



Zero Beat

A Publication of the
Hampden County Radio Association
[HTTP://WWW.HCRA.ORG](http://www.hcra.org)

NOVEMBER 2006

HCRA Annual Auction

Friday, November 3rd

7:30 pm

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Meeting Details:

Please join us for the annual HCRA auction on Friday night, November 3rd, 2006.

Setup begins at 6:30 pm. Bring your valuables early and you'll be guaranteed a seat of your choice!

The auction begins at 7:30pm by auctioneer Jim—KK1W and his helpers.

For more information, please contact Jim at 413-

245-3228 or kk1w@arrl.net or visit <http://www.hcra.org>.

The big raffle prize of a Icom IC-718 HF Radio will be raffled off sometime during the night. This is a \$600 radio and is perfect for any user with HF privileges. Tickets are just \$1 each or 6 for \$5 in a book. Tickets will be for sale before the auction begins and right before the raffle. Don't miss out!

Club Tidbits by Jim—KB1JVF

At the last board of Directors meeting I volunteered to take over as Chairman of Field Day 2007. I hope everyone will support me in trying to have the best Field Day ever.

I traveled to Boxboro for the Hamvention, and I am very happy to report that Marty Bowen (w1mjb) has risen! He was there in the flesh and bright and witty as ever.. PTL!



Rushing to Help...

On Oct. 8th I was setting off to meet Dave KB1MU in Holyoke for the shared trip north to the Monroe Trail Race. I came to the end of my road, when I contacted Dave and he related that he was getting off the Mass. Pike in W. Springfield. He was to be at the meeting place in 6 minutes. I told him I'd have to

put the pedal to the metal to make the meeting on time. I then hit the pavement and began to accelerate down a long straight away. Dave being a wise adviser, started to relate that even in the early hours of the morning there were dangers that lurked on the roadway that could cause harm to those that

speed. Before he had finished 1/2 of his speech I was startled by a full grown Moose entering the road from the left. Mr Moose stopped momentarily, to cause me to brake hard to stop. Then he gave a wry smile and then I knew! He had his antlers tuned to 146.940! He and Dave were cahootin' to show me the errors of my ways!

Meeting Location:

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

The church is located right next to a Dunkin Donuts and across from a gas station.

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

Talk-in is available on the 146.94 repeater.

HCRA Board Meeting - October 12, 2006

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

Board Members present: John K11A, Dave AA1YW, Greg N1AEH, George KC1V, Jim KB1JVF, Jim KK1W, Eric KB1JVI, Larry WB1DBY. Members: Rich KB1NOX.

President John, K11A:

There were approximately 70 people at the October meeting. Three people attended the first License class. KK1W will list their names in the class roster on the Web site.

Vice President Dave, AA1YW:

The regular raffle for October collected \$190 for the club. Dave suggested using gift certificates for "HCRAware" and HCRA coffee mug as raffle prizes. The gift certificates were agreed on and K11A will investigate coffee mug costs.

Treasurer Greg, N1AEH:

The current club balance is \$3868.00. A deposit of \$1174.00 was made for October.

Secretary George, KC1V:

As of October 12, we have a total of 125 members with 92 paid Regular. Of the 92 Regular members, 73 are ARRL members. Forty Regu-

lar members have not renewed yet. It was agreed that the Club equipment inventory should be updated. K11A agreed to send an invoice to HRO for their ZB ad along with a thank you note to Chuck.

At Large Jim, KB1JVF:

Coffee and donuts when well at Jim's first outing as Mr. Coffee.

Program Jim, KK1W:

Confirmed speakers: January - John Ellsworth from the Vintage Radio & Communications Museum in CT. May - Charlotte, KQ1F and Paul, K1XM - Dxpeditons and underwater photography.

Membership Eric, KB1JVI:

Eric is planning on attending the next VE Session to promote the Club.

ZeroBeat Editor Larry, WB1DBY:

The deadline for material for the next ZB is the October 20. There is still a need for contributed articles. All members are encouraged to submit

articles or photos of their radio shacks.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

November Auction Meeting:
Setup will start at 6:00 PM.

December Christmas Party:
Volunteers are needed to help with the food and setup.

2007 Field Day: It was agreed that a \$50 deposit on the park will be made.

Titanic Special Event: Someone is needed to head this activity in the future.

HCRA Special Event: The benefits of the club doing a special event station were discussed.

Board of Directors Meeting:
The next board meeting will be held on November 11 at Rocky's.

Respectfully submitted,
George Collins, KC1V, Secretary.

Wear it Proudly!
HCRA Name Badges

HAMPDEN COUNTY
JIM
WA1ZUH
RADIO ASSN.

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, WA1ZUH: jmullen@rockys.com or (413) 245-3228

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, S.Hadley, MA

For a list of IRLP nodes and other IRLP information, go to: <http://www.irlp.net/>

Dr. DX
Mike DeChristopher, K1KAA

Welcome to November! It is only a matter of time before the snow flies. Hopefully, all of your antenna modifications are completed, the guy wires are tightened, and you are ready for a productive DX and contest season. There are plenty of good DX'peditions still parked where they are, even though CQ World Wide has come and gone. You can still catch that rare one, even with one hundred watts and a tribander.

I am told propagation is on the upswing, but I rarely believe that, especially with the pessimist-procuring conditions we have had over the past several years. Then, I heard that wonderful, turbulent, wavering CW signal creep through my earphones on 15 meters at around 0152Z. Ladies and gentlemen, the JA's are back on 15, and they have brought a wave of long-path QSO's, the likes of which haven't been seen since the peak of the last cycle. Point those beams north, because it is only going to get better.

I remember when I first received my HF privileges. I sat down in front of the radio, called CQ on 20 meters for about five minutes, and got my first DX – Israel! Conditions were great then, since it was the peak of the cycle. I can see it starting to lean that way again. Give it time, a little luck, and some occasional QRO (10 meters has to get knocked around a little to wake up), and you will be working those needed lands.

Things here are also on the increase. With a new desk extension, the shack is much more comfortable. Another issue that needed to be fixed was the alleged "God-awful" keyclicks I am prone to. In fact, there is an article online describing what a keyclick is and how to prevent it. I read up on the article, hoping to learn the source of my problem, and listened to the embedded audio clip. Come to find out, the clip was actually of me! To make a long story short, I managed to find a modification to fix the clicks. Now, I can terrorize the bands with my sloppy code – but at least I'll only poison one frequency at a time, since I won't have a massive keyclick to either side.

I hope every else's improvements happened, and happened well. It is finally time to put them to the test. Here are the announced DX operations for November:

Start	End	Entity	Callsign	QSL via	
Nov01	Nov07	Keguelen Islands	FT5XP	F4EFI	By TU5KG; for 2 days TBD during the period
Nov01	Nov07	Micronesia	V63	See Info	By JA1KJW JA1JQY JI1FOP JA8VE as V63JQ V63JY V63FP V63VE fm Kosrae Is (OC-059); 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY; QSL via home call except V63VE via JF1OCQ
Nov01	Nov15	Bermuda	VP9KF	See Info	By G4BKI fm Hamilton Parish (NA-005); CW only; QSL: Paul Evans, 6809 River Road, Tampa, FL 33615, USA
Nov02	Nov10	Corsica	TK	Home Call	By DL2SBY HA4DX HA0HW fm Sisco (EU-014); low band focus; CW SSB RTTY PSK31; QSL OK via Buro or direct
Nov02	Nov11	Corsica	TK	Home Call	By DL2SBY HA4DX HA0HW from nr Sisco; HF, focus on low bands; CW SSB digital; QSL OK via home Buro or direct
Nov03	Nov04	Israel	4Z0J	4Z4BS	By 4Z4BS 4Z4KX 4Z1UF 4Z5LA 4Z5FI 4X6HP 4X1VF; 80-10m; CW SSB; QRT Nov 4, 1500z
Nov04	Nov07	Turks & Caicos	VP5	JA1XGI	By JA1XGI as VP5/W8XGI; 80-10m; CW SSB RTTY
Nov05	Nov09	Micronesia	V6	UA3DX	By RZ3AA UA3AB RA3AUU as V63RZ V63UA V63RQ; focus on low bands for EU and NA
Nov07	Nov09	Micronesia	V63	See Info	By JA1KJW JA1JQY JI1FOP JA8VE as V63JQ V63JY V63OP V63VE fm Pohnpei Is (OC-010); 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY; QSL via home call except V63VE via JF1OCQ
Nov09	Nov14	Micronesia	V63	See Info	By JA1KJW JA1JQY JI1FOP JA8VE as V63JQ V63JY V63OP V63VE fm Chuuk Is (OC-011); 160-10m; SSB CW RTTY; QSL via home call except V63VE via JF1OCQ
Nov10	Nov15	Mariana Islands	KH0	UA3DX	By RZ3AA UA3AB RA3AUU as KH0/NP2KY KH0/KB7YHQ KH0/K3UY; focus on low bands for EU and NA; CW SSB
Nov13	Nov18	Micronesia	V63DX	JA7HMZ	By JA7HMZ fm Pohnpei; all HF bands; all modes; focus on 160m for NA + EU
Nov14	Nov15	Guam	KH2	See Info	By JA1KJW JA1JQY JI1FOP JA8VE; 160-10m as KH2/homecall, except JA1KJW as AK0J/KH2; SSB CW RTTY; QSL via home call except JA8VE via JF1OCQ
Nov14	Nov28	Libya	5A7A	DL9USA Direct	By an DJ7IK + international team; QRV for CQWW DX CW
Nov15	Dec01	San Andres Island	HK0GU	DL7VOG	By DL7VOG fm NA-049; 160-10m; CW RTTY SSB; QSL: Gerd Uhlig, BOX: 700332, D-10323 Berlin, Germany or DARC Buro
Nov17	Nov30	Mauritius	3B8	OM2FY	By a Slovak team as 3B8/OM0C; focus on low bands, especially 160m + RTTY
Nov20	Nov27	Cocos (Keeling)	VK9AA	DL8YR	By VK2IA; QRV for CQWW DX CW; will focus on NA prior to contest
Nov25	Nov26	Kerguelen	FT5XP	F4EFI	By TU5KG fm Port aux Francais; dates approximate

Remote Desk Topping

What is Remote Desktopting and what does it have to do with ham radio?

While I was having dinner last month with Chuck, N1UC, we got to talking about controlling a station remotely. In fact, he touched on the subject during his talk later that evening.

Imagine this: It's the dead of winter, 12 degrees outside and windy. You're at work on your lunch break and you just *know* that seventeen-meters is hopping, but it's just too c-c-cold outside to sit in your car to make a few contacts on your mobile HF rig.

Well, with the same rig-to-soundcard interface you use for digital modes, your rig control program and couple of freeware programs, you can sit at your work computer (providing that you have internet access at work) and operate your home ham station... from work!

If you don't have Windows XP Pro or Windows Server (or the like) installed on your shack PC, you'll have to download and install some type of VNC software on it. There are quite a few of them out there to choose from. If you have a router installed at home too, things do get a little bit trickier in regards to porting through the router... but not impossible by any means.

The other bit of free software you need is something called Skype. It's a VoIP program for voice chat and making telephone calls from the internet.

Once you've got it all installed and working, all you do is access your shack computer from work (the Remote Desktop part), place a call via Skype from your work PC to the shack PC, answer the call through the remote desktop feature, and then launch your rig control program. Presto! You're making contacts on your rig at home from your desk at work!

Oh, I almost forgot! At work you're going to need a microphone on your PC too. What about the delay with digital voice you ask? Well, yes there is a small one. But it's no worse than what you experience with your cell phone.

I'm in the process now of building a new interface for my own shack so I can get this whole thing up and running. Rest assured that when it's all running, I'll write another article about it along with a few pictures and schematics.

So, stay tuned!

Johnny, KI1A

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Can Be Directed To:

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Words from our President

Hello again everyone!

Well, we had another great turnout for our October meeting with Chuck Wyrick, N1UC, from HRO! Congrats to Charlie Zelck, KB1JVA, for winning the Yaesu FT-1802 in the Membership Renewal Drawing!

Can you believe it's almost time for the November auction? Time to start going through your shack (if you haven't already) and dig out all that "stuff" that you don't really need anymore, and make a few bucks at the same time!

Then again, if you don't really need the money (Yah! Right!), we at the HCRA will gladly auction off your items for club donations.

On the flip-side, it's also a great way to pick up some new "stuff" for your shack! Not to mention it's just a great time and whole lot of fun, so bring a friend!

Also, don't forget about the "Big" raffle coming up at the November meeting for the Icom IC-718 HF rig! Tickets for that raffle are on sale now, and of course, will be available at the meeting (Friday, November 3rd). Prices for those tickets are the same as all the other raffles: \$1 each or a book of 6 for \$5.

On other fronts, I'm still looking for a volunteer or two to help me out with the Holiday Party for the December meeting. All the position really consists of is helping to select the menu, purchasing the food and setting up at the party. So... If you're interested in helping out the club with this not-too-difficult but important task, please let me or any of the board members know.

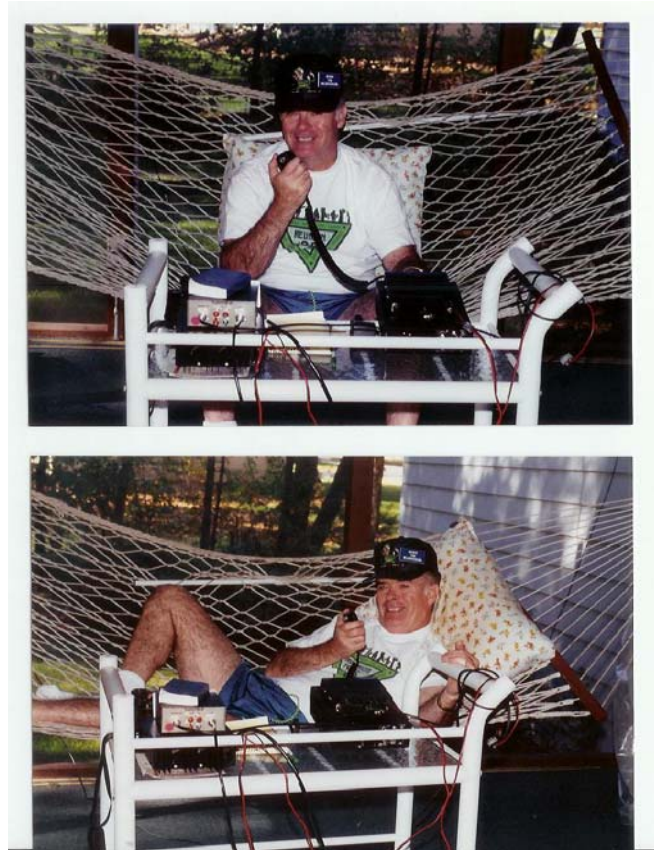
73 for now!
Johnny, KI1A

HCRA Ham Shacks

HCRA Ham Shacks is a new feature of Zero Beat. Each month we hope to showcase ham shacks from our members. If you would like to submit your shack, please do the following: take a digital picture so you or someone you know can email it, write a description of the shack with equipment, model numbers, etc. Plus a comment on the type of operating that you prefer. Don't forget your name and call, email address (if you have one) and web pages or other interesting information. Please send it all to: wb1dby@comcast.net and put the email subject as ham shacks or similar.

N1MUV—Tom Doyle

- The pictures are a couple of years old. The shack is still the same
- VHF Summer Ops. May -September. Re-route the coax to the porch
- Yaesu 2800 2mtr fm
- TenTec 526 2/6 meter All Mode
- The hammock LL Bean
- Back in the cave (cellar) for the cold weather season



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

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!!!

ARRL 10 Meter Contest is just around the corner!

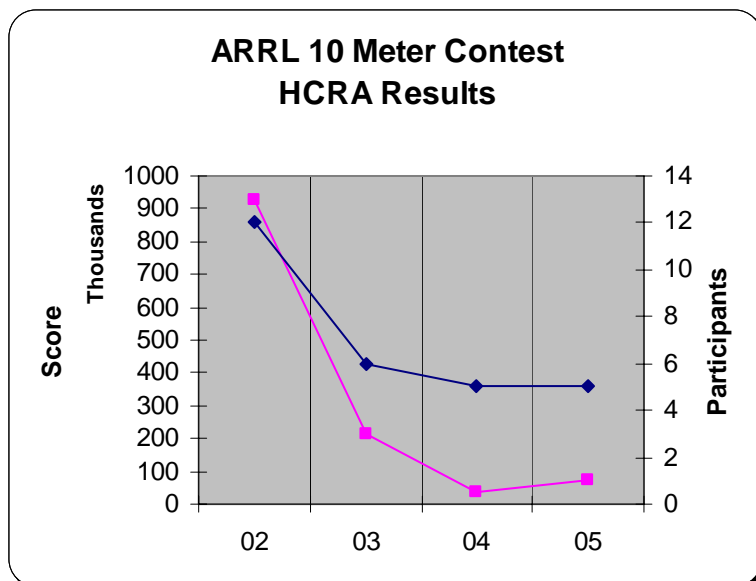
This year's contest starts at 0000Z December 9th (Friday at 7PM EST) and ends at 2359 UTC on December 10th (Sunday at 7:00 PM EST). That's a total of 48 hours but not to worry, the band will most likely be open for less than half of that time. The ARRL 10M contest is a fun time that won't take up your entire weekend.

So what's so good about the 10M contest? For starters it is a contest that both allows you to compete as an individual AND submit your score for the club aggregate. It's a short contest, not a weekend killer. You will get a chance to make contacts across the country and around the world. Did I say it is fun?

Propagation plays a big part in this contest and since we are at the bottom of the solar cycle don't expect a score like we had in 2002. The chart below shows our scores over the last four years as well as the number of club members submitting logs. How do you think we will do this year? It all depends on a few things. If we doubled the number of participants the score should jump up quite a bit. What if the band opens? The score will really jump then. Did you know that 10M was open at midnight during Field Day this year? Who know what the gods of propagation will bring to 10 Meters this weekend? The one thing I know for sure is: *the more operators, the bigger the score and the more fun you have!*

If you have a Technician Plus or higher license class you are good to go. Still a tech or a novice, then see if you can join another operator and let the fun begin. When the contest is all over simply send your log into ARRL and list 'Hampden County Radio Assn.' as your affiliated club and your done until next year. The only requirement is you must be a member of HCRA.

If you have any other questions about this fun event drop me an email and I'll do my best to help you out. Lets see how many members we can get this year to join in the fun. The ARRL 10 Meter Contest is the perfect way to spend a few hours not shopping for holiday gifts. Relax, have fun with your hobby and help put HCRA on the map.



New to contesting? Please drop me an email and I'll help you get started. You'll be surprised how easy it is (and addictive too). Get ready for fun!

'73... Jim, KK1W

**GENEROUS
MEMBERS**

The HCRA would like to recognize
and thank the people to the right, for
their generous donations!!

Thank

You!

<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>CALL SIGN</u>
Steve	Moynihan	W3SM
James	Mullen	KK1W
Stephen	Zemanek	KB1GHC
John W.	Plaster	K1VOI
Ronald	Fournier	KA1VWW
Ernie	Bramucci	K1EJB
Frandy	Johnson	N1FJ
Albert	Drake	N1CQT
John	Stark, Jr.	N1JIO
Francis	Cain	KB1FSS
Thomas	Doyle	N1MUV
David	Isham	KB1MU
Joseph A.	Boudreau, Jr.	W1NMQ
Gary	Thomas	AA1UE
Luke	Dyson	KB1ISP
Mark	Bricault	W1MRB
Frank	Sedlik	KB1LFD
James S.	Dodge	KB1MKG
Osman	Ladue	N1AV
Charles	Knorr	KB1MIJ
John	Noble	KB1NKL
Bob	Laflamme	KB1NJV
Mary	Elkins	N1TOY
Christine	Seritt	K1CPS

Club Meeting November 3rd ... Annual HCRA Auction

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