

Zero Beat

NOVEMBER 2010

<http://www.hcra.org>



HCRA PowerUP Raffle

Honda EU2000i : 2KW Generator

- 2000 watts (16.7 A) of Honda Inverter 120V AC Power
- Super quiet
- Easy to carry - less than 47 lbs!!
- Fuel efficient - up to 9.6 hrs on 1 gal of gas
- Inverter - stable power for computers and more

\$10/Ticket - Only 200 tickets will be sold!

Drawing will be by June 3rd, 2011

Contact Matt - W1MSW (w1msw@arrl.net) to purchase tickets



From the Shack

What's happening at HCRA — November, 2010



All Aboard for the Holiday Party HCRA Returns to the Steaming Tender

What better way to celebrate the holidays than to spend some time with your friends in a turn of the century railroad station? Huge windows, varnished paneling, trains rolling by - sounds great, doesn't it?

Elsewhere in this issue of Zero Beat you will find an invitation to the party. Take a look at the scrumptious buffet choices, then figure out how many people will be attending and get that information, along with your check, back to us by November 22nd. It is important we get a total so the restaurant can purchase the correct amount of food.

Once again HCRA will be funding about half of the total cost of your meal, it's our holiday gift to you. I think you'll agree that \$15 is a bargain for a meal of this caliber. Need a ride, check our web page for a list of folks willing to help with transportation.

We've got some other stuff in store for you as well. Awards, prizes, who knows? The only way to find out is to 'be there', right? So, don't forget to fill out your invitation and get it back to us so you don't miss out on a night of fun! For your convenience tickets will be available at our November auction.

It's Auction Time! We've received some nice donations so far!

The auction is just around the corner and it promises to be another good one this year. So far two very nice equipment donations have been given to us this year. One donation is a large assortment of older gear, test equipment and 'what have you', the other is a small selection of modern, must have stuff for the shack. Be sure to check these out, get yourself a fantastic bargain and all the proceeds go to the club. How cool is that?

Speaking of donations, if you or someone you know have items to donate for the auction give me a call. These donations are tax deductible and go a long way in helping HCRA put on activities and events throughout the year. To make donating even easier we will even come to your house and pick it up! Nothing too big or small but please limit the donations to radio & electronic items only (no printers or monitors please). There's still time for us to arrange a pickup or for you to gather them up and bring them down on Friday. Contact me at 413-237-4666 or at kk1w@arrl.org if you can help.

There is, as usual, a super raffle accompanying the auction. This year the prize is a dual band HT from Wouxun. This little gem does 2M/440, includes a drop-in charger and had a pretty nice review in last month's QST. Tickets are on sale now for a donation of \$5.

Remember the auction rules this year have changed just a bit. Starting in 2010 there will be a \$1.00 minimum charged by HCRA on all sales. Over \$10 the usual 10% fee applies to the balance. If you have a lot of small items why not box them up into groups that will hopefully bring \$10 or more on the auction block? This will give you the most bang for your buck and help move the auction along more quickly too! Please don't bring printers/monitors or computer items that belong in a museum instead of a ham shack. Our experience is they don't sell and starting this year we will not include them in the auction.

As always we offer free admission to everyone, buyers and sellers alike. Bring a friend and have fun!

Venture Crew to Play a Bigger Role Crew DX takes over key meeting functions

The Venture Crew has a new president this year. Eli Harris/KB1RIE is the man in charge and he has hit the ground running. Eli is very excited in ways he can use the synergy between HCRA and the Venture Crew to make things exciting for the coming year. Here's a thumbnail description of what the crew hopes to do this year:

Eat at the new Crew DX snack bar at the auction. Yep, Eli and crew will be serving up dogs, snacks, sodas and coffee at this year's auction. The Crew will be, with just a little help from their friends, putting the whole thing together this year. This takes a lot of planning off the auction coordinator and the Crew will get to keep all the profits.

Starting in January 2011 and going forward the Venture Crew will be running the coffee/snack table and a 50/50 raffle at our club meetings. As with the auction the entire snack table profits will go to Crew DX. The club's half of the 50/50 raffle will be split between HCRA and the Crew. I hope everyone is as enthused about the new role the crew has assumed. Let's reciprocate and support the snack table and raffle so they can build their treasury and hold some crew events focusing on amateur radio.

So what can HCRA members do for Crew DX in return? We need to show them how exciting this hobby can be, what it offers beyond YouTube and texting and help expose them to the 'magic' of radio. We know what that all means, now it is up to us to show this vision to others. I even hear some of the DX Crew members are interested in CW, anyone here up to the task of creating the next batch of CW operators?

Happenings at HCRA What's ahead for 2011?



ARRL's 10 Meter contest is December 11th & 12th this year. Are you going to contribute your score to the HCRA effort? Take a look at http://www.hcra.org/arrl_10m_2009.htm and see how we did last year. Sunspots are returning, this year will be fun. There's more info elsewhere in this month's ZB.

Scott Anderson/NE1RD will be our January speaker. He's an active ham that will get you re-invigorated with our hobby. From QRP to DXpeditions he's done it all and will share some of his adventures.

Is it time for a change of meeting location? The board recently viewed an alternate location at St. Marks in E. Longmeadow. Please see some notes about it in this month's BOD minutes. Have any opinions or other options? Let us know, we can't make this decision in a vacuum.

Are you ready to learn about D-Star? Bob/W1QA and Dana/N1FJF will be on hand at our February meeting to 'learn' us about this exciting new mode.

Have you started your Show & Tell project yet? Yeah, it's a long way away but if you don't start sometime you'll never get it done. Lots of neat things out there to build or create - let's see yours this March!

Renewed your HCRA membership yet? Renewals are way up this year and it would be nice to make it over the 100 mark again. Don't procrastinate any longer, fill out your application and get it in soon. It is the best \$15 you will spend in a long time!

73... Jim, KK1W

Interesting Articles to Read

Contributed by K1JAW shortly before
he became a Silent Key

I came across this "written in english" article from noaa regarding Coronal Mass Ejections and the effect on radio.. Thought some of you might enjoy the easy 4 page read.

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/info/Radio.pdf>

Here is an article that I came across that I thought you would enjoy. w8ji has the ability to technically speak in English when explaining antenna theory.
Jim k1jaw (SK)

The Myth of Takeoff Angle

from Tom Rauch - W8JI on April 26, 2010
Website: www.w8ji.com

<http://www.eham.net/articles/23758>

Zero Beat Contributions:

Anything of interest is welcome. This
is YOUR Newsletter.

It's not interesting without
YOUR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS.

Please submit your ideas, articles and
more to wb1dby@comcast.net. Thank
you,

Larry, WB1DBY, Zero Beat Editor

Upcoming Flea Markets

6 Nov Londonderry NH IRS @Lions [\\$4@8](#) \$15/T
Chris KB1QVM 603 434 6137 F+

13 Nov Bourne MA FARA @UpperCC VoTech [\\$5@9](#) [\\$10/S@7](#)
Ralph N1YHS 508 548 0422

20 Nov Rockport MA CAARA @PigonCove
Richard KR1G 508 269 4941 A+

4 Dec Windsor CT VR+C Mus 115 Pierson LN @8AM Indoor
John 860 673 0518 W

26 Feb Colchester VT HAM-CON @Hampton [\\$8@8](#) [\\$15@6:30](#)
Mitch W1SJ 802 879 6589 T

30 Ap 1 My Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr
John 781 592 2553 +

14 May E Greenbush NY EGARA @FD [\\$6@8](#) [+\\$6?sp@6](#)
Tom KC2FCP 518 272 1492 +

10 Sept Ballston Spa NY SCRACES @FG @7
Al KA1IEG 518 677 3316 +

15,16 Oct Wakefield MA Photographica @AmericalCtr
John 781 592 2553 +

HCRA Holiday Party

Join your friends for a relaxing evening at the Steaming Tender Restaurant in Palmer, MA. Absorb the charm of a turn-of-the-century railroad station while savoring award winning cuisine with your best friends from HCRA. The perfect way to escape from the holiday rush!

When & Where

December 6th

Cocktails at 6:00 PM – Dinner at 7:00 PM

Steaming Tender Restaurant

28 Depot Street, Palmer, MA 01069

Holiday Buffet

Fresh Garden Salad with choice of house dressings

Chicken with Cranberry Sage Stuffing

Baked Haddock with Lobster Sauce

Roasted Sliced Pork Loin with Caramelized Apples and Cider Sauce

Roasted Red Bliss Potato

Chef's Selection of Vegetable

Steaming Tender's Signature Whiskey Bread Pudding

HCRA Holiday Cake

Coffee, Decaf or Tea

New This Year

Door Prizes, Award Presentations and more!

Cost

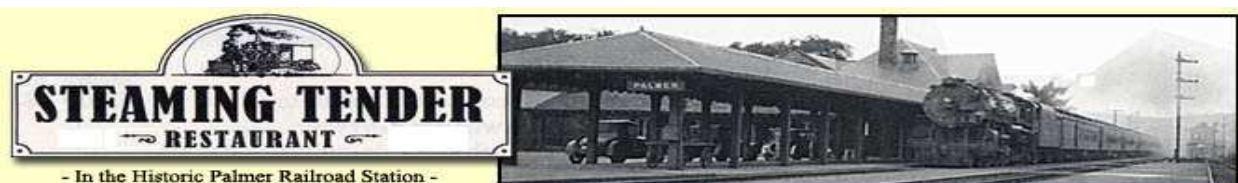
HCRA Members or guests - \$15/person

Please mail the total number of attendee(s) and your check to:

HCRA, P.O. Box 562, Agawam, MA 01001

It would be great to receive your payment by 11/26!

This event is a major effort to provide a fantastic Holiday Party for our club. Please help make this a success and register early so we can ensure everyone has a great time.



Hampden County Radio Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 13th, 2010

Attendees: Dave Cain AA1YW, Marty Bowen W1MJB, Frandy Johnson N1FJ, Ed LaCombe KB1NWH, Jim Machia NN1Y, Jim Mullen KK1W, Matt Wilhelm W1MSW

Absent: Larry Krainson WB1DBY, John Pise KX1X

Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM, at St. Marks Episcopal Church in East Longmeadow, MA after a tour of the facility.

Officer Reports

Vice President – John Pise KX1X

Fall Classes- The technician level license class is under way at the Holyoke Hospital auditorium with a mix of local hospital staff and candidates from the general public. Currently there are 15 participants. John is looking for qualified instructors interested in presenting the remaining modules to the candidates and will submit information on the classes for the November ZB.

Treasurer – Dave Cain AA1YW

Club Balance: \$5340.19

K1JAW Donations: a motion was raised, seconded and carried by unanimous vote to increase the collected amount of \$220 to \$250 with supplemental funds from the club treasury. The secretary was directed to mail a \$250 check along with a letter of presentation to the director of the ARRL Scholarship Foundation in memory of Jim Whitehouse K1JAW on behalf of the membership of the HCRA.

Raffle Proceeds: Matt Wilhelm will keep track of the sales and proceeds of the Auction and Generator raffles.

Secretary – Marty Bowen W1MJB

The September meeting minutes were approved. In the future, BOD meeting minutes will be submitted to the board members by e-mail for their approval or required changes. Once reviewed and with any changes made, the minutes will be considered to have been approved for publication and will be sent to the ZB editor for publication in the next ZB.

Current Member Count (regular & life) – 70

Non-profit Taxes: The yearly state and IRS filings for a non-profit, which must be filed by November 1st, are currently being prepared for submittal.

Holiday Party Update – Holiday Party is confirmed at the Steaming Tender in Palmer, MA for Monday December 6th. The fare will be presented as a Buffet. Tickets: \$15.00/person. The final menu and information on ticket purchase will be published via e-mail on the HCRA mailman no later than October 21st. Chairperson: Marty W1MJB, John WA1JAE will assist.

Eli will send a current DX crew roster to the HCRA secretary in order to make the DB current. and facilitate distribution of ZB to crewmembers..

Technical Director–Ed LaCombe KB1NWH

Norm W1BMK antenna project is tabled until the dipole he wants raised has been acquired. Frank KB1WSX has requested technical assistance to design and install a radio shack.

Club Breakfast: Since there are several other breakfasts on the first Saturday of the month, the BOD has decided to hold off on HCRA breakfast until further notice.

Zero Beat Director – Larry Krainson WB1DBY

Deadline for November ZB article submission: October 24th. – The BOD has decided that proof reading each ZB prior to electronic publication would be useful– Frandy has volunteered to be the proofreader.

New Monthly Column: Eli Harris will begin submitting a monthly column pertaining to current and planned activities of the BSA DX Crew to Larry for ZB.(KX1X will facilitate)

Marty suggested re-running some K1JAW articles in a few months to memorialize his contributions to HCRA.

Membership Director – Matt Wilhelm W1MSW

New members: none.

General Raffle Update: The auction and generator raffles ticket sales are going well.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest Planning: The HCRA website information for the contest is being updated and additional information on the set up and use of N1MM logger will be provided. Note that the same award system as last year will be used.

At Large–Frandy Johnson N1FJ

Reward certificate update: the outline that will categorize reward certificates could be greatly enhanced by ideas from the membership. These ideas can be e-mailed to the BOD reflector. The BOD is considering and would like to solicit suggestions for creating an annual K1JAW QRP award to be awarded at years end to the club member who has shown exemplary activity which promotes QRP operation.

Program Director – Jim Machia NN1Y

2011

February – Open

April – Open

May – Open

Presentation suggestions: IRLP, repeaters, DXclusters, antennas design and antenna modeling, reverse beacon network, Expeditions, SOTA in America and classes on the installation and use of various loggers such as N1MM and DXLab.

DX Crew President—Eli Harris, KB1RIE –The DX crew currently has 15 members on the roster. Eli and the crew are looking for help from HCRA to implement activities that will bolster sagging interest in radio related youth activities. During their next scheduled meeting they will be generating an outline of possible activities such as kit building, CW practice, FMCW, participation in local Summits on the Air (SOTA) activities, refurbishing an aging Fox box for FM Fox Hunts for which they may need the assistance of the HCRA.

Chesterfield Shack: the DX crew director John KX1X and the crew's elected officers are working with the BSA to create a radio shack at the Chesterfield BSA camp which will be accessible the year round. This facility will become the hub of the DX crew's radio activities. In addition, the crew has an open invitation from Dave Robbins to operate at his super station K1TTT in Peru, MA.

Old Business

Renewal Campaign: have Matt & Frandy submitted the ZB bills for September? (AA1YW) – Yes

Auction Planning: (KK1W) Marty, Matt, Dave, Bob, Frandy and Ed will staff the auction. Ed will be coordinating the auction set up and speaker system. K1IA has offered help with the audio system. Ed needs volunteers for table setup! Food Concession: who will volunteer? – Possibly the DX crew will run the food concession as a means of creating revenue to fund their proposed activities. So far, one possible donation.

Raffle prize: Wouxun HT. (KK1W)

Quarterly news letter: change from monthly to quarterly newsletter, should we do this? – tabled until next month.

Coffee service: do we need a better/different coffee machine for the meetings? – in an effort to make the monthly coffee sales a profitable endeavor and limit waste, AA1YW has been tasked with the purchase of two drip coffeemakers for meeting and FD use.

Monthly Raffles: Do we want to drop the monthly raffles? – Yes, in the future the DX Crew will run a 50/50% raffle, the proceeds will be split between the HCRA and the Crew.

New Business

HCRA Access Data Base: the newly uploaded read only copy of the current HCRA Access Data Base on the Yahoo BOD site was discussed and agreed to have been a positive move to enhance administrative queries.

Coffee Service: John, WA1JAE (our coffee volunteer) will not be able to continue his duties much longer because of family commitments. We need another volunteer. – Tabled until next meeting.

Refreshments: Mary, N1TOY has suggested healthier alternatives for snacks offered at the monthly meetings– an excellent idea to be implemented with Mary's help.

Keeping our options open: after touring the facilities at St. Marks here are a few observations:

Pluses:

Larger Room

Lots of storage

Elevator for handicap access

Kitchen area in the room.

Available for board meetings too

Father Peter seems motivated and easy to work with.

33% cheaper than we now pay (\$60/day – board meetings are free.

Large parking lot.

Minuses:

Changing location is always traumatic

Somewhat more difficult to find.

Metal, not cushioned chairs

Not a separate from the actual church, presents a more 'religious' environment

Floor not carpeted, acoustically noisy.

Any other comments from the visit?

Respectfully submitted on this date – October 15th, 2010

Marty Bowen



Grand Raffle Prize
2 Meter HT
w/battery & charger



AUCTION

November 5th !!!

Turn your old 'stuff' into cash!

- *Set-up at 6:00 PM*
- *Auction starts at 7:00 PM*
- *Win a 2 Meter HT*
- *Hot dogs, soda, coffee & donuts!*
- *Lots of bargains!*



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.

Minimum fee = \$1.00

If it doesn't sell - you bring it home!

ARRL 10 Meter Contest: An HCRA Club Competition Tradition

This will be HCRA's 9th consecutive year participating as a club in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Last year we had eight stations and eleven operators on the air scoring a total of 72,258 points. With the sun finally starting to wake up and propagation on the rise, let's set a goal this year to double our stations, operators and points! It can be done. If you're new to contesting, the 10 meter contest is very laid back compared to others and a great place to start. If you're an old hat at contesting, put your skills to work and help keep the club on the map. Remember, technician class operators have voice and CW privileges in the 10 meter band, so no excuses for not participating!

Once again HCRA will be offering certificates for club members achieving different levels of scores.

For more information about the contest and certificates, please see the 10 meter page on the HCRA website: <http://hcra.org/tutorial.htm>. If you have any questions, please contact Matt - W1MSW (w1msw@arrl.net) Reminders and additional information will be posted on the club reflector soon.

2010 ARRL 10 Meter Contest



0000 UTC Saturday, December 11 – 2359 UTC Sunday, December 12

World-class operators Hector Garcia, XE2K, and Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, lead the charge of Mexican amateurs who will be handing out new multipliers during the 2010 ARRL 10 Meter Contest! Hector's antennas appear below.



COURTESY: HECTOR GARCIA, XE2K

- The highest band in the HF spectrum is the place to make contacts in the second of the ARRL's three December competitions. Solar Cycle 24 has finally begun, and that could mean good openings. Enter only SSB, only CW or a mixture of both.

- New for 2010 is the addition of the 31 Mexican states and the Federal District as multipliers. This will definitely bring new excitement to this great event!

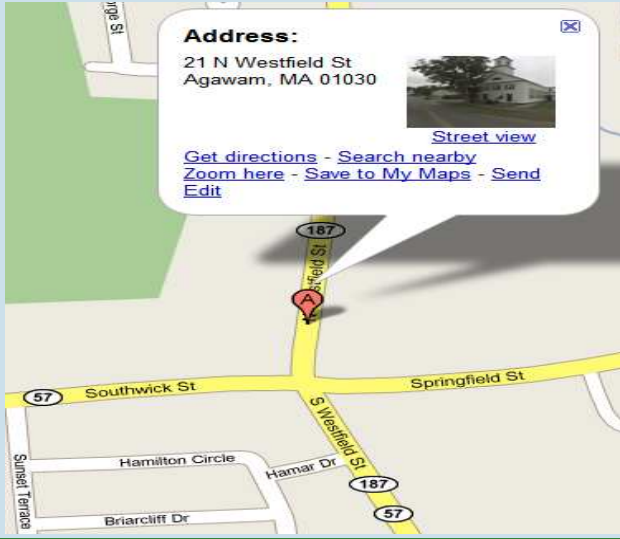
- US Technicians have 10 meter SSB privileges from 28.3-28.5 MHz and are encouraged to get in on the fun! W/VE/XE stations (including Alaska and Hawaii) send a signal report and their state or province; DX stations (including Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands and Pacific territories) send a signal report and sequential serial number.

- Complete rules and a map of the Mexican states can be found at www.arrl.org/10-meter. Cabrillo-formatted logs can be e-mailed to 10meter@arrl.org. All logs must be submitted or postmarked by 0000 UTC Wednesday, January 12, 2011.



Meeting Location:

*Feeding Hills
Congregational Church
21 North Westfield St.
Feeding Hills, MA 01030*



Next Meeting:

**November 5th
@ 7:00pm**

Annual Auction

What is the funny bar code looking picture to the right? It's a QR code.

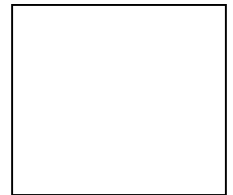
Scan it with your smart phone and let it take you to the web



View the full color, multi page Zero Beat online at <http://www.hcra.org/zerobeat.htm>
or delivered directly to your email inbox



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



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