

Zero Beat



Hampden County Radio Association

January 2013

Next Meeting: Silent Auction!

Hey folks! We missed the auction this past November and it is always a fun event. Rather than wait a whole year we decided to hold an auction January 4th, but with a slight 'twist'. Instead of a regular style auction we're going to do it silently. How will this work out? We really don't know but like anything else you don't know until you try.

Do you have some extra stuff in your shack? Maybe you received a newer, better whatzit for the holidays and need space? Then the January 'Silent Auction' is for YOU!

Here's how it is going to work:

The club will have a decent amount of donated items for sale. We will manage this just like silent auctions of the past, with a clipboard at each having a suggested resale value, a starting bid and bid increment. Here's a list of some of the items we have so far:

Radio Shack portable scanner

Radio Shack desk top scanner

Sony AM/FM/SW portable radio

Panasonic portable radio

CDE Ham II rotor Mini

Digital TV Stick

Circuit board set for an ARRL wattmeter

HP Netbook computer

Dell Celeron Windows XP with monitor



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Now for the fun part! The auction is open to the public and we invite everyone, member and non-member alike, to bring something to sell. It will be up to you, the seller, to manage your item. We have prepared a sample 'silent bid sheet' you can print out and use, download it by clicking here. Of course you can use a sheet of your own design too, the choice is yours.

Like everything else at HCRA, there's only a few simple rules:

1. Bring your item(s) and place them on the tables provided.
2. Fill out a bid sheet and place it in front of your item.
3. Treat your area like a flea market table, hang nearby to answer any questions.
4. At the end of the auction the bid sheets will be collected and the winning bids announced.
5. If the final bid exceeds minimum (if you had one) you're responsible for collecting from the high bidder and settling up the commission with our treasurer Dave/AA1YW
6. If the bid did not make minimum you can either take your item home or negotiate with the highest bidder. The choice is yours.

Items not allowed in the auction:

CRT monitors

Computer printers

Stuff you wouldn't pay a \$1 for and really belongs in a dumpster

Complimentary coffee and donuts available (but donations accepted) for everyone attending. It should be a fun evening and we're all looking forward to going home with some new toys! Further information or questions? Contact Jim/KK1W via email KK1W@arrl.net or at 413-237-4666. Mark January 4, 2013 now for a fun evening!



FROM THE SHACK

Next Meeting January 4th Silent Auction and Coax Presentation

Our first meeting of the New Year kicks off as a double header. We've two very interesting and exciting things for you. An expanded silent auction and an informative presentation about coax. There's more about the silent auction elsewhere in the newsletter and on the website, here's the lowdown about the presentation.

We all use coax around the shack, connecting our rigs to antennas, antenna switches and tuners. Some of us also use coax for interconnecting transceivers to amplifiers or other station accessories. There's lots of types and sizes of coax available, have you wondered if you chose the correct/best one for the job? That's exactly what Ed/KB1NWH is going to help us out with tonight.

Ed/KB1NWH will be sharing with us everything you need to know about coax; types available, costs and the best places to use each type in your radio shack. Ed served HCRA for many years as our technical director answering questions like this on an almost daily basis. He's taken that knowledge, boiled it down and will give us the scoop on everything coax - from tiny RG-174 to hardline and everything in between. After the presentation Ed will take any questions you may have particular to your installation. This will be a good primer for upcoming spring antenna installations or repairs.

KX3 Raffle

There's still time to purchase *YOUR* winning ticket for the KX3 transceiver, but time is running short. The last ticket sales will be at the upcoming [MTARA Hamfest](#) on March 2nd, with the drawing being held around noon at the hamfest. Tickets will be available at all club meetings and of course at the hamfest. Not sure you want the transceiver? Think about that a minute. You could own one of the most progressive HF transceivers, considered by many to be the equal of almost any transceiver made to date, for a \$10 donation. Rated #2 on Sherwood's receiver testing, all HF bands, built in PSK and more. Read more about the rig and the raffle by clicking [here](#). Thanks as always for your support of HCRA and good luck!



Amateur Radio License Classes scheduled for January!

HCRA's chief instructor John/Kx1x has announced the latest round of classes. Starting January 15 with two evening sessions and ending with a full day class and test session Saturday January 26. Technician, General and Extra classes will be offered. The focus will be on the Technician class to get new folks on board. The General and Extra sessions will be more of a 'study group' than a formal class. We had fantastic success with this format last year and are hoping for a repeat.

The classes will be based around the [ARRL License Manuals](#), available from ARRL, Amazon and of course regular bookstores. Another helpful resource are the '[No Nonsense Study Guides](#)' written by Dan/KB6NU. These are well written guides designed to help you pass the test. Tech and General guides are free, the Extra guide is a mere \$7.99. All are available for download on their website (linked above). I highly recommend using these guides along with the ARRL manuals. Couple that with some study time there's no reason why we won't have a 100% pass rate, right?

If you know of anyone looking to become an amateur radio operator please point them to our classes. The classes are free, and if someone is willing to put in two evenings and a Saturday they too can join our fun hobby.

Spot from the cluster:

Gather up your 'stuff' and get it ready for the Silent Auction this month. Think of it like a flea market without prices. What a great way to raise some cash or get some bargains! Open to everyone, members and non-members alike. Read more about it [here](#).

KX3 Raffle drawing changed to March 2nd. Drawing held around noon at the [MTARA Hamfest](#). Good luck! Already have a ticket, double your chances and purchase a second!

10 Meter Contest results are posted on the website. I know there were other HCRA operators QRV, please email us your scores so we can add them to the list. Don't forget the soapbox comments - they're even more fun than the scores! Have you sent in your log yet? Cut off date for your entry is 0000Z January 9th. (7:00 PM local time)

ARRL Cabinet meeting is January 5th. HCRA will be represented at the meeting. Are there any issues/comments you would like us to put forward at the meeting? If so please email them to me, thanks!

Happy New Year - 73... Jim/KK1W

Here are some of the club donations that will be offered at the Silent Auction on Friday, January 4th.



Local happenings

(All times are local time)

Sundays: 0845: Western Mass Emergency Net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

First Monday: Southwick Regional RACES Drill, 1845, 146.49 Simplex

Mondays: 1930: HCRA 10m Net 28.375

Tuesdays: 1930-2000: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - Hampshire County Emergency Net

Wednesdays: 1930: MTARA Info net 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R - includes NTS Net

2000: MTARA Swap net: 146.94, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

2000: MTARA Simplex Net - starts on 146.94 - PL 127.3, then goes to 146.42 direct (simplex) Usually starts immediately following the swap net.

Thursdays: 2100: Weather Net (Roger, K1PAI Net Control), 1st Thursday of every month: 147.090 MHz, All other Thursdays: 147.000, PL 127.3 - W1TOM/R

Fridays: 1200: BB's (Brown Baggers Luncheon)

Common Ground Restaurant

25 Park Avenue

West Springfield, MA 01089

Expect between 6 and 12 every Friday. Good food, great company!

Club Meetings & VE Sessions

1st Friday of the month 7:30 PM, HCRA Club Meeting, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech St. Holyoke MA 01040 (no meetings held in July or August) <http://www.hcra.org/meeting-location/>

3rd Friday of the month 7:30 PM, MTARA Club meeting, Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, Springfield, Mass. (no meetings held in July or August)

4th Friday of the month 6:00 PM, Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams, Holyoke Hospital Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech Street, Holyoke, Mass. Hosted by the Western Mass VE Team (WMVET). Contact: David Cote, w1fab@arrl.net

Third Monday of the month 7:00 PM, Franklin County Amateur Radio Club meeting, Greenfield High School (no meetings held in July or August) <http://www.fcarc.org/>

4th Monday of February, May, August, November 7:00 PM, FCARC VE Exams, Unitarian Church, Main Street, Northfield <http://www.fcarc.org/>

Visit our website at <http://www.hcra.org>. We are also on Facebook Groups: *Hampden County Radio Association* and *SOTAJerks*. Join us!

Flea Markets in Early 2013

9 Feb Springfield VT CVFMA @VFW Dave K1ZS 603 446 7312

16 Feb Marlboro MA AARC @MidSc Timothy KA1OS 508 919 6136 T

17 Feb Westford MA NEARC RadioXLIV @Regency @8 Antique Bruce 603 772 7516

2 Mar Feeding Hills MA MTARA @TurnverneinClub Mary KB1ME 413 222 1990

7 April Southington CT SARA @HS \$5@8 \$20/T@6:15 Norm W3IZ 860 584 1403

7 April Framingham MA FARA @KeefeTech \$5@9 \$25/T@7:30 Bev N1LOO 508 626 2012

HCRA Contact List

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ARRL 10 Meter Contest Results 2012

CALL	OPERATORS	CLASS	QSOS	MULTIPLIER	TOTAL
WB1Z	Jim(KK1W) Frandy(N1FJ)	MOHP	605	148	296888
KB1VWQ	Dan	SOLP	63	24	3024
WD1S	James	SOLP	93	41	9102
DK1TM/W1	Juergen	SOHP	328	115	120750
NT1K	Jeff	SOLP	19	4	152
KE2SN	David	SOLP	50	24	2400
WB1DBY	Larry	SOLP	206	64	34176
K1VOI	John	SOLP	124	45	11160
NE1C	Nick(K1MAZ) Jimmy(KB1PRA)	MOLP	79	32	5120
WN1E	Dave	SOLP	150	61	31232
W1MSW	Matt	SOHP	94	38	12312
					526316

Soapbox Comments:

Larry/WB1DBY: My Kenwood TS-590s & the Heil Proset 6 headset worked superbly and having the old Mosley TA-33 on the roof was a definite plus. The headset made making the phone Q's much easier than last year with the stock hand mic. I kept getting great audio and signal reports and people asking me what rig I was running as it sounded so good. I love my Kenwood!

Dave/WN1E: I had to work Saturday, so my operating was limited to Friday and Saturday night and most of Sunday. I concentrated on cw and over 100 of my Q's were using that mode. The K3 worked nicely and the cw decode feature helped me a bit with the DX serial numbers.

Matt/W1MSW: Antenna problems and feeling rundown from the plague my daughter brought home from daycare convinced me to throw in the towel on Saturday morning. It's a shame because this is my favorite contest, but when you feel so bad you're not having fun, it's time to call it. Conditions were not nearly as good as they were a few weeks ago during CQWWDX-CW, but I still managed to squeeze in some DX on Saturday morning. It was also fun to watch how short some openings could be. I would suddenly hear a station in NM, work them and seconds later they would fade into the noise. Just goes to show, you have to keep spinning that dial no matter how boring it gets sometimes.

David/KE2SN: Well, I have been trying to think of my excuse – I mean my justification for my score, Guess I will blame it on my old rig and equally old vertical which collected noise equally well from all directions, but had fun 2400, 50 Qs, 24 Mult. Like James, last few Mults were in last hour of operation.

Jeffrey/NT1K: G5RV doesn't work well on 10 and my dipole (located in attic) is picking more noise within the house so I didn't really have an antenna to compete with. With ongoing house projects, the contest was an after thought. Only DX was Chile (CE3CT). Hopefully next year my weekend is more clear to play radio

James/WD1S: First contest and first time using N1MM – so assuming I had it all set up right I was (9,102, 93, 41) With a bunch of points coming in the last hour after I thought I was done.

Dan/KB1VWQ: Underdog w/ my G5RV Sr. – But still had a lot of fun, and did what I could... However, reporting a shameful 3,024/63/24 as Sing. OP/LoPWR/Spotter Unassist.

Ham Classes Scheduled



Tech, General, and Extra Class ham license classes will be held Tuesday nights (January 15th and 22nd, 2013) from 7:00 to 9:00 PM and all day Saturday (January 26th) 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Includes VE exam. Location: Auxiliary Conference Center at Holyoke Medical Center. For information, contact John Pise, KX1X, kx1x@arrl.net.

The Sawmill River Race: Tuesday January 1, 2013

The Sawmill River Race in Montague will be held on Tuesday January 1, 2013, at 9:00 AM and the FCARC will again provide communications. Contact Al Woodhull, N1AW [(413) 773-3522 n1aw@arrl.net] to volunteer or for more information. (From Franklin County Amateur Radio Club's *The Communicator*.)



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- ARRL Field Organization
- ARRL-sponsored contests
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- Local Clubs
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- Hamfests and Conventions
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More "Why We Climb Mountains..."



