors and three 10K resistors. Hey, this looks like it! It will easily fit in the connector and even if I had to buy the parts it shouldn't cost more than a few bucks. So off I headed for the workshop (and junque bin!). Lucky for me I never throw anything away. A few minutes searching turned up an old 8-pin miniDIN for the radio and a DB25 for the PC. The parts drawer gave up the resistors and transistors without a fight. While the soldering iron was warming up I cut and prepared the cable and noted down the correct pins for the DB25 connector. Using the 'flying lead' method of construction (see the photo) I soldered together the interface. Looked good to me, so up to the shack with my new interface for a test.

Anyone who knows me also knows I blew up a Peet Bros. weather station with the last interface cable I wired. I was just a little nervous plugging in this one! Not to worry, the FT-817 didn't explode, but the interface didn't work either. RATS! It's pretty hard to screw up such a simple circuit so after checking it over carefully I came to the conclusion the TxD and RxD lines were shown incorrectly on the schematic. Swapping these two connections did the trick. Now we were cooking. I tried it out with both N1MM logger and Writelog and it worked FB.

I really was looking for more functionality from the PC than a simple logging program would provide. I heard that FT-817 Commander was an excellent program. I downloaded the latest version and installed it on my PC. This freeware

CAT Clone Schematic



program is excellent, rivaling any radio control program I've seen, commercial or non-commercial. I've been using my new setup for the last month now and thoroughly enjoy the ease of use the PC adds to this neat little rig. Full details can be found at: <http://www.kns.ch/sysgem/hb9drv/FT817%20Commander.htm>

In conclusion, for not much money (mine was \$0.00) you too can build an interface and control your FT-817. If you need to purchase parts, the NPN transistors and 10K resistors are available at your local Radio Shack, as well as the DB9 or DB25 for your PC. The 8 pin miniDIN might be a little harder to find, but if you know anyone in the IT business they probably have some extras hanging around from router installations. I'm sure a little searching and you too can save some bucks and gain the satisfaction of creating a useful accessory for the shack. This interface will also work with the Yaesu FT-100.



BSA Venture Crew 510

NE1C - New England's #1 Crew

BSA Venture Crew 510 is chartered by the Hampden County Radio Association

Visit Crew DX's 100% youth designed website:

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



BSA VENTURE CREW 510 Contacts

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Adult Advisor

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aa1yw@arrl.net

BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

Fri, January 31	Ham Radio Demo for Cub Scout Pack 173, Wilbraham
Friday, February 7 th	Crew Meeting/HCRA Meeting
Friday, March 7 th	Crew Meeting/HCRA Meeting
Saturday, March 29 th	Scantic Spring Splash
June 27, 28, 29 th	FIELD DAY

Busy Month for CrewDX

de Kx1x, Proud Advisor of BSA Venture Crew 510

On December 30th, 2002, the Venture Crew returned to ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT, for what looks like might be an annual trip.

Last year, we were a crew of 8 youth in total, this year we had 10 at this event (and there were 3 that couldn't make it!!!).

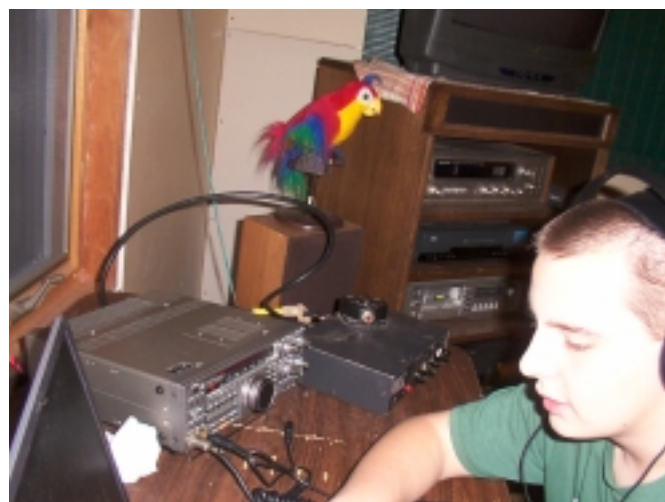
League employees were just as interested to hear that each of these crew members was licensed (or about to be) as we were to hear about the various departments at HQ (VEC, QSL outgoing, membership, etc..)



(above: BSA Venture Crew 510 at the ARRL HQ)

Pizza for lunch, and then operating W1AW was a great treat for all who attended this event!

On January 17th, 18th, and 19th, the crew was QRV in Whitingham, VT, at the QTH of Dave, AA1YW for the NA QSO Party and ARRL VHF Contest! There was a great meal and a toast (with sparkling grape juice) to another great year! (below left: Alan, KB1HUM operates NAQP) (below right: Jeff, KB1GJR operates NAQP)



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 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. *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 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.

KD1XP Repeater Group News

KD1XP Repeater Group *Ham Radio testing session* will be Monday, April 21st, 2003 at 7 PM in Amherst, MA at Amherst Machine, Cowls Rd. All test elements given. Contact Richard, KD1XP at 413-665-2211 for details.

SSTV net Tuesdays at 730 PM
145.130 PL 123.0
Dennis, wb1ehd net control

Breakfast net weekdays at 630 AM
442.200 - PL 162.2 kd1xp/r Deerfield, MA

www.kd1xp.org

Breakfast Gathering
8 AM, First Saturday of each month
Sit Down Diner, Rte 9 Hadley
Talk in on 145.130 PL 123.0 repeater



HCRA's Second Annual

Show & Tell

What's a "show & tell"? It's a chance to show off your latest creation and win some nice prizes to boot. It's the feature part of our "March Madness" meeting and should be a lot of fun! You've still got a lot of time to prepare, so read on...

To enter, show up with your project, explain it and wait for the judges decision. There will be Novice and Expert classes. All entries will be judged by an independent panel of electrical engineers from MIT, RPI and Wal-Mart :) Entries will be judged on originality, construction quality and usefulness. So, bring your home brewed whatizit, your latest software creation, new mobile mount, portable PSK31 station, miniature 160M antenna, etc. and "show & tell" everyone about your handiwork.

First prize in each category will be a \$50 gift certificate to HRO, Second prize a Ringo Ranger 2M antenna and Third prize a digital volt-meter. Judges' decisions will be final and you **MUST** bring your project back home with you!

Recollections of the 1931 event

By Percy Noble W1BVR

From the February 1979 ZeroBeat

The following is as I remember my activity with the U.S. Air force at Bowles Airport in 1931. I believe it was our total Air force at the time and they had no radio equipment.

How I was invited to be part of it, I don't remember, but I did ask my superintendent of schools, (I was then teaching principal at the school in Blandford.) if I could be released for two days to take part in air force activities. Being a reserve officer in the Army, he agreed, and no docking of my pay! He was the reserve officer, not me.

The city of Springfield had set up a small building for our radio shack. W1ASY, now W1RB) loaned his transmitter. I don't remember who loaned his receiver. The ARRL station (W1MK, I think) would keep in touch with us for relay if necessary.

Harry Fisk W1DR of Westfield and I made up one team. We copied coded material (5 letter groups) for an hour at a time, alternating turns. At the end of each run, we took the coded material to the sergeant in the main building. I believe the station we copied was NAA. Unfortunately, I can't recall who made up the other teams. (Too busy that day myself.) My wife tells me I've always been self-centered, and I guess she's right.

One afternoon an officer came into our shack saying he knew we had a receiver, but did we have a transmitter. He asked us to relay a message for him to Long Island. We agreed to try and relayed his message. He told us a plane had just come in and smashed its propeller. He gave us the number of it and requested that a replacement be sent up.

We sent the message to W1MK to relay. Some time after that, and I don't think it was too long, the officer came in again and told us the new propeller had arrived. HAM RADIO SCORES AGAIN.

At the conclusion of the exercises, some of the crew got an airplane ride to New York. I declined because I didn't trust airplanes then, and I still don't. You and I both know it's impossible to take a heavy plane, load it with a great many people, and get it off the ground. (Or am I just keeping up to date?)

...COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS...

New englanders are used to cold weather...but it doesn't hurt to review some cold weather safety rules. One day they might help save your life.

When people are exposed to very cold weather for prolonged periods... frostbite or hypothermia can result. The wind chill index is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by the combined effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases...heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate...driving down the body temperature. Animals are also affected by wind chill.

Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by that tissue being frozen. It causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers...toes...ear lobes...or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected...get medical help immediately. If you must wait for help...slowly rewarm affected areas. However... if the person also shows signs of hypothermia... warm the body core before the extremities.

The warning signs of hypothermia are uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness...and apparent exhaustion. Take the person's temperature. If below 95 degrees...seek immediate medical care. If it is not available...begin warming the person slowly by warming the body core first. If needed...use your own body heat to help. Get the person into dry clothing and wrap them in a warm blanket covering the head and neck. Do not give them alcohol, drugs, coffee or any hot beverage or food... warm broth is better. Absolutely do not warm the arms and legs first because this will drive cold blood from the extremities to the heart...which can lead to heart failure.

You should make frequent checks on the elderly to make sure that their furnaces are working and heating the house properly.

Avoid alcohol...since it makes the body lose valuable heat much more quickly than other fluids.

Be particularly careful with portable heaters...there is danger of fire or poisonous fumes.

Be sure to carry extra clothing if you must go outside during very cold weather. If your car stalls due to gas line freeze-up...you would need those extra clothes...mittens...and a hat to protect from the dangers of frostbite or hypothermia. Very cold weather can cause pipes to freeze or burst in homes that are poorly insulated or without heat. Do not warm them using an open flame...using a hair dryer is much more safe.

The national weather service issues a wind chill advisory when the sustained wind causes wind chills from 15 to 24 degrees below zero for at least three hours. This can be reached...for example...when the air temperature is 5 degrees above zero and the sustained wind is 18 mph. At these temperatures...frostbite can occur in as little as 30 minutes of exposure.



**SKYWARN
CLASS**

05/17/2003

7-10 PM

**Wilbraham Middle
School Auditorium
466 Stony Hill Road
Wilbraham, MA**

HCRA Board Meeting December 12, 2002

Virtual meeting with reports of each board member being submitted via e-mail

(Because the club meeting was cancelled due to WX, it was decided to not have a regular Board meeting, but rather send comments in via e-mail. The regular HCRA Board Meetings will resume on February 13th, 2003)

Members submitting comments:

Jim KK1W, Dave KB1MU, Jim WB1Z, Larry WB1DBY, Peter KI1I, Mike KB1FWN, and John Kx1x.

Vice President W6IS: No comments

Treasurer N1AEH: No comments

Secretary KB1MU:

Current membership stands at Courtesy 6, Family 12, Life 3, Prospect 2, Regular 90, Sponsor 1, Venture 12

One renewal received this past month.

Program WB1Z: QSL Card design was to be complete this week at last report, but between all these snow events, I have not been able to pick it up. I will be in touch with my contact this weekend and if possible will e-mail a copy and then we go ahead with printing.

Since our meeting was cancelled last Friday, we have had to reschedule the speaker, Dan Henderson N1ND. He has committed to September 5, 2003.

Speaker for February is John Stark, N1JIO who will present a talk on computer interfacing to rigs, antennas, and logging programs.

Membership W1BMK: No comments

Technical KI1I I spent a great deal of time putting together resources for the class. I built an instructor web site and a student web Site I am counting on everybody pushing for new students. I also need ads placed into the various media outlets for this general location. Dave has been busy with his job and, hopefully, the ads will go out soon. We have a good start with eight students but hope that we can keep that going. My main concern right now is instructors.

ZeroBeat Kx1x: Zero Beat deadline, Sunday night, January 25. E-ZeroBeat-publication will be by Jan 29 and mailing by Feb 2 for meeting on Feb 7. I'd like to go back to 10 pages now, but need articles to do that. I have a one page historical article from KB1MU, but need at least one more page to make it a good fill. I expect a full page from the Crew this month, as there has been some good activity.

At Large WB1DBY, The bus trip is officially scheduled for June 7, 2003. The trip will start at the USS Nautilus museum in Groton, CT. Then stop for lunch. After Lunch, we will tour the Communications Museum in Windsor, CT. Still working out more details and costs, but should be lots of fun for all.

Venture Crew KB1FWN: Well, finally the New Year has arrived! (Resolution: get DXCC!) Going back a little further, but still on topic...the crew went down to the ARRL head quarters in Newington, Connecticut (the Monday after Christmas). We also had a chance to operate W1AW, the H.P. Maxim Memorial Station. You would be amazed at how famous that call sign is on all the bands (<<<<pileup>>>>).

The webmaster, Steve, KB1GHC, has made considerable improvements to the crew dx website We are also looking forward to a few more demo's along the way, hoping to spread the word about amateur radio; that terribly magnificent plague that has hit us all at one point or another!

Plans are in now for the 2003 North American QSO Party phone (National Contest Journal) to be operated as a crew! We will be using the Venture Crew call sign, NE1C (New England's #1 Crew), QRV from Dave, AA1YW's cabin in Vermont. Last year we did good, had fun, and didn't break anything, I will not be able to make it, but the rest of the crew is certain to be on all the bands, keep an ear out!

Old business: NEQP Award - KK1W (I'll contact Tom and find out where this stands)

WB1HOF Cards - KK1W (completed and mailed, sample on the web)

ARRL 10M Contest - All - great job (see the web page for the fantastic scores)

VHF Contest - Dave had planned to make a presentation at the Jan meeting. He will attempt to spread the word around. We have no volunteers yet for a club station in this contest. The venture Crew will participate as NE1C.

New business: ARRL Cabinet Meeting, January 11. KK1W and W6IS will be attending

Respectfully Submitted Dave Isham KB1MU

Save this date on your calendar: June 7th, 2003

BUS TRIP INFO de Larry, WB1DBY

A bus trip is officially scheduled for June 7, 2003. The trip will start at the USS Nautilus museum in Groton, CT, then stop for lunch. After Lunch, we will tour the Communications Museum in Windsor, CT. I am still working out more details and costs, but should be lots of fun for all.

The next
Hampden County Radio Association
Monthly meeting
will be on Friday
February 7th, 2003

John Stark, N1JIO

On Computers in the Ham Shack

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,
check: www.hcra.org

or the 146.94 repeater.

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

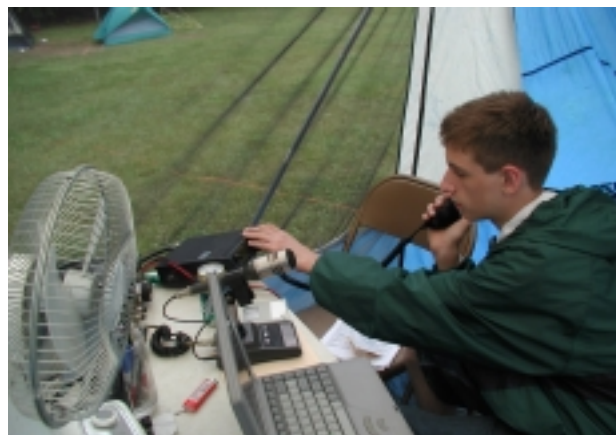
Plans are already
under way for

FIELD DAY

THE WINY WAY
Dufresne Park, Granby, MA

June 27, 28, 29

There are plenty of
facilities to make this a family event:
fishing pond, swings, playscape, hiking, and more
No Excuses, You've Been Warned !!!



HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts
01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

The Next
H C R A Meeting
John Stark
N1JIO
Computers in the Shack

Feb 7,
2003
Doors
Open
7:00
PM

