



ZERO BEAT

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



Next Meeting:
Friday, November 2, 2007
HCRA Auction 2007
6:30pm

NOVEMBER 2007

AUCTION

- *Set-up at 6:30 PM*
- *Auction starts at 7:30 PM*
- *Win a \$250 Gift Certificate to HRO!*
- *Coffee & Donuts!*
- *Lots of bargains!*

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.

**The following people
have generously donated
to the HCRA
during the annual membership drive.
The club thanks them very much!**

Beauregard	Peter	KI1I	Westfield	MA
Beaver	Ronald	N1QCL	Belchertown	MA
Bourcier	Donald R.	KB1NPC	Wilbraham	MA
Bowen	Marty	W1MJB	East Longmeadow	MA
Bramucci	Ernie	K1EJB	Ludlow	MA
Cain	David	AA1YW	Southwick	MA
Collins	George	KC1V	Somers	CT
Doyle	Thomas	N1MUV	Wilbraham	MA
Drake	Albert	N1CQT	Springfield	MA
Finnie	Joshua	W1OFZ	Windsor	CT
Fournier	Ronald	KA1VWW	Holyoke	MA
Gawle	Carol Ann	W1LGU	Easthampton	MA
Goeckner	Patrick	KB1OAP	Chicopee	MA
Harrington, Jr.	James	KB1JVF	Montgomery	MA
Hudson, Sr.	Warren W.	KB1NTQ	Indian Orchard	MA
Isham	David	KB1MU	Wilbraham	MA
Knorr	Charles	KB1MIJ	East Longmeadow	MA
LaCombe	Ed	KB1NWH	Agawam	MA
Lenville	John	KI1A	Indian Orchard	MA
Mullen	James	KK1W	Brimfield	MA
Noble	John	W1JWN	Chester	MA
Phillips	Betty	WB1FIQ	Hampden	MA
Plaster	John W.	K1VOI	Hampden	MA
Richardson	Eric	KB1JVI	Palmer	MA
Sedlik	Frank	KB1LFD	Enfield	CT
Sullivan	Daniel	KO1D	Falls Church	VA
Thomas	Gary	AA1UE	Southampton	MA
Zemanek	Stephen	KB1GHC	Granby	MA

HCRA Board Meeting – October 16, 2007

Held at the home of WB1DBY, Longmeadow, MA. Members present: Dave AA1YW, Greg N1AEH, George KC1V, Jim KB1JVF, Eric KB1JVI, Larry WB1DBY and Johnny KI1A.

President Jim, KB1JVF: The October meeting went well with 75 to 80 people attending. Everyone seemed to have a positive reaction to Bob's, W1SQ, presentation.

Vice President Dave, AA1YW: The Holiday meeting raffle will be for a 2-meter mobile rig. Dave will purchase the radio.

Treasure Greg, N1AEH: Current balance is \$5235 and the month's deposit was for \$1371. The club finances are good for this point in the year. The October small raffle netted \$174, as the all prizes were donations. There are no outstanding debits.

Secretary George, KC1V: Current regular paid membership is now 107. There have been monetary donations from 26 members to date. There was no club correspondence during the past month.

Program Johnny, KI1A: Just in the process of taking over from KK1W: The next two meeting are set, but a speaker is needed for January.

Zero Beat Larry, WB1DBY: The Zero Beat deadline will be the 22nd this month.

Membership Eric KB1JVI: Nothing to report.

Technical John, N1JIO: Not present.

Director at Large Ed, KB1NWH: Not present.

Old Business:

November Auction – Jim, KB1JVF, will confirm KK1W as the auctioneer. Johnny, KI1A, will provide the sound equipment and setup with assistance from KC1V. It was suggested that Ed, KB1NWH, get five cases of soda, along with the coffee and donuts. George, KC1V, will assist Greg, N1AEH, at the auction table.

HCRA Ware - Arrangements are being made to make the HCRA ware available for on-line ordering directly from the supplier.

New Business:

Holiday Party - Ed, KB1NWH, has volunteered to make the arrangements for food and handle the setup. Larry, WB1DBY, and Johnny, KI1A, have offered to help. The Board recommends the Pagers be given very strong consideration as the food supplier. A tentative budget of \$800 was approved.

School Postings - Approval for an HCRA member, who is a teacher, to post notices of HCRA meeting and events, at schools where he teaches, was given by the Board, with the provision that the Board be allowed to approve any posting in advance.

Board of Directors Meeting: The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6th.

Respectfully submitted,
George Collins, KC1V, 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, S.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 Jim, KK1W at
jmullen@rockys.com or (413) 245-3228

Zero Beat Contributions: Anything of interest is welcome.

Please submit your ideas, articles and more to
wb1dby@comcast.net. Thank you,
Larry, WB1DBY, Zero Beat Editor

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions
Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

President

Jim Harrington, KB1JVF
(413) 862-3230 jldhjr@verizon.net

Vice-President

Dave Cain, AA1YW
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Zero Beat

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WB1Z Trustee

Jim Mullen, KK1W
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IRLP Trustee

John Pise, Kx1x
(413) 532-7474 kx1x@arrl.net

"Just when I thought I was out...

They pull me back in!" – Michael Corleone

Those were the words that went through my mind and then escaped my smiling lips after the last HCRA meeting.

Why you ask? Because, I was offered a position back on the Board of Directors for the Hampden County Radio Association... and I gladly accepted!

I am, however, very sad to report that Jim Mullen, KK1W, is resigning from the board for personal reasons, and I will be assuming his duties as your new Programming Director.

Please join me and the other board members in thanking Jim for his many years of hard work and dedication to our club. As I'm sure you well know, Jim has been a major contributor to the Hampden County Radio Association's success!

He's not leaving the club altogether though, so the next time you see him, please thank him for all he's done.

As it's been stated before, "...this is your club and it is what you make of it"!

Truer words were never spoken, and we can't stress it enough!

So, if you folks have any ideas and/or suggestions for future guest speakers, please, do let me know. Just drop me a quick line via my email at Ki1a@comcast.net

I look forward to hearing from you!

73 for now de Johnny Lenville, Ki1a

JUST TALKING - How to determine how much battery power you need ?

Charging a Sealed Lead Acid battery

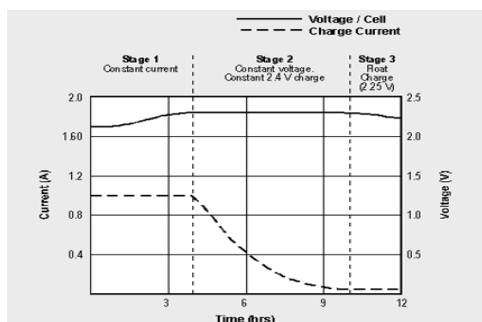
This is intended to be a primer on Gel Cells as they are relatively inexpensive, moderately forgiving, come in a variety of sizes, and fairly safe to carry. Hopefully, it will spark some interest in your favorite battery type as all battery chemistries have a preferred method of charging and one charger is usually not good for another type of chemistry. Very good internet information is available on how to charge batteries properly (Panasonic has great battery manuals on line – ref. below) and failure to follow the rules & proper procedures will shorten the life of all batteries. Also, this would be a very good project for the average person to consider building. Great charger schematics for each battery type are on the internet. Be cautious of all inexpensive chargers.

Now... GelCells

(By the way, Show & Tell is coming)

Figure 1: Charge stages of a sealed lead acid battery.

A multi-stage charger applies constant-current charge, topping charge and float charge.



A gel cell battery is in a family called SLA's (Sealed Lead Acid). It is a modification of the automobile battery, and a gelling agent (usually silica) is added to form the gel. The case is made from ABS and is vented. This vent allows for an escape path if the battery is overcharged - a very easy, & bad thing to do. A gel cell has a maximum charge & discharge rate, typically 20% of total capacity (C/5), but most engineers prefer C/10 (Capacity divided by 10). There are special three stage chargers made for Gel cells that step between "bulk", "Top-Off", and "float charge". Unlike some other types of batteries, Gel cells do not have memory (a charged level when the battery erroneously believe it is empty) and therefore do not require regular discharging, sometimes called "cycling"..

The acceptable voltage range is 10.5 - 13.8 volts. 10.5 volts should be considered fully discharged!
An acceptable stated number of charges/discharges is 200. (There are many variables here - be cautious)

Gel cell batteries have a self-discharge rate of about 5% (0.6 volt) per month. This increases significantly with warmer temperatures and especially in a hot car or trunk (about 20% per month at 120 degrees F). Batteries in storage at your home or garage for more than a couple of weeks should be charged for 24 hours before use.

So, what shortens a Gel cell battery life?

Reducing the voltage by more than 25%. Under 9 volts.

Storing the battery in a discharged state

Over charging a battery dries the electrolyte (If it feels very warm it is definitely overcharging!),

Using a Gel cell on high current loads consistently –These are NOT deep cycle batteries.

There is no magic formula that states that if the battery is at 0 volts for 24 hours it will never recover. However, holding a Gel cell at 0 volts will shorten its life by some unknown factor. This is one of the two worst things you can do. (The absolute worst is overcharging.)

Great reference material <http://www.panasonic.com/industrial/bsgoem/handbook.htm>

Reminder: Know the low end voltage limit for your radio and NEVER operate with less.

Field Day 2007

Pictures

By Mark, W1MRB



John, N1JIO, Renee & guest



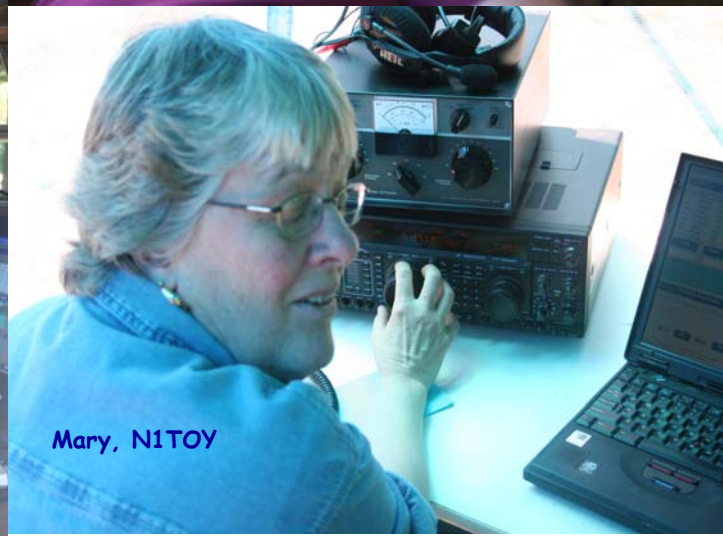
Eric
KB1JVI



John, KX1X—doing what he does best!



Michael Beauregard, son of Pete, K1i



Mary, N1TOY

HCRA Ham Shacks

Bob Laflamme, W1SQ



I currently have two shacks in the house, both are rather modest.

The original is in the basement and shows from left to right;

- Kenwood TK880 used as the IRLP link radio for the KB1AEV linked system.
- A couple of Kenwood TK-370 HT's
- A Heathkit HW-101
- The IRLP computer display.

My wife is making me move the shack upstairs into a former Den so there I have;

- Station Computer, Compaq Tablet PC
- FT-2000 with DMU and Display

I prefer to use a paper log and then transcribe it to the PC.

Antenna farm consists of:

- G5RV for the HW-101 and a GAP Titan-DX for the FT-2000.
- A Diamond X300NA provides 2m/70cm service.
- A 6m antenna is waiting for Christmas.



A Few Words From KB1JVF

The HCRA President

October is the scariest part of the year. Not just because of Halloween, but the H.C.R.A. is like the vote from you as to how the Board of Directors had done over the year. Well I'm glad we passed. Our October meeting had some where between 75 and 80 attendees. Our speaker had all spell bound from novice to techie on how to get multiple windows running old Dos. or Linux, or Vista. I'm not a super techie but it kept me right with the talk as I was understanding what was talked about. How was it put "he makes me understand things I can never Understand"! That's a good speaker.

Good news I, or Kathy found the digital camera so we can get back to planning on the new badges that a lot of people are interested in. Film at 11..

The big yearly auction is this up coming meeting.. Admission starts at 6:30 P.M. No one will be admitted before and it's first come first serve. We had a few complaints of people coming late and piling their stuff up front.. Not fair. Coffee and donuts as par norm. Oh, the big Auction Raffle is for Gift certificates. I misspoke when I said it was one worth \$250.00. It's really 3! One is \$250.00, another is for \$100.00 and the third is for \$50.00. So if you win all 3 you walk with \$400.00! Not bad eh? So hope to see you all there.

***Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030***

Jim, KB1JVF

Grand Raffle Prize

\$250.00

HRO Gift Certificate



AUCTION

November 2nd !!!

Turn your old 'stuff' into cash!

- *Set-up at 6:30 PM*
- *Auction starts at 7:30 PM*
- *Win a \$250 Gift Certificate to HRO!*
- *Coffee & Donuts!*
- *Lots of bargains!*



Contact Jim, KK1W, for details - 413-245-3228 or kk1w@arrl.net

Auction held at:

Feeding Hills Congregational Church
21 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Just North of the Pride station at the
intersection of routes 57 and 187



AUCTION RULES:

Amateur radio or computer related items only.
Mark all items with name/call and minimum acceptable bid.
Items without minimum will sell at any price!
10% of selling price goes to the HCRA.
Maximum fee - \$10.00
If it doesn't sell - you bring it home!

More Field Day 2007 Pics



Jim, KK1W



The Food Guru at Work!



Food Guru
Dave, W1FAB



Mary, the food guru 2



CW Master
Rick, N1RL



Mike Beauregard, Eric, KB1JVI & Jake,
KB1NSN



Grown Up Venture Crew



HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 562
Agawam, MA 01001



Application for New or Renewal Membership

Personal Information:

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____

ADDRESS: _____ LICENSE CLASS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: Home (____) ____-____ BIRTHDATE: ____/____/____

Work (____) ____-____ - ____ext ARRL Member: ☐Yes ☐No

Membership Information:

Type of application: ☐New ☐Renewal

Class of application: ☐Regular ☐Family

*Donations are tax
deductible!
Thanks!*

Please list additional family members:

Name	Call	ARRL Member	e-mail
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Please choose how you want your
issue of *Zero Beat* delivered:



☐e-mail ☐USPS ☐Both

Dues are \$15/year for regular membership. Additional family members are free.

Processed by: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Annual Dues:	\$15.00
Donation:	\$ ____ .00
Total:	\$ ____ .00

More Field Day 2007 Pictures Inside



Luke, KB1ISP



Dave, AA1YW & guest work the GOTA Station

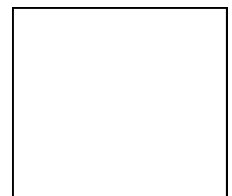


Richard, KB1NOX & Peter, K1i

Club Meeting November 2nd.. HCRA Annual Auction



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



PLEASE HAND CANCEL