

HCRA Zero beat June 2006

June , 2006

**Meetings Held at: Feeding Hills
Congregational Church
21 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA**

This Month's Meeting will be held on June 2nd

Tailgate Party and Elections!

Join us for a June HCRA tradition— the HCRA Tail Gate party.

Enjoy browsing tables of good 'stuff' in the parking lot behind the meeting hall. Set up starts at 6:00 or so, then moves inside around 7:30 for a brief club meeting, the annual elections and of course: coffee donuts and the raffle.

Admission is free for buyers (you need not be a club member—bring a friend too!) and only \$5.00 for tailgaters. Please bring your own tailgate! Contact Dave, KB1MU for further information.

Word from the Editor

Greetings everyone! Another 10 page issue is here! The tailgate party is here and you know what that means! Field Day is right around the corner at the end of the month! We are shooting for a 5A . It will be held at Dufrene Park in Granby. If you are willing to help out in any way, please let me know so I can get you on my list of helpers. I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work on planning, and I am planning on having this years Field Day be better than ever! See you all at the meeting!

73's Eric aka KB1JVI

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President's Corner

Tailgate Party

Fun and profit in Feeding Hills!



parking lot. It's not a huge affair but that never stopped hams from having fun, has it?

Want to know more, then read on. The HCRA tailgate party is free to buyers and only a small \$5 fee is assed to the sellers. If you have something to sell show up at the church parking lot around 6:00 PM with your tailgate (hopefully attached to a pickup truck!) or a table, lay out your wares and start selling to the interested buyers. If you're a buyer then your only responsibility is to show up - can you handle that? Don't forget to bring a friend, everyone is always welcome at an HCRA event.

Dave, KB1MU has again volunteered to manage the event again this year. If you would like more information, directions, stuff like that then give him a call at 413-596-6605 or drop him an email at kb1mu@arrl.net. In addition to the great bargains rumor has it Johnny will be on hand with music and a PA system to add some entertainment to the event.

Adding to the fun will be our usual raffle, coffee & donuts and the best group of hams in the Pioneer Valley. The main raffle prize, just in time for summer vacation, is an ARRL Travel Plus CD repeater directory. Immediately following the tailgate party will be our annual elections and Field Day planning.

The Final Corner

Thanks for the last five years.

It's Sunday evening and I'm late again getting Prez Corner written and off to Eric. This will be my last one and after 50 or so you're probably getting tired of reading them too! In some ways its hard to believe you've allowed me to be president for so long! The past years have been enlightening and fun. I'm truly grateful you have allowed me to head this fine organization and will take away with me a lot of great experiences. Over the last five years our club has grown almost 50% in membership and our treasury is rock solid. What was that old saying, "time to get while the getting is good!". Thankfully that is not the case here. You have a fine slate of officers for the 2006/2007 year that I am positive will keep HCRA going strong. A mixture of new blood and old experience is the best recipe for growth and excitement in any club.

I know Ann will appreciate the extra time I'll have to spend on something other than HCRA affairs. Do you think she sees me spending my extra time contesting, or putting up antennas? I think not, but don't tell her!

I will be remaining on the board as program director. I hope I can fill the shoes of the ones that came before me and keep a interesting series of presentations coming for your knowledge and enjoyment.

It's been fun and I depart as president truly honored you let me stay so long! I wouldn't trade this experience for the world! '73... Jim, KK1W



Field Day - 2006

June 24 & 25th!

With less than one month to go I'm proud to say that HCRA Field Day 2006 is coming along just like in the past. Eric, KB1JVI has been working hard to get everything in place for another fun weekend at the end of June. Will you be joining us this year for the ham radio time of your life?

New to amateur radio and don't exactly know what if Field Day is for you? Then you are a perfect candidate for the GOTA (Get On The Air) station at Field Day. This is a station designed with you in mind. The purpose of the GOTA station is to offer an easy entry to radio operation for either new hams or hams that have been licensed for a sometime but don't really have a lot of experience. The GOTA station uses a different call (WB1Z) and will be led by Lucy, W1HOT (with a lot of help from everyone). The GOTA station will have all band capabilities so you can get a chance to try out some bands you may never have operated on before!



Field Day this year will be at a minimum what is called a 5A (five alpha) event. This means we will be capable of putting five transmitters on the air simultaneously. We plan to have stations capable of transmitting on all HF amateur bands, in CW, voice and digital, as well as a GOTA station, a VHF/UHF station, a public information booth, alternative mode demonstrations, a solar powered station and of course - **FOOD!** Yes, what would Field Day be without food? Our cook this year is Richard, KB1NOX and he is planning a sumptuous menu for us this year.



Want to more about what's happening at Field Day. Why not join the HCRA-FD mailing list. This list is dedicated entirely to what is being planned, and is a great forum for you to monitor the development of Field Day. You can easily signup by going to: <http://www.hcra.org/fd2006.htm> and clicking on the join button near the top of the page. Many times there will be polls put out on this group to make sure we cover all our bases for FD 2006.

What else can I say? Here are the specifics for those of you that have never been there before. Field Day officially starts at 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 24th. Prior to this, starting Friday at 2:00 PM a large contingent of HCRA members will be traveling to Dufresne Park to drop off equipment and begin the construction of the towers, assembling of antennas, shooting of lines in the trees for the wire antennas, rigging up the power... all the stuff necessary to get us on the air for 2:00 PM the following day.

All this construction is finished up during Saturday morning, then everyone breaks for lunch. At 2 PM the fun begins. The stations go on the air, the loggers are logging, the operators talking (or pounding the key(board)) and we are off and running. A nice supper will be served around 5:30 and all club members are invited to participate. When Sunday rolls around the operation ends at 2:00 PM. Everything is taken down and packed away for next year. Wouldn't you like to be part of all this action? It truly is a fun and learning experience. I hope to see all of our members taking part in HCRA's signature event.

See you at the Field Day...

'73... Jim, KK1W

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

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STATION TRUSTEES

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Larry Krainson

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HCRA Name Badges



Only \$6.00. Available 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.

Jim, KK1W

jmullen@rockys.com or (413) 245-3228

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OUR
SUPPORT
PLEASE

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 John, Kx1x, (413) 532-7474
kx1x@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)

146.46 simplex, 114.8hz PL

HCRA CLOTHING



Fleece Quarter Zip Pullover: 14 ounce Polyester (very soft) Fleece with non-pilling face. Heavy duty nylon zipper. Two side-seam pockets. 1" elastic cuffs and waistband. It comes in sizes S - 3XL. The price with call/name and club logo is \$27 (\$29 for 2XL or 3XL).



Fleece Vest: 100% polyester (very soft) Fleece. Full-zip front. Front zip hand-warmer pockets. Open bottom with drawcord hem. Embroidered Columbia logo on right chest. It comes in sizes S - 3XL. The price with call/name and club logo is \$31 (\$33 for 2XL or 3XL).

Size and type	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL
Windbreaker	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$29.00	\$31.00	\$32.00
Short Sleeve Polo Shirt	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$21.00	\$22.00
Fleece Quarter Pull Over	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$29.00	\$29.00
Fleece Vest	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$33.00	\$33.00

Look good while wearing the newest club wear! Shirts, jackets and hats all customized with your name and call and the new HCRA club logo. You'll be the envy of others at hamfests, club events, emergency communication events and more!

If you are interested please send a check payable to **S & S Computer Embroidery** to:

Johnny Lenville — K11A, .98 Pinevale St, Indian Orchard, MA 01151

Please list the quantity of each item and the size ordering. Also, PRINT Your NAME and CALL neatly to prevent mistakes. Send your phone number & email so you can be contacted when ready.

A deposit of at least 50% must be made at time of order, with the remaining balance paid upon delivery.

**HCRA Board Meeting
May 11, 2006**

Held at corporate boardroom of Rocky's ACE Hardware, Springfield, MA.

Members present: John N1JIO, John K11A, Jim KK1W, Greg N1AEH, Dave KB1MU, Jim KB1JVF, Eric KB1JVI, and Irv W6IS.

Vice President W6IS:

For the November Auction Raffle, the board is considering a low cost HF rig as a prize.

Treasurer N1AEH:

Current balance is \$4510.48. The raffle grossed \$234.00.

Secretary KB1MU:

The current roster:	Courtesy:	9
	Family	28
	Life:	1
	Prospect:	38
	Regular:	117
	Sponsors:	1
	Venture Crew:	1

The board voted to renew the HCRA domain name (www.hcra.org) for five years.

Program Kx1x: (not present)

Speakers are all set until Dec 2006

June Tailgate Party, Officer Elections

September Tom Frenaye K1KI

October Chuck Wyrick N1UC from HRO Salem NH.

November Auction

December Holiday Party -- Ham Jeopardy

Membership K11A:

John will investigate the possibility of purchasing a wireless PA system for use at meetings and other club events (Field Day?). The idea of a permanent PA system installed in the church was presented to the church. After much discussion it was decided that with all the liability considerations that this was not in the best interest of the HCRA.

ZeroBeat Editor KB1JVI:

Deadline for May ZeroBeat is May 22

Technical N1JIO:

The technician class has been completed. 16 persons started and 13 passed the test. Some passed prior to the end of the classes. The club is considering a general class. Anyone interested in this should contact any board member.

At Large KB1JVF:

Working on publicity for Field day.

Venture Crew: not present

Membership list still needs to be updated. Only one member has a current application in the club database.

Old Business:

Our reservation at Dufrense Park is now confirmed.

The "Show your Colors" meeting is still a possibility. A date has not yet been set.

New Business:

. There will be a Field Day meeting at Dufrense Park on the evening of June 15

Jim KK1W is still looking into the possibility of allowing member to renew via PayPal from the HCRA web site.

-editor's note: Please see page 9 for the Proposed Slate of Officers

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Isham KB1MU Secretary.

KD1XP Repeater Group News

www.kd1xp.org - main website
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RLX - e-mail list
53.35 - PL 71.9
145.130 - PL 173.8 DCS 155
442.200 + PL 173.8 DCS 155

Ham radio testing sessions will be given on the 3rd Monday of January, April, July, and October.

It is held in Sunderland MA. All test elements are given, go to the KD1XP website for directions Ham radio testing giving anytime upon request at anytime, contact Richard KD1XP at 665-2211.

Breakfast meetings every first Saturday of the month at The Route 9 Diner in Hadley . Talk in on the 145.130 repeater.

Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Assn.

www.mtara.org

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

The next meeting of the MTARA

Friday, June 16th

Topic: Emergency Communications

Meetings are held at the Red Cross Building



QCWA Pioneer
Chapter #183
Schedule of
Events

"July 22, 2006 is the Annual Pic Nic for the QCWA at Mount Tom Reservation. Members from Twin State Chapter, Yankee Chapter, Nutmeg Chapter as well as our Pioneer Chapter will be attending. Bring you hamburgers, hotdogs, or anything you wish to eat. Be ready for a great time!"

**The Hampden County Radio
Association's next meeting
FRIDAY, September 1st, 2006**

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

**Feeding Hills Congregational Church,
Feeding Hills, MA**

In case of inclement weather, check:
www.hcra.org or the 146.94 repeater.
Meeting cancellation information will be given out by 6:00

If you would like to see your notice here, please e-mail the editor, Eric, KB1JVI at kb1jvi@arrl.net



**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!!!



New England QSO Party

NEQP from Hampshire County

Sunday, May 7th, 2006:

It was a near perfect Sunday morning. There were very few clouds (if any) and the sun was beginning to burn off the slight chill from the night before.

My loving wife prepared a couple of thermoses of hot coffee for me while I loaded my van with some radio equipment.

After thanking said wife, and a kiss goodbye, I headed off to Quabbin Reservoir with a spring in my limp (or step, for those who don't know me).

It was Day 2 for the New England QSO Party (NEQP), and for the first time, I was going to try contesting and use the club call, W1NY.

After grabbing some breakfast on-the-go, I arrived at Quabbin Reservoir at about 9:00am. I pulled into the empty parking area at the Quabbin Lookout Tower (963' ASL), parked and began unloading.

My equipment and amenities included; A permit from the fine folks up there at Quabbin Reservoir Park, A couple of easy-up 10' x 10' canopies, a 6' folding table, a few chairs, my Kenwood TS-2000, Kenwood TS-130, a Shure Microphone w/desk stand and adapters/footswitch for both rigs, my new laptop loaded with logging software by N3FJP, a homebrew twenty-meter half-wave dipole with a new (homebrew) portable dipole mounting system that I fashioned from an eighteen foot telescoping painters pole and a trailer hitch drawbar, coffee, soda, lunch stuff, etc.

I was to be joined by Eric, KB1JVI, later in the morning. But James, KB1KKW was going to meet me there at Quabbin first thing. It turned out that James was running late.

Okay, no problem.

I started to set up the canopies just when the wind started to kick up... Figures. One almost got away from me, but ultimately, I won the battle.

Just after the canopies, table, chairs and radios were in place, James, KB1KKW, arrived just in time to help with the antenna. My new antenna center support design worked just as well as I had hoped!

We arranged the dipole in an inverted V configuration and turned on the TS-2000. "Hmmm..." I thought. "It seems kind of quiet."

After a minute of trouble shooting, I discovered that I must not have double checked my installation of the PL-259 on the new dipole I built... Dead short! AARRGH!

Fortunately, I had another twenty-meter dipole (homebrew) with me. So, down came one antenna, and up went another! Pretty quickly, I might add.

This time when I turned on the '2000, the receiver was full of NEQP chatter!

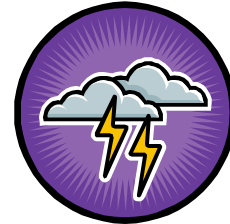
James sat down at the computer, and I at the radio. Feeling pretty excited, I dialed the VFO around 14.280 MHz and listened for a minute. That's when I heard a strong signal that would be my very first contact in a contest! It was K1TTT calling out a NEQP Contest CQ from Berkshire County. I quickly responded with "W1NY, Hampshire County", and we were on our way!

Eric, KB1JVI, showed up a little later and the three of us all took turns between operating, logging and taking a break. A few club members stopped by to see how we were getting along, as well as a few curious non-Hams.

-continued on page 9

Personal Lightning Safety Tips

1. Plan in advance your evacuation and safety measures. When you first see lightning or hear thunder, go to a building or a vehicle. Lightning often precedes rain, so don't wait for the rain to begin before suspending activities.



2. IF OUTDOORS...Avoid water. Avoid the high ground. Avoid open spaces. Avoid all metal objects including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors power tools, etc.

Unsafe places include underneath canopies, small picnic or rain shelters, or near trees. When possible, find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck, or a van with windows completely shut.

If lightning is striking nearby when you are outside, you should :

A: Crouch down. Put feet together. Place hands over ears to minimize hearing damage from thunder.

B: Avoid proximity (minimum of 15ft.) to other people.

3. IF INDOORS... Avoid water. Stay away from doors and windows. Do not use the telephone. Take off head sets. Turn off, unplug, and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools, & TV sets. Lightning may strike exterior electric and phone lines, inducing shocks to inside equipment.

4. SUSPEND ACTIVITIES for 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder.

5. INJURED PERSONS do not carry an electric charge and can be handled safely. Apply First Aid procedures to a lightning victim if you are qualified to do so. Call 911 or send for help immediately.

Brought to you by the National Lightning Safety Institute, 303-666-8817
please reprint and distribute this message.

2006/2007 Election

It is with great pride we present the following slate of proposed officers for the 2006/2007 Elections. Approval of this slate will be at the June 2nd club meeting.

There is still time to toss your hat in the ring. Although all positions are filled, there are a few board members that could be 'convinced' to step aside and let some new face have a hand in guiding our club. If you feel you have something to contribute to HCRA please contact the board before June 2nd.

Now on to the slate:

2006/2007 Slate of Proposed Officers & Directors	
<u>Officers</u>	
President	Johnny Lenville, K11A
Vice President	Dave Cain, AA1YW
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
Secretary	George Collins, KC1V
<u>Directors</u>	
Editor	Eric Richardson, KB1JVI
Technical	John Stark, N1JIO
Membership	John Noble, KB1NKL
At Large	Jim Harrington, KB1JVF
Program	Jim Mullen, KK1W

Thanks to all of the above that have volunteered their time for the betterment of HCRA and its members. Without hams like you our club would not be as strong, active or fun as it is today.

-continued from page 7

Late in the day we switch radios from the '2000 to the '130, and had some more fun. Our most exciting contact was UR5WCQ in the Ukraine.

After all was said and done, we logged sixty contacts (including eight counties) with a score of 1800. The last two contacts seemed to be the most work, but it was well worth it! The last QSO was at around 6:30 pm, after which we cheered a bit and shut our modest station down.

We may not have had a very high number of contacts or the highest of scores, but the fun we had operating our multi-single, fixed-portable station was immeasurable!

A big thanks to Eric-KB1JVI and James-KB1KKW for helping to operate, Don -W1UPH for permission to use the club call, and especially to Dale Monette- WB1FVB, and the rest of the staff at The Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection, Quabin Section, for their cooperation and letting us run our station from there, and, of course, to all of those whom with we made contact, for helping to make my first contesting experience a great success!

Ouch!

Looks like I've been "bitten by the bug"!

73!

Johnny, K11A

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts 01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL



Your help is requested!

No special events known at the time of this printing.