

# 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, 2005



# This Month's Meeting John Ellsworth

Vintage Radio & Communications Museum Friday, January 7, 2005

Doors open at 7:PM





#### NEXT MONTH'S MEETING



Steve McGee WA1PDF **QRP Labs** Friday, February 4th

Steve will be talking about the art of QRP and small kit building. RAFFLE PRIZE: The QRP Labs SSB kit (\$239 value) will be the prize, generously donated by QRP labs

# THIS MONTH'S TECH CORNER

John, N1JIO, will demonstrate PSK31 before our meeting starts. Doors open at 7:PM.



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# President's Corner

#### The Year in Review

**HCRA 2004** 

ell, a new year has arrived and as is the usual for editorials in this season I guess we should take a brief look back at HCRA and our accomplishments of 2004. It was a year of both exciting and sad events.



FD 2004 - 1st in WMA!

On the high side, our club participated in a number of activities in a big way. Starting early in the year with another successful ham class by Peter, KI1I to an unbelievable FD that placed us 1st in WMA, HCRA day at the Big-E, another huge auction in November and a simply outstanding Holiday Party, 2004 was a year to remember. Our membership count is as high as it's ever been, the treasury is solid and able to fund future events and many of our members are just plain active in all phases of amateur radio. We are entering 2005 poised to have

even more fun than last year. Isn't that what it's all about?

But 2005 will not be without challenges. The threat of BPL arrived right here in Feeding Hills in October to remind us we are not safe from interference. The solar cycle continues it's downward trend making us look for new ways to enjoy the HF bands and the internet is both a source of enjoyment for hams as well as an attractant that pulls potential amateur radio operators off in other directions. What do you think you or your club can do to grow our hobby this year?

And of course last year was not without sadness. 2005 was a year in which a large number of local hams became 'silent keys'. Early in the year Jim, WB1Z left our ranks, followed by Philip, WA1CTQ; Phil, K1DFC; Bill, W1JP; Ray, N1RLX; and HCRA life member Art, W1KK. The enthusiasm and hard work these amateurs brought to us will live on for years and should not be forgotten. The mere fact we have a vibrant, large club is due in large part to their efforts and challenges us to match their love of the hobby in 2005.



Show & Tell

What to we have to look forward to this year? As much as you want to do, that's the easy answer. Our calendar of events is already filled with great meetings, a technician class, Show & Tell in March, the June Tailgate Party, Field Day, and the November auction. Anything else you would like to do? Just like the Jell-O ad says, "there's always room for more!". Some things that come to mind are a special event station, school demonstrations, NEQP, the Big-E, public service events, a CW class... the list goes on. The good thing is we are in the perfect position to do all this and more. Our active member base coupled with solid funding

allows us the opportunity - so what's your pleasure?

2004 has brought quite a few new members into our organization. These hams are truly the future of our club. Many of our board members have been at the helm of HCRA for years. Annual elections are in June and the health of our club will be greatly benefited when some of these new members step forward to volunteer. New ideas, different outlooks and opinions; all these are necessary to keep HCRA the great club it is. As we move through this year take time to think how you can help.

From all of the board at HCRA we thank everyone for their efforts, participation and the care and concern demonstrated in 2004. We know 2005 is going to be another banner year for HCRA!

# January's Meeting - Ancient Radio John Elsworth returns from the Vintage Wireless Museum

Start off the new year with a look at the radios of yesteryear. Join you friends January 7th and welcome back to HCRA guest speaker John Elsworth. John is the curator and owner of the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of CT. He has spent many years assembling one of the largest collections of communications and electronics memorabilia in the area. The museum is handily located in Windsor, CT and is open by appointment.

John has been to HCRA meetings before and always can be counted on to bring along something you have probably never seen! His past presentations have run the gamut of old radios to lime lights and standard cells. I wonder what he will have with him this January?



While you're waiting for the meeting you can visit the museum's web site at: http://www. nationalcommunicationsmuseum.org for a look at his collection. Interesting stuff and I'm sure an even more interesting presentation.

Remember these?

And of course, as John, Kx1x would say - expect the usual at an HCRA meeting: fun, food, raffle prizes and the company of friends. And as our first meeting back after the holidays we can share the tales of what Santa did (or didn't) leave under the tree.

See you there!

# Tech Corner Returns for 2005 Learn and operate PSK-31 live at this month's meeting!

ave you wanted to try PSK-31 but been a little 'daunted' by the new technology? Are you looking to do something different this year with amateur radio. Want a new way to utilize that new computer you have in your shack? Then search no more, this month's Tech Corner has just what you need.



Our resident tech guru John, N1JIO will be on hand at 7:00 PM to offer up a live demonstration of PSK-31 - one of the neatest new digital modes to hit the ham bands in a long time. John will not only tell you how to get started with PSK-31 he will be actually doing a LIVE demonstration. He will have an FT-817, computer and antenna and will show you how easy (and inexpensive) it really is. Just about all of us have the required equipment already

in our shack, N1JIO will show us how to put it to a new use. PSK-31 is a mode that will allow contacts, in poor conditions and with QRP power, it's just the ticket to put fun in the declining solar cycle.

This is just the first of many Tech Corners to come. John's plan is to have a different presentation every month at 7:00 PM, just prior to the start of our regular meeting. Is there something you would like to see discussed at Tech Corner? How to make antennas, the myth of SWR, grounding and noise elimination, computer logging and rig control are just a few possible subjects that come to mind. Let John know what will be interesting to you and we will get it into the schedule.

See you at the meeting!

#### **HCRA CONTACTS**

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

#### **HCRA OFFICERS**

#### **President**

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

#### Vice-President

Marty Bowen, W1MJB w1mjb@arrl.net

#### **Treasurer**

Greg Stoddard, N1AEH (860) 668-5143 gstoddard@rcn.com

#### Secretary

Dave Isham, KB1MU (413) 596-6605 kb1mu@charter.net

#### **HCRA DIRECTORS**

#### At Large

Jim Harrington, KB1JVF jldhjr@verizon.net

#### **Program**

Larry Krainson, WB1DBY (413) 567-3505 wb1dby@arrl.net

#### Membership

Pete Beauregard, KI1I (413) 562-7392 ki1i@arrl.net

#### Newsletter

John Pise, Kx1x (413) 532-7474 kx1x@arrl.net

#### Technical

John Stark, N1JIO

#### STATION TRUSTEES

#### W1NY Trustee

Don Johnson, W1UPH (413) 566-3560 w1uph2@juno.com

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#### **IRLP Trustee**

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#### EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Dave Isham, KB1MU (413) 596-6605 kb1mu@charter.net



**Larry Krainson** 

#### We Make House Calls!

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# W ear it Proudly!

HCRA Name Badges



Only \$6.00. A vailable for order at any club meeting, or call or drop an email for immediate service! Show the world you belong to the oldest club in the Pioneer Valley.

im, KK1W : jm

: jm ullen @ rockys.com or (413) 245-3228

# 

## 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

Larry, WB1DBY, 567-3505, wb1dby@arrl.net

# 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)

at least turn it on and listel 146.46 simplex, 114.8hz PL Kx1x, Node #7270, S.Hadley, MA

# The KI1I BEAM

#### Ham Class 2005

The Technician class license course is beginning to take shape. People who are interested in teaching a class have begun to contact me, and I have been contacting those who have been teaching in previous years. I have my first few students already registered for the class. Know somebody that wants a ham license? Have them visit, or sign them up yourselves by visiting the HCRA website at <a href="www.hcra.org">www.hcra.org</a>. You will see a link to sign up for the class on the front page. Know somebody who wants to teach? Put them in touch with me by email to <a href="ki1i@arrl.net">ki1i@arrl.net</a>. Invitations to individuals



who signed in as interested in ham radio classes at this year's Big E will go out sometime late December/early January.

These classes have been one of the main sources of new members to our club. Over the last two years we have ushered in approximately 28 new hams. This is a great testimonial to the hard work done by all of the volunteers who participated in teaching and preparing for the classes. I consider this a vital part of what HCRA does because without new members...well you know what can happen. I am hoping that this year sees another new class of successful candidates for a ham radio license. Best wishes to the "Class of 2005".

Peter Beauregard Ham Class 2005 Coordinator

The letter below is transcribed from an actual communication from K1KI



#### The ARRL Foundation, Inc.

Established by The American Radio Relay League in 1973 for the advancement of Amateur Radio

November 19, 2004

Hampden County Radio Association, W1NY PO Box 562 Agawam, MA 01001

Dear Friends.

On behalf of the ARRL Foundation, thank you so much for your generous contribution in memory of Jim Allen WB1Z. The loss of a young friend who represented the best of Amateur Radio is difficult. I hope all of the club members remember Jim's active participation in the club and dedication to Amateur Radio.

Your wonderful contribution means so much more since all the members of the club contributed. I'm sure Jim's enthusiastic spirit is alive and well.

Your generosity will provide vital support to the ARRL Foundation's work on behalf of Amateur Radio.

73, (signed by Tom Frenaye) Tom Frenaye, K1KI President On the Internet

<a href="http://www.hcra.org">http://www.hcra.org</a>

Updated often to bring you timely Amate news and info

IRLP Node #7270 146.46 Mhz -- PL 114.8 A free service of HCRA See www.hcra.org Next Meeting: Friday, Feburary 4<sup>th</sup>,2005 Steve McGee WA1PDF, QRP Labs KIT BUILDING

#### 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 <u>eZB@hcra.org</u> 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) <u>WWW.HCRA.ORG</u>. 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.

# 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
Wednesdays	19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link) (W1TOM)
	20:00	MTARA Swap net	

Thursdays 21:00 Weather Net 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of the Month 147.09 (All other weeks 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

http://www.kd1xp.org

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month 19:30 MTARA Club meeting Red Cross building

http://www.mtara.org 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, W1FAB, W1FAB@arrl.net

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month 19:00 NOBARC club meeting Pittsfield MA (146.91 for talk-in)

# WINY 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!!!

#### Art Zavarella -- W1KK, SK

The following eulogy was sent to me by former HCRA member John Walker, N1QXV. John has been in Texas for quite a few years but has kept in touch with local happenings via the HCRA web site and Zero Beat. John's words eloquently relate what we all feel about Art, W1KK. -- de KK1W

Hi Jim,

Not sure if you remember me but I was an active ham in the area until 1996 when I moved to Texas for telecom work. I have kept in touch with Art Zavarella W1KK.

I noticed in your article reporting silent keys. Art was one of the founders of HCRA and I am sure many others can add some history for a nice article on him.

Art was a great guy and I learned so much from him. He cared about everyone and loved so many people. His passion for amateur radio was never ending and he went out of his way to help so many obtain the knowledge to enjoy the hobby. He worked with me consistently to get my CW speed up to pass my 13 wpm. Which I passed at one of your many test sessions Jim in Chicopee at the hotel off of 290, it seems like yesterday. I remember that Saturday, the first person I wanted to stop and tell in person was Art. He was such an inspiration to me and so many through out the area. I will always cherish his QSL card.

I will certainly miss Art, he is one in a million and I will always remember him when I mention who is my Elmer or the word itself.

Art would have been 98. My kids remember the gentle man that used to take them for a ride in a cart around his driveway when we would visit for hours. I would help him with the heavy radio projects around his shack. It was always a pleasure to listen to him speak, I would learn so much talking radio and what not.

John Walker, N1QXV

#### Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Assn. News

#### www.mtara.org

Info Net, Wednesdays at 7:30 PM local 146.94 (-) or 147.000 (+) with Joe, NA1X, net control

Meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month, 7:30 Red Cross Building, Cottage St., Spfld



#### **MTARA Elections**

om Amateur Repeater Association

Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> 7:30 PM

At the Red Cross Building

## KD1XP Repeater Group News

53.350 (-) PL 71.9 Amherst, MA 145.130 (-) PL 173.8 Amherst, MA 442.200 (+) PL 162.2 Deerfield, MA (near Greenfield) 443.450 (+) PL 173.8 Leyden, MA (near Greenfield) 443.700 (+) PL 71.9 Belchertown, MA

. The next ham radio testing session will be on Monday, January 19th at Amherst Machine on Cowls Road in Amherst, MA. ALL test elements given. Contact Richard, KD1XP at 665-2211 for details

Breakfast meetings every first Saturday of the month at Bickfords in Northampton.

Talk in on the 145.130 repeater.

www.kd1xp.org



#### Art Zaverella -- W1KK

The Hampden County Radio Assn lost a valuable member on Nov 20, 2004, when Art Zaverella W1KK became a silent key. Art was involved with the HCRA almost from its beginnings. Due to his physical limitations, he had not been active in the club, but was still concerned about it's status. Many newer members may not recall him, but there are those members who knew him as W1MNG.

All who knew Art have their favorite memories of him. My personal memory is his recounting his first meeting with Hiram Percy Maxim W1AW. As a young schoolboy, Art, took it upon himself to ride his bicycle from his home in the meadows of East Hartford to the elegant home of Mr. Maxim on Farmington Ave in Hartford. Young Art knocked on the door of this famous automotive pioneer, and explained his mission. To his surprise, he was welcomed in and invited to see "Old Betsy" his rotary spark gap rig that Art had heard on his crystal set. H.P. Maxim became a mentor for young Art.

Many knew Art as "the ham with all those unusual antennas living across the street from Riverside Park (now Six Flags)". Art was indeed an "Antenna Experimenter", but that was only the most visible of his skills. As I browse through older copies of ZeroBeat, I find many articles by Art showing to build a simple antenna, or tuner, or both. Art's skills were not limited to this. He was very active in traffic handling and held many ARRL field appointments. I am told he was a superior CW operator, with the ability to hold a conversation, while copying accurate CW. For many years it was Art who was responsible for Field Day Antennas and placement.

73 Art. de KB1MU

#### HCRA board Meeting December 08, 2004

Held at the home of Larry WB1DBY

Members present: Jim KK1W, Larry WB1DBY, Greg N1AEH, Dave KB1MU, John N1JIO, John KX1X, Jim KB1JVF, Peter KI1I, and Marty W1MJB.

#### Vice President W1MJB:

The holiday party appears to have been a great success. All seemed to be happy with both the food and the entertainment. Kudos to Marty and Judy! Based on various counts 74 to 79 people were present. The board discussed some things to make next year more of a success. Marty has made notes of improvements to be made for next year. The Ham Jeopardy seems to have been enjoyed. As a result of winning the final jeopardy, Gary AA1UE will receive an additional years paid up dues to the HCRA.

#### **Treasurer N1AEH:**

The current club balance is \$4397.00. We have been informed that the hall rental fees have been increased. The new fee schedule is \$80.00 per use for Griswold Hall (normal meeting area), and \$135.00 for use of both Griswold Hall and Memorial Hall. The board voted to continue meetings at this facility.

#### **Secretary KB1MU:**

Membership total at present:

Courtesy 7
Family 27
Life 1
Regular 95
Venture Crew 8
Prospect 5

A total of 23 members from last year have not yet renewed.

#### **Program WB1DBY:**

The program line-up is in pretty good shape.

January John Ellsworth from the Historical Radio Museum February Steve Mc Gee WA1PDF from QRP Labs

March Annual Show and Tell Meeting April CTRI Contest Group

May Harold Ort, N2RLL – Editor of Popular Communications

June Tailgate Party

It is never too early to start thinking about speakers for next year's meetings. If you have any suggestions, please notify Larry WB1DBY. He will be glad to work with you on that idea.

#### Membership KI1I:

The sign-up list from the Big-E has been received and given to Peter. The list will also be sent to both the ARRL and NOBARC as appropriate. E-mails (Letters where needed) will be sent to those in the HCRA area. The course is being updated and prepared for the classes. Anyone who desires to help with this effort should contact Peter KI1I.

#### ZeroBeat Kx1x:

Cutoff date for ZeroBeat submission's for the December edition is Dec 20. As always, anyone with material to be placed in ZeroBeat should contact John Kx1x.

#### **Technical N1JIO:**

At 7:00 PM Jan 7, 2005 (Prior to the main presentation.) John N1JIO will conduct a tech corner session concerning the operational aspect of PSK 31. An actual operation of PSK will be shown. If there is sufficient interest, a future session will deal with the actual setup of a PSK station.

#### At Large KB1JVF:

Jim has contacted QST and is setting up the timetable for getting advertising for the monthly meetings. Our meeting info should also be appearing in issues of WORLD RADIO magazine. There is also a possibility of CW classes conducted on Two-meter frequency. Stay tuned for further info.

#### **Venture Crew:**

Not present.

#### **Old Business:**

Dufrense Park has been reserved for 2005 field day

A thank you letter has been received from the ARRL foundation. A copy will be published in the next ZeroBeat.

#### **New Business:**

The board voted unanimously to send a \$100.00 donation to QSL.NET, to support their operations. QSL.NET provides the mailing service for the HCRA mail reflector. It is a "free" system.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Isham KB1MU Secretary.



# **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.gsl.net/crewdx



#### **BSA VENTURE CREW 510 Contacts**

Youth President Adult Advisor Adult Advisor Luke Dyson, KB1ISP John Pise, Kx1x (413) 532-7474 Dave Cain, AA1YW luke@penguinia.net kx1x@arrl.net aa1yw@arrl.net

## BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

HCRA Meeting – January 7th

Demo for Pack 570, West Springfield -- Friday, Jan 21<sup>st</sup>

NAQP Contest, QRV VT -- Jan 21, 22, 23



ABOVE: Front (I-r): Mike (son of Ki1i), Jake (son of WB1DBY), Jim (KB1JXP), and Mike (son of KB1LFG) Back (I-r): Justin (KB1ISQ), Luke (KB1ISP), Andy (KB1FVL), John (Kx1x), Pete (Ki1i). Not pictured: Tim (KB1LFG), Jim (K1JAW), Larry (WB1DBY)

RIGHT: (I-r): Mike (son of KB1LFG), Mike (son of Ki1i), Jim (KB1JXP)

BELOW: Pete (Ki1i) operates W1AW/90 on 40m SSB with his son, Mike ready to take the microphone as Jake (son of WB1DBY) looks on. Pete wrote out the instructions to call "CQ" on a piece of paper, and let the boys call out for contacts.



# A Trip to ARRL HQ & W1AW

de Kx1x

BSA Venture Crew 510 made their annual pilgrimage to Newington, CT, on Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004, along with other hams and aspiring hams.

After an hour long tour of the HQ building, we went over to the memorial station to operate as



W1AW/90. Many contacts were made with hams looking for the commemorative card that W1AW was putting out for their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

At noon everyone had lunch at the pizza place down the street, after which some went to "the candy store" and some went back to the operating station where we operated 6m, 15m, 17m, 20m, 40m SSB, and 20m PSK31.

We stayed until the station closed at 4. Some went right home, some couldn't resist a stop at Krispy Kreme.

# ${f Dr} \; {f DX} \;$ de Mike DeChristopher, KB1FWN

Welcome to January, the month of resolutions! Lots of resolutions are normally made, but how many do you think are actually kept? Regardless of your previous "track record", maybe it is time to fit the radio in there. Do you need that Scarborough Reef QSO? I'm

not talking about miracles (so maybe BS7 wasn't a good example), but a nice promise to work a new country at least every month would keep things interesting. I hear people complaining all the time about the solar cycle – I do it too – but honestly, if you put your mind to it, that BS7 might not be so far off.

Don't forget that the North American QSO Party (phone) is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is a great contest for the big-gun and non-contester alike. Speaking of entities, most hams do not have a confirmed Vermont QSO. The illustrious Venture Crew DX will again be operating from AA1YW's Vermont QTH during the contest, so if you hear the tell-tale QRM, give us a call!

The announced DX for this month is equally enticing. Easter Island, Djibouti, Maldives; all places that would earn many a spot in the cluster. Band conditions may remain the same, but the amount of active operators will increase. Not only are the contesters getting their stations ready for the next round, but people are stuck indoors.

Start	End	Entity	Call	QSL via	Notes
2005 Jan01	2005 Apr19	Djibouti	J20FH	F5PRU Buro	By F5PRU; 80-10m; CW SSB, perhaps digital; also QRV for REF contests, CW + SSB; spare time operation
2005 Jan03	2005 Jan07	Acension Island	ZD8ZA	G3ZAY	By G3ZAY fm AF-003; requested callsign
2005 Jan07	2005 Jan14	Virgin Islands	KP2	Home Call	By W2AZK KF2HC as homecall/KP2 fm St Croix; 160-6m; SSB CW; focus on WARC; QSL OK via Buro or direct
2005 Jan08	2005 Jan18	Easter Island	3G0	LA6IEA	By LA team as 3G0YM (CW/digital) and 3G0YP (SSB); QSL: Ole Frya, N-2647 Sor Fron, Norway
2005 Jan09	2005 Jan17	Maldives	8Q7PR	IK2QPR	By IK2QPR fm Dunikolhu Is (AS-013); 40-10m (no 30m); SSB CW; 100w, vertical
2005 Jan09	2005 Jan20	Cambodia	XU7ACY	K2NJ	By NO2R fm Sihanoukville; 160 80 40m; CW SSB
2005 Jan13	2005 Jan19	Canada	VE2	Home Call	By VE3JM VE3EY as VE2/homecall fm Sept Îles, PQ (Zone 2); focus on low bands; verts on 160 + 80m
2005 Jan21	2005 Feb04	Peter I	3Y0X	K4YL Direct	By an international team
2005 Jan21	2005 Feb06	Virgin Islands	KP2	G400C	By G4RCG KI7VR as KP2/homecall fm St Croix (NA-106); QSL OK via Buro or direct

# E -Comm 2004

Western Mass Emergency & Public Service Communications activity was at a high level throughout 2004. Members of the Amateur Radio community were involved in providing radio communication for 9 events supporting non-profit groups in the area.

ARES, RACES, & Red Cross amateur volunteers supported the Red Cross in a major exercise with the City of Chicopee & Westover Air Reserve Base. During the year, a number of SkyWarn nets were activated on the local repeaters. Trained amateur SkyWarn spotters responded with valuable information for NWS National Weather Service.

The Western Mass Emergency Net program expanded. The weekly nets on Sunday AM added a 6 meter net 09:30 on Mt. Greylock repeater 53.230. AE1B is net control. Also, a 440 net was added on Mt Tom's 443.200 at 09:00 with net control ops. KB1MU (Net Mgr), W1BMK, KD1XP, & KB1CPZ.

In November, the Western Mass ARES SET (Simulated Emergency Test) called up 25 operators in the area. The test included simplex operations & traffic handling on 2m & HF.

Eric N1QKO has accepted the appointment of Emergency Coordinator of the MTARA. Eric is involved in SkyWarn as Asst. W. Ma. Coordinator, he is a RACES operator & an active participant in public service.

The Western Mass Emergency Simplex Net will be reactivated in January. This net tests the ability of stations to operate on simplex frequencies. Look for more details on the Info on Thursdays, and the WMEN nets on Sunday.

Sadly we lost Ray N1RLX this past November. Raymond, an outstanding public service advocate used Amateur Radio to expand his service to community. As a fitting tribute to Ray, the Western Mass Emergency Communication groups look forward to continuing our participation in Public & Emergency Service.

Any licensed operator Tech - Extra with an interest in emergency communications and/or Public Service or have questions may contact Eric N1QKO, Dave KB1MU, or myself.

73 de Tom, N1 MUV







# This month:

The Hampden County Radio Assn
Presents

John Ellsworth

from the

Vintage Radio & Communications Museum

on Friday

January 7th, 2005

Doors open at 7 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:30

Feeding Hills Congregational Church 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.

If ever you have a need for an antenna rated for

6000

watts

on 10m
(or 11m),
Jim, K1JAW
can tell you
where he
found this
one.



HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts
01001

Hampden County Radio Assoc.

John Ellsworth
Vintage Radio &
Communications
Museum

Friday, January 7, 2005

Doors open at 7:PM for Tech Corner

# **PLEASE HAND CANCEL**