



Our 57th 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

March, 2003



Show & Tell

Show what you know!

Homebrewed Equipment

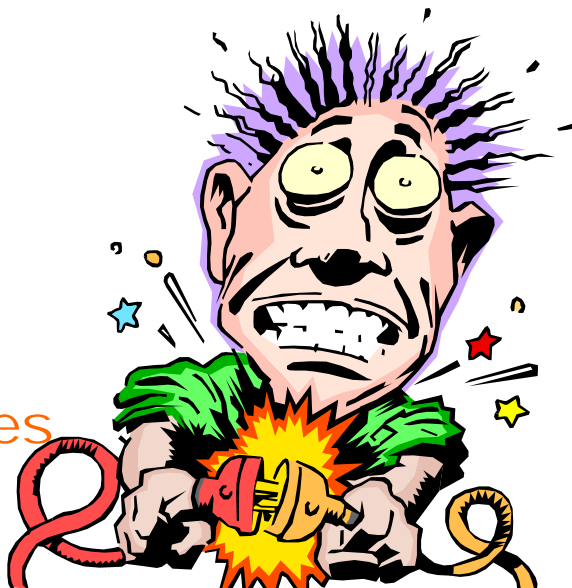
Custom Software

Exotic Modes

Prizes! HRO Certificates

And more!!!

Novice OR Expert?



Next Meeting: 7:30 P.M, Friday, March 7th, 2003

On the Internet

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Updated often to bring you timely
Amateur news and info

*Now, TWO sources
for Local Amateur
Information*

On the Air

146.46 Mhz

Announcements every 7 minutes
when not in use

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President's



Corner

What are you bringing for Show & Tell?

Show & Tell

At this month's meeting

This month will be our 2nd Annual Show & Tell. Last year's was so successful we decided to dispense with a guest speaker and focus the entire meeting on your fantastic projects. Like last year there will be two categories of competition, Novice and Expert. Each category has the same rules and the same great prizes. First prize is a **\$50 gift certificate to Ham Radio Outlet**, Second prize a Ringo Ranger two-meter antenna and third prize a digital multi-meter.



Will you be the big winner?

How do you win, easy! Put the finishing touches on your latest project and bring it to the meeting. The judges will help you determine the correct entry category. Then you "show" your project to the group and "tell" us all about it. While you are doing this your entry will be judged on originality, quality, usefulness, documentation and presentation. The scores will be totaled, the winners announced and you'll receive your prize at the end of the evening.

So what should you make for Show & Tell? It's really up to you. Past entrants ran the gamut from working replicas of a turn-of-the-century transmitter to computer programs searching for extraterrestrial intelligence. If you've made it and think others will find it useful or interesting why not bring it to the meeting? Let everyone share your ingenuity and hard work.

And of course, the usual fun time at an HCRA meeting. Lots of good company, coffee & donuts and the nightly raffle. This month's raffle prize will be a **Radio Shack 25A switching power supply** so don't forget to buy some tickets at the meeting. It will make a great accessory for your Field Day or portable set-up.

Technician Classes

Off and running...

Even with a small snowstorm our Technician Classes got off to a great start. Sixteen students braved the inclement weather and showed up for the first of eight sessions that will culminate (hopefully) with a new Technician Class license. The level of preparation and enthusiasm shown by the class was impressive. Most everyone had obtained their copy of "Now You're Talking" and were well prepared for the evenings lecture.

The first part of the class was an introduction to ham radio with some live demonstrations. As luck would have it, the demo went well. Live QSO's from the Mt. Tom repeater, QSO's in progress from Kentucky on the HCRA IRLP node and listening to a ham in California calling CQ on 20 meters excited the class. Following the demos Barry, N1JK helped the group understand the basics of the metric system and Norm, W1BMK used some plumbing analogies to explain just how those little electrons get around in copper wires.

It's not too late to either volunteer to help with the teaching or to recommend the course to a budding amateur. Visit <http://www.hcra.org> and follow the links to the instructor and student pages. The Blizzard of '03 caused the cancellation of the second class and it should be easy for a dedicated student to catch up and finish with just a little effort. Kudos to Peter, K1I1 for a lot of hard work organizing the instructors and helping the students be so prepared for class. It's this type of dedication that keeps ham radio alive and well—thanks Pete!

A Great Start for 2003

Fantastic Donation from Jim, KC1ZJ

The HCRA just received a unbelievable donation of equipment, station accessories, antennas, ATV equipment and miscellaneous wire, parts and cables. Our benefactor is Jim Davis (ex -KC1ZJ). Jim was an very active member of HCRA back in the 1980's and was one of the driving forces behind our club's first place finishes in the Rover category of the VHF contests. Jim's interests have been more focused on his business lately and needing to recover some precious space in his home offered his equipment to HCRA and the Venture Crew. He didn't have to ask twice!!

Jim's hope is for the equipment to be used by the club for events or loaned to members to help advance their enjoyment of the hobby. Items that can't be used for these purposes will be sold to fund additional initiatives for both HCRA and VCDX. Much of the radio equipment will most likely be given to VCDX for their members use, most of them are on a "limited" ham budget and will be able to make good use of these transceivers.

A small group of HCRA and VCDX members picked up the equipment, transported it to John's, Kx1x's barn and have completed a comprehensive inventory. The board is presently reviewing the donation and will be making decisions about how the equipment is distributed in the near future. If you would like to help with any part of this project please contact either John or myself and we will be happy to share the burden!!

The generosity of Jim was extreme and will be a benefit to HCRA for many years to come. if you happen to run across him at any time don't hesitate to extend your gratitude for his support of our club.

Next Month's Meeting

The Pocket Calculator Guys



Jay and Paul are both Connecticut natives, attending the same junior high and high schools. Jay was working in commercial radio by 19 while attending UConn in Hartford, CT. However, he started in "radio" well before that. Paul and Jay hosted "pirate" shows while in school at a low power FM facility. Jay makes his living as an on-air personality for a commercial radio station in eastern Maine. While there's no secret in Jay's passion for electronics old and new, he's also an avid Red Sox fan and enjoys radio and television history. Jay's a licensed ham operator--his call sign is KB1HOW.

Paul attended college and studied stuff that in which neither he, nor you really have an interest. He became intrigued with computers and eventually returned to college to study them. He now works for a large company supporting UNIX environments. Paul is also in love with all sorts of electronics, but enjoys mountain biking, too. Paul's amateur callsign is KB1HGO.

While they both are devoted vintage electronics collectors, one of Paul's collecting niches is handheld video games, while Jay likes picking up 70s and 80s calculator watches.

Sounds like a pretty interesting meeting? You might want to check around the house for some older (and obsolete) tech items and either bring them along for Jay & Paul to identify or perhaps even donate to their collection.

'73... Jim, KK1W

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and
Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

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*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 listen)

146.46 simplex, 114.8hz PL

Kx1x, Node #7270,

S.Hadley, MA



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Jim, KK1W

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OUR
SUPPORT
PLEASE



CONTEST CORNER

something almost every weekend!!!

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, Phone

0000Z, Mar 1-2400Z, Mar 2

Wisconsin QSO Party 1800Z, Mar 9-0100Z, Mar 10
North American Sprint, RTTY 0000Z-0400Z, Mar 9
Virginia QSO Party 1800Z Mar 15-0200Z Mar 17
Oklahoma QSO Party 2300Z, Mar 21-2300Z, Mar 23

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

0000Z, Mar 29-2400Z, Mar 30

Missouri QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 5-0500Z Apr 6
and 1800Z-2400Z, Apr 6
Georgia QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 12-0359Z, Apr 13
and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 13

TARA Spring Wakeup PSK31 Rumble

0000Z-2400Z, Apr 19

Michigan QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 19-0400Z, Apr 20
Ontario QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 19-1800Z, Apr 20

New England QSO Party

2000Z, May 3-0300Z, May 4
and 1100Z-2400Z, May 4

HCRA ELECTIONS

Coming up in June

We need your help

President, Vice President,

Treasurer, Secretary,

Director of Program, Director At Large

Director of Membership,

NEWSLETTER, Technical

Contact any of the HCRA board members

If you 'd like to run for office

ROCKY'S

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Hardware

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Color "Zero Beat" printing and mailing
made possible by a generous donation.

Remember them the next time you need
something from the
"Helpful Hardware Folks"

Get On The Air (all times local)

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri 19:00	National Traffic System (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 71.9hz) (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

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)

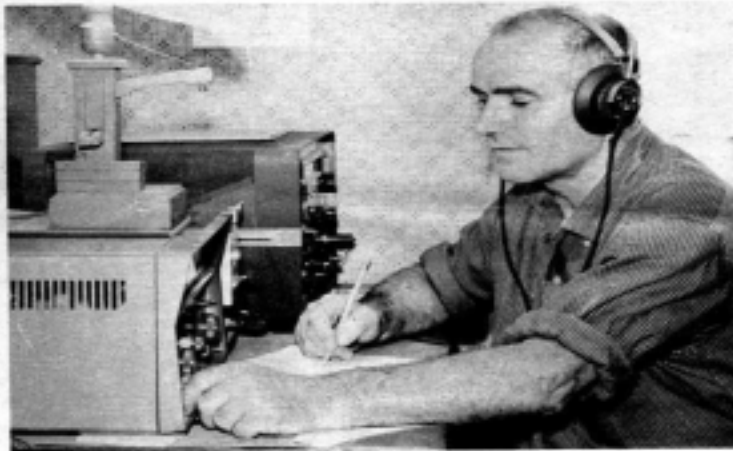
Get the latest local word, join good friends, take part in good conversation each week!!!

Anyone (with HF privs) can join in, don't be shy!!!

HCRA History Series: Where did the word "ham" come from?



Here are Mr. and Mrs. Roger Spicer of Hampden with Roger's 1000 watt station in the basement of his home. Roger was licensed in 1920. He is one of the pioneer ham radio operators of New England.



Pictured receiving Morse code here is Arthur Zaverella of Station WIMNG, Agawam. Art has been licensed for ham operation since 1922. He holds the position of Agawam Civil Defense director and has, in his spare time, made radio contacts all over the world, contacting such far places as the Belgian Congo and New Zealand.

Radio 'Hams'

Ham radio operators have pioneered general radio broadcasting since 1917, when wireless was the means of local and world-wide communications. The significance of the word "ham" originated, interestingly enough when the British added an "h" to some of their words, resulting in "hamateur" being abbreviated to "ham," indicating a person new and inexperienced in the field. Actually, a true ham radio operator, unlike a commercial two-way radio operator, is licensed to operate radio units up to 1000 watts, permitting world-wide communication. He must also be proficient in his knowledge and use of the Morse code. Western Massachusetts has many FCC licensed operators, some of whom are shown in this photo feature. Photos by Simon Shadbegian.



George Dougan, Station KIPMK, Gillette Ave., Springfield, shares radio quarters with his son, Clinton, a senior at the University of Massachusetts. The father and son team have contacted ham operators in every section of the globe.

See more pictures on page 7



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

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Adult Advisor

Dave Cain, AA1YW

aa1yw@arrl.net

BSA VENTURE CREW 510 – CALENDAR

Friday, March 7th

MTARA Setup Crew/ Crew Meeting / HCRA Meeting

Sunday, March 9th

MTARA Flea Market

Saturday, March 29th

Scantic Spring Splash Communications Help

Friday, April 4th

Crew meeting/HCRA Meeting

June 27, 28, 29th

FIELD DAY

Last month, Bob, K1YO, gave a presentation to the Crew at their monthly meeting just before the HCRA meeting. He discussed the opportunities for crew members to help MTARA with various repeater projects. A request was also made for crew members to help out in setup/teardown of the MTARA flea market in March.

BSA Venture Crew has really taken off in the last year, growing from the original 6 youth members to now 13 youth and 8 registered adult members. Of our 13 youth, 2 are Extra Class, 5 are General Class, 4 are Technician, and 2 are studying hard to earn their first ticket! Congratulations to Luke Dyson, KB1ISP and Justin Aquadro, KB1ISQ for attaining their General Class in December, just two months after becoming Technician.



Part of BSA Venturing's promise is to teach. Luke, KB1ISP, (left), gives a presentation to students in the HCRA sponsored Technician class that is currently in progress on Monday nights in Chicopee.

Venture Crew

DX



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, April 21st, 2003 at 7 PM in Amherst, MA at Amherst Machine, Cowls Rd. All test elements given. Contact Richard, KD1XP at 413-665-2211 for details.

SSTV net Tuesdays at 730 PM
145.130 PL 123.0
Dennis, wb1ehd net control

Breakfast net weekdays at 630 AM
442.200 - PL 162.2 kd1xp/r Deerfield, MA

www.kd1xp.org

Breakfast Gathering
8 AM, First Saturday of each month
Sit Down Diner, Rte 9 Hadley
Talk in on 145.130 PL 123.0 repeater

HCRA History Series (continued)



Mrs. Ann Goyer of Allen St., Springfield, is one of the few Western Massachusetts women to hold a ham radio operator's license. She's pictured sending Morse code while her husband, Bernard (center), and his dad, Amor, both licensed ham operators, look on.



Here, Howard Carney of Station WITC, California Ave., Springfield, is surrounded by world covering radio transmitting equipment in his basement radio "Shack." Howard is secretary of the Hampden County Radio Association.

Countdown -- 4 short months to **FIELD DAY**

Its not too late to start planning – we promise it'll be WARM out
Wanna help? Setup, operation, food service, teardown????
Contact any HCRA board member
June 27,28,29 -- Dufresne Park, Granby, MA

HCRA Board Meeting February 27, 2003

Held at the home of Irv Slitzky W6IS

Members present Jim KK1W, Irv W6IS, Dave KB1MU, Greg N1AEH, Larry WB1DBY, Norm W1BMK and John, KX1X.

Members absent: Peter, KI1I; Jim WB1Z; Venture Crew Representative

Vice President W6IS: Prizes for the March show + Tell are all set. First prize in each category will be a \$50.00 gift certificate for HRO. Second prizes will be a ringo Ranger Antenna. Third will be a digital multi-meter.

Treasurer N1AEH: Current balance is \$2739.97. Checks were written for P.O. Box (\$65.00) and envelopes at W1 QSL bureau (\$10.00)

Secretary KB1MU: Updated rosters were given to all board members present. Dave will also check on status of the HCRA Special Services. Total membership is now 126

Program WB1Z: Not present. Meeting speakers are scheduled through Oct 2003. The design of the new W1NY QSL card was viewed and approved by all board members present.

Membership W1BMK: Norm will check ARRL listing for potential new members. The letters to non-renewals from 2002 resulted in ten new members.

Technical KI1I (not present) The Licensing classes got off to a good start. There are currently 16 students.

ZeroBeat KX1X: Cutoff date for articles in the March issue will be Feb 22. Mailed copies of ZeroBeat will be in black + white for the present.

At Large WB1DBY Plans for the June 7 bus trip are about complete. Trip cost will be \$30.00, and signup are welcome. Larry sent out trip information to other local clubs for inclusion in their newsletter/web pages.

Old business: The HCRA will cover the cost of the NEQP award. Presentation will be at a date, not yet announced. Dufresne Park has been confirmed for 2003 FD and the deposit has been paid.

New business: The club will have a table at the MTARA Flea Market. Volunteers to staff the table are needed. The club will accept donations to be sold at the table.

The board agreed on a joint meeting with the MTARA board.. Jim will contact Paul and discuss the planning of the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted Dave Isham KB1MU

Larry, WB1DBY has organized a great excursion for the first Saturday in June. If you would like to go, get your reservation in early before the bus fills up. This trip is open to everyone, not just HCRA members. If you want to have an enjoyable Saturday get in touch with Larry right away.

2003 HCRA Bus Trip

Date: June 7, 2003 - Saturday

Cost per person: \$30 plus lunch (to be determined)

Departure time from Springfield: 7:30 AM

Transportation: Chartered bus with bathroom - 47 seat maximum

Need 30 people minimum for trip to go

Itinerary:

Stop 1: Historic Ship Nautilus & Submarine Force Museum

Stop 2: Lunch

Stop 2a: Quick stop still in the works...

Stop 3: Vintage Radio and Communication Museum of Connecticut

Then home.

Make your reservations now. Make checks payable to the HCRA.

Send reservations to:

Larry Krainson - WB1DBY

100 Kenmore Drive

Longmeadow, MA, 01106-2759



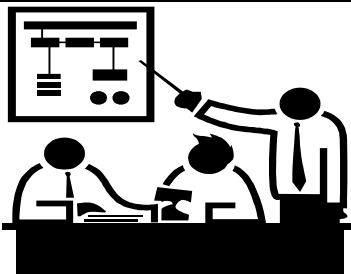
SKYWARN

CLASS

05/17/2003

7-10 PM

**Wilbraham Middle
School Auditorium
466 Stony Hill Road
Wilbraham, MA**



&



HCRA's Second Annual Show & Tell

What's a "show & tell"? It's a chance to show off your latest creation and win some nice prizes to boot. It's the featured part of our "March Madness" meeting and should be a lot of fun! You've still got a lot of time to prepare, so read on...

To enter, show up with your project, explain it and wait for the judges' decision. There will be Novice and Expert classes. All entries will be judged by an independent panel of electrical engineers from MIT, RPI and Wal-Mart :) Entries will be judged on originality, construction quality and usefulness. So, bring your home brewed whatizit, your latest software creation, new mobile mount, portable PSK31 station, miniature 160M antenna, etc. and "show & tell" everyone about your handiwork.

First prize in each category will be a \$50 gift certificate to HRO, Second prize a Ringo Ranger 2M antenna and Third prize a digital volt-meter. Judges' decisions will be final and you MUST bring your project back home with you!

--- DX CORNER --- from ARRL DX Letter

BARBADOS, 8P. Tom, W2SC will be QRV as 8P5A as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry in the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via NT1N.

MALTA, 9H. Alex, DL5SDK plans to be QRV as 9H3AS from Gozo Island, IOTA EU-023, from March 3 to 10. Look for activity on 20, 15 and 10 meters. QSL to home call.

CHILE, CE. Ferdy, CE4FX will participate in the ARRL DX Phone contest as CE4Y on 10 meters using high power. QSL to home call.

MOROCCO, CN. Look for W7EJ to be active as CN2R in the ARRL DX Phone contest as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry. QSL to home call.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Look for EA8/OH6XX and EA8/OH9MM to be active in the ARRL DX Phone contest as Single Op entries on 15 and 20 meters, respectively. QSL to home calls. Meanwhile, Martti, OH2BH will be QRV as EA8BH as an All Band entry. QSL to home call.

FRENCH GUINEA, FY. Look for F6FVY, F1HAR, F5HRY, F5MZN and FY5FY to be QRV as FY5KE in the ARRL DX Phone contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via FY5KE.

ITALY, I. Look for IR4X to be QRV in the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via IK4QJH.

JAPAN, JA. Operators JS6QVQ, JS6QVP and JI5RPT/6 will be QRV from the Daito Islands, IOTA AS-047, from March 4 to 11. They plan activity on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL JS6QVQ via JI5RPT, JS6QVP via JI5USJ and JI5RPT/6 to home call.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. Tony, N2TK will be QRV from WP2Z for the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via KU9C. Before and after the contest he is active as N2TK/NP2. QSL to home call.

LUXEMBOURG, LX. Robert, LX1RQ plans to be QRV as LX5A in the ARRL DX Phone contest as a Single Op/Single Band entry on 20 meters. QSL to home call.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Toni, OH2JTE will be QRV from the OH0B station during the ARRL DX Phone contest. He will be a Single Op/All Band entry with a SO2R setup. QSL via operator's instructions.

NETHERLAND ANTILLES, PJ2. AE9B, NW0L and WB9Z will be QRV as PJ2T from Curacao in the ARRL DX Phone contest. Before and after the contest they are active using their homecalls/PJ6 until March 6. Activity is on the newer bands and possibly on RTTY. Look for them on 6 meters on either 50110 or 50125 kHz. QSL via operators' instructions.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2. Robert, W5AJ will be QRV as V26P as a Single Op/All Band entry in the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via WJ5DX.

BELIZE, V3. Charlotte, KQ1F and Paul, K1XM are QRV as V31QQ from Turneffe Island, IOTA NA-123, until March 5. This includes activity in the ARRL DX Phone contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via KQ1F.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. John, K0DQ will participate in the ARRL DX Phone contest as ZF2DQ as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry. Prior to the contest, he plans on being QRV on 17 and 12 meters. QSL to home call.

The next
Hampden County Radio Association
Monthly meeting
will be on Friday
March 7th, 2003

SHOW & TELL

At 7:30 p.m. at the
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.*

Plans are already
under way for

FIELD DAY

THE WINY WAY
Dufresne Park, Granby, MA

June 27, 28, 29

There are plenty of
facilities to make this a family event:
fishing pond, swings, playscape, hiking, and more
No Excuses, You've Been Warned !!!



**Glenn, KC7LW,
works 20m SSB
during W1NY
Field Day 2002**

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts
01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

The Next
H C R A Meeting
SHOW & TELL
Bring your "stuff"
Win Prizes

**Feb 7,
2003
Doors
Open
7:00
PM**