



FEBRUARY 2009

ZERO BEAT

<http://www.hcra.org>

February 6th 2009

7:30 PM

Sean Kutzko, KX9X

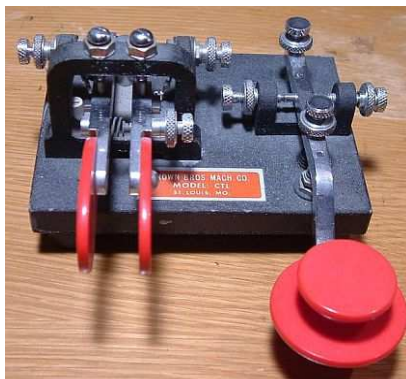
Contest Branch Manager
for the ARRL



Local CW Net

A CW net takes place every Tuesday at 8:15 PM local time. They go at a slow pace and Dave, KB1MU, is the net control operator. They make plenty of mistakes in sending out letters in the messages but it is different to jump in and send a little code to a friend in our club. We would like to encourage anyone that has any interest in sending CW to join in on the net.

CW is alive and well on the net at 28.135 MHz every Tuesday evening at 8:15 PM. As you know the CW signals get out very well and most of us have 599 RST reports.



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!!!

From the Shack...



I guess this month's 'From the Shack' is a misnomer. I'm sitting in a hotel room in Edmonton, AB, far away from my shack in Massachusetts. I should feel lucky as the weather has actually been warmer out here than it has been back home. With any luck I'll be out of here before the -35 temperatures return!

If I had wanted to I could have leveraged technology to actually bring my shack to me, at least virtually, while 3000 miles away from home. It truly is an amazing world we are part of, isn't it? Who needs sunspots? There is just so much cool stuff to do within our hobby we can get by, at least for a little longer, without our revered sunspots. What new things are you thinking of trying this year?

Speaking of new things, let's take a moment to review some of the things we've done so far this year. Way back in October we asked you what your interests were, in respect to both HCRA and amateur radio. There were no real surprises in the results but it reinforced our beliefs with some hard facts. What the survey said was there is a lot of interest in antennas, operating & contesting, technology and construction and of course interesting presentations. Hopefully we have understood your desires and will continue to look for ways to keep HCRA and your hobby interesting and exciting.

This month's meeting will feature a speaker that is interesting, exciting and is right in line with your desires. Sean Kutzko, KX9X will be traveling north from Newington to talk to us about radiosport and contesting. KX9X is the Contest Director for ARRL but that's just part of his passion for our hobby. His interests are varied and he's tried just about everything in ham radio to see how he likes it. Don't miss our next meeting on February 6th, it is sure to be a winner!

Another thing that is on everyone's mind is the economy. We're all watching the downward spiral around us and wondering if it will ever end. Your HCRA board has wondered the same and looked at what we can do to be fiscally responsible in these difficult times. We try to be responsible stewards of your dues and turn them into fun activities for our members. With rising costs all around us we need to be cautious with expenditures so we aren't put in a position to either raise dues or reduce activities.

Have you ever wondered where your dues go? The simple answer is our membership dues just barely cover our yearly operating expenses and don't pay for any part of our activities such as Field Day or the holiday party. Think about it. We have around 100 members and at \$15 each it is pretty easy to see our yearly income is \$1500/year. How much do you think our major expense of room rental, Zero Beat printing and mailing and other yearly fees like the USPS box and corporation papers are? It is approximately the same amount, \$1500! The biggest expense of which is the cost of our meeting place. Rental fees for the church are close to \$900/year.

So where does the money for Field Day, training classes, kit building, raffle prizes, and the holiday party come from you ask? In past years our annual auction has brought in \$1000 or more and along with monthly raffles we've been able to add to, rather than subtract from, our treasury. Not so this past year! The auction made less than \$400 and for the first time we lost money on the auction raffle. And most recently, probably due to the tough economic times we've been talking about, the monthly raffle has barely covered the cost of the prize unlike previous years where we usually covered prize and the cost of the church with the evening raffle.

What can we do to reverse the trend? Is it possible to raise revenue without raising dues? Can we keep having a super Field Day and a killer holiday party as well? I'm sure we can but we are going to have to be more creative in our approach. This is where you, our members, can be a huge benefit. Does anyone know of an equivalent meeting place that would offer convenience and comfort at less than we're paying now? What about Field Day? Who can find us a great site that doesn't cost \$250/day? What types of prizes would excite you at the monthly meetings? I think you see where we are going here. We have a lot of opportunity to continue, or even improve, our member benefits. We can figure these out much more easily with your help. Any ideas???

How are those kits coming? We gave away a half dozen or so earlier this year with the hope of seeing them entered into competition at March's 'Show & Tell'. There's only about a month left before the event so you still have time, just not as much as you did a week ago! Again this year will be two \$50 HRO Gift Certificates going to the winner in each of two classes. So get those soldering irons heated up and get to it. I don't know about you but I'm really looking forward to seeing how everyone did with their kits. Didn't get an HCRA kit? That's OK. Remember the technology we were talking about back at the beginning? Harness the power of the internet and do some searching for ham radio kits. You will be amazed at how many types of kits are out there, some easy, some more difficult, all radio related. There is more to building than just having a new toy to play with. To quote a popular ad campaign the satisfaction of completing your own kit/project – priceless!

Don't forget about our February meeting with Sean. And between now and then think about what we can do to make HCRA the most fun radio club around!

'73...

Jim, KK1W

Upcoming New England Flea Markets

14	Feb	Marlboro	MA	AARC	@Interm	Sch	\$5@9	+15/T@7	Tim	KA1OS	978	333	1715	W	
15	Feb	Westford	MA	Radio	40	Antique	@Regency	\$11@8	Cindie	ARC	866	371	0512	T	
21	Feb	Chelsea	ME	AARA	@Crystal	Falls	Rt17		Bill	K1NIT	207	623	9075	W+	
28	Feb	Colchester	VT	RANV	was	Milton	@Hampton	I89x16	Mitch	W1SJ	802	879	6589	W+	
7	March	Feeding Hills	MA	MTARA	@Turnverein	Clb			Cindy	K1ISS	413	568	1175	W+	
8	Mar	Hicksville	NY	LIMARC	@LevitH		\$6@9+\$20/T@7		Richard	K2KNB	516	694	4937	W+	
21	Mar	Pomfret	CT	ECARA	@CommSch				Paul	KE1LI	860	928	2456	A+	
22	March	Southington	CT	SARA	@HS		\$5@8	\$20/T@6	Chet	KA1ILH	860	628	9346	W+	
28	Mar	Middletown	NY	OCARC	@Wallkill	ComCtr			Donald	AA2DS	845	342	2056	A+	
28	Mar	Lewiston	ME	AARC	ME	Conv	@Ramada	\$6@8	+8/T	Cory	NIURA	207	514	0202	+
29	March	Framingham	MA	FARA	@KeefeSch		\$25/T@7:30		Bev	N1LOO	508	626	2012		
29	Mar	Henniker	NH	CVRC	@CommSch				Jim	NS1E	603	428	7438	A+	
11	April	Montreal	PQ	MARC	@CanLegion		\$5@9	\$10/T@8	James		514	697	7205	W+	
18	Apr	Manchester	NH	NEAntqRC	@BingoCtr		\$10@7:30	\$3@8:30	Charlie		603	898	4821	F	
18	Apr	S Portland	ME	PAWA	@AmLegion				Bryce	K1GAX	207	799	1116	A+	
19	April	Cambridge	MA			FLEA at MIT			Nick		617	253	3776	F	
						Third Sunday	April thru	October							
26	April	Lindenhurst	NY	GSBARC					Walter	KA1RGI	631	957	0218	W	
26	April	Lagrangeville	NY	MtBARC	@Tymor	Pk			James	K2JIM	845	427	2702	A	
1,2	May	Deerfield	NH	NearFest	@FG				Mike	K1TWF	978	250	1235	W	
9	May	Lindenhurst	NY	GSBARC					John	W2HCB	631	669	6321	A	
9	May	Rensselaer	NY	EGARA		Thomas	KC2FCP	518 272 1498	A						

Zero Beat Contributions: Anything of interest is welcome. This is YOUR Newsletter. It's not interesting without YOUR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS.

Please submit your ideas, articles and more to wb1dby@comcast.net. Thank you,
Larry, WB1DBY, Zero Beat Editor

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:

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Venture Crew DX visit to the ARRL & W1AW on Dec 31, 2008



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.

**Next Meeting:
Friday Night**

February 6th, 2009 — 7:30 PM

**Sean Kutzko
KX9X**

**ARRL Branch
Contest Manager**



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



PLEASE HAND CANCEL