



# ZERO BEAT

A Publication of the  
Hampden County Radio Association  
<http://www.hcra.org>



## Next Meeting:

Friday, January 4th, 2008

Donna Halper

7:30pm

JANUARY  
2008

## Presidents Message

Well, Happy New Year! May all of the H.C.R.A. members have a sunspot filled year!

I guess first is that Donna Halper is coming back to HCRA for the January meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup>. She visited us before and to put it bluntly is dynamic as a personality and speaker. Not to say she has a million facts tucked in her mind. She takes questions, and isn't afraid of fact filled answers! If you missed her the first time you have to come this time.

Second would be the Holiday Party, Ed KB1NWH did a great job, as well as as Sue, his wife (sorry I haven't heard you on enough to remember your call)(hint) Kathy, George, John, Chris, and on and on. It came to 7 P.M. and we stood with nothing to do, waiting for the next shoe to fall. It didn't! All came ate and had a good time. Thanks to everyone that helped, came and cleaned up. Oh, special thanks to the BOD for all the hard work on the Party. Changing food sources can be a trauma.

February's meeting will be a glimpse of the Segway! Yes, the two wheel, stop walking and move with no effort, techie thingie... Come see, up close and talk about a non-radio interesting new to us piece of equipment. Hmm, maybe we can get one for "Field Day" Hi, Hi.

Remember that March is the "Show & Tell" meeting. Got a piece of foam that needs a story? How about a Amp you've been sweating over for two years? Modified a rotator to digital? There are cash prizes and the mountains of talk and admiration.

Gotta go, Thanks for all you're support and help, the H.C.R.A. keeps growing because of you. 73's, Jim—KB1JVF



# BSA Venture Crew 510



NE1C – New England’s #1 Crew

Chartered by the Hampden County Radio Association

Crew President Mike DeChristopher, K1KAA

Crew Advisor John Pise, Kx1x

**Congratulations** to crew members who just received their Technician Licenses:

Chris, KB1PQU Josh, KB1PQV (grandson of Glenn, KC7LW),  
Jimmy, KB1PRA (grandson of Archie, KA1JDY) Jake, KB1PQW  
and Mike, KB1PRC (son of Pete, Ki1i)

We are ALWAYS looking for new crew members (with or without license).

Contact John, Kx1x, for details.

### **JOTA -- NE1C in Action -- Peru, MA October, 2007**

For the first time in quite a while, NE1C was QRV on a non-contest event, a Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) event and ham radio demo at the Appalachian Trail District camporee at the Rice Wildlife Sanctuary in Peru, MA. Crew veterans Mike (K1KAA), Joe (KB1ODC) and Jake (KB1NSN) were joined by new crew members Chris and Jim (not licensed at the time). Adults at the event were Crew Advisors Brian (KB1IGM), Blake (KB1OEV), Larry (WB1DBY), and John (Kx1x) as well as Dave (K1TTT).

Jake, Joe, Chris and Jim were busy throughout the event helping scouts "get on the air" with other scouts around the world. IRLP node 7270 was temporarily repositioned at K1TTT's place in Peru. Scouts were thrilled to talk to such places as Australia and South Africa on IRLP and there were also plenty of domestic contacts on 20m and 40m.

Setup went well, but tear-down was hampered by hail and driving rain. After everything was packed up, the crew returned to K1TTT's for a celebratory meal. Great times!

### Crew Calendar

Trip to ARRL HQ and W1AW operating station	December 27
NAQP, QRV in Whitingham, VT	January 18,19,20
CQ WW WPX, QRV at K1TTT's in Peru, MA	March 28, 29, 30
Webelos Woods Ham Radio Demo	May 31



Joe, KB1ODC, Jim, KB1PRA, and Chris, KB1PQU working HF contacts at the JOTA.



Jake, KB1NSN, talks ham radio with visitors to the camporee.

## HCRA Board Meeting – December 11, 2007

Held at the home of Larry, WB1DBY, Longmeadow, MA.

Members present: Jim KB1JVF, George KC1V, Greg N1AEH, Larry, WB1DBY and Ed, KB1NWH.

**Jim, KB1JVF, President:** The Holiday party was very successful. The setup went very well. There was a general discussion of the raffle prizes; Jim expressed his feeling that we need more radio-oriented, smaller, prizes and Larry asked about the "HCRA-ware" and World Radio subscriptions as prizes. Larry will talk to AA1YW and see if there is anything needed from HRO.

**Greg, N1AEH, Treasurer:** The current account balance is \$5748. The church has been paid through December and the party expenses of \$750 have been covered. The raffle brought in a net of about \$100 and there have been \$110 in donations to date. Greg pointed out that our current balance reflects the unusually generous auction donations we received this year.

**George, KC1V, Secretary:** There had been no club correspondence since the last meeting. (Addition to minutes) The current membership count is 137 total, with 106 regular paid, 21 family, 6 courtesy, 1 lifetime and 3 prospects. We have 95 members that are also ARRL members.

**Larry, WB1DBY, Zero Beat Editor:** The deadline for the January ZB will be December 20th. More material is needed.

**Ed, KB1NWH, Director at Large:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** KC1V, proposed a new category for the "Show and Tell" meeting: "Best Project Built from HCRA Auction Junk". It was suggested that we have a speaker, or other program, in addition to the projects at the "Show and Tell" meeting.

Eric, KB1JVI, due to his new job, will have to resign from the Board effective in January and we will need to find a replacement.

*The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at Larry's house.*

Respectfully submitted,  
George, KC1V  
HCRA Secretary.

# 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!!!

### 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 Johnny, Ki1A at  
[Ki1A@comcast.net](mailto:Ki1A@comcast.net) or (413) 543-9367

Zero Beat Contributions: Anything of interest is welcome.

Please submit your ideas, articles and more to  
[wb1dby@comcast.net](mailto:wb1dby@comcast.net). Thank you,  
Larry, WB1DBY, Zero Beat Editor

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions  
Can Be Directed To:

### HCRA OFFICERS

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### STATION TRUSTEES

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## Our January Guest Speaker: Donna Halper

Donna Halper attended Northeastern University in Boston, where she was the first woman announcer in the school's history, broadcasting a nightly show on the campus radio station beginning in October 1968. Eventually, Ms Halper completed 2 master's degrees from Northeastern and since then, she has had a successful career in broadcasting that includes 25 years as a radio programming and management consultant in markets of all sizes, all over North America. She has hired and trained staffs, worked with and developed talent, helped to choose or improve formats, conducted music and market research, and helped her client stations to become more successful. Prior to becoming a consultant, she spent 13 years as an announcer, music director and assistant program director in 4 major markets.

For the past 16 years, Ms. Halper has been an instructor at Emerson College in Boston, where she teaches in the Journalism Department and in the Institute for Liberal Arts. Her expertise is in training future journalists and broadcasters, as well as in teaching about ethics, media stereotypes, and social history. In 1995, she was named Emerson's Instructor of the Year. She has also taught media-related courses at the University of Massachusetts, where she was twice nominated for the Distinguished Teaching Award, in 2003 and 2005.

Donna Halper is a respected and experienced media historian, whose research has resulted in appearances on Voice of America, PBS/NewsHour, National Public Radio/Weekend America, New England Cable News, the History Channel, ABC Nightline, WBZ Radio, WNYC Radio, and several local TV stations. She has been quoted in a number of newspapers, magazines and encyclopedias. Ms. Halper is the author of three books, the most recent of which is "**Invisible Stars: A Social History of Women in American Broadcasting.**" She is currently working on her fourth, about the history of talk shows. She has done speaking engagements and presentations about media history all over the Eastern USA, bringing with her an archive of rare memorabilia. She also does free-lance writing for several magazines and newspapers. Essays of hers have most recently appeared in the Boston Globe, Quincy Patriot-Ledger, Radio World, All-Access.com, and Radio Guide.

In addition to Ms. Halper's long career in both radio and print, she is well-known for having discovered the rock group Rush, who dedicated their first two albums to her.

Since 1984, Ms. Halper has been the advocate for an adult with autism; she has tutored him, and helped him to learn to speak; and along with her husband, she continues to be part of his support system. She has also been a Big Sister and a mentor. In her spare time, Ms. Halper collects stamps, old magazines, post-cards, and books that relate to her research in media history.

*Above info from her web site: <http://www.donnahalper.com/dlh.htm>*

# Winter Weather

A winter storm in New England can range from a moderate snowfall over a few hours to a Nor'easter, bringing blizzard conditions with blinding wind-driven snow that lasts several days. People can become stranded in their automobiles or trapped at home, without utilities or other services. The aftermath of a winter storm can have an impact on a community or the entire region for days, weeks or even months. Storm effects, in New England, include large snow accumulation, extremely cold temperatures, heavy, wet snow or icing on trees and powerlines, roof collapses, coastal flooding and beach erosion. Winter storms are also deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the actual storm. The major causes are automobile or other transportation accidents, exhaustion and heart attacks caused by overexertion, 'freezing to death' and asphyxiation from improper heating sources. House fires occur more frequently in the winter due to lack of proper safety precautions when using alternate heating sources, like unattended fires and space heaters. As with most potential disasters: preparedness, monitoring the Media and common sense can minimize the danger to you and your family.

Those who already have an All-Hazard Emergency Supply Kit, as MEMA continues to suggest, should be in fine shape already.

## BEFORE A WINTER STORM THREATENS

- Know the terms used by weather forecasters:
- Winter Storm Watch - Be alert, a storm is likely.
- Winter storm Warning - Take action, the storm is in or entering the area.
- Blizzard Warning - Snow and strong winds combined will produce blinding snow, near zero visibility, deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill. Seek refuge immediately.
- Winter Weather Advisory - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to motorists.
- Frost/Freeze Warning - Below freezing temperatures are expected and may cause damage to plants, crops or

fruit trees.

- Everyone should have supplies which would prepared them to survive on their own for at least three days. There should be some non-perishable food, bottled water, flashlights and extra batteries around the house, along with a portable radio or NOAA Weather Radio in case of power outages or other emergencies caused by a winter storm.
- Additional items that should be included on your Winter Weather Supply List are a freshly-stocked first-aid kit, essential prescription medicines, non-perishable foods (those that require no refrigeration such as canned goods, dried fruits and nuts), a non-electric can opener, water (one gallon per person, per day), baby-care items, extra blankets, sleeping bags and a fire extinguisher.
- Have sufficient heating fuel, as regular sources may be cut off. Have emergency heating equipment and fuel (a gas fireplace, wood burning stove or fireplace) so you can keep at least one room livable. Be sure the room is well ventilated.
- Make sure your home is properly insulated. Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows to keep cold air out.
- Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside to provide insulation.
- To keep pipes from freezing, wrap them in insulation or layers of newspapers, covering the newspapers with plastic to keep out moisture.
- Let faucets drip a little to avoid freezing.
- Know how to shut off water valves.
- If pipes freeze, remove insulation, completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they are most exposed to the cold. A hand-held hair dryer, used with caution, also works well.
- Suggested items for a Winter Emergency Car Kit include a flashlight with extra batteries, a basic first-aid kit, necessary medications, a pocket knife, booster cables, a blanket or a sleeping bag, extra clothes (including rain gear, mittens and socks), non-perishable foods, a non-electric can opener, sand for generating vehicle traction, tire chains or traction mats, a basic tool kit (pliers, wrench, screwdriver), a tow rope, a container of

water and a brightly colored cloth to serve as a flag, if necessary.

- Ensure that your tires have adequate tread and keep your gas tank at least half-full. Plan long trips carefully, listening to the latest weather reports and road conditions.

**Travel during the day, and if possible, try to take someone along with you.**

## WINTER EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable radio or NOAA Weather Radio with extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Essential prescription medicines
- Non-perishable Food
- Non-electric can opener
- Water (one gallon per person/per day)
- Baby items
- Extra blankets and sleeping bags

**Fire extinguisher**

## FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Develop a 'Family Emergency Communication Plan' in case family members are separated from one another during a winter storm (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school),

and have a plan for getting back together. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the 'family contact'. After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone knows the name, address and telephone number of the contact person.

## Winter Emergency Car Kit

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Charged cell phone
- Basic first-aid kit
- Necessary medications
- Pocket knife
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Extra clothes (include rain gear, mittens, socks)
- High-calorie, non-perishable foods (dried fruits, nuts, canned food)
- Non-electric can opener
- Container of water
- Shovel
- Sand for generating traction
- Tire chains or traction mats
- Basic tool kit (pliers, wrench, screwdriver)
- Tow rope

**Brightly colored cloth to utilize as a flag**

## **AUTO SAFETY STEPS**

- About 70% of winter deaths related to snow and ice occur in automobiles.
- Keep your gas tank full.
- Install good winter tires with adequate tread.
- Keep a windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal.
- Check your windshield wiper fluid and keep your gas tank at least half-full.
- Plan long trips carefully, listening to the radio or NOAA Weather Radio for the latest weather forecasts and road conditions.
- Travel during daylight hours, and if possible, take another person with you.
- If a blizzard traps you in your car, pull off the highway. Turn on hazard lights and hang a distress flag from your radio antenna or window.
- Remain in your vehicle where rescuers are more likely to find you. Do not set out on foot, unless you can see a building close by where you know you can take shelter.
- Run the engine and heater about 10 minutes each hour to keep warm. When the engine is running, open the window slightly for ventilation. Periodically clear snow from the exhaust pipe.
- Exercise to maintain body heat, but avoid overexertion. In extreme cold, use road maps, seat covers and floor mats for insulation. Huddle with passengers.
- Take turns sleeping. One person should be awake at all times to look for rescue crews.
- Drink fluids to avoid dehydration.

- Be careful not to waste battery power. Balance electricity energy needs: the use of lights, heat and radio.

At night, turn on the inside light so work crews and rescuers can see you.

## DURING A WINTER STORM

- Dress for the season, wearing several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing, rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.
- Mittens are better than gloves.
- Wear a hat; most body heat is lost through the top of the head.
- Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.
- Be careful when shoveling snow. Over-exertion can bring on a heart attack - a major cause of death in the winter.
- Watch for signs of frostbite: loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in the extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, seek medical help immediately.

**Watch for signs of hypothermia: uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion. If symptoms are detected, get the victim to a warm location, remove any wet clothing, warm the center of the body first and give warm, non-alcoholic beverages, if the victim is conscious. Get medical help, as soon as possible.**

## AFTER THE WINTER STORM

- Roads to allow plowing operations to proceed smoothly.
- Help dig out fire hydrants and storm drains in your neighborhood.

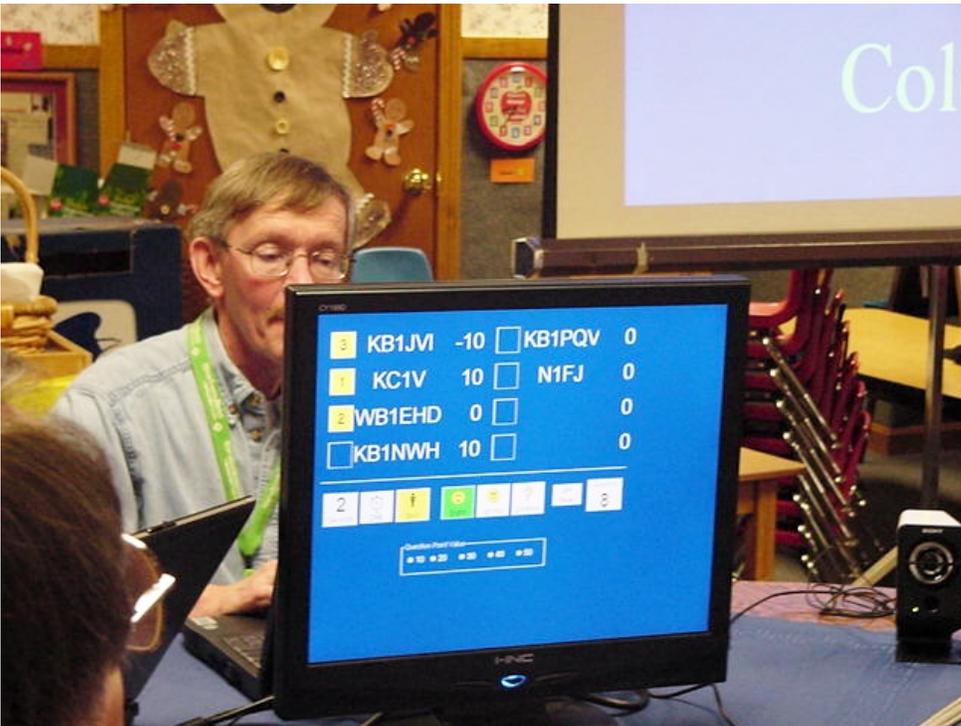
- Avoid parking too close to corners, allowing Public Safety vehicles and plows to maneuver safely.
- Be aware of children playing in the streets, particularly climbing on or running out from behind large snow-drifts. Parents should remind their children to be aware of plowing operations and traffic.
- Clear exhaust vents from Direct Vent Gas Furnace Systems to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Never run automobile until exhaust pipe has been cleared of snow.
- Make sure backup generators are well ventilated.
- Take your time shoveling. Avoid overexertion.  
Use care around downed power lines. Assume a down wire is a live wire.

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## Holiday Party Pictures





# Ham Jeopardy

*Photos of the Hampden County Radio Association 2007 Christmas Party by Rich - N1KXR*

*Permission granted for all non-commercial use.*

*Richard H. Wheeler  
P. O. Box 482  
Northampton, Mass. 01061-0482*

**Meeting Location:**

Meetings are held at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, 21 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

The church is located across from a Pride gas station.

Parking is in back of the church.  
Access is HP accessible.

Talk-in is available on the 146.94 repeater.

**Next Meeting:**

**Friday Night**

**January 4th, 2008**

**7:30pm**



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



PLEASE HAND CANCEL