



Our 58th 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, 2004

HCRA Club Meeting
Friday, January 2nd, 2004

Mike Raisbeck
K1TWF

ARRL New England
Division Vice Director

Mike will be speaking on a
number of important ham
radio related issues



Mike Raisbeck, *K1TWF*

Also this month ...
Other Club business
Donuts and coffee
Raffle
Good Friends,
Good Conversation,
Good Times

NEXT MEETING NOTICE

Next month's meeting of the Hampden County Radio Association will be one week early on **JANUARY 30th, 2004**, at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church.
See details inside.

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President's Corner



Hungry hams line up for food at this year's party

January 2nd Meeting Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF



ARRL New England Division Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF is our first speaker of the new year. An active member of the ARRL and a Volunteer Counsel, Raisbeck is also a past president of the Billerica Amateur Radio Society. Mike Raisbeck was first licensed in 1961. He and his wife Susan, WN1V, live in Chelmsford, MA with their sons Andrew, KB1DEF, and Daniel, KB1DFJ.

Raisbeck, who serves with New England ARRL Division Director Tom Freneye, K1KI, feels that protecting the ability of Amateurs to practice the hobby in the future will also require a great deal of effort. "Many good things are being done by the League," Raisbeck says. "The staff at Headquarters provides wonderful support for these activities, but it is the job of the Board and the membership to provide the drive that will make them happen." Raisbeck's talk Friday evening will most likely focus on BPL but expect to hear about CW testing requirements and other FCC happenings of importance to us all. Don't forget to bring along some good questions for Mike after the presentation. With the ARRL January board meeting just around the corner this is a great opportunity to voice your opinions about how you want the league to represent you in the coming year.

This should be a very great presentation with subject matter that will be important to all active amateurs. Please plan on attending and bring a friend. As always everyone is welcome at an HCRA meeting. Expect the usual great company, good conversation, coffee & donuts and great raffle prizes. Meeting time is 7:30 PM with Mike taking the stage around 8:00 PM. I look forward to seeing everyone there—lets hope for better weather this year!

Made your donation yet?

Ham radio needs you — are you ready to serve?

An Important Message for all hams!



Graphic courtesy ARRL web

Please read!

*There's a new **serious interference threat** to Amateur Radio Spectrum...*

The new year is here and a good New Year's resolution would be to make every effort you can to help defeat BPL. Whatever method you choose to fight BPL; publicity, testing, financial support, the most important thing is to do something. Don't know what BPL is? Don't delay, get on the internet and go to: <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>. If you are not convinced that this could easily reduce your enjoyment of the HF bands you aren't reading close enough. There's no need to read between the lines to understand this threat!

The ARRL needs your financial support as well for this fight. Please look at: <https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/>. After reviewing all the information you make the choice to do what is best for our hobby. Your support is absolutely necessary to keep BPL off the power lines and out of your receiver! Do something and do it now!

ICOM School is coming

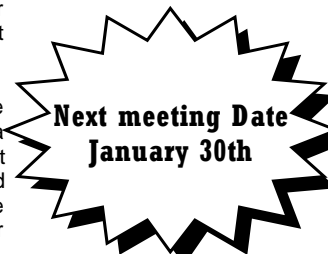
The February Meeting will be held January 30th!

The date and location of the meeting has now been confirmed. Our February meeting will be held one week early, on January 30th. Ron from Icom will start his presentation at 7:00 PM, a half hour earlier than our usual starting time. Please make note of the new date and time. If you show at the usual date you're going to be a week late!

Icom will take you to school!



Through the efforts of Larry, WB1DBY and Alex, N1EBU of Lentini Communications HCRA will bring the ICOM school to our club meeting. Ron Renteno from Icom will be on hand with a relaxed, thought provoking seminar devoted to the latest in Icom gear and ham radio technology. Renteno will have a PowerPoint presentation, demonstrate some radios and take your questions. I'm sure Ron will also have some insight into the exciting future of ham radio equipment. Icom has always been an industry leader with such radios as the IC-706, the PCR1000 and now the new IC7800. I wonder what else this innovative company might have on the drawing board?



Because of Ron's tight schedule it's necessary to move the meeting from our usual Friday, February 6th to Friday, January 30th. It will be at our usual meeting place at the Congregational Church. Meeting time will be at 7:00 for Ron's presentation immediately followed by our regular business meeting. This promises to be a very interesting meeting so bring along a friend.

Holiday Party was a great success!

Over 60 people have a great time!

What a great way to kick off the holiday season. Sixty plus HCRA members and guests showed up for great food, outstanding company, a cool presentation and some nice raffle prizes. When the evening came to a close around 9:00 PM everyone headed home into the freshly falling snow. A fitting end to a perfect evening.

Andy, KB1FVL, did a great job in picking a good caterer for our holiday fare. With the help of his brother Erik, and Larry and his wife Faye the church hall was decorated, tables were set and the food was readied for the coming crowd. And there was plenty of delicious food. The entrees from Pager's were delectable as expected but we also were treated to lots of scrumptious desserts brought in by our members.

After dinner Dave, KB1MU gave a nice PowerPoint presentation about beginnings of the HCRA. Using information gleaned from old Zero Beats and member interviews Dave's presentation was interesting to everyone. And when he got to Field Day 1954? Well, if you weren't there it's hard to describe what actually happened. Needless to say we have a possible candidate for a 50th anniversary QSL card! If you missed it you can view it on your computer by going to: <http://www.hcra.org> and clicking on the link with the holiday party pictures.

After Dave ended his history lesson the raffle was held and everyone headed home just as the first of two major weekend storms was beginning.

I hope everyone had a good time in the ARRL 10 Meter contest. Don't forget to send in your logs! Be sure to identify the club as "Hampden County Radio Assn" or it will be rejected by the robot.

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and
Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

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OUR
SUPPORTERS
PLEASE



WHY HAMS PREFER TO BUY USED GEAR FROM NON-SMOKERS.

CONTEST CORNER
something almost every weekend!!!

ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z, Jan 3-2400Z, Jan 4
 Kid's Day Contest 1800Z-2400Z, Jan 3
 N Amer QSO PartyCW 1800Z, Jan 10-0600Z, Jan 11
North American QSO Party SSB
 1800Z, Jan 17-0600Z, Jan 18
 (work NE1C, QRV in VT)
 ARRL Jan VHF Sweeps 1900Z, Jan 24-0400Z, Jan 26
 Vermont QSO Party 0000Z, Feb 7-2400Z, Feb 8
 New Hampshire QSO Party 0000Z, Feb 7-2400Z, Feb 8
 Minnesota QSO Party 1400Z-2359Z, Feb 7
 Delaware QSO Party 1700Z, Feb 7-0500Z, Feb 8
 and 1300Z, Feb 8-0100Z, Feb 9
 North Amer Sprint SSB 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 8
 ARRL School Club Roundup 1300Z, Feb 9-0100Z, Feb 14
 CQ/RJ WW RTTY WPX Contest 0000Z, Feb 14-2400Z, Feb 15
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW
 0000Z, Feb 21-2400Z, Feb 22
 CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB 0000Z, Feb 28-2359Z, Feb 29
 Mississippi QSO Party 1500Z, Feb 28-0300Z, Feb 29
 North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 28-0600Z, Feb 29



Your Club Needs
YOU!!

It seems hard to believe that only 7 years ago, the Hampden County Radio Association was close to dissolving because of a lack of interest and low member attendance.

Since then, the club has rebounded due to strong leadership and interesting events and meetings. This didn't happen by accident. These changes were made by volunteers interested in making your club an exciting, FRIENDLY, and interesting place to be.

Now its your turn.

Many of the key officers and board members will not be returning to office in September. Why not volunteer for an office, and help keep the HCRA moving in the right direction? Please contact a board member if you are interested in taking on a position. Elections in June.

Get On The Air (all times local)

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic Sys (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 123 Hz) (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 (All other weeks 147.000)
	19:30	WMA Emergency Simplex Net	Starts on 146.94
	20:00	WMA Emergency Simplex Net	145.130 (PL 123 Hz, use PL for both duplex & simplex)

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!!!

*Announcing HCRA Sponsored
Technician Class*

Do You know of anyone interested in becoming a ham?

Beginning Tuesday evening, February 10th, 2004

classes will be held at Wolf Swamp Road School, Longmeadow.

Classes will begin at 6:30 PM and go until 8:30 PM each Tuesday evening.

There are ten class sessions planned, culminating with a VE session on the last meeting night.

(There will be no class on February 17th)

Last year's class yielded 14 new Technician class Ham Radio Operators.

COST: \$0.00 + the cost of "Now You're Talking"

NO AGE REQUIREMENT

Contact Peter, KI1I

(413) 562-7392

ki1i@arrl.net

Happy New Year



NOTICE !!!



FEBRUARY'S HCRA MEETING

WILL BE ONE WEEK EARLY, ON JANUARY 30th, 2004

Reserve Friday, January 30th, 2004, 7pm for what promises to be a very exciting HCRA meeting. Please note that the availability of this special speaker forces us to have our meeting one week earlier than usual (but at the same location, Feeding Hills Congregational Church).

Through the efforts of HCRA board member Larry, WB1DBY, along with Alex Lentini, N1EBU, from Lentini Communications, Ron Rateno from ICOM will be visiting our club and showcasing some of the new products that ICOM is producing, and some that they will be releasing soon. Ron will also have a presentation and be answering questions.

As usual, this meeting is open to any and all interested, membership in HCRA is not required.

Please spread the word for this special HCRA event.



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

Youth President	Luke Dyson	luke@penguinia.net
Adult Advisor	John Pise, Kx1x (413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net
Adult Advisor	Dave Cain, AA1YW	aa1yw@arrl.net

BSA VENTURE CREW 510 - CALENDAR

December 29 th	Trip to ARRL HQ & Operate W1AW
January 2 nd	HCRA/Crew meeting 6:30
January 16,17,18	NAOP- Crew Campout - ORV in VT



← Crew at ARRL(12/2002)

Luke, KB1ISP Demos at MassJam03 →



On the Internet

<http://www.hcra.org>

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IRLP Node #7270

146.46 Mhz -- PL 114.8

A free service of HCRA

See www.hcra.org

Next Month, a week early:

ICOM School

JANUARY 30th, 2004

Feeding Hills

Congregational Church

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 19, 2004 at 7 PM in Amherst, MA at Amherst Machine, Cowls Rd. All test elements given.

We hold a breakfast gathering every first Saturday of the month at: Bickfords Resturant, 180 North King St., Northampton. We start to gather in around 8:00 A.M. and stay till around 9:15 A.M.

Breakfast net weekdays at 630 AM442.200 - PL 162.2 kd1xp/r Deerfield.

www.kd1xp.org

For any of the above, contact Richard, KD1XP at 665-2211 or kd1xp@kd1xp.org or on the 145.130 PL 123 repeater

HCRA *On-The-Air* Board Meeting Agenda
Held December 8, 2003 on 28.375 USB 2000 2030 local

Members participating on-the-air Jim KK1W, Dave KB1MU, Larry WB1DBY, Marc K1MZ, Dave AA1YW, Norm, W1BMK, Irv W6IS, Marty, W1MJB and John Kx1x. Jim, WB1Z, was also present (through KK1W via AIM).

OFFICER REPORTS

Vice President, W6IS

Raffle prizes for Jan meeting are all set. Irv will get an inventory list out to Dave, AA1YW and Jim, KK1W

Treasurer, NIAEH Not Present

\$600.00 was spent on the Holiday party, the hall cost \$75.00. \$147.00 was received from the raffle. The church hall is now available for the new date (Jan30) of Feb meeting.

Secretary, KB1MU

The board decided that in place of the usual printed club roster, the data be placed on the web site.

Current membership is:

Courtesy	6
Family	14
Life	3
Prospect	6
Regular	85
Sponsor	1
Venture	10

MEMBER REPORTS

Program, WB1Z Present via IM

Mike Raisbeck is confirmed for January 2. He will be joining Jim and Irv for supper before the meeting.

Membership, W1BMK

Nothing to report.

Zero Beat Editor, Kx1x

Deadline for January ZB - December 20. We need to keep the change in date of the January meeting in front of the members! What can we do to insure the ezB gets out on time? Dave KB1MU can also e-mail the E-ZB issues.

Technical, K1II

Classes will be announced on local nets, listed on web site, and published in ZeroBeat. The classes will be held at Wolf Swamp Road School. They start at 6:30 PM and go until 8:30 PM on Tuesday evening starting February 10. Ten class sessions are planned. There will be no class on February 17th.

At Large, WB1DBY

Icom School, January 30. This meeting will replace the usual February meeting. The Church is available on the 30 of Jan.

Venture Crew, KB1FWN Not present

OLD BUSINESS

W1NY QSL cards - status? They have been ordered - Jim, WB1Z

Balance of the KC1ZJ equipment to eBay? They will be on E-bay within two weeks. - John, Kx1x

Special Event Station for 2004 - still on the back burner - Marty had good suggestions of the Armory, Indian Motorcycle and Bright Nights as possible special event stations.

Reserve Dufresne Park for 2004 - John, Kx1x

Westfield Fairgrounds were visited to determine suitability for use as a field day site. It has all facilities we need. However, a check with Fairground operator reveals that the site is not available for year 2004. It will be available for year 2005.

An athletic field on Wolf Swamp Road in Longmeadow was also visited. The site availability has not yet been determined. In addition, because of Longmeadow's noise abatement policies, generators may not be allowed 24-hour operation. There is no shelter, but kitchen and toilet facilities are present.

NEW BUSINESS

ARRL Cabinet Meeting January 4. Irv & Jim will be attending

Elections 2004/2005. Marty, W1MJB has expressed an interest in becoming a board member. Quite a few board members will not be returning next year. If you're not, please be thinking of someone to recommend for a replacement. Marty will be checking on a potential meeting site in Longmeadow.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Isham KB1MU Secretary.

The next
Hampden County Radio Association
Monthly meeting
will be on Friday

January 2nd, 2004

Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF

Mike will discuss
important Amateur Radio Issues

meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

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.*

*The Hampden County Radio
Assn. Board of Directors
wishes you and
your family a
Happy and Safe
New Year's
Holiday*

*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,
S.Hadley, MA

HCRA

P.O. Box 562

Agawam, Massachusetts

01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF
ARRL New England Division
Vice Director

Will discuss important
Amateur Radio related
issues

Jan 2nd,
2004
Doors
Open
At
7:00 pm

