



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

January, 2003

Happy New Year, HCRA

*HCRA Continues to bring you the best in monthly speakers.
The Speaker at this month's meeting will be*

Dan Henderson **MIND**
ARRL Contest Branch Manager



Dan will be talking about Contesting (cabrillo format, contest rules, etc.), the Log Book of the World, and will be ready to answer your questions!

Next Meeting: 7:30 P.M, Friday, January 3rd, 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

Dan Henderson, this month's speaker

Dan is the Contest Branch Manager for the ARRL. A ham for approximately 31 years now, Dan says his parents enrolled him in an Amateur Radio class as a "bored high school kid." He got his first (of several) Novice licenses in 1971 (he was WN4YMV and WN4QQN among others; as one ticket expired, he'd retake the test and get another). "I didn't own a microphone for the first 18 years I was licensed," he said.



Dan Henderson
N1ND

After Dan's presentation I'm sure you'll have lots of questions to ask Dan. The "logbook of the world", Cabrillo file formats, contest rules, etc. That's going to be on January 3rd, 2003. In addition to Dan's presentation expect the usual; great crowd, friendly faces, raffle prizes and of course—coffee & donuts.

Holiday Party

This year's party was a fantastic success. Over sixty people took a break from their Christmas shopping and came by the meeting hall for a fun filled evening. To my knowledge this was the biggest turn-out we have had in years.

Irv did a great job organizing this year. The decision to bring in Big Y catering was well founded. The selection was good and the extra dishes and desserts brought by the members really rounded out the buffet. I heard lots of comments about the shrimp that Gary and Jay brought in and the range of desserts was sumptuous.

After everyone had their fill of entrees, desserts and drinks Rob and Steve came on with a very informative presentation. Rob's review of Skywarn activations during 2002 was interesting and everyone especially welcomed the news about more Skywarn training classes for 2003. Steve's account of his participation in the aftermath of 9/11 held the audience's attention. Steve made the point that amateur radio can and will make a difference in times of civil emergencies. Our thanks to both of them for taking the time out of their busy holiday schedules to visit with us that evening.

After Steve and Rob's presentation the raffle prizes were drawn (there were quite a few of them, including a nice Skywarn jacket donated by Rob) and everyone left that evening with a nice start for their holiday season.

What should we do next year? Here's a few thoughts...

1. Should we cater it again next year?
2. Should it be at the church or at a restaurant?
3. What about charging a small fee to help with the cost?

We need your input so we make the right decision. The cost of this year's party was pretty steep. It was affordable, but is it wise to spend as much every year? With extended planning next year maybe we can do everything but at a lower cost. Put your thinking cap on and let us know.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest - WOW!

The question was posed to the club at the holiday party, "How many would like to participate in an HCRA club event for the 10 Meter Contest?". At least six people raised their hands so it was a

done deal. Well, it's one thing to say it and another to do it! You folks did it, and in a pretty big way!

The contest started at 7:00 PM of Friday, December 13th and ended at 7:00 PM on Sunday, December 15th. The whole idea is to work as many stations in the US and around the world on CW or phone on the 10 meter band.

Information was circulated on the HCRA mailing list (are you a member—if not, why not?). Some CD's with N1MM Logger were handed out at BB's that Friday and everyone talked it up on the local repeaters and the HCRA 10 meter net. I'll tell you, it was nice to hear so many HCRA members on 10 meters that Friday evening. But would they be around all weekend? We would just have wait and see.

It goes without saying some of our members are very "contest oriented"! I heard a lot of HCRA members on during the whole contest and the scores are really impressive. I guessed we might make around 500K points as a club. It looks like we might be closer to one million! Really, no kidding! **WOW!**

As I accumulate the scores I'll post them on the web site at: http://www.hcra.org/arrl_10m.htm. Here's a sample of some of the scores:

Name	Call	Class	Score
Dan	AA1TE	SOP Low CW	4,536
Marc	K1MZ	SOP QRP CW	154,660
Mike	KB1FWN	SOP Low SSB	40,836
Dave	KB1MU	SOP Low SSB	3,500
Tris	KE1DF	SOP Low CW	80,000
Jim	KK1W	SOP Low Mixed	365,736
John	Kx1x	SOP Low SSB	204,018
Tom	N1MUV	SOP Low SSB	7,752
Jim	WB1Z	SOP Low Mixed	33,120
		Total Club Score:	894,158

Next Month's Meeting

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.

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.

Happy New Year!

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and
Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

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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 #727,

S.Hadley, MA



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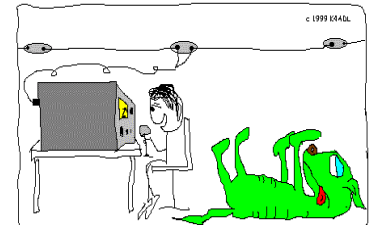
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Jim, KK1W : jmullen@rockys.com or (413) 245-3228

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IN A BEZARRE ALIEN UNIVERSE ON THE MORNINGS OF THE 800 HAMFEST,
LYZOUTH BEES HER HUBBY A YUMM! BREAKFAST AND EXTRA CASH TO SPEND.



DELIGHTED AT HOW WELL HE GETS OUT WITH A KILOWATT AND AN INDOOR DIPOLE,
BOB GIVES LITTLE THOUGHT TO THE EFFECTS OF NEAR-FIELD RF.

CONTEST CORNER

North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 11-0600Z, Jan 12
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 18-0600Z, Jan 19
ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 18-0400Z, Jan 20
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 24-1600Z, Jan 26
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2359Z, Feb 1
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, Feb 1-0500Z, Feb 2 and 1300Z, Feb 2-0100Z, Feb 3
North American Sprint, Phone	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 2
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Feb 15-2400Z, Feb 16
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Feb 22-0600Z, Feb 23
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 21-1600Z, Feb 23
North Carolina OSO Party	1700Z, Feb 23-0300Z, Feb 24

New IRLP Node in Worcester, MA

IRLP node #818 in Worcester 146.430 MHz, PL 114.8 Hz Open to ALL without access/prefix codes.
This node will be part of a linked repeater system between Holland and Worcester *after* I move out to the 413 area code in a few months Rob, N1NTE

(Perfect for consistent, clear 2m QSOs to Worcester from our IRLP Node in South Hadley!!!)

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 nd Week of the Month 147.09 Every other week 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!!!

Pictures from Last Month's HCRA Holiday Party

Photos Thanx to Dave, KB1MU





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	Dan Shea, N1OE	WBEagle87@aol.com
Adult Advisor	Biff Simpson, AA1DI	biff@map.com

BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

Friday, January 3 rd	Crew Meeting/HCRA Meeting
Fri/Sat/Sun, January 17,18,19	North American QSO Party / ARRL VHF Contest QRV in VT
Fri, January 31	Ham Radio Demo for Cub Scout Pack 173, Wilbraham
Friday, February 7 th	Crew Meeting/HCRA Meeting
Fri/Sat/Sun, March 28,29,30	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB, QRV at K1TTT, Peru, MA

We'll be QRV in Vermont for the NAQP and VHF contests. Thanx to Assistant Crew Advisor Dave Cain for the use of his 'other' QTH, well be working both contests from Whitingham, VT, using our Crew's Club callsign NE1C (New England's #1 Crew). We did "OK" in last year's contests, and we're looking to improve on our scores this year.

At the end of this month, we'll be giving a demo of Ham Radio to Cub Scout Pack 173 in Wilbraham. We hope to show the 7 through 11 year old scouts some HF, some VHF, and maybe some VHF SSTV!

HCRA Board Meeting December 12, 2002

Held at the home of Irv Slitzky W6IS

Members present Jim KK1W, Irv W6IS, Dave KB1MU, Greg N1AEH, Jim WB1Z, Larry WB1DBY, and John, KX1X.

Vice President W6IS: The third military tower has been added to the HCRA inventory listing. The December Holiday party was discussed, and some options for next year brought up. Two options were suggested. The board agreed that these ideas should be brought to the membership to get their feelings. The two options were: Hold the party at a restaurant and have the club subsidize the meal, with the member paying difference or have a party catered at the meeting place with the same payment arrangements.

Treasurer N1AEH: Current balance is \$2960.00. The holiday party costs were about \$600.00. Auction netted \$688.00. This included the catered food, the drinks, and the door prizes.

Secretary KB1MU: The membership reminders with SASE were successful, with 7 out of 17 reminders being returned. Current membership stands at Courtesy 6, Family 11, Life 3, Regular 89, Sponsor 1, Venture 12. Dave will mail notices to local media to obtain publicity for the upcoming licensing classes.

Program WB1Z: The Jan speaker will be Don Henderson N1ND (Contest manager) from the ARRL.

Membership WB1MK: Dave KB1MU will provide Norm with a listing of former member to contact about renewal.

Technical K1H (not present) The Licensing classes will be held at the Alfred Bouton Memorial Hall located at 118 Mt. Vernon Rd. Chicopee MA. Classes will start on Feb 11 and run through the end of Mar. The course will meet on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 for eight weeks.

ZeroBeat Kx1x: Cutoff date for articles in the Dec issue will be Dec 20.

At Large WB1DBY, Larry is working on another bus trip to be held in late May or early June.

Venture Crew (not present) the Venture Crew will participate in the NAQP and VHF contest from VT, make another trip to the ARRL Headquarters during Christmas week, and hold a Ham radio/Venture crew Demo in Wilbraham, on Jan 31

Old business: The new W1NY QSL card will be completed during the month of December.

The NEQP plaque winner has been announced.

The WB1HOF special event QSL cards are ready to send to the printer.

New business: The club has the raffle prizes for the Jan meeting.

The club will participate as a club in the 10-meter contest. Be sure to mention the HCRA in the "club" portion of the contest information sheet.

Dave KB1MU volunteered to head-up an effort for HCRA participation in the upcoming Jan VHF Sweepstakes.

Respectfully Submitted Dave Isham KB1MU

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, January 20th, 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

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

Jan 19, 1900 UTC through Jan 20, 0400 UTC

Many long-time members of the HCRA may recall the club as being very active in the Jan VHF Sweepstakes. The HCRA even placed first in the country, once. Those days are long gone, but I still remember the Jan Sweepstakes as a fun time. Where else can you take a five-watt HT and work a pileup! Let's see if we can restore some of this excitement.

The HCRA will be making a club effort in the up coming ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. The contest will run from Sat Jan 19 0200 local time until Jan 20 1100 local. (For you football fans, note that the contest avoids Super bowl weekend.) Most two meter FM operation is on 146.55 and 146.58 Mhz (simplex). 440 FM operations are on 446.00 Mhz. Repeater operation is not allowed, nor is IRLP operation. Activity hours will be Saturday from 0600 PM until 0800 for Two meters and 0800 until 0900 on 440. Sunday activity hours will be 1000 AM until 1200 for 146 operations, and 1200 until 0100 PM for 440 operation. If you can participate for only a short time, make an effort to operate during these activity hours. If you can not make the activity hours, just get on, I promise it will be a fun time.

See the December 2002 issue or the ARRL web site for further details. If anyone would like to run a multi-op station using the club call, please let me know. If you have any questions please contact me at 413-596-6605 or kb1mu@arrl.net

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*The Hampden County Radio Association
Board of Directors
Would like to take this Opportunity
To wish everyone a*

*Happy & Safe New Year
Happy & Safe New Year*

The next
Hampden County Radio Association
Monthly meeting
will be on Friday
January 3rd, 2003

Dan Henderson, N1ND

ARRL Contest Branch Director

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.*



Please have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts
01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

<p><i>The Next</i> H C R A Meeting</p> <p>Dan Henderson, N1ND <i>ARRL Contest Branch Mgr</i></p>	<p>Jan 3, 2003 Doors Open 7:00 PM</p>
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